



The Gazette

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Pendle & Burnley
Branch

Issue 17 February 2005

Acting Editor Brenda I Hustler

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for LFH&HS

Have you renewed your membership? If not, then why not do it NOW?

If you don't receive your green 'Lancashire' magazine later this month, check that you have renewed your membership. The magazine is only sent out to members.

Think of all the benefits you get from membership – 'Lancashire' the society's magazine and 'The Gazette' our branch newsletter, both issued 4 times a year. You can borrow books and CDs from our branch library and use the databases on our branch computer. There are 13 branches of LFH&HS and as a member you can go to any of their meetings. See the 'Lancashire' magazine or the society website for their programmes. Best of all, there is all the help and advice and friendship that you can get from other members.

BRANCH AGM. - Yes, it's that time again.

At our branch AGM in 2003, it was agreed that in order to maintain continuity within the Branch, half the committee would be elected in the 'odd' years and the other half would be elected in the 'even' years. To fulfil these criteria the following officials will be elected at this year's AGM.

To serve for TWO years:

Secretary

Treasurer

Projects Co-ordinator

Gazette Editor

Committee Members

There will be a notice on the board at the branch meetings on 16th Feb and 16th March. If you wish to propose someone for any of the above positions, please put your nomination and sign your name in the appropriate place on the notice, or send the nomination to the branch secretary. Agreement must be obtained from the person that you are nominating

Attendance at last years AGM was very poor. We know it is not the most exciting meeting of the year, but your committee work hard and they need to know that you support them in the work they do on your behalf. A few other branches in the society are struggling to keep going because of lack of support. They cannot get people to join their committee. At the moment we have a good committee and our branch is very successful, but it will only remain so if you support it and that means coming to the AGM. This is your chance to contribute & express your opinions on the running of the branch.

MEMBERS INTERESTS

The members' interests list was originally created in 1999/2000 and new names have been added as addenda items. Some of the original researchers on the list are no longer members of the society and consequently our members' interests list needs updating. Branch members are asked to fill in the form on pages 7 & 8 of this newsletter. Those members who receive their newsletter by e-mail and most of the members who read the newsletter on the website will receive a word.doc file as an attachment, which can be filled in and returned by e-mail. Those who read the newsletter on the website and for whom the secretary does not have an e-mail address will be able to print a form from the website and send it in by post. If you want your members interests to be added to the file, YOU MUST COMPLETE A FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE BRANCH SECRETARY. Those members who have their interests on the branch website are asked to check that the details are correct and contact the branch secretary to confirm this. YOU MUST CONFIRM THAT YOU STILL WANT YOUR INTERESTS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE. Failure to do so will mean that they are removed from the website.

PROGRAMME

The Programme of Events for 2005 is now available as a card handout and can also be viewed on the website.

16 Mar 2005 A Dales Odyssey – D Cairns
30 Mar 2005 AGM & Practical Evening.
20.Apr.2005 Bank Hall, Preston – J Edwards
18.May.2005 Out-visit to Southfield Chapel
15.Jun.2005 Huguenot Society – R W Place

We are always looking for good and interesting speakers. If you know of any or there is someone special that you would like to hear, let me know about it. .

Tony Mason, Programme Secretary.

LIBRARY

New acquisitions received for the library.

BOOKS

The Parishes, Registers & Registrars of Scotland
The Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland by Diane Baptie
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Records of the Church of Scotland by Diane Baptie

CDs

Nelson ILP and the Clarion House – a collection of words, images and sounds associated with the Nelson ILP and the Clarion House nr Newchurch in Pendle – compiled by John Boardman.

What did your ancestors do for a living? (Audio CD) – a series of 5, 15 minute BBC programmes, first broadcast on Radio 4 in November 2004. (Track 1 – Midlands; Track 2 – Lancashire/Yorkshire; Track 3 – East End, London; Track 4 – East Anglia; Track 5 – Wales and The West Country.

Members may borrow items from the library for one month. You must fill in the loans book including your membership number which has been included on your name badge.

CDs must be booked out by Margaret, the librarian, on meeting nights.

Margaret Heap, Branch Librarian.

PROJECTS

Our small team of volunteers continues to work on various projects and new volunteers will be warmly welcomed to join in this work. Please contact me.

Completed Projects - Parish Registers.

St Peter's, Burnley; - Burial index 1813 - 1982 (is now on the branch computer). This includes 303 entries dating from 1896 - 1982

St Bartholomew's Colne; - Baptisms 1813 – 1838.

Work continues on the following projects

St Thomas', Barrowford; - Baptisms, Burials & Marriages

St Mary's Newchurch-in-Pendle; - Baptisms & Marriages

Winewall Inghamites; - Yet more records relating to this church have been located and are being transcribed and checked. It has been found that records relating to the Inghamite Church at Colne Lane are linked with those of Winewall Inghamite church and the scope of the project has been widened to include the names of the ministers, baptisms and marriages recorded at the Colne Lane church.

Burnley Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions; - some of the transcriptions still need checking against the headstones.

1901 Census index. Work is progressing on the index for Colne. A big thank-you to our members who spend hours at Nelson library doing this work. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this project should contact Christine Carradice, the Reference Librarian at Nelson Library.

1841 Census Piece No 506 – Surname and Place Index

Volunteers are needed to check the above index before it is sent for putting onto microfiche. The areas included in this piece are Accrington – Old & New; Altham; Barley; Barrowford; Higher & Lower Booths; Briercliffe with Extwistle; Burnley and Bowland with Leagram.

Burnley & Nelson libraries have microfilm covering the whole of the area and Accrington, Colne & Rawtenstall libraries also have some of the areas. If you are able to check one, some or all of these areas please contact Christine Haworth, Tel 01282 603627, 9 Victoria Gardens, Carr Hall, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire. BB9 6 DN

Lancashire BMD Project

The first batch of Register Office marriages went on line in October and consequently Burnley Record Office had many requests for certificates. Marriages from 12 C of E churches in the district should be online within the next few weeks. Clitheroe branch have completed the records for their district and have kindly offered to help us with our work. They will be at the Register Office on a Tuesday morning working on the birth registrations.

Volunteers are urgently needed to input data on computer. If you can spare some time, perhaps just a couple of hours a week or whatever time you can spare, then you could play an important part in this project.

Many thanks to all who spend their time on these projects.

Christine Windle, Project Coordinator Tel 01282 705894
2 Langholme Close, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancs, BB9 6DH

LANCASHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Open on Saturday – 2005.

Lancashire Record Office will open on the second Saturday of each month in addition to the usual daily opening times.

The office will open from 10.00am until 4.00pm on

12th March	9th July	8th October
9th April	13th August	12th November
14th May	10th September	10th December
11th June		

Please note that no documents will be produced between 12.30 and 1.30pm

USER CONSULTATION MEETING

The County Archivist warmly invites all users of the LRO, especially those who consider that they have a disability, to attend the next User Consultation Open Meeting at the LRO, Bow Lane, Preston on Tuesday 15th March 2005 at 2.00pm

The LRO value your views and want to know what you think about various aspects of their service. In particular they would like to discuss how easy you find it to access the Record Office, their services and their archives, and how they might make them more accessible in the future.

A 19th CENTURY ROMANCE

Submitted by John Lustig.

This genealogical story arose from my membership of our family history society and the thoughtful assistance of Brenda Hustler, to whom I am extremely grateful. She it was who received an e-mail enquiry on the Rootsweb London Genealogy list, from a Claudia Oliver asking "How do I find my missing Lustigs?"

Brenda put me in touch with Claudia and we quickly established that we were second cousins once removed. That was in July 2003, since when we have exchanged a great deal of information and photographs, including Claudia's own accounts of the principal character in this real-life tale, known as 'Tita'. I am indebted to her for permission to use her copyright material as the chief source of this piece.

'Tita' Falcieri was born in 1798 in Venice, where he became a gondolier. He died in 1874 in London, where he had been a hall porter at the India Office. During those 76 years he led an extraordinary life, full of those twists and turns which the fates conspire to impose upon us and which my cousin has documented. They form the colourful background to an integral part of her family history – for there is very good reason to believe that Tita was none other than one of her 3 x great grandfathers!

Tita's father, Vincenzo Falcieri, was a gondolier and passed on his skills to his three sons. The young men came to be employed at the Palazzo Mocenigo, on the Grand Canal, the home of the aristocratic Mocenigo family. In June 1818, Lord Byron went to stay in Venice, renting rooms at the Palazzo and there he arranged to buy Tita out of conscript to be his personal gondolier. However, when Byron decided to move from Venice in the very early 1820s he took his staff with him and, the canals left behind, Tita essentially became Byron's bodyguard. He was well suited for such a job, being a huge man; armed into the bargain, he was a force to be reckoned with! (Those who saw the TV programmes about Byron, may have noticed such a character at Byron's side in some scenes.)

Tita was nothing if not a loyal and devoted servant, even being jailed in consequence of his fierce actions to defend his master. In May 1821, he was forced to move away from the Pisa region, but he didn't go far. Byron arranged for him to work for his friend, Percy Bysshe Shelley in Lerici on the Bay of Spezia, and Tita was there when Shelley and his friend Williams were so tragically drowned at sea the following year. Byron went to Lerici to grieve and to comfort Shelley's wife Mary, and Tita resumed his duties with his master.

Tita accompanied Byron when he went to aid the Greek cause against the Turks in 1823 and he was there at Byron's side when the poet died from the combined effects of exposure and marsh fever at Missolonghi in April 1824. Tita, still only 26, accompanied Byron's coffin during its trans-shipment on the brig 'Florida' to England for the funeral that summer. The British press described Tita as a 'Goliath of valets' and a devoted servant.

Byron's death obviously brought about a sudden uncertainty in Tita's future, but my cousin Claudia's extensive research has uncovered various inconclusive trails of his movements

over the following six years or so. It is thought that, at some point, Tita returned to Greece to fight the Greek cause in the War of Independence but there is as yet no documentation to support that. What is certain, however, is that he secured employment with a James Clay, through whom, in 1831, he came to meet the young Benjamin Disraeli in Malta, when Disraeli was doing his 'grand tour'. Disraeli returned to England later that year and early in 1832 Clay also returned – with Tita (whose passport application was supported by Clay). By that June, however, Tita found himself out of work in London and he resolved to seek out Disraeli.

[At this point, a short diversion is appropriate, as I introduce two other ancestors who played parts in the wider family story which now starts to evolve. In 1831/32, a major turning point for Tita, my own paternal great grandfather was born in Bavaria and, some five years later, his future wife Jane was born in Canterbury. Jane was to become the one common ancestor linking my cousin Claudia and me].

But – back to Tita, who succeeded in contacting Disraeli. He suggested that Tita might like to work for his parents, Isaac and Maria D'Israeli, at Bradenham Manor in Buckinghamshire. So it was that, in August 1832, this former gondolier (now 34 years of age) began a new life in the English countryside. One can imagine the impact this imposing foreigner had upon rural villagers and upon the other members of the D'Israeli household!

Isaac, himself of Italian descent, had known Lord Byron and had no problems with his new butler. Indeed, it seems that the two of them soon formed a good working relationship – essential to the smooth running of a household. Isaac's butler also struck the right note with Maria D'Israeli's personal maid, a young woman called Sarah Harvey, eight years younger than Tita. Each of them faithfully cared for the elderly couple, as Maria became profoundly deaf and Isaac slowly went blind. During their sixteen years working together at Bradenham Manor, Tita and Sarah became very close and must in due course have fallen for one another. Of course, such a relationship had to remain covert if they were to keep their positions in the household, and we suspect that the full nature of their affection only developed in the later years of their joint service at Bradenham.

Benjamin Disraeli's parents died within nine months of one another, Maria in April 1847 and Isaac early in 1848. Sarah Harvey became housekeeper upon Maria's death and the following year was transferred in that capacity to Benjamin Disraeli's country home, Hughenden Manor. Tita was also taken care of. Sir John Cam Hobhouse, a friend of Disraeli had also been close to Lord Byron. Knowing Tita from those days, he was pleased to help Disraeli obtain a job for Tita at the India Office in London. He was also provided with a room in Disraeli's apartment at No 1 Grosvenor Gate. He was not a happy man, however. The changes that had taken place within a few months must have been traumatic. In particular, he was lonely in the capital and a short time later he wrote at length to Benjamin Disraeli, advising the politician of his intention to marry Sarah Harvey. Tita's letter is couched in appropriately respectful terms and Disraeli, who, with his sister, had always been concerned for Tita's welfare, agreed to release his housekeeper to Tita. It seems, however, that Disraeli had been under the impression that they had been married some time earlier – which may explain the 'blind eye' turned on their relationship during sixteen years of service. Might that blind eye also have been extended, one wonders, to the child, believed to have

been Tita and Sarah's, who was secretly removed and adopted by Sarah's relatives towards the end of her service at Bradenham? In any event, Tita and Sarah married in January 1849 and enjoyed 25 years together.

The common ancestor I mentioned earlier was Jane, née Bourn, who married my great grandfather, John George Lustig in 1856. He suffered an early death, at the age of 37, in 1868 and four months later Jane remarried. The certificate confirming this second marriage shows her husband to have been one John Baptiste Harvey. Unusual name you may think, as I myself did. Not really, when one realises that Tita's full name was Giovanni Battista Falcieri. Knowing the true parentage of their adopted child, what nicer way could there have been for Sarah's relatives to ensure that Tita's name lived on? Furthermore, such was the regard in which Tita was held that John Baptiste and Jane Harvey included his surname as one of their daughter's first names. My cousin Claudia is descended from another of their daughters.

The Harveys and the Lustigs had a close relationship lasting some 50 years (more or less until the Great War) during which my grandfather and two of his brothers (i.e. Jane's sons by her first marriage) worked in Harvey's butcher's shop in London. It is wonderful that a connection has been re-established after an interval of perhaps 70 years, taking the two families' relationship into a third century, albeit discontinuously, and this is due to Claudia's enthusiastic research.

IN OUR ANCESTORS' TIMES

Submitted by Margaret Heap.

POVERTY AND THE NEW POOR LAW

- 1832 Whig government establishes a royal commission, chaired by the Bishop of London to investigate the working of the unreformed Poor Law and recommend changes. It recommends getting rid of relief outside workhouses for those who were fit to work.
- 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act passed.
- 1844 Detailed improvements to the working of the new Poor Law implemented.
- 1846 Settlement Act gives the right of any person continuously resident in a parish for at least 5 years to apply for relief there and not to be taken away to the parish of 'original settlement'.
- 1847 Poor Law Act replaced by the Poor Law Commission with a Poor Law Board, headed by a president, who was a member of the cabinet. Detailed parliamentary scrutiny of the workings of the Poor Law is increased.
- 1852 Outdoor Regulation Relief Order finally recognised that able-bodied males might receive poor relief outside the workhouse in certain circumstances.
- 1861 Settlement Act of 1846 amended so that right to relief is now guaranteed after 3 years.
- 1865 Union Chargeability Act required a standard rate to be charged throughout a Poor Law Union. This corrects the problem caused in many parishes where poverty was extensive. Until this Act, wealthier parishes in the same Union were not obliged to offer any support to poorer ones. Also the length of time required to establish 'settlement' (see 1846 and 1861) is reduced to 1 year.

Authorities, which had their own arrangements under separate legislation, were not subject to central inspection. London did not come under its powers, nor did Scotland

Compulsory establishment of local boards of health only where the death rate exceeded 23 per thousand compared with a nation average of 21.

- 1853 Further restrictions on starting and finishing times in textile factories in practice establishes a maximum 10-hour day for all. Government attempts to make vaccination against smallpox compulsory, but many loopholes remain, and further legislation on the subject passed in 1858, 1867 and 1871.
- 1858 Local Government and Public Health Act
 - (i) The Board of Health wound up.
 - (ii) Powers of the Board transferred to a new Local Government Act Office.
 - (iii) A new medical department of the Privy Council set up.
 - (iv) Local initiatives in public health not so subject to central controls.
- 1862 The government introduces a 'Revised Code' to save money by making grants dependent on satisfactory attendance and performance in tests before inspectors in reading, writing and arithmetic.
- 1864 First of 3 Contagious Diseases Acts passed (others followed in 1866 and 1869). This aimed to stop the spread of venereal disease among the armed forces. Police could detain women in garrison towns suspected of being prostitutes and have them medically examined. If infected they were kept in a locked hospital until cured.
- 1866 Sanitary Act increases powers for local authorities. Local authorities must remove 'nuisances' (rotting matter, excrement, etc) to public health. For the first time, powers extended over domestic 'nuisances'.
- 1867 New Factory Act extended the provisions previously governing textile factories to all factories. The Agricultural Gangs Act prohibited children less than 8 years of age from working in the fields.
- 1870 Elementary Education Act passed.
 - (i) Establishment of local school boards, elected by local ratepayers. These boards would provide public 'elementary schools' to fill up gaps left by the voluntary church schools. The new schools quickly became known as 'Board Schools'.
 - (ii) The schools would charge fees, but local boards could pay them on behalf of individuals if they thought it necessary.
 - (iii) Women were entitled to vote for school boards and to sit on them.
 - (iv) Local boards could make attendance compulsory between the ages of 5 and 13, but this was optional
 - (v) Board Schools would not adopt education according to any specific religious denomination (Anglican, Catholic, Etc).

Around 1294, the monks of Bolton Priory near Skipton Yorkshire, were obtaining 'sea coles' from the Colne area of Lancashire for use in their smiths' forges. This is probably the earliest reference to coal mining in Lancashire.

DIARY DATES – (WHAT'S ON)

IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP - MINI- CONFERENCE

The Resource Centre, 2 the Straits, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs.

Saturday 5th March 2005 10.30am to 4.30pm

Conference Fee £5 Places are limited

Programme

10.30 Registration – Tea/Coffee & Biscuits

11.00 **Irish Ancestry Research via the Internet**

Brenda Hustler

12.15 Lunch Break Tea/Coffee provided

13.45 **Irish Ancestry Research outside Dublin/Belfast**

Margaret Purcell

1500 Tea/Coffee

15.15 **My One-Name Hartigan Study**

Stephen Hartigan

16.30 Close

Please bring a packed lunch or one may be obtained locally.

Payment of £5 may be made on arrival.

Bookings and enquiries to Miss Margaret Purcell, 128 Red Bank Rd, Bispham, Blackpool, Lancashire FY2 9DZ.

SAE please if you would like travel directions.

E-mail mpurcell@redbankmp.fsnet.co.uk

FUTURE MEETING - IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP.

All held at the Straits 1 pm to 4.30 pm (all Saturday dates)

4th June Research

10 Sept Talk plus research

3rd Dec Research

CHESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

The Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich,

Saturday 26th February 2005.

CITY OF YORK FHS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

New Earswick Folk Hall 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday 12th March 2005. Admission £1

For further details contact Jan Wood - 01653 628952

email: jan@yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk

MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Hulme Hall, Bolton Rd, Port Sunlight, Wirral

Sunday 13th March 2005 10 am to 5 pm

Admission £2 (accompanied children under 16 free)

NORTHERN FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Civic Hall, Pudsey Saturday 19th March 2005

10 am to 4:30 pm

THE CLEVELAND, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND SOUTH DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Family & Local History Fair in Carlisle

Sunday March 20th 2005

Contact - 01931 714305 for details.

STOCKPORT FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Stockport Town Hall, Wellington Rd South, Stockport

Sunday 3rd April 2005 10 am to 5 pm

Admission £2 (accompanied children under 16 free)

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Buxton Pavilion Gardens Sunday May 22nd 10am to 5pm

Admission £2 (accompanied children under 16 free)

GWENT FAMILY HISTORY OPEN DAY

County Hall Cwmbran. Saturday 11th June 2005

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

York Race Course Saturday 25th June 2005,

10am to 4.30 pm

SOUTH WEST AREA FAMILY HISTORY FAIR,

Winter Gardens, Royal Parade, Weston Super Mare.

Saturday 9th July 2005 10am- 4pm.

THE 6th NORTH WALES FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Cymdeithasau Hanes Teulu Gwynedd a Clwyd

Gwynedd and Clwyd Family History Societies

Llandudno Conference Centre

Saturday, 3rd September 2005 10 a.m to 4.30 p.m

Admission £2.00 (Accompanied children under 15 - free)

Lectures included in the admission fee. Refreshments

available. Large car park at rear of the Conference Centre

THE NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Gateshead International Stadium

Saturday 10th September 2005 10.00a.m to 4.30p.m

Admission £3.00 Accompanied Children under 15 free

FAMILY DOCUMENTS

Last October, Bob Dobson, a member of our society, who is a second-hand book dealer based near Blackpool (he comes from Accrington) very kindly donated an old dictionary to our branch which contained details of a PATE, ASTWOOD, PICKLES families from Burnley. The details of this family were published in our November edition of the Gazette and as a result, we had two replies from descendants of this family, one in Canada and one in Scotland.

Bob has asked us to let you know that his most recent catalogue of second-hand books contains much to interest family as well as local historians. Included in the 32-pages are some unique documents (wills, deeds, conveyances, mortgages) relating to Colne and Burnley, all of them bearing family names. As "Landy Publishing", Bob publishes Lancashire and Yorkshire (L&Y) local history books, including recent ones on Huncoat and Sabden.

He can be contacted at 3 Staining Rise, Staining, Blackpool

FY3 0BU. Tel/Fax 01253 895678

e-mail bobdobson@amservice.com

METHODISM IN THE PENDLE AREA

An account has been sent in by Colin Beech about the involvement of the TOWLER and DYSON families, his ancestors, and the history of METHODISM in Pendle area.

Other family names associated with his research are HAWORTH and BEECH. The account is 10 pages long and so is too long to be included in the branch newsletter, unless it is done in instalments. This will be considered for future issues of the Gazette. In the mean time, a copy of the account will be available in the branch library.

Colin is particularly interested in what happened to Edwin TOWLER and to any references to Methodism which include the TOWLER or HAWORTH family name.

The branch secretary has contact details for Colin.

Volunteers needed for 1 day only to help on the LFH&HS stall at the Northern Family History Fair at Pudsey on Saturday 19th March 2005.

Contact - Stephen Ward, Exhibitions Organizer,

136 Hawthorne Road, Deane, Bolton BL3 1QP

Tel 01204 650348 - or the branch secretary.

CHANGES IN CIVIL REGISTRATION

George Gregson, one of our branch members, has been in correspondence over recent months with his MP, Peter Pike, regarding the proposed changes in civil registration. Peter Pike is also chairman of the Regulatory Reform Committee (RRC). The results of a meeting of this committee were published on 20th December 2004, to the effect that they threw out the Births & Deaths proposal and have published a full report on the reasons for doing so. The government is not happy with the decision and they will obviously have a re-look at the position. The RRC were not opposed to what they sought to do but could not endorse it for several reasons.

This is the summary of the report issued by the RRC

SUMMARY

The civil registration of a birth or death is an important life event that affects everyone. The proposal for the Regulatory Reform (Registration of Births and Deaths) (England and Wales) Order 2004 is designed to modernise that area of law in England and Wales which governs the process of the registration of the births and deaths of individuals and, in so doing, to permit reforms to the way in which registration services are managed and provided.

The legal reforms arising from the proposal and the non-statutory administrative changes it would engender would enable the modernisation of a necessary service that has changed little since it was first established in the 1830's.

The registration system, while it is widely considered to function effectively, fails adequately to reflect current forms of family relationship; is perceived to be anachronistically organised around the act of completing written entries in paper registers in the physical presence of informants at Register Offices; and also is legally unable to make use of computer technology in either the communication of data for entry into the registers, the keeping of the formal records (i.e. 'the register' itself), or the subsequent supply of information from the register to those who have a need or a wish to view it.

In addition to changing how records are produced and kept, the Government proposes to reform the structure and status of the local registration service, making it effectively a function of the local authority in each area.

In our scrutiny of the proposals we have been aware that many concerns articulated in respect of the General Register Office's original proposals at consultation stage have yet to be addressed. To some extent, more detailed development work of the new computer-based registration system is still in process and detailed information about how aspects of that system will function in practice are as yet unknown.

After having taken further oral and written evidence from the responsible Minister, the General Register Office and a number of interested parties we have concluded that the Government has not provided a sufficiently convincing case for us to conclude the proposals are suitable for introduction by delegated legislation. We also have concerns about the *vires* of aspects of the proposal.

The Committee considers that the sweeping nature of the proposed changes in such a sensitive area makes the proposal inappropriate for implementation by means of a regulatory reform order.

The full Report can be viewed either on the House of Commons web site as a series of web pages from the Committee's pages at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmdereg/118/11803.htm>

or downloaded as a .pdf file (using Adobe Acrobat)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmdereg/118/118.pdf>

A LOCAL CONNECTION.

In early December, there was a programme on TV about Wing Commander Adrian Warburton DSO DFC, a distinguished RAF officer who was killed in action over Germany. He disappeared on an aerial reconnaissance mission during WW2. His remains and his aeroplane were found in November 2002, almost 60 years after he disappeared. The late husband of Edna Simpson, one of our branch members, was in **WARBURTON's** squadron. Mr Simpson always wondered what had happened to his squadron leader, but died 12 years ago, not knowing.

COMPUTER NOTES

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.lancashirechurches.co.uk>

This website shows pictures of many of the churches in Lancashire. Some have historical and architectural notes in addition.

<http://www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

An interesting website if you have miners in your family. It contains pictures and conditions in the mining industry, a national database of mining deaths of Great Britain, a list of UK mines together with location maps and many other items connected with the mining industry.

<http://chartists.net/>

An excellent site about the chartist movement during the nineteenth century. There is a searchable database where you can find if your ancestor was a chartist. Millions signed the three great Chartist petitions of 1839 to 1848. Thousands were active in those years in the campaign to win the vote, secret ballots, and other democratic rights that we now take for granted. Chartist Ancestors lists many of those who risked their freedom, and sometimes their lives, because of their participation in the Chartist cause.

<http://www.behindthename.com>

The etymology and history of first names. – gives the meaning of hundreds of first names.

<http://www.gisburn.org.uk/frameset.htm>

An excellent site about the town of Gisburn. It includes a searchable database of burials at Gisburn Parish Church. There are quite a few burials there of people from Colne, Barrowford and Barnoldswick.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

When the last issue of 'The Gazette' was posted out, several messages "bounced" and were returned as undeliverable. If you have changed your e-mail address, please inform the branch secretary. This also applies to members who have their research interests posted on the branch website.

QUERY CORNER

EARNSHAW & BOTTOMLEY – Builders in Colne.
 Jan Stoney e-mail janstoney@btinternet.com
 Jan asks if anyone knows if the two 1950s building firms **EARNSHAW & BOTTOMLEY** and **A & H BOTTOMLEY** in Colne are linked. Her grandfather, Albert **BOTTOMLEY** was one of the owners of **A & H BOTTOMLEY** and lived in Trawden. If anyone has any information Jan would be pleased to hear from you.

LEE of HAPTON HALL
 Sandra Charlton e-mail Sanrjc@aol.com
 Sandra is researching her ancestors Jonathan **LEE** and his son Robert **LEE** who lived at Hapton Hall, Hapton in the late 1700s and early 1800s. She has found the location of Hapton Hall near to Hapton Castle, but neither seem to exist anymore, nor can she find any information on the internet about the history of this building. Robert **LEE** married Ann **ASHWORTH** of Windy Bank and they farmed at Martholme Manor, Great Harwood. Sandra has found the location and information on the latter without any difficulty, but Hapton Hall continues to baffle her. She would be grateful for any information on Hapton Hall and the **LEE** family.

STEPHENSON & BOUNDARY MILL Helena Stephenson
 e-mail - pjs100@bopenworld.com
 Helena has been told by an elderly relative that an ancestor called **STEPHENSON** had a textile mill on the boundary of Colne and Nelson, and that this is what is now the Boundary Mill Store of today. Helen asks can anyone verify this .

JOHN and ELLEN BROWN (nee BERRY). Kathy Johnson, 46 Newbury Lane, Silsoe, Beds, MK45 4EX
 e-mail kathy.johnson@btinternet.com
 Kathy's "brick wall" is John and Ellen **BROWN (nee BERRY)**. John **BROWN** was born circa 1822 in Foulridge. There is a John **BROWN** christened 14.Apr.1822 at Colne Parish Church, but Kathy cannot confirm that this is him. In 1841, John (15), a handloom weaver is living at Great Broach with parents James (a farmer) & Ann. Ellen lived at Black Lane End, Colne with parents James (a publican) and Isabellah and siblings Robert, Richard, Nancy & Mary. John & Ellen were married 20.Jun.1842. Both were minors. In the 1851 census, John (29), a farmer, and Ellen (28) lived at Nar Hill, Colne with Ann (7), Isabella (5) James (3) and Jane (2). A son, John, was born in 1853 at Colne Moor. The library staff at Colne have checked the 1861 census for Nar Hill Farm, but John & Ellen Brown and family are no longer there. The burials for Colne Parish Church, 1851 to 1861, and deaths registered in Burnley between 1853 and 1861 have been checked but no entries have been found for either John or Ellen **BROWN**. No trace of them can be found on the 1861, 1881 or 1901 census. Earlier generations of the **BROWNS** lived in the Foulridge/Colne area but later generations lived in the Barrowford/Old Laund Booth/Fence areas. The **BROWN** family were involved with the Inghamite Church and the graveyards around the area have been checked but nothing found. Kathy would appreciate any help with finding the deaths/burials of John & Ellen **BROWN**.

Query Corner is continued overleaf

Cut along the dotted line



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