



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 43 July 2011

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that I have to report the sudden death of one of our members, Rosemary Mulrooney. Rosemary, always cheerful and helpful, was a valued member of our branch for many years, and was part of the original BMD team at Burnley Register office. A large part of Rosemary's working life was spent in a tobacconist's shop, and this formed the basis for an excellent talk 'Burnley Co-op Tobacconists' which she would give to various local groups. Rosemary's stories and memories of her time in the shop and life in Burnley in the 1950s and 60s have been recorded for posterity by the North West Sound Archives.

We will all miss Rosemary very much and we send our deepest sympathy and condolences to her husband and family.

LIBRARY

2 new CDs have been received :-

CD016 : 1851 Map of Lancashire

CD017 : A Lad From Accrington: Flight Sergeant Thomas Starkie (1918-1944)
by John Porter

Margaret Heap, Branch Librarian

LANCASHIRE BMD PROJECT

Since the last committee meeting 60,250 Burnley deaths and 15,188 Mother's Maiden Names for Barnoldswick have been added to the Internet. Work is continuing on Colne Deaths from 1908 to 1974. A very big thank you to Mary Jackson and all the team for all their support during the past few weeks/months. Everyone is doing a fantastic job.

Janet Knowles, BMD Co-ordinator

On the evening of 18th May a group of 27 members visited Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe, for a guided tour of the Parker family home. Originally 'park keepers' for the forest of Bowland, Parkers have lived at the Hall since it was built in 1507, claiming it as the oldest surviving family home in Lancashire. Amanda Parker welcomed us and introduced us to our guide, Linda.

The Hall has been lovingly restored to its present condition since it was inherited in 1975 by Robert Parker and his wife Amanda, and it was fascinating to see the eclectic display of antiquities, inherited family possessions, especially in the Main Hall, looking as it would have done 200 years ago. Our guide, Linda, regaled us with anecdotes of the Parker family history, and showed us many interesting items, including a Civil War coat hanging in the Main Hall; early C17 oak panelling in the Library; the stained-glass window at the top of the staircase, a jigsaw of recycled glass from Whalley Abbey and Skipwith, York, the oldest piece dating from the 1300's; and amongst all the grand family portraits and paintings, a rare picture of a servant, a gamekeeper, John Robert Shaw and his dog. The occasional family photo reminded us that Browsholme is still used as a family home, indeed there are three generations of Parkers living in the Hall today.

Jean Ingham thanked Amanda Parker and Linda, on behalf of us all for allowing us a glimpse into the history of a family who managed to survive the many turbulent times in our history. As our guide put it, "They kept their heads down and kept their heads on!"

We finished an enjoyable evening with supper at the Edisford Bridge Hotel in Clitheroe.

Margaret Heap has supplied the following articles which give a little more insight into the life of Elizabeth Shackleton formerly Elizabeth Parker of Browsholme.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF ELIZABETH SHACKLETON OF ALKINCOATS HALL, COLNE

All entries have been transcribed as the originals, including spellings, etc.

Monday. 15th October 1770 : Miss Horsfall married to Capt. Tucker she 17 he 70 years of age but very rich. Miss Horsfall daughter to Mrs Baldwin of Stone Gap married to Capt. Tucker - she was his wife about a month - he settled on her £200 a year. Her grandfather gave her £1000. She got a fine waggon load of rich goods which Mr Swires waggon fetched from the sale at Crownest to Stone Gap - also a nice Pad - with its furniture complete. Mr Tuckers son enjoys his large Estate.

Wednesday. 30th January 1771 : Mr Townley of Royle 65 years of age this day and goes a courting Mrs Eliza Holden of Palace House 45 years of age.

Wednesday. 24th April 1771 : I heard this day by Robert Hindle chimney sweeper that old Jone Metcalfe was turned of Hundred and one year old. He is with Mr & Mrs Baron of Marsden - and that Robert the chimney sweeper had been there the

last week when Mrs Baron told him the above - and that the Township of Altham allowed him half a crown a week.

19th October 1773 : Nanny Aireton recovered of Wm. Haighton Tallow Chandler Coln for non-performance of marriage - the licence & ring bought the day fixed for the Wedding weddingers asked. He broke his leg run off his word & married Miss Hynson of Trawden & paid Nanny Airton £80 £25 of which he paid to the attorney Pickup Settle.

24th September 1776 : Mr Shackleton cross and never more cruel than my pen can express.

28th September 1776 : Mr Shackleton came from Coln about 6 this morning very drunk - three times in that condition within 6 days.

21st January 1777 : Mr Shackleton came home about three being absent from breakfast till that time some where he struck me with his double fist upon my arm, the hardest blow I ever had in my life.

16th March 1777 : Robert Parkers birthday 21 years old this day... The Bells began to ring before 6 ...

Friday 21st March 1777 : John Parkers Birthday twenty two this day.

Sunday 20th April 1777 : Thomas Parkers birthday twenty three today.

23rd October 1777 : I wrote to my son at Browsholme by Cowgill who goes to Clitheroe Fair on Saturday - told him Robert had not paid his rent....

Tuesday 14th April 1778 : Mr Shackleton's birthday - thirty four years of age this day - God grant him his health to live & see many happy of these days to have grace & to do well.

23rd April 1778 : found Mr Shackleton fast asleep had been so above an hour most exceeding beastly to a degree never so [sic] him worse - he had made water into the fire - he had a bottle of red wine rum brandy & ale beside him....

24th April 1778 : Mr Shackleton struck me twenty times last night - burst my nose & hurt my mouth.

Friday 1st May 1778 : I left my good old home at Browsholm this day twenty five years & came to my good old home at Alkincoates....

24th August 1778 : Mr Shackleton rather in liquor he is very unmannerly rude & cross despises me as if I were a washerwoman.

16th December 1778 : This is my birthday God make me thankful that I have lived to see it. I am fifty two this day ...

29th May 1779 : Mr Shackleton says I stink & wishes he had never had me.

6th January 1780 : Mr Shackleton takes great care of me & is very kind. I thank him.

12th July 1780 : Never saw him [Mr Shackleton] so rude vulgar or so drunk - he took his horse whip to me ... he was barbarous to me took me by the arm to turn me out of doors - told me to get out many a time....

16th July 1780 : The Steward from Browsholme came to Alkincoates this evening - Tom & him tomorrow propose to take a view of Harden Moor - the Duke of Devonshire is going to enclose his share - we hear he has taken in part of my right belonging there & my son is going to hear about it

17th July 1780 : Tom told me that they enclosed about eight acres of common right belonging to us

21st July 1780 : my son looked for some writings belonging to Marley to see if ever Browsholme or Alkincoats ever kept or call a Court for our Manor of Harden - no such could be found.

4th June 1781 : Mr Shackleton complains of his breast & to be very ill - he well may after being drunk from Wednesday to Sunday night five whole days.

30th July 1781 : he [Mr Shackleton] struck me violently many a time took the use out of my arm swelled from my shoulder to my wrist the skin knocked off my elbow in great misery & pain he afterwards got up & left my bed went into another room pretty matrimonial comforts

Elizabeth Shackleton was buried on 2nd September 1781 at St Bartholomew's, Colne.

The portrait of Elizabeth which hangs at Browsholme shows her to have been a beautiful young woman. She was born Elizabeth Parker on 16th December 1726, the only daughter of John Parker of Browsholme. Her mother died in 1745 when Elizabeth became mistress of Browsholme until 1753. Her first husband was Robert Parker, her cousin, of Alkincoats, Colne - a match vehemently opposed by her father probably on account of Robert's Jacobite sympathies - resulting in secret meetings at Browsholme with the help of the servants. Finally, when Elizabeth was aged 27 her father relented and a happy marriage followed resulting in the birth of 3 sons within 3 years, and a daughter, Betty, who unfortunately did not survive. Sadly Robert Parker also died aged 38, leaving Elizabeth a widow with the three boys aged 4, 3 and 2.

In 1765 Elizabeth eloped to Gretna Green and married John Shackleton, a local wool trader, the son of Christopher Shackleton of Stone Edge. This would have caused quite a scandal in Colne as her new husband was not only of inferior social standing, but was also young enough to be her son. In consequence, her brother, Edward Parker, who had inherited Browsholme, ceased all communications with her, and it was ten years before brother and sister were reconciled.

As can be seen from the above diary entries, the marriage was subject to much domestic violence, mainly due to John Shackleton's drunkenness, and, no doubt, the 18 years age gap.

PROGRAMME REPORT

Several bookings have been made for 2012. Please let me know of any good speakers and also the topics you would be interested in.

Jean Ingham Acting Programme Secretary

BBC DOMESDAY RELOADED

The BBC is asking the people of Britain to take a walk down memory lane back to 1986 – when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister, mullets were the craze, Maradona's "Hand of God" destroyed a nation's World Cup dreams, the first Japanese car manufacturing plant opened in the UK and the ZX Spectrum was the game console of choice.

One of the most comprehensive digital time capsules has been unearthed through BBC Domesday Reloaded, providing a rarely-seen snapshot of what local areas looked like 25 years ago. The public is being asked to explore and, more importantly, update previously unseen images and articles from their local area by going onto the dedicated Domesday website.

The campaign, led by BBC Learning, runs throughout the summer of 2011 and invites you to participate by updating local photos and text which were submitted in 1986.

To Participate in BBC Domesday Reloaded

The map on the website - www.bbc.co.uk/domesday - is divided into D-blocks and you can find yours by typing in your postcode. When you click on your local D-block you may find photos and text from 1986, but please note not all D-blocks had submissions. If there are photos and text on your local or neighbouring D-blocks we would like you to add your 2011 updates.



Space reserved for your article !!

ARCHIVES NEWS

A number of Archives are reporting revised opening times, some to due to refurbishment and others due to the restrictions on finances. If you intend to visit any of these Archives you are advised to check the opening times and availability of the collections before arranging a visit.

Lancashire Archives will be closed to the public from Monday 4 July until October 2011 because of essential plant replacement and the installation of energy-efficient lighting throughout the building. There will be no direct public access to archives or local studies material during this period.

During the closed period Lancashire Archives staff will continue to work in the building but will have limited access to the strongrooms and to reference books and catalogues.

We will continue as far as possible to answer postal and emailed enquiries and to supply copies of documents, but there may be unavoidable delays. The Record Agents on the Lancashire Archives list will continue to carry out research but will have no special access to our collections.

We are sorry for the inconvenience this is likely to cause to our regular users and to those planning future visits.

British Library's Colindale Newspaper Library

Launching in Autumn 2011, the British Newspaper Archive will make millions of pages of historical newspapers available online for the first time - unlocking a treasure trove of material for historians, researchers, genealogists, students and anyone interested in when, where and how our ancestors lived and key periods of historical interest. You can read more about this at :- www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. There is a link to some examples of the sort of information that will be available. You can also register to be kept informed of when the newspapers go online.

LFHHS IRISH ANCESTRY GROUP

All meetings held at The LFHHS Resource Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle.

Advice & Research Workshop

Saturday 13th August 2011, 1pm to 4.30pm

Advice & Research Workshop

Saturday 8th October 2011, 1pm to 4.30pm

Lecture From Clare to Burnley – McNamara's in Blackburn and Burnley – Philip McNamara

Saturday 3rd December 2011, 1pm to 4.30pm

Enquiries – Shaun O'Hara, 8 Liddington Close, Newfield Park, Blackburn, BB2 3WP. e-mail: shaunpam at btinternet.com

CAN YOU HELP?

THE REEL HISTORY OF BRITAIN NEW 20 PART SERIES FOR BBC2

Presented by Melvyn Bragg

Liz Kempton, a researcher for BBC Entertainment Production North would like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with a new series she is working on.

The programmes will focus on different aspects of British life in the twentieth century, told through the rare and unseen film archive of the British Film Institute and regional film archives.

Each episode will focus on a different aspect of social history and will be filmed at a different location, where the programme makers will take their original 1960s mobile cinema (see link <http://www.vintagemobilecinema.co.uk/>).

One of the episodes Liz is currently looking at is titled 'The Dawn of a New Era' and will look at the Mitchell & Kenyon films, as well as life in the years 1900-1914. She would love to speak to anyone whose family memories have been passed down from this time.

Please get in touch with Liz direct on either of the telephone numbers below with any information you are willing to share.

The following link also takes you to the press release which gives you a few more details about the series:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2010/09_september/30/bragg.shtml.

Liz Kempton, Researcher, The Reel History Of Britain, BBC Entertainment Production North / Room 4041 / New Broadcasting House / Oxford Road / Manchester / M60 7HB Tel: +44 (0) 161 244 3718 / +44 (0) 7791 622 443

The 1911 census for England and Wales is now freely available in a restricted form via the FamilySearch website at :-

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1921547>

A returned search will list name, age, gender, birthplace and registration district where recorded for the census. No indication of others present in the household is provided, nor is this possible as the source information is not included. For all results, a link will take you to the FindmyPast website (www.findmypast.co.uk) and access to the original image and full details, for the requisite fee. Nevertheless, if you wish to make an initial enquiry concerning someone's presence in an area, a useful tool.

It is worth pointing out that a free search can be done on FindmyPast itself without logging in, but all that is returned is name, age and registration district, so the FamilySearch site does offer the advantage of listing place of birth also.

New website showcasing Lincolnshire life throughout the ages.

Those with an interest in Lincolnshire may be interested to learn of the new LincsToThePast website.

The site includes integrated catalogues from Lincolnshire Archives, Tennyson Research Centre, libraries, museums and the Historic Environment Record, together with online exhibitions highlighting our collections, learning resources, and more than 500,000 images, documenting thousands of years of county history. Digitised documents include parish registers, probate inventories and maps.

The site is aimed at both dedicated researchers and casual browsers, with records, photographs and objects being shown as high-quality images, which are also available to buy. See www.lincstothePast.com

Titanic descendants

As the 100th Anniversary of Titanic approaches, Titanic Heritage Trust are pleased to announce the creation of a database of descendants of survivors and of all those who were lost on 15th April 1912.

If anyone has a connection or knows someone who has a connection with the Titanic please contact us.

Also, as part of the 100th Anniversary events are being planned; we are hoping to get together in one place as many as possible of the descendants of survivors and any descendants of those who were lost when Titanic sank.

If you have any information which would help us please contact: Howard Nelson, Titanic Heritage Trust, The TechnoCentre, Puma Way, Coventry CV1 2TT.
Telephone: 024 76236556, Email: enquiries@titanicheritagetrust.org.uk

THE NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Newcastle Central Premier Inn,
Newbridge St.,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE1 8BS

Saturday 10th September 2011,
10am to 4pm
Admission £3

QUERY CORNER

If you can help in any way with the following queries would you please let Jean know :- enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

GRAHAM

A lady from New Zealand is requesting information for her friend about GRAHAMs in Burnley and says that :

“According to family word of mouth my friend's Grandmother, Ellen Graham owned or ran a grocers shop with an off license during WWII in Burnley. Her husband Thomas Graham was a coal miner/steel worker. There was a trap door in the shop for barrels. This lady was famed for baking wedding cakes from items saved through rations coupons.

Is there any way to find out what such grocer shops were in Burnley during those years. I have no idea how large or small Burnley was 1939-1945. I am aware there was a 1948 electoral roll and that it could possibly have been searched, however Ellen Graham passed away in the North Cotswold in 1948. Although her husband Thomas Graham survived her I am not sure if he remained in Burnley or not.”

SILSDEN FILM

Does anyone recall seeing a short amateur film ‘Silsden 1971/1972’? This film was probably taken by the BENNET family.

FOULDS, DUERDEN, BAXTER

A researcher in Australia is seeking ancestors of Herbert and Ada FOULDS (nee BAXTER, possibly from Burnley) who emigrated from Colne to Perth, Western Australia in the early 1900's. Their children were Ellen, Denis, Clifford and Harold (Harold may have been born in Australia). The family was in the clothing manufacturing industry which they continued on in Australia.

WOOSTER

Subject: Help with a recently acquired photo

Hello,

I am originally from the Brierfield area and my father was from Colne. Having studied my genealogy for the last few years I was delighted to receive a photo (attached) from a third cousin in New Zealand, which I believe to be the Wooster family of Colne. This family originated in Buckinghamshire and moved to Colne in ca. 1878, and I wonder if any of your members who might be distant cousins in the area recognise any of the people on the photo as their ancestors?

My third cousin can confirm that the lady at the front with the parasol is her great grandmother, Emily Hey (nee Wooster), the gentleman sitting on the rock is her husband James Hey and the little boy sitting on the rock is their son Harold Hey.

We can date the photograph to ca. 1890 due to Harold's age. She also confirms that this is not the Hey family who emigrated to New Zealand in 1911 and believes this to be Emily's family i.e. the Woosters. We believe that the older couple to the left are our great great grandparents John Wooster and Eliza Folley, the little girl sitting on the rock is Edith Mary Wooster, John and Eliza's youngest child and the group of ladies over to the right being four of Emily's sisters.

Emily's sisters are as follows: Sarah (married John Pickles), Jane (married John Crawshaw), Julia Ann (married Walter Ellis), Ruth Caroline (married Albert Firth), Bertha (married Greaves Shaw) and Edith Mary (married John Bottomley). Emily also had four brothers, Frederick (my great grandfather), Ebenezer, Arthur William and Frank.

The other interesting aspect of this photo is the rock they are sitting on looks unique. Unless I am mistaken, Eliza Folley appears to be sitting in a seat carved out of the rock. It looks like that rock is going nowhere fast, so is it still there? Wherever "there" is.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Nick Wooster



2011 PROGRAMME

The programme of events for the coming meetings is shown below and can also be viewed on the branch website at <http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk>

17 Aug	The Birth of Nelson - Fiona McIntyre
31 Aug	Open Evening
21 Sep	Women in the Mines - Graham Stirrup
19 Oct	Rebuilding of Ypres - Denise North
16 Nov	Beatrix Potter - Margaret Curry
30 Nov	Practical Evening
7 Dec	Christmas Festivities (ticket only, available at the November Meeting)

Printed copies of the programme are available.

Jean Ingham, Acting Programme Secretary.

GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

This month we have to thank three members for submitting material for the Gazette.

Last month's meeting brought back a few personal memories. I don't think we all realise just how long it is since some of us started work, quite a few probably over half a century ago. How much did we earn in that first week? What did we have to pay out? I still have the booklet from when I started work, the wage was £2 17s 4d for a 44 hour week. I remember getting a rise when I was about 18 for getting good results at Tech, this gave me an extra 1d an hour or 3s 8d (about 18p) per week. Anyone else remember their first days?

At the moment the Website is still being altered.

Articles are always welcome, I will try and fit them in as soon as possible. Articles for the October Gazette by the end of September please.

Please send to Editor at lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk or by post to the Editor, c/o 6 Sussex Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 5DS

Belonging to the One-Name branch of family historians is perhaps regarded as rather geeky - akin to train-spotting. We scuttle around picking up all references to our registered surname, take them to our burrows and mumble over them, trying to fit them together and make connections. For my own chosen name - Eltoft - the nineteenth century provides few problems; civil registration has captured most of them and it is only a matter of deciphering what the official or transcriber makes of this unfamiliar set of letters. Nearly everyone is in Lancashire or Yorkshire and the few outside are usually traceable back to their origin. The eighteenth century is more problematic; individuals and families pop up in unexpected places and they are either remnants of much earlier Eltoft settlers or escapers from life up north.

An example of this is the Eltoft family of Chester. My first intimation of them was the entry of a William Eltoft in the Probate Index of Wills proved at Chester as the subject of an Administration in 1803. 'Interesting' I thought and noted it down. Then I found 'John Eltoft, liquor merchant' under Chester in the Universal British Directory of c1795. More and more websites came on the Internet and when the old newspapers including the London Gazette arrived, information about his commercial career poured out. He was mainly classified as a 'toyman', that is a dealer in small metal goods - belts and buckles and so on - but he also advertised books and music for sale. His shop was on Eastgate in Chester for the latter half of the eighteenth century until he moved into the liquor business and went bankrupt in 1791. I sent for William's Admon. and found that he was John's son and his father had renounced executorship (possibly because he was an undischarged bankrupt or he may have simply felt too old) in favour of another son, John who lived at Minera, beyond Wrexham. Thinking I now had plenty of material for further research, I descended on Chester Record Office but to little effect. The burial of William at St Oswald Church was the only parish record I could find. There are a lot of churches in Chester and the records, while mostly filmed, are not indexed or transcribed. With no indication of John's marriage or dates for a possible family I simply had to plough through forty years of selected churches. St Oswald gave no results nor did the Cathedral - then the Office closed for the day. I had, however, found out that John had bought his way at a reduced rate into the local tradesmen's union (known as the Assembly) claiming he had served his apprenticeship.

Not expecting much I PAID to look at the apprentice records and discovered a John Eltoft aged 15, son of Thomas of Houghton, Yorks. (gent.) bound to John Johnson of the Cooks' Company in London 1754, and in 1758 at the Old Bailey John Eltoft testified in a shoplifting case from Cheapside, London, referring to 'My master, Johnson'. The IGI gives John Eltoft, son of Thomas Eltoft baptised at Kippax YKS in 1738. So, probably, a Yorkshireman.

Finally, from The Monthly Magazine in 1802 there was reported the death 'lately at Demerara W.I. Mr J. Eltoft, youngest son of Mr Eltoft of Chester'. Presumably not

the John named as replacement executor, this would be a third son. A postscript to this was the discovery of the baptism and death in 1799, at Handley, Cheshire, of Maria Bell, illegitimate daughter of Arabella Eltoft. Could there be a connection? Here I put the Chester family on one side to wait for a time when I could spend a week with the parish registers of Chester.

Another aspect of a one-name study is the investigation of the surname used as a forename. I call my subsidiary 'No-one's called Eltoft by accident' and it does provide confirmation of daughters' marriages and sometimes provides interesting insights into further aspects of family history. But when I put Eltoft into the first name space at Ancestry, leaving all else blank, I did not expect to turn up Eltoft Cull, a merchant seaman with P. & O. plying between Ceylon and Australia in the mid-nineteenth century. His given age indicated that he was born around 1840/41 so without much hope I put the name in the 1841 census and turned up little Eltoft with his family in Ramsgate, Kent. His father, John White Cull, was the Parish Clerk. Why was a child in the south-east called Eltoft at that date? I started to attempt to reconstruct the family, putting to the back of my mind the thought that Mrs Cull might have seen the name somewhere (where?) and fancied it for her next child. The usual procedure is to give the child a grandmother's maiden name or sometimes the maiden name of its mother. The Cull family is numerous in Ramsgate but although Eltoft's father's grandmother was called White, I could not find any Eltofts. John Cull's wife, however, was Helen Arabella Black from London and her christening in 1806 is in the records of St Giles's church, Cripplegate. Her parents are given as Alexander Black and, annoyingly, Arab. Cath. I cannot find the marriage, which could be some time before 1806. There are though, deaths of Alexander Cunningham Black and Arabella Catherine Black in Thanet in 1838 and 1839 respectively. If only they could have held on until 1841! But, just a minute; I do have an Arabella Eltoft, don't I? If she were Arabella Catherine and born in Cheshire could she just . . . ?

Back to the records. I've not had much success so far with the new-look Familysearch but I put Eltoft in again and waited. One of those 'I can't believe it' moments: Arabella Catherina Eltoft christened 10 September 1773 at St Peter's Church, Chester, parents John Eltoft and Sarah. Also John, Mary Charlotte, Thomas Maddocks, William, James, Mary, Sarah and Ann, all christened at St Peter's and John Eltoft and Sarah Litherland married at an unspecified church in Chester.

Yes, I know this needs more work - the marriage of Alexander and Arabella would be a great help - but Arabella is a very fancy name for an Eltoft (it isn't even continued in the Cull family for very long) and Arabella Catherine doesn't seem a very popular combination for any surname. A trip back to Chester with some more definite information might solve a few more problems such as the odd Eltofts occasionally popping up in just one Census, saying they are born in Liverpool.

The Culls are an interesting lot. Before John White they seem to have been mainly stone masons and I look forward to a trip to Ramsgate to see the churches, St Lawrence and St George, and investigate the graveyards and the town records. Eltoft Cull never returned to the town. He died in 1866 in Sydney aged only 25. The name of Eltoft however persisted, his sister calling two of her children after him and another couple of later Eltofts in Kent suggest that his memory remained in the family. There are things one can never know. Did Arabella tell family stories and did the young Culls know they were descended from an old Yorkshire family?

Now, what about the couple of Eltofts in Norfolk . . . ?

WHAT HAPPENED TO QUERY CORNER AND THE WEBSITE MESSAGE BOARD

Submitted by David Hustler

In the past, when queries and requests for information or help were received, they were published in "Query Corner" in the Branch newsletter. Since this is only published quarterly, they were also published on the message board of the Branch website for the interim period between editions of the newsletter. Sadly, although queries and requests have been read out at meetings during the past year or so, they have not been given to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter and neither have they been sent to the webmaster for publication on the message board. So for the past twelve months, the message board on the website has remained more or less empty.

If we are not going to publish the requests in either the newsletter or on the website, what is the point in having these facilities?

Two recent events suggest that over the same period, many e-mail communications may have been blocked or otherwise "lost" in transit between the Society and Branch forwarding system. The Branch website host has been changed recently and it has been highlighted that, due to the very high volume of spam, the previous service provider may have been forced to change their forwarding policy to the free e-mail providers such as Yahoo and Hotmail. This action has been partially corroborated by a recent complaint from a former member who had attempted to contact the Branch several times and been unsuccessful, and since his e-mails had not "bounced," assumed he had been ignored.

Pendle and Burnley branch has, in the past, been way ahead of the Society in many aspects. We have had a members' interest section on the website since 2003; the Society is still thinking about it. We have copies of our Branch newsletter on the Internet for all the world to read and they do. Rossendale branch are to be commended – they have a long history of publishing their newsletter. Items in Pendle and Burnley branch newsletter, "The Gazette" are often picked up by people just "Googling" for the name they are researching.

In recent months, there have been instances where people have contacted Brenda because of something that they found in a back edition of the newsletter. A lady in Nelson wrote regarding a query sent in by a member in Canada and published in the December 2003/January 2004 issue of The Gazette. She had been "Googling" for her family name and found the article. As the member in Canada, who originally sent in the query had changed her e-mail address, she was not able to contact her, so wrote to Brenda to see if she could pass the message on. So SEVEN years after the original publication, the message was picked up and two relatively near cousins were put in touch with each other.

In another instance, Brenda was contacted by a gentleman in Essex who had found an article that she had submitted to "Lancashire" in May 2008. It was regarding a family bible that had been salvaged from a rubbish skip in Clitheroe. He had found that he was descended from the family and was asking if the bible was still available. It was and he is now the proud possessor of his family's bible – with information in it relating to his ancestors back to the 1840s.

Although there might not be an immediate response to items in the newsletter, they are out there on the Internet for posterity or until the website closes down.

Someone somewhere might pick them up, years after they have been published.

Arnold is asking for items for the newsletter. He states quite categorically that he is editing the newsletter, not writing it. He has taken up the challenge from where Brenda left off, so give him your support; otherwise you might get only one or two pages in your newsletter.

NEW CD

CD019 GREAT MARSDEN (NELSON), ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST:
Memorial Inscriptions & Grave Books £9.50 (plus p&p)

The information from Grave Books, Receipt Books, Plot Boards and Memorial Inscriptions was originally recorded by a team of Pendle & Burnley Branch members in the mid 1990's. This information has been available to search on our branch computer for several years. Now, all this information with the recent additions of photographs, a brief history of the church and a plan of the churchyard, has been put onto CD for the Society to publish. St John's was effectively Nelson's only cemetery until the opening of the municipal cemetery in 1895, and this important data will now be available to researchers worldwide. Grateful thanks to all the many people who have been involved in this project..