



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 58 April 2015

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Branch AGM 18th March

The following were elected to serve on the committee for two years

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman | Christine Windle |
| Vice Chairman | Pat Dyson |
| Treasurer | Janet Knowles |
| Librarian and Minutes Secretary | Margaret Heap |
| Committee Member | Mary Jackson |
| Committee Member | Geoffrey Riley |
| Committee Member | Sylvia Marshall |
| Committee Member | Christine Haworth |

The qualifications for being on the Committee are simple – all you need is enthusiasm and ideas.

The Committee meets 4 times a year and all posts are for a two year term.

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Dates for your diary

Alterations to our Branch Programme

The July meeting will be on the 29th and will be an
Open / Practical Evening

The Christmas meeting on December 2nd
will be a local quiz organised by Andrea Smith

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Lancashire Archives, Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE
01772 533039
record.office@lancashire.gov.uk

Come to one of our FREE 'Getting to Know' sessions on the second Friday
of every month from 2.30pm-4.00pm. Booking is essential please.

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Sunday 6th September Society Lunch at Waddow Hall Clitheroe.
Hosted by Ribble Valley Branch

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Saturday 19th September LFHHS Family History Fair
10.00am to 4.00pm
King George's Hall Northgate Blackburn BB2 1AA

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**Note that Colne Library now closes at 6.00pm on
Wednesdays. Access for meetings will now be by
the back door on the car park after 6.45pm.**

Branch Contacts:

Family History Queries

Jean Ingham email: enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Secretary

Arnold Slater email: secretary@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Gazette Editor

Arnold Slater email: editor@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Branch Website

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

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GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **July 2015 Gazette** by the **end of June** please.

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

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Change of address

Would you please ensure that the Secretary is informed of any change of address – **including email address**

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DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS

**Thank you to the volunteers that helped with these sessions at Colne Library.
These sessions will restart in September.**

**VISIT TO LEEDS ARMOURIES and KIRKSTALL ABBEY
25th July 2015**

In the morning visit the Armouries

**Afternoon visit to Kirkstall Abbey which has a Visitor
Centre and Museum**

Added bonus – there will be an outdoor food market in the
picturesque 12th century grounds.

The cost of the coach will be approximately £15 and entry to the
Armouries and the Abbey is free, but there is a small charge for
entry to the Abbey Museum (Concessions £3.20).

A good value day out with plenty of variety!
Mary Jackson is taking bookings and payment will be required
at/by the meeting on 17th June.

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ANNUAL LUNCH 2015

Sunday 6th September 2015

12.00 for 12.30pm

£21

Waddow Hall, Clitheroe

Menu

Starter. Salmon Fishcake served on a bed of Rocket with Tartar Sauce

Main Course. Breast of chicken with a petit onion and smoked bacon
sauce

Vegetarian- Homemade Mozzarella and Mediterranean Vegetable
Wellington

All served with seasonal vegetables.

Sweet. Seasonal Fruit Pavlova (gf)

Tea or Coffee

There will be full details and a booking form in the
May edition of Lancashire Magazine

QUERY CORNER

If you have any of the following people on your family tree please let Jean know.

Arthur Robert HITCHEN (1887 – 1977)

Any information on this family post 1914 would be appreciated. Arthur married Lily BARKER (1886 – 1979) at Holy Trinity, Burnley in September 1911. They had one daughter, Doreen, born in 1914 in Burnley.

Sarah CHADWICK (1799 – 1865)

Seeking the baptism of Sarah CHADWICK, born Foulridge c 1799 (according to 1851 and 61 census). She was married in 1819 to John STARKIE at Newchurch in Pendle and lived at Higher Blackmoss in 1851. She died in 1865 and is buried at Newchurch in Pendle.

Sarah may have had a brother named Richard Chadwick also born Foulridge about 1801.

JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BURNLEY

An enquirer is researching the history of the Jewish community of Burnley. He already has quite a lot of information from newspaper sources, the Census and BMD. Any further information about the community would be very welcome. He, particularly, wants to find the location of the synagogue which he believes to have been on Sandygate, but there may have been a second one which was probably built or was a refurbished existing building, sometime in the 1920s. According to Wikipedia, a synagogue was established in 1895 and continued till 1934. Any further information about the community or any photographs would be really welcome?

GOING UP "SWANNEE"

My father's family home was in Brierfield, near the crossroads of King's Causeway, Walverden Rd, Halifax Rd and Higher Reedley Rd. This area was always referred to by the family as Swannee (or Swanny) and whenever returning home they would say "I'm

going up Swanee". I would be really interested to know if this area was widely known as Swanee or could it just have been some 'joke' within our family. I never got the sense that this was connected with the expression "going down the swanny" or with the well-known American song! If indeed the name was local, does anyone know why it was called this?

FAMILY BIBLE

One of our members has found a Family Bible with the following information.

Inscribed inside front cover-

Matthew Rhodes - Born 1820

Jane Rhodes 42 years in 1892

Margaret Rhodes, born July 8 -1837

Matthew Rhodes, born September 1820

Son **William Rhodes** died at Middlestown, Wakefield, aged 74.
1930 September 5th

John Stubbs died July 1897 aged 68 in the Workhouse,
Knaresboro

Mary Beckwith died at Ripon on 23 December 1921 aged 85

James Stubbs died at Northallerton

Jane Rhodes or Iveson, died at Otley, buried at Otley Cemetery

Newspaper Clipping: stuck onto front cover of Bible

RHODES: At Brockville, on Sunday 24th December, 1893.

Margaret Whitehead, relict of the late **Wm Rhodes**, in the 90th year of her age

The funeral took place this afternoon from the residence of her son **John Rhodes**.

Slip of Paper

Mr **John Rhodes**

Brockville

Unreadable, looks like Conolly Ontario

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EMAIL PROBLEMS

Over the last few months we have been experiencing problems with emails.

This is partly due to the technology currently being used. It would be helpful if files could be sent as .DOC attachments. The newer versions of MS Office default to .DOCX and older computers can't open these files.

An email was recently sent using Outlook .com - this needed MS Word Online to open it - it then saved itself to 'One Drive' - non existent on older systems.

Information sent as a .PDF file is OK for information but can't be edited unless it is converted to MS Word.

It's not that we are 'anti-tech' but all our files and systems are using the older versions of MS Office and therefore we are having to convert files.

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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.

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2015 PROGRAMME

- 29th Apr **Practical Workshop**
- 20th May **Out visit to Samlesbury Hall** (afternoon)
- 17th June **"Origin of place names"**
Peter Watson
- 25th July **Coach Trip to
Kirkstall Abbey and Leeds Armouries**
- 29th July **Practical Evening / Open Evening**
- 19th Aug **"Lady Randy" Winston Churchill's mother**
Pat Osborne
- 16th Sept **"Wills and Probate Records"**
David Lambert
- 30th Sept **Practical Evening**
- 21st Oct **"Who was my uncle Bilbarrow?"**
Tony Foster
- 18th Nov **"Grandmother's Letters"**
Alan Crosby
- 2nd Dec **Christmas Party and Local Quiz**
arranged by Andrea Smith

Printed copies of the programme are available

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LOOSE ENDS

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 John's 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 a liquor merchant. 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, were 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 a John Eltoft testified in a shoplifting case from Cheapside, London, referring to 'My master, Johnson'. These seem to be the same person; also the IGI gives John Eltoft, son of Thomas Eltoft baptised at Kippax YKS in 1738, giving a convincing date of birth. So, probably, a Yorkshireman although I have, as yet, no confirmed descent for Thomas although I am hoping he will tie in with the Eltofts of Grassington who are my direct ancestors.

I had visited Minera, which grew up as a Roman mining town but is now only a small village with a semi-derelict Hall. Wrexham Local Studies gave no clue towards an Eltoft having lived in the district. 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 very numerous parish registers of Chester.



St George's Church,
Ramsgate

It relates to the Cull family
and also is where the Black
grandparents are buried.

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 gives 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 there was little Eltoft with his family in Ramsgate, Kent. His father, John White Cull, was Parish Clerk at St George's Church. 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 though usually as a second name. 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 a marriage for this couple, 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 I did have an Arabella Eltoft in Cheshire. If she were Arabella Catherine there might be a possibility that she was somehow related to the Chester family if not a daughter of John.

Back to the Internet. I hadn't had much success so far with the new-look Familysearch, effectively the extension of the Mormon's International Genealogy Index, 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. This gives her a good match for the age given at death. There are 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. A whole family, some deaths but no more marriages. John's age at death

goes some way to confirming his year of birth though I don't know why a Yorkshire gentleman would be apprenticing his son to a London confectioner.

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 at that period. 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. However, recently the Index to Death Duty Registers 1796 to 1903 has come on line on Find My Past and contains what could be considered definite proof of the identification of the source of Eltoft Cull's name. Arabella occurs in the Register as Arabella Cathe. ELTOFT Black, residence Ramsgate, executor John White Cull. The last remaining link would be the finding of the Will. The PCC Probate Index on Ancestry has been investigated and unless the name is very cunningly disguised her Will is not there. The search continues – probably somewhere in Kent.

The Culls are an interesting family. 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. John White Cull also appears in the Old Bailey records though not, I am happy to say, as a criminal. He brought the St George's Register up to London to confirm his testimony in a case of bigamy. He survived nearly all his children and grandchildren, dying in 18?? at the advanced age of xx . Eltoft Cull never returned to the town. He died in 1866 in Sydney aged only 25. The name of Eltoft however persisted, his surviving sister calling two of her children after him and another couple of later Eltofts in Kent suggest that his memory remained in the area.

Pat Dyson

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