



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 61 January 2016

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Branch AGM 16th March

The nomination sheet will be available at the January and February meetings for you to propose and/or second the nominees proposed by the Committee. We also urgently need at least one nominee for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

Period	Official	Nominee
1 year	Chairman	
1 year	Vice Chairman	
2 years	Secretary	
2 years	Gazette Editor	Arnold Slater
2 years	Executive Representative And Trustee	Martin Holtby
2 years	Programme Secretary	David Marshall
2 years	Project Co-ordinator	Janet Knowles
2 years	Committee Member	Christine Windle
2 years	Committee Member	Jean Ingham
2 years	Committee Member	Pat Dyson

Your Chance to help YOUR Branch

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

The Committee meets 4 times a year

2016 PROGRAMME

- 17th Feb "A touch of notoriety –
Famous links in my family –
from rich nobles to high treason plotters"
Harold Hoggarth
- 16th Mar A.G.M. and Short Talks
- 30th Mar Practical Workshop
- 20th Apr "The Birtwistle family in Colne"
Tim Crossley
- 19th May Day Trip to Ripon and Markenfield Hall
- 15th June "How to research maritime records
for our ancestors"
Bill Taylor
- 29th June Practical Evening
- 27th July Open Evening / Practical Evening
- 17th Aug "Finding my family"
Revd. Keith Richardson B.A M.Th
- 31st Aug Practical Evening
- 21st Sept "Living with the Pendle Witches"
Maureen Stopforth
- 19th Oct "And in flew Enza"
Tony Foster
- 16th Nov "Houses and Halls in the Pendle Area"
Jill Pengelly & Elaine Watson
- 30th Nov Practical Evening
- 7th Dec Christmas Party (By Ticket Only)
Speaker Dee Ellis

Day Trip

Thursday 19th May 2016

Ripon and Markenfield Hall

Cost £20.00

**Please make cheques payable to Moving People.
Payment to Mary by the end of March please.**

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2016 Subscriptions are now overdue!

If you have not renewed your subscription it could mean you do not receive the Society's February journal or the Branch Gazette. Subscription renewal form was issued with the November journal or you could renew online through the Society's online shop at:
www.lfhhs.org/index.php

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DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS

will be held at Colne Library on the following dates:

**January 27th
February 24th
March 23rd**

10 am to 12 noon

Volunteers welcome

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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.**

QUERY CORNER



Thomas ROBINSON born Barrowford c1834

Katie Robinson writes that she has found this picture in her husband's family collection. The following was written on the back of the picture. "Your Aunt Elizabeth and me taken in the yard at 6 Cromwell Terrace, Barrowford. will send some more soon"

She is assuming that this is a relative of her husband's Great Grandfather, Thomas Robinson, a stone mason who was in the Barrowford area for the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census and born in Barrowford. He married Ann Elizabeth SPENCER in the State of Indiana in 1863. Passenger lists show that he travelled to the United States in 1871 and 1893.

Katie hopes that someone will recognize the people in the photo or identify the approximate time period of the photo.

She is also searching for the parents of Thomas ROBINSON.

[Jean's note:- Cromwell Terrace was built c 1900]



Can you help Pat identify these Burnley Musicians?

Three Burnley musicians - I don't know who they are or for what purpose this was taken - I doubt if they were sending it out as a promo for their tour of local discos!

There are listings for James Holgate Photographer at 11 Westgate, which would tally with Bridge End/ bottom of Sandygate. These are in the 1890s but cease by 1896 so the photo may be rather earlier than I thought.

Pat Dyson

ARCHIVES REVISITED by Rod Moorhouse

I was recently approached by the 'Helping Hands' officer for the Lancashire Heraldry and Family History Society with a request to search some records in the Hertfordshire archives. I live in Hertfordshire so readily agreed and looked forward to this challenging task.

Hertfordshire's archives are kept in a special building next to County Hall in Hertford. The collection is generally known as HALS – Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. The building is shared by the County registry office and includes a wedding venue. This may account for the fact that the foyer resembles a luxury hotel; polished wood, brass fittings, carpeted floors and glorious floral displays bombard the senses. Beyond this reception area are two study rooms, one mainly for family history research and the other for local history. Down in the basement valuable original documents are stored in secure premises. They are available for inspection via an ordering system which delivers them to the study rooms on the half hour.

My last visit to HALS was many years ago and so I had forgotten how immaculately tidy and highly organised its contents are kept. In the family history room ranks of spotless filing cabinets and metal drawers are surrounded by polished shelves full of catalogues and record books. Neatly placed between all these are desks, photocopiers, fiche readers and microfilm viewers. It all evokes a feeling that you must not disturb anything - so much so that removing one small item from its own special place feels like an act of desecration. Apart from the occasional sounds from machines and telephones it is also very quiet and therefore conducive to concentrated study.

I explained my quest to the archivist who was very helpful but I was soon reminded of one of the basic rules when in the presence of archives - pencils only - I was making notes with a pen!

I had been asked to search and take copies stored on microfilm from the Admissions and Discharge Registers of the St Albans Union Workhouse between the years 1842 and 1854. As I began to view the admissions pages the first thing that struck me was the layout of rows and columns. While each row dealt with an individual's entry the columns were intended to provide much more personal detail. So e.g. there were columns headed male or female, married or single, occupation, religion etc. On the discharge pages there was very little extra information but a set of columns was dedicated to the analysis of discharges between

specified dates. The overall impression was that this was really an account book, very much concerned with numbers of inmates arriving and departing and which parish should pay for their keep while in residence.

Before 1834 the old Poor Law required each parish to look after its own poor. If a person was unable to work then they were given money to help them survive. The cost of this provision was increasing every year and so criticism of the law was mounting.

In 1834 the Poor Law Act was amended by Parliament. It was designed to prevent money being given to poor people except in exceptional circumstances. From now on if people needed help they had to go into a workhouse. The poor were given clothes and food in the workhouse in exchange for several hours of manual labour each day. Many descriptions can be found of the type of work undertaken but typically men chopped firewood while women and children did laundry work, sorted rags or unpicked old rope to be made into other products – so the workhouse was a sort of Victorian re-cycling centre! Families were split up inside the workhouse. People had to wear a type of uniform, follow strict rules and were on a bad diet of bread and watery soup. Conditions were so terrible that only those people who desperately needed help would go there.

According to the website www.workhouses.org.uk/StAlbans St Albans Poor Law Union was formed in 1835. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians who represented its eight constituent parishes. A workhouse was erected in St Albans in 1836-7. An infirmary was later added to the south-east of the workhouse and a chapel was erected at the south of the site in 1893. It could accommodate around 200 men women and children. The 1881 census records the names of 185 residents in the St Alban's workhouse; by comparison Burnley had about 280 residents.

The person I was searching for was a young girl first admitted to the workhouse in 1842 at the age of about six. Having found her first registration I realised from the other names on the page that she was probably alone. She was described as an 'orphan', a 'scholar' and 'slightly disabled'. Then to my amazement I discovered a series of discharges and readmissions which continued until 1854, the year of her death at the age of 18. At the time of some of her re-admissions she was described as a 'servant'; was she discharged into service and then sent back to the workhouse when no longer needed? I had also been told that

she had a baby during her time in the workhouse and so looked for clues during her teenage years. Sure enough, when she was admitted in Jan of 1854 the reason stated was 'pregnancy'.

What started out as a fairly straight forward research task gradually became much more personal. The few details that were recorded about this girl's status were sufficient to make me realise how tragic her life was. I suppose without the workhouse she may not have reached the age of eighteen and her child might never have been born.

After reading the history of these institutions it is possible to recognise the foundations of our present day social and medical care services. Amazingly some of the original workhouse buildings are still in use, either as hospitals or care homes – albeit refurbished!

More details about the Burnley workhouse can be found in www.workhouses.org.uk

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GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **April 2016 Gazette**
by the **end of March** 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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