

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History

2008-2009 No.1



*Mourholme Local History Society (Charity Reg. No. 512765)
Covers the Old Parish of Warton containing the Townships of
Warton-with-Lindeth, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne*

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History is issued by the Mourholme Local History Society for the study of the history of the ancient Parish of Warton, with its seven constituent townships; Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton-with-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.

The Society is named after the Manor of Mourholme, the home of the medieval Lords of Warton, Their seat, the Mourholme Castle, stood on the site now covered by Dockacres.

Yearly subscriptions are £9.00 (£17.00 for family or school membership) and include evening lectures, copies of the Mourholme Magazine and access to the Society's archival material.

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Contributions to the magazine – articles, letters, notes – are invited. Please send them to the current editor Jenny Ager, 51 The Row, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0UG (01524 701491 jenny_ager@btopenworld.com)

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THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF LOCAL HISTORY

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Contents:	Page
OBITUARY OF DR. J.D. MARSHALL Oliver Westall	1
HISTORY OF GILLIAN'S FARM Ann Bond	4
A SILVERDALE GRAVESTONE Margaret Bainbridge	8
GUNPOWDER TREASON Jenny Ager	19
REPORT OF EVENING MEETINGS Jane Parsons, Jenny Ager	23
MOURHOLME SUMMER OUTING: THE SPLENDOUR OF THE SETTLE – CARLISLE RAILWAY Jenny Ager	33
PROGRAMME 2008 – 2009	34
CHANGE OF MEETING DAY	35
COMMITTEE	36

J.D. MARSHALL

This obituary of Dr John Marshall appeared in The Guardian on 22nd July 2008. John Marshall was President of the Mourholme Local History Society for over 20 years.



The obituary was written by Oliver Westall, presently director of the Full-time MBA course in the Management School at Lancaster University, previously lecturer in economics and economic history, and Chair of Lancaster University's Centre for North West Regional Studies.

“The economic and regional historian J.D. (John) Marshall has died aged 89. His authenticity, creativity and energy won the affection and respect of academic colleagues and friends across Cumbria, Lancashire and beyond.

John spent his early life in the Midlands; after leaving school at 16, he had a brief career reporting for the Derby Evening Telegraph and as a debt collector. But his real education began with the second world war. Initially a conscientious objector, he worked for the Forestry Commission in the Furness area of Cumbria, which became his lifelong focus of study. Already on the left, he joined the Communist party in Barrow. Realising that the fight against fascism was morally singular, he then volunteered for the Royal Army Signal

Corps, and was a radio operator in Montgomery's headquarters during the German surrender.

In the late 1940s, he studied economic history at Nottingham University. His PhD thesis, on Furness and the Industrial Revolution, written for London University while he was teaching Coal Board apprentices, was published in 1958, and established his reputation as an economic historian, though one whose radical political outlook was, he felt, noted by senior colleagues.

After some years teaching the history of science and technology, particularly at Bolton Training College, he was appointed as a lecturer at Lancaster University in 1966. Here he helped develop the new history department, becoming reader in north-west regional history. He founded the cross-disciplinary centre for north-west regional studies in the early 1970s, but took early medical retirement in 1980.

In his teaching and research, John was always attracted by the idea of working at the frontier. This produced imaginative and well-crafted books and papers that pioneered the development of urban history, oral history, serious industrial archaeology and, above all, regional history. He never lost a passionate desire to explain the history of Cumbria to its people. But he framed this engagement within ideas outlined in his last substantial scholarly contribution, *The Tyranny of the Discrete* (1997), which proposed a challenging intellectual agenda for regional history. In 1998 Edward Royle edited a festschrift, *Issues of Regional Identity*, in his honour.

John was married to Audrey Pullinger in 1949, and they had three children: Celia, Alison and Edward, who were proud of

their sometimes eccentric, often absent-minded but always warm, funny and fiercely intelligent father. A later marriage to Frances Harland liberated his poetic muse and his work was published in anthologies edited by Norman Nicholson and Ted Hughes. Frances's death in 1992 was a devastating loss.

John remained a radical all his life. He was proud to have been a member of the Communist Party Historians' Group in the mid-1950s; although he left the party soon after, he remained a sharp-eyed sniper at power and privilege to the end. His children survive him."

There is also an article about Dr Marshall in the Mourholme Magazine 1, 2006-2007

HISTORY OF GILLIAN'S FARM, SILVERDALE (8-12, ELMSLACK LANE)

Ann Bond

My interest in the history of the house was probably kindled when I first saw it and its datestone – 1780. I remember thinking ‘Wordsworth and Beethoven (both born 1770) were still in short trousers then!’ and I have intermittently searched out details. This process was however accelerated when the house was painted and the painter discovered that the initials incised on the datestone, which I had always accepted as I (=J) B, seemed to be F.B. There have been many J.B’s in the area but I am curious to know if anyone can explain an ‘F’.

There was certainly a building on this site before 1780. Mr. Thomas’ excellent account of the Elizabethan scene (Mourholme magazine III/3, 1985) gives details of holdings along the edge of Castlebarrow, and there was also a pottery here which ceased production about 1700 (Dr Andrew White and Sonia Ely are both fairly convinced, from the amount of clay kiln packing in what is now my front garden, that this is the site). In the early 18th century it was apparently a farm and possibly a smithy. An article on Jenny Brown, in the previous volume of the Mourholme magazine II/2, speaks of it a Gillian’s Farm. Thomas Clark blacksmith and farmer, died and left the property of his wife Julia. *‘She survived him by 31 years, and when her son sold the property in the 1740’s it had become known as Gillian House and the field in front of it as Gillian’s Field’*. (Variants, such as Julian’s, or even Tollions, exist).

Whether the datestone refers to a rebuilding or a new house is unclear, but my hopes were greatly raised by discovering, in

Preston Record Office, a will made by the occupant of Jillian's House, Elmslack, in 1794. It was very interesting, but revealed that the testator, John Burrow, was only a tenant farmer. Would her have had his initials put on a datestone? Possibly he did substantial rebuilding of an earlier structure (there is some cruck construction in the rear section of the roof), but his bequests do not suggest that degree of prosperity. He was unmarried and was looked after by a housekeeper. He had met with a serious accident, and made his will on June 23rd in which he says that he despairs '*of any long continuance of life*' (he did indeed die on July 2nd). The will was witnessed by William Geldart the curate, John Walling, and William Dobson. In it he left small gifts to his two married sisters, and the bulk of his farm stock to the husband of one of them, Matthew Armer.. I do not know where Matthew farmed.

These Burrows came from Yealand Conyers. John was born there in about 1730, son of John and Sibyll Burrow. There were numerous other children, including the sister Margret who married Matthew Armer (Warton church registers).

The farm buildings are not properly shown on the 1811 Tithe Allocation map, though the nearby well is. But in 1817 the Enclosures Act makes an award of an allotment '*unto the heirs or devisees of John Burrow ...blacksmith, deceased, in respect of his ancient inclosed land in Silverdale*'. (Note that he is called a blacksmith). Unfortunately the plan numbering does not make clear what this allotment is. William Maychell is awarded the original farm holding, as given in the 1905 document referred to below*. Robert Inman is now the holder of the adjacent land, later the Woodlands estate.

The farm reappears on the 1846 Tithe Award map. The owner was named as William Maychell, who according to the recollections of George Bainbridge (deposited in Preston Record Office in 1934) was a Lancaster man. (The only William Maychell in Lancaster at the time of the 1851 census was a cabinet maker, aged 60, who lived in Damside). The tenant was Robert Bouskill. There appears to be a new turning circle in front of the farm, where my front garden is, to enable carts to reach the barn (now no.10) from the lane.

We have now entered the census era, and the census returns of 1861 and 1871 still show Robert Bouskill in occupation. Robert was born in Arnside in 1816, and with his wife Ann had at least six children, including girl twins. John Bouskill (b.1845), who is probably their son, and his wife Isabella were farming here at the turn of the century. I have a photograph of them outside the house, which has sash windows, an open wooden porch and a wicket fence, but is otherwise very recognisable. (The datestone clearly shows L.B. picked out in white! It is very likely that it was John who built the Pepper Pot.

At some stage ownership of the house and farm passed into the estate of, first, Mr. Henry Pratt and then of Frank Joseph Dickens, both of Hill House, (now the Woodlands Hotel). An Indenture of the sale of the house etc. dated 1905 – possibly made when it ceased to be a farm – is in my possession. The ancient holding still retains its identity. The map accompanying the document is superimposed on a tracing of the 18794 O.S. map, using its field numbering. The holding* - roughly hour-glass in shape, north and south of Elmslack Lane – is outlined, and ‘Gillion’s Farm’ is written in.

The inventory lists:

- 22 acres grazing on Castlebarrow (all the area west of the Hill House estate wall, as far as the Westmorland wall; it is clearly shown as sheepwalk in contrast to the Hill House woodland, and contains a flagstaff)
- the house and building (2 acres)
- Gillian's Field
- another field next to it, shown on the map as belonging to Mr. J. Jackson
- Lamb Parrock, behind the present school
- a long strip lying east of Townsfield
- two areas for peat-cutting, on east of Slackwood (on the present R.S.P.B. reserve) and the other on Silverdale Moss, just over the Yealand boundary.

Subsequent history of the house involved the conversion into three dwellings. This was probably done by Dobsons of Arnside, the builders. An upper story was added to the former shippon to make no.12. The Dobsons are related to the Lamberts, and these two families between them occupied no.8 until the 1960s.

Ann Bond says 'I am indebted for much of this information to Rod Ireland and Margaret Lambert. I am very aware that many gaps remain to be filled.'

**A SILVERDALE GRAVESTONE:
THE FAMILY OF THE REV. THOMAS BURROW
Margaret Bainbridge**

In Silverdale cemetery, beside the path running parallel to the west wall and under a yew tree, stands a gravestone bearing in rather elegant lettering the following inscription:

SARAH BURROW
of
Arnside, Westmorland
widow of the Rev. Tho. Burrow
died 1 February 1900
and her daughter
AGNES LETITIA BURROW
Died 25 March 1930
aged 88

For a headstone in Silverdale to bear the name Burrow is not surprising, since that family has flourished in the township for centuries. Nor is it surprising for the first named to be “of Arnside”, since burials in Arnside itself were not possible until 1904. However, the two people lying in this grave did not belong to the local Burrow family. Nor were they really “of Arnside” since they moved there only in 1888. What was their connection with Silverdale?

Although no evidence has come to light of their ever having been resident in the township, it is probable that they had been visitors since they had relatives who owned two local estates. One of these was Hill House in Silverdale, until 1850 owned by the Inmans, merchants of Lancaster.¹ Thomas Inman’s wife was Elizabeth Burrow (1780-1858), eldest child of

Thomas Burrow II, West Indies merchant of Lancaster and aunt of the Rev. Thomas of the gravestone. The other, Buckstone House in Priest Hutton, had been bought in 1810 by the Rev. Thomas's great uncle, Christopher Burrow (1761-1827), Thomas Burrow II's youngest brother. It remained in Burrow possession and occupation until 1915.

These Burrows, however, had no earlier connection with Warton parish. The family originated in Thornton-in-Lonsdale. Their farm "Trees" in Westhouse, was first mentioned in the parish register as the home of a Burrow in 1623. A descendant of that Burrow, Thomas I (d.1768), yeoman, had ten children. His eldest son, Robert (1742-1825), inherited the property and remained in Westhouse where he later built a cotton spinning mill. It was Robert's grand-daughter Miss Anne Burrow, who became the owner of Buckstone House in 1889, when Christopher's family died out. She remained there until her death in 1915.

Three of Thomas I's remaining sons sought their fortune in Lancaster, then at the very height of its prosperity. All took up apprenticeships there, two of them in industries thriving in the town for the supply of goods needed on West Indies plantations where the sugar, rum and cotton that were to be imported were produced. Of these, George I (1748-1812) was apprenticed in 1761 to a tallow chandler and soap-maker, and John (1756-?) in 1771 to a cabinet maker. The apprenticeship of the third, Thomas II (1753-1821), begun in 1768 to a linen draper and grocer, implies involvement in the export and import business.

Thomas I's youngest son, Christopher (1761-1827), was not apprenticed to a trade in Lancaster. By becoming an agent in

Jamaica he was following in the footsteps of Thomas Inman's grandfather, Charles (1729-1767).

Of these brothers it is Thomas II who is most closely linked with the Silverdale headstone, for he was grandfather of the Rev. Thomas of the inscription.

Thomas II became a figure of importance in Lancaster. Made a freeman in 1784, he went on to become a West Indies merchant and ship owner trading between Lancaster and the Virgin Islands, having as partner for part of his working life, Thomas Mason (1767-1827), member of a Silverdale family. Thomas Burrow was a member of the town council, serving as mayor in 1806 and 1815, and undertaking other public duties, such as that of port commissioner, as well as being part owner of ships and of a cotton mill in Lancaster.

Thomas II had another son, however. Edward, baptised at St Mary's Lancaster on 2 March 1783, spent some years as the firm's agent in the Virgin Islands where Elizabeth Schaltenbrand, herself born on the Danish island of St Thomas's, bore him three children about 1804, 1807 and 1811.² Edward returned to Lancaster where he died, aged only 37, on 9 April 1820. In his will, he writes of the upbringing of the three children, Thomas, Mary and Catherine "whom I had by my wife before our intermarriage". The "intermarriage" took place at St. Mary's Lancaster on 28 September 1819, only a few months before his death. The Rev. Thomas of the headstone was the first of these three children, all born in St. Thomas's but brought to Lancaster in childhood.

In 1822, two years after his father's death, Thomas became a pensioner at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he matriculated in 1824 and was awarded a BA in 1828. The following year he was ordained. After a curacy near Maidenhead, in 1833 he became Perpetual Curate of the chapel at Pinner, Middlesex, an appointment in the gift of the vicar of Harrow, with a stipend of £75 and a house. There he remained until his sudden death, intestate, on 15 September 1861. He was 56 and had served there for 30 years. The people of Pinner subscribed to the purchase of a five-light stained glass window at the east end of the church in his memory. It is there today.³ The Rev. Thomas married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth, eldest of the five children of the Rev. John Gathorne (b. Kirkby Lonsdale 1780, d. 1831) and grand-daughter of the Rev. Robert Housman, founder and first incumbent of St. Annes's chapel in Moor Lane, Lancaster, now the Duke's Theatre. They were married in Lancaster on 11 October 1836.

From this first marriage there was a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born in Pinner in August 1837. But little more than a year later, on 3 October 1838, Elizabeth, Thomas's wife, aged 23, died of "fever" following the birth of a son, Edward George. She was buried in Pinner churchyard where baby Edward George joined her on 27 April 1839. Seventeen years later, on 16 July 1856, the Rev. Thomas himself performed the marriage ceremony of his daughter Mary Elizabeth to Charles Hill, a Bristol merchant and ship builder. They were to have two sons, Charles Gathorne Hill (1857-1934) and Edward Burrow Hill (1859-1897) and two daughters before Mary Elizabeth died in 1864.

The Rev. Thomas's second marriage took place on 9 December 1841 in Manchester. His bride, the Sarah of the inscription, born about 1817, was one of the daughters of John Chippindall, a calico printer in Manchester but of an old-established Blackburn family, who about this time moved with his wife and some of his grown-up children to Lancaster where he had family connections. His wife, Sarah's mother, was Mary Higgin, a daughter of John Higgin, governor of Lancaster Castle, and Mary Housman, a sister of the Rev. Robert of St. Annes's. One of Mary Higgin's brothers was Thomas Housman Higgin, a figure prominent in 19th century Lancaster who had acted as Edward Burrow's executor and trustee and was George Burrow II's partner as owner of a cotton spinning mill in Lancaster. Another brother was John Higgin the Town Clerk. Letitia Higgin, wife of George Burrow II, was her mother's sister. Of the next generation Col. W.H. Chippindall (c.1850-1942), local historian whose papers are kept in Lancaster Reference Library, was Sarah's nephew. There was one child of this marriage, Agnes Letitia, baptised by her father on 25 November 1842 at Pinner.

When the Rev. Thomas died in September 1861, his widow Sarah and Agnes Letitia, their daughter moved from the parsonage in Pinner to Lancaster. This was the natural thing to do, for not only did Sarah now have her widowed father and three unmarried sisters living in the town, but she, as the Rev. Thomas's heir, had become the owner of the house in Fenton Street which had been built for Thomas Inman. Four years before, the Rev. Thomas had been the sole executor of the will of his aunt Elizabeth, Thomas Inman's widow. He was to have possession of the Inman house and land in Fenton Street, as well as of some property in County Durham, although his uncle George Burrow II (who was to inherit the

rest of her estate) and his wife Letitia née Higgin, were to have the use of it during their lifetimes. It was probably in this house that Sarah and her daughter took up residence at some time following the Rev. Thomas's death; they were certainly there at the 1871 census. George died there only two months after his nephew, Letitia, his widow, died in April 1864, leaving the bulk of her estate to her three unmarried Chippindall nieces, Sarah's sisters.

The Rev. Thomas Burrow's widow Sarah, née Chippindall, and their daughter Agnes Letitia, lived at what is now no.5 Fenton Street, Lancaster, from perhaps 1861 until 1888. During that period they had both relatives and acquaintances in the town. Sarah's unmarried sisters lived nearby, first in High Street, later in Westbourne Road where her father died in 1873 and her sister Lucy died in 1881; the other two sisters, Fanny and Maria, lived there until 1902 and 1903 respectively. There were Higgin and Housman relatives, too. As for Burrow relatives, the Rev. Thomas's sister Mary Burrow moved to Morecambe from Brighton after the death of her younger sister there in 1883. Brighton had been their home since at least 1850; their mother had died there in 1860.

Among Sarah's close acquaintance in Lancaster was Julia Ripley (1804-1881), engaged in carrying out the wish of her late husband to use his considerable wealth in founding an orphanage in Lancaster modelled on the Liverpool Blue Coat School. Although as a merchant Thomas Ripley (1790-1852) had operated entirely out of Liverpool, trading first with the West Indies, then with the Far East, he had begun his career in Lancaster as apprentice to Thomas Burrow II, the Rev. Thomas's grandfather. Ripley Hospital (now Ripley St. Thomas Church of England High School) was opened with

due ceremony on 3 November 1864. The Chippindalls were present. Indeed they had been involved in the project from the start: Sarah's father and sister are listed among the guests at the laying of the foundation stone on 19 January 1856, as are George and Letitia Burrow. Her father was a member of the committee charged with collecting subscriptions to the fund financing the procession held at the grand opening.⁴

At some time, Sarah purchased a block of land in Arnside, comprising two adjacent properties, houses called Arnmoor and Springfield, each with garden and orchard, as well as two cottages. She and Agnes Letitia left Lancaster about 1888 to settle at Arnmoor, taking with them two servants from their Fenton Street house which was to be let. The younger of the servants was Isabella Wilson, originally from Dalton in Westmorland, just north of Priest Hutton, who had come to work for George and Letitia Burrow in 1858 as a 22-year-old housemaid and was to remain with Sarah and then Agnes Letitia at least until 1905.

Why did they move away from Lancaster? Perhaps Sarah's involvement with Julia Ripley provides a clue, for her house in Arnside became known locally as "the Orphans' Home". One of Sarah's charitable works was to take in orphan boys from Ripley Hospital when they needed accommodation and care during their holidays as she had done in Fenton Street.

Sarah died on 1 February 1900 aged 83, naming Agnes Letitia as her sole heir and executrix. However, subsequent events suggest that Sarah and her family were already aware that Agnes would not be able to manage her affairs. Within months of Sarah's death the Chippindalls, represented by Sarah's oldest surviving sibling, the Rev. John Chippindall of

Cheetham Hill, Manchester, applied for management of her financial affairs to be put on an official footing. The Commissioner in Lunacy accordingly appointed as her receiver, Robert Palmer, manager of the Kirkby Lonsdale branch of the Lancaster Bank, whose wife was Mary Ann Chippindall, Sarah's niece (and Col. Chippindall's sister). Agnes continued to live at Arnmoor, receiving the income from her estate in monthly instalments of £35.

As time passed, however, disquiet increased. The state of the house and of Agnes herself made it clear that she was not being cared for properly. Suspicion was cast upon both the competence and the honesty of the servants she had engaged on the death of the elder of the two who had accompanied her from Lancaster. So great was the deterioration and so untoward was the behaviour of those supposed servants with their hangers-on, that neighbours ceased calling. At one point the faithful Isabella Wilson was obliged to call the police.

The crisis came late in 1904 when Robert Palmer on one of his regular visits discovered that Agnes and servants were no longer at Arnmoor. He reported their disappearance to the Commissioner. They were traced to Morecambe where Agnes was found living in rented rooms with her servants and the hangers-on at 1 Skipton Street and 9 Oxford Street. The move has not been explained. One suspects the influence of the new "servants", for Agnes herself had no connection with Morecambe, her aunt Mary Burrow having died in 1889. It was clear to the Commissioner in Lunacy that the 1900 arrangement was no longer adequate; this "well-educated gentlewoman of good social standing with charming manners" now needed to be protected from those by whom she was surrounded and to be cared for in a manner "suitable

to her position in society". The Commissioner therefore directed Agnes's nearest relative, Charles Gathorne Hill of Bristol, to present a petition in order to initiate the enquiry needed as a preliminary to authorising action being taken for her care. Gathorne was a grandson of the Rev. Thomas by his first wife and Agnes's "nephew of the half blood" and her heir-at-law. He was carrying on his father's business in Bristol as a shipbuilder and ship owner, his father, the Rev. Thomas's son-in-law, having died only three months before Sarah. At probate his effects had been valued at £260,000, a very different order of wealth from that of the Burrows and Chippindalls.⁵

The enquiry could have taken place in private as the Master in Lunacy recommended. However, Agnes had been advised that a hearing before a jury would prevent her being committed to an institution, which she dreaded. It was bad advice for not only was there no such danger but a public enquiry would mean the presence of the press. As a result, no fewer than 115 column inches were devoted to it over two editions of the *Lancaster Guardian* under the title 'Lunacy Enquiry at Lancaster' and 110 column inches of the *Westmorland Gazette* under 'The Delusions of a Lady' and 'The Arnside Lunacy Case'.

The enquiry was held on 13, 14, and 15 April 1905 in Lancaster Castle before the Master in Lunacy, with King's Counsel for both petitioner and respondent, and a special jury of 23 (paid for by Miss Burrow herself: their fees amounted to £70). Witnesses were called from both Arnside (the local policeman, shopkeepers, neighbours) and Morecambe (landladies) as well as Robert Palmer, a Chippindall uncle, and the faithful servant Isabella Wilson, though not the

manipulative new "servants" – they had disappeared. The jury reached the expected decision, namely that she was unable to manage her affairs but was not a danger to herself or to others. It was therefore decided that steps should be taken to provide the care "appropriate to a lady of her standing".

A Lancaster firm of solicitors⁶ was appointed to be her trustees and for the next 25 years, almost until her death, she continued to live in her Arnside home, Arnmoor, with companions to care for her. She died, however, in 1930 aged 88, not in Arnside but at Chapel-le-Dale in a house, Springcote, possibly the home of one of her carers, where people of means in poor health were looked after. Her funeral at Silverdale, advertised in the *Lancaster Guardian*, took place on Friday 28 March.

Her heir, Charles Gathorne Hill, died at Clifton on 11 December 1934. His descendants still live in the Bristol area⁷ but there are no longer Burrows of Thomas I's line either in Thornton-in-Lonsdale, or in Lancaster, or in the townships of Warton.

SOURCES:

Parish Register of Lancaster, Thornton in Lonsdale, Pinner.

Lancaster Apprenticeship Rolls and Freeman Rolls.

Arnside Electoral Register.

Probate Records.

Census returns: Lancaster, Arnside, Pinner, Somerset.

Newspapers: *Lancaster Gazette*, *Lancaster Guardian*, *Harrow Gazette*, *Westmorland Gazette*.

Alumni Cantabrigiensis

John Charles Gathorne Hill: *Shipshape and Bristol Fashion*, Bristol, 1951, revised edition 1983.

Col. W.H. Chippindall's papers in Lancaster Library.

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- ¹ Michael Wright: ‘The Inman family of Lancaster and Hill House, Silverdale’, *Mourholme Magazine*, 1999-2000, no.2.
- ² According to Col Chippindall’s notes of the Burrow family kept in Lancaster Reference Library, Edward’s wife was a mulatto. However, confirmation of his has not been found.
- ³ I am indebted to J.S. Golland of Pinner Local History Society for information and also for photographs of the memorial window and of the Rev. Thomas’s grave in Paine’s Lane cemetery, Pinner.
- ⁴ Linda Moorhouse: *The opening of Ripley Hospital, Lancaster*, n.d.
- ⁵ Their “effects” at probate were closer to £6,000: the Rev. Thomas Burrow (d.1861 intestate) £5,000; his aunt Elizabeth Inman (d.1857) under £4,000; his uncle George II (d.1861) under £6,000; George’s widow Letitia (d.1864) under £5,000; the Rev. Thomas’s mother (d.1860) under £450; his younger sister (d.1883) £53; his elder sister (d.1889) £2,600; his widow Sarah (d.1900) £8,445; their daughter Agnes Letitia (d.1930) £10,000.
As for the Chippindalls, Sarah’s father John (d.1873) left under £7,000; her sister Lucy (d.1881) £5,200; her sister Fanny (d.1902) £6,700; her sister Maria (d.1903) £12,500 which would include Fanny’s effects since Maria was her heir.
Agnes Letitia’s heir Charles Gathorne Hill’s effects were valued for probate at £52,580.
- ⁶ Probably Maxsted, Gibson and Sturton, the partnership which in earlier guise had been that of John Higgin, the Town Clerk mentioned above, and Agnes Letitia’s uncle.
- ⁷ I should like to acknowledge the help of Bristol Central Library in tracing the Hill family and providing information about their shipping interests.

Margaret Bainbridge, Lancaster, October 2000

GUNPOWDER TREASON

Jenny Ager

*Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder treason and plot
We see no reason
Why Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.*

*Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, t'was his intent
To blow up King and Parli'ment.
Three-score barrels of powder below
To prove old England's overthrow;
By God's providence he was catch'd
With a dark lantern and burning match.
Holloa boys, holloa boys, let the bells ring.
Holloa boys, holloa boys, God save the King!¹*

I was doing some work using the Warton Parish Vestry Minutes for the years 1830 – 1850 and found some entries which intrigued me and encouraged me to investigate further.² In the report of the vestry meeting held on 11th June 1830 by the “*Churchwardens for the Parish of Warton To Set the accounts due against the said Church*”, in addition to 5s paid to the organist, 10s to Margaret Holm for cleaning the church and other matters including such items as church repairs, communion wine and fox heads, was the sum of £3 7s. 0d. “*To the 5th of November Super & Drink*”. The vestry minutes had no more mention of 5th November until the meeting on 19th June 1834, when there was a note saying “*The fifth of November Expences Not To Exceed two Pounds*”, in fact only 13s. 11d. had been spent and the following year £2.

In spite of the autumnal shop displays in recent years featuring pumpkins and witches and ghouls and ghostly creatures in homage to Halloween, we still remember 5th November as Bonfire Night, when we light bonfires and let off fireworks. When we burn the effigy of Guy Fawkes, we are remembering one of the conspirators who tried to blow up the House of Lords on the day of the State Opening of parliament in 1605 and so remove the protestant King James I. It is believed by historians that the plot was a genuine but desperate attempt to re-establish the Catholic religion. Why would the church wardens of Warton Parish spend money for 5th November?

Following the arrest of Guy Fawkes on 5th November 1605, the subsequent trial for high treason and executions of Fawkes and his co-conspirators in January 1606, legislation was passed by parliament – “*An Act for a Publick Thanksgiving to Almighty God, every Year, on the Fifth of November*” so that the day would be observed as a thanksgiving for “*the joyful day of deliverance*”.³ This Act remained in force until 1859.

The day was, from the beginning, marked by the ringing of church bells and by bonfires and fireworks. A form of service was added to the prayer book for use in church services on the day – “*Prayers and Thanksgiving to be used by all the King’s Majesties’s loving Subjects, for the happy deliverance of his Majesty, the Queen, Prince, and States of Parliament, from the most traiterous and bloody intended massacre by gunpowder, the 5 of November, 1605.*” The Act of Parliament was also to be read. Both expressions of thankfulness and anti catholic feelings among protestants in the country found expression in the form of words in the prayer, “...we yield thee our unfeigned thanks and praise for

the wonderful and mighty deliverance of our gracious Sovereign King James the First, the Queen, the Prince and all the Royal Branches, with the Nobility, Clergy and Commons of England, then assembled in Parliament, by Popish treachery appointed as sheep to the slaughter, in a most barbarous and savage manner, beyond the examples of former ages...”.⁴

Reports in the local newspapers in the early nineteenth century describe celebrations in the area, with “*rockets, crackers &c. and some discharge of small cannon*”. In 1837 November 5th fell on a Sunday and “*appropriate sermons were preached, and...the impressive service for the day was duly read*”.⁵

Gunpowder treason seemed to gradually slip from the consciousness of the population until in 1850, Pope Pius IX (Pope Nono or Nino) issued a Papal Bull re-establishing the Catholic hierarchy in England, by establishing the Archdiocese of Westminster with twelve other bishoprics around the country. This was opposed by the Prime Minister Lord John Russell and the press was full of indignation at what was termed “The Papal Aggression”.

The Lancaster Gazette reprinted an article from The Times describing events in London, with processions featuring “*a colossal Guy 16 feet in height ... the new Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, attired in the gaudy canonical robes of the Romish church*” and people dressed up as comic nuns and monks, fireworks and bonfires in the suburbs and slogans on display such as “*God to preserve Queen Victoria from the Pope and Popery*”.⁶ The Lancaster Gazette and Lancaster Guardian reported November 5th celebrations from

all around the area. At Hawshead and Sawrey six barrels of tar were used on the bonfire although some of the “*hundreds of yokels*” who watched the scene “*thought six barrels of tar might have been better laid out than burning them in memory of the Popish scheme, in making ‘salve for ‘t sheep*”. Nearer to Warton, it was reported that Milnthope had fireworks a large bonfire and in spite of the addition of “*all kinds of fire-arms*”, the day “*passed over without any accident*”. The report also mentioned that the day was commemorated by other fires around the neighbourhood, maybe that included some of the townships of Warton, although they are not mentioned by name.⁷

No doubt church accounts the length and breadth of the country included an allowance for the celebration of 5th November, probably for paying the bell ringers rather than for buying fireworks. But it would be intriguing to know what the “*Super & Drink*” in Warton in 1830 consisted of. Did our ancestors eat baked potatoes and parkin washed down with mulled wine and with treacle toffee to finish, like we might? It is interesting to speculate, but we will probably never know.

¹ House of Commons Information Office, “The Gunpowder Plot” *Factsheet G8* (London: House of Commons, 2006)

² Warton Parish Vestry Minutes PR 572, Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

³ 3 James I, cap1.

⁴ Book of Common Prayer 1606 and 1662.

⁵ *Lancaster Gazette* November 8th 1834; November 7th 1835; November 11th 1837.

⁶ *Lancaster Gazette* November 9th 1850.

⁷ *Lancaster Gazette* November 9th 1850; *Lancaster Guardian* November 9th 1850.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS

March 8th 2007 - Inn Signs

Peter Marshall's talk "Inn Signs" was well illustrated by his many slides, and was light hearted and amusing, while at the same time being informative.

The origins of inn signs are many. Some originate from features on the inn itself, such as The Sundial; others reflect a trade once carried on in the building, such as The Wheel, where a wheelwright once worked; yet others stem from local features, such as The Bridge (for example, in Kendal), or Belle Vue. Some of these features are no longer extant, as in The Bridge at Tatham. Some appear to be misnomers, such as The Hornby Castle in Preston; the reason for this is that the land in Preston belonged to landowners, who also had a Hornby Castle, in Yorkshire. In the same vein, "Eagle and Child" inns show that the Stanley family, whose arms this was, owned the land on which the inn is built. And why is there Norway Inn in Cornwall? Because ships bringing pitprops for Cornish mines from Norway docked locally.

Inn signs give a lot of latitude to the artists to use their invention; the Britannia (ship? statue? locomotive?); Three Cranes (in one case, three derricks). Some inn names derive from historic events or purposes, such as "The Ops Room" in Cornwall. Many are from the old guilds, such as The Green Dragon in Galgate, this being the coat of arms of the Weavers' Guild. Others are the Masons' Arms, and the Butchers' Arms.

The most common name is the Red Lion, with The Royal Oak being the second. The oldest is probably The Sun, possibly dating from Roman times.

April 12th 2007 - The Slave Traders of Lancaster and Area
Following the AGM, Janet Nelson gave a talk on the slave trade in the Lancaster area. She started by mentioning that, although the Lancaster Gazette detailed the Parliamentary debate leading to the Act of Abolition, it made no mention of the trade in the Lancaster area, despite Lancaster being the fourth largest slaving port.

Janet outlined the history of the infamous “Triangular Trade”, which was started as early as the fifteenth century. About 8 million slaves were shipped across the Atlantic over four hundred years.

Interestingly, Case Law in Britain in 1770 said that slaves in the UK must be freed, though there were probably only a few thousand domestic slaves in Britain itself. Certain local families, such as the Satterthwaites, gained a lot of wealth from the trade, and this wealth helped to fuel the rise of the middle classes generally. Other families, even Quaker ones, were indirectly involved. There was also a Furness connection, as the iron mined there was manufactured into goods, which helped to buy slaves. The sugar they then produced on the plantations was sold on to produce more wealth. Sambo, whose grave is at Sunderland Point, is the best known slave in the area, but 30 or 40 appear in baptismal registers. This talk was certainly very interesting, though somewhat sobering, as few people, until this year, realised how much the trade impinged on every aspect of life.

**September 13th 2007 - The Big House:
How it was in some of the mansions around Windermere
through the voices of their employees**

Judith Shingler and Pam Kay launched the first meeting of new season with an excellent topic. They have been closely involved with the Ambleside Oral History Group, and selected the theme of “The Big House” for this occasion. They started by emphasising that oral history is the flesh on the bones of history. Knowing that recordings by themselves might be a bit difficult to grasp, they sensibly decided to illustrate their presentation with appropriate photographs and paintings, either of the houses and people involved, or of the period.

They chose five houses, two originating from the first half of the nineteenth century (Wanlass How and The Croft), and three dating from the end of the same century (Langdale Chase, Loughrigg Brow and Balla Wray). All these houses are located round the north end of Windermere, and the history of their building and occupation illustrates the influx of wealthy “offcomers”, especially during the period 1890-1920, and their life styles. Socially they mingled, sailing and chrysanthemums being two particular excuses for get-togethers. The children seemed to lead a very carefree outdoor life during their holidays here, except in the case of Langdale Chase, where no children were allowed. The period between the Wars saw the last flowering of that particular kind of society. During WWII the use of the houses became more utilitarian, as orphanages, or convalescent homes, or a Co-op holiday home. Since the War they have become hotels, or been converted into apartments. One of them, Balla Wray, which was a nursing home until two years ago, is still empty.

The recordings we listened to were from both above and below stairs; the former remembered the freedom of their time, the latter reminisced about all the hard work and lack of free time and comfort, but seemed to have accepted it without complaint. The final recording was of a WRVS lady who remembered one resident of a “big house” complaining, after the Second World War, about the difficulty of getting staff!

The speakers left us with the message that, though the function of the houses has changed, we shouldn't be regretful, as things move on, and we are seeing these fine houses put to new and different uses.

11th October 2007 –

The love letter of the Parkers of Browsholme Hall.

Browsholme (pr. Broozem) Hall is a large country house near Clitheroe. In the days in which the letters were written (the 1750s), this area was in West Yorkshire, but the gentry looked towards Preston, and Lancashire in general, for their economic and social contacts.

The speaker, Dr Alan Crosby said that the main interest of the letters is that they were written at a time when love and romance were beginning to be the main focus of marriages amongst the gentry, rather than forging financial arrangements between wealthy families. There was thus some tension displayed between the two foci. He pointed out that Jane Austen, two decades later, wrote about this very circumstance.

The characters involved were the father, his daughter, Elizabeth, and her cousin, Robert (hence both having the surname Parker). Elizabeth, due to the early death of her

mother, had been in charge of the management of the Browsholme household for some while. Her slightly younger suitor, Robert, had a bit of a reputation, and, being from a junior line of the family, was not seen as a very suitable match. The letters, very fulsome on his part, shorter, more practical, but none-the-less sincere on her part, show how the resistance of Elizabeth's father, and various influential aunts, was gradually broken down, and the couple were permitted to marry. The marriage turned out to be happy, and produced three boys, but it was tragically cut short when Robert died of measles in 1759. Elizabeth was very lonely, and, in her late thirties, married a Colne merchant, John Shackleton. Unfortunately, he was an alcoholic, and was also violent towards her. She found a rather quaint diversion in making and selling patent medicines. When the boys went to university, she was obviously worried that their behaviour would have been influenced by their stepfather. This later history of Elizabeth is known because she kept a diary.

Dr Crosby read parts of the love letters, and gave illuminating, as well as amusing, comments on them, and the aspects of social history which they reflect. Browsholme is still inhabited by descendents of Elizabeth and Robert.

November 8th 2007 –

The Settle-Carlisle Railway: a journey in time

David Alison, of the Friends of the Settle–Carlisle Railway gave his talk in two parts, both beautifully illustrated with slides. First he outlined the history of the line. It was built by the Midland Railway Company in an attempt to have their own line into Scotland, and not have to rely on their rivals up the west and east coasts for use of their lines. There are some staggering statistics. It cost £3.5m to build, was 72 miles

long, with 14 tunnels, 21 viaducts and numerous deep cuttings and high embankments. 5000 navvies were working on it at any one time, and, not surprisingly, there were high mortality rates, from accident and illness. For instance, 200 are buried at Chapel-le-Dale. The line was opened in 1879, first for freight, then for passengers. After the rise of car transport, traffic on the line declined, and in 1981 BR said it must close. Due to the hard campaigning of the Friends, it was reprieved in 1989, nine weeks before its closure date.

The second part of the talk was a journey up the line. The Ribbleshead Viaduct is probably the best known of the engineering feats, because of the struggle to restore it. This work was completed in 1991, for much less than the Railway Authority had predicted. However, it is only one amongst many features. Dent Station, at 1150 ft is the highest in England; the highest point, at 1150 feet, is at Aisgill; the spoil heaps and some of the ventilation shafts from digging Blea Moor tunnel still exist; Artengill viaduct hasn't needed any attention for 100 years, because it is made of hard limestone ("Dent Marble"). And there are many others.

In conclusion, Mr Alison stressed the social and economic advantages the revived line has brought to the settlements along it, with locals able to travel out, and visitors to travel in. He also pointed out that more and more freight is now being transported on the line, thus reducing the numbers of lorries on the roads. His commitment, enthusiasm and evident love for the railway came across powerfully.

December 13th 2007 – The History of Toys

For the December meeting members enjoyed a Jacob's Join Supper followed by a talk on the History of Toys by June Decann. Model figures have been found in ancient graves, but whether these were playthings, fertility symbols or there to provide assistance in the afterlife is not clear. Balls, tops, hoops, five stones or Jacks, dolls and other figures with moving arms and legs are still played with today and can be seen being enjoyed in pictures through the ages. June finished her talk by demonstrating string pictures or cats' cradles from round the world.

January 10th 2008 – Fairs and Hirings. Fair deals?

The talk at the Mourholme Society's January meeting was given by Dr Stephen Counce on the subject of Hiring Fairs. These fairs were the normal way of hiring farm labourers (or "servants", as they were called) even until after the Second World War. In the North West these fairs usually took place twice a year, at Martinmas (November) and Whitsun, and men and women were hired for a six month contract. In the North East the period was usually a year, from Martinmas to Martinmas. By and large agricultural wages were higher in the north of England, due to the need for food of the growing industrial workforce. The system was sometimes seen as being like a slave market, but Dr Counce said that it was efficient, as the contracts were binding, though oral, and provided direct contact between prospective employers and employees. And when there was strong demand for labour, the employee could negotiate good wages. The servants lived in, and, generally were well treated and fed, as it was in the employers' best interests to have a fit and contented workforce. They were also single. The result was that farm servants often did not get married till their mid-twenties.

The fairs were an opportunity for both fun and business. There were clerical campaigns against them because of the “fun” aspect (young men and women mingling, and plentiful drink). However, local businesses supported them, as did employers and servants. The Army and the Police found them useful for recruiting too.

February 14th 2008 – Roman Lancaster

Professor David Shotter gave a talk on Roman Lancaster to a large audience. He particularly focussed on the interaction of the occupying Roman force with the local population. There is no evidence from the early forts – the first one being turf with a wooden palisade, dating from about 73 AD, and the second, from about 102 AD, being stone-built – that there was much local hostility. They were garrison forts, not defensive, and they covered a large area of Castle Hill. It was not until the early fourth century that a new fort was built, on a new alignment and much more like a castle, not to defend against the local population but against outsiders, the Picts and the Scots.

Professor Shotter outlined various archaeological finds, including a memorial stone, and a well shaft full of horse manure, that testified to the garrison being a cavalry one. He also said that the baths found first, and which were assumed to have been public ones, were in fact those of a grand courtyard house, probably to house an official such as a customs and excise officer. The main baths were located outside the East Gate, and a stone commemoration tablet has been found for these.

The civilian population, including probably many retired Roman soldiers, lived and had their businesses outside the

fort, alongside what is now Church Street. The Roman occupation seems to have been of benefit to the locals, rather than the reverse.

March 13th 2008 - The Life and Times of Women Pirates

Mr Brian Halliwell gave a very informative and entertaining talk on Women Pirates, of which there have been a surprising number over the millennia. His interest was first stimulated by childhood comic books and the Hollywood portrayal of pirates. In fact the real thing was much less glamorous, greed being the main motivation.

The earliest women pirates chronicled were Chinese, and several are known from classical Greece and Rome. There were several Viking female pirates, including the most famous, Alvilda, who ran away to escape an arranged marriage. There were several Breton women pirates in the fourteenth century, who assisted the English against France, because they thought that would help to gain Breton independence.

A notorious Irishwomen was Grace O'Malley in the sixteenth century, who fought, or sided with, whoever would best further her interests, including Elizabeth I. One of Elizabeth's ladies-in-waiting, Mary Killigrew, became a pirate. The seventeenth century is known as "The Golden Age" of piracy, and the most famous female pirates of that age were Ann Bonney and Mary Reade. Their exploits, bloodthirstiness and various marriages and liaisons put them on a par with the men, such as Jack Rackham and Henry Morgan.

The last notable woman pirate was Chen Gai Su, in the early nineteenth century. She “retired” in 1810 when the British and Portuguese navies joined the Chinese in fighting piracy.

April 10th 2008 – The Influence of the Orient

Following the 28th Annual General Meeting, held in Yealand Village Hall in April, members of the Mourholme Local History Society were intrigued by the subject of Dr Rob David’s talk “*The Influence of the Orient in Cumbria from the 18th to the 20th Century*”. In 1846 the inhabitants of Whitehaven, Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith thrilled to the sight of an oriental procession with an Egyptian Dragon chariot, a Burmese Imperial Carriage and Throne, camels and elephants. In the 19th and early 20th centuries houses and gardens like Lowther Castle, Rose Castle and Dalemmain reflected their owners’ interest in the craftsmanship and beauty of artefacts from the gorgeous east. Mikasa Street in Wallney Island commemorates the Japanese battle ship, built in Barrow in 1900 and the area became used to visiting delegations from China concerned with armaments and the iron works. Alfred Heaton Cooper delighted in painting scenes from Morocco and Tangier. We can still see an example of this interest in the exotic in the Japanese garden, in the Giggle Alley Forest in the grounds of The Gatehouse, the Outward Bound Centre in Eskdale, now being restored by volunteers, to reflect the garden originally laid out in 1901.

Jane Parsons and Jenny Ager

**MOURHOLME SUMMER OUTING
THE SPLENDOUR
OF THE SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY**
Jenny Ager

Members of the Society and friends had a very good day out on July 23rd with the company Tracks North Tours and David Alison, who proved to be an excellent guide. We travelled by coach with stops for refreshment and shopping in Settle, Hawes and Appleby. From the road we could marvel at the amazing feat achieved by the engineers and navies who had planned and built the railway line and also appreciate the stunning scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. As well as looking at the Settle – Carlisle Railway line we were able to explore the ruins of Pendragon Castle at Mallerstang, the reputed home of Uther Pendragon, the father of King Arthur and owned in the 17th century by Lady Anne Clifford.

We visited St Leonard's Church in Chapel-le-Dale, where their fellow workmen and the Midland Railway Company paid for a memorial to "*those who through accidents lost their lives in constructing the railway works between Settle and Dent Head*" between 1869 and 1876. We were able to look at the displays at Ribbleshead Station and Visitor Centre and were thrilled to see a special excursion steam train puffing its way over the Ribbleshead viaduct. The party did experience a train ride from Appleby to Settle, but in a slightly less romantic, but probably more practical, ordinary service diesel train, before meeting up with the coach which took us home after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

PROGRAMME 2008 – 2009

Meetings are held at the Yealand Village Hall,
at 7.30pm 2nd Thursday of the month September to April*.

Subscription - £9 for individual members,
£17 for family or school members.

Visitors are welcome at a fee of £2 each meeting.

Autumn 2008

September 11th Nelson and the “Victory”
Admiral Sir John Kerr

October 9th The Stricklands of Sizergh
Mr Dick White

November 13th The Bare Bones of it:
Archaeology of St Oswald’s Warton
Mr Nigel Neil M.I.F.A.

December 11th Christmas Buffet (must book)
followed by
“Have Packs: will travel” – a talk on a
journey through Lakeland with a pack horse.
Ms. Janet Niepokończycka

Spring 2009

- January 8th Fishing in Morecambe Bay
Mr Jack K. Manning
- February 12th Wakes Holidays in Lancashire
Dr Robert Poole
- March 12th Social History of Lancaster Castle
Mrs Christine Goodyear
Shire Hall Manager
- April 9th A.G.M. followed by
“The Impact of the Furness Railway
on the Arnside, Silverdale Area”
Mr Barry Ayre

***Meeting Day**

A change of meeting day was discussed at the A.G.M. in April 2008 and the decision was that it would be worth changing the day as a number of people have expressed a wish to attend both the Mourholme meetings and the Arnside Natural History Society meetings which clash at the moment. Therefore we have asked to book Yealand Village Hall on the **4th Wednesday** of the month from September 2009 and will organise the meetings for that day from that date.

Mourholme Local History Society Committee

Would you like to take a greater part in the society? The present committee would welcome enquiries from people interested in being more involved with running the society. Contact Jenny Ager if you would like to know more (01524 701491 / jenny_ager@btopenworld.com)