



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 64 October 2016

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

On 5th November 2016

we are having an

Open Morning

9.30am to 12.30pm

at Colne Library

**please note the date as volunteers will be
needed to help with any queries**

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2017 Subscriptions

It would help the Society Membership Secretary if you could pay your subscriptions (which are the same as last year) by the 1st January 2017.

A renewal form will be in the November journal or you can renew online through the Society's online shop at:

www.lfhhs.org/index.php

2016 PROGRAMME

- 16th Nov "Houses and Halls in the Colne Area"
Jill Pengelly & Elaine Watson
- 30th Nov Practical Evening
- 7th Dec Christmas Party (By Ticket Only)
Speaker Dee Ellis

2017 Programme

- 18th Jan "The History of ROF Chorley"
Steve Williams
- 15th Feb "Catholic Priests in the Family"
Kate Hurst
- 15th Mar A.G.M
- 19th Apr "Tales From My Family History"
June Weaver
- 17th May Outvisit to Newchurch
- 21st June "Wills and Probate Records"
David Lambert
- 19th July Coach trip to Newby Hall
- 16th Aug "The History of Lancaster Castle"
Graham Kemp
- 20th Sept "The Liverpool Cowkeepers"
Dave Joy
- 18th Oct "And in Flew Enza"
Tony Foster
- 15th Nov WW1 Talk (topic to be chosen)
Richard Wimpenny
- 6th Dec Christmas Party (no speaker yet)

Marsden area Quaker charity documents

Some readers will be aware of a rich 19th century source for family history in the Marsden area, namely notebooks kept by Ann Ecroyd, a leader in Quaker charity efforts, running from 1819 to 1853. These form part of the Farrer papers kept at Manchester Archives and Local Studies. There was of course much poverty in the area, as well as more widely, not least owing to the decline of handloom weaving. Some of the notebooks have been used by a variety of writers, for instance Roger Frost in his Briercliffe-cum-Extwistle history (1982), and by the writer of this note in a Local Population Studies article in 1995.

In writing my 1995 article, I obtained a full photocopy of an 1843 notebook, covering Briercliffe and Gt Marsden (and Cop Row, just in Burnley township), and have occasionally over the years been able to help family researchers: for example this 'facility' is posted on the Briercliffe Society forum. Incidentally my own family features a lot.

More recently I have obtained electronic copies of two further notebooks, for Great and Little Marsden 1819, and 'Marsden' 1829.

The notebooks give great detail for many families, of their employer, income from work and from the parish, ages of family members (though not names), etc. the 1843 document includes detail of items disbursed to the needy.

I would be happy to extend the invitation to do look-ups, given a name, and a place if possible. First name is really needed, as of course some surnames are very common, locally (eg HEAP, EMMOTT, DUERDEN and of course HARTLEY !). It might take me a little time, especially if there is a fair bit of interest, please bear with me.

rexwatson@ntlworld.com

Rex Watson

QUERY CORNER

Robert AIRE/HAIR

Dennis AYRE's 3x Great Grandfather was probably Robert HAIR/AIRE born in Colne 5th November 1807 and baptised 8th March 1809 at St. Bartholomews. He was the child of Ann AIRE. Robert married Mary FIRTH in Bradford in April 1831 and died in 1890, possibly in Horton, near Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Whilst Dennis is hoping to contact anyone also tracing this particular family, he is keen to hear from others researching any AIRE/AYRE/HARE + it's many other variations.

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GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the **January 2017 Gazette**
by the **end of December** 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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Branch Website

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS

will be held at Colne Library on the following dates:

**October 26th
November 23rd**

**January 25th
February 22nd
March 22nd**

10 am to 12 noon

Volunteers welcome

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SIXTY OR SEVENTY YEARS ON - by Rod Moorhouse

October of this year marks a personal anniversary; it is sixty years since my departure from home as an indentured apprentice to sail on board the 'British Corporal', a 14,000 ton BP oil tanker bound for the Persian Gulf. The ship sailed from Falmouth and after about ten days arrived at Port Said where preparations were made to pass through the Suez Canal. I was off duty during that passage and so was able to 'sight see'. The sheer scale of the canal was just staggering. I particularly remember the strange sight of ships in the distance shimmering in the heat of the desert as they appeared to be crossing on land. We left the canal at Port Suez and sailed down the Red Sea which I still remember as one of the most magical places on earth. But then came disturbing news – an extract from my diary records *"Tuesday October 30th: Heard on the news of clashes between British and Egyptian forces in the Suez canal area. Our ships have been told to avoid this area....."*

In fact this was the first news of the impending 1956 Suez crisis. It was picked up on board our ship by some of the officers who owned powerful short wave radios. Wikipedia summarises the outbreak of hostilities as follows:-

"On October 29, Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai. Britain and France issued a joint ultimatum to cease fire, which was ignored. On November 5, Britain and France landed paratroopers along the

Suez Canal. The Egyptian forces were defeated, but they did block the canal to all shipping....."

For a time the Suez Canal was closed and we were obliged to sail round the African coast via the Cape of Good Hope – a nonstop journey which could take about six weeks from the Persian Gulf to Lands End. Our working days were spent washing down bulkheads and painting the ship while our only recreational amenities were a small swimming pool and a limited batch of films which, as one of the cinema operators, I watched time and time again! For me the down side of these voyages was a fair degree of boredom while the upside was bleached hair and a super sun tan!

While reflecting upon all this I then remembered that a little over ten years before these events my father had been in Egypt, although his circumstances were very different to mine. After his call up in 1940 he trained to become an instructor in the Royal Signals. In 1944 he was in charge of a section at the Catterick Depot where radio mechanics were trained. From there he was selected to join the British Military Mission to Ethiopia.

For the outward journey to Ethiopia in July 1944 he sailed on board a troop ship named the 'Capetown Castle'. I found a description of this journey in his notes:-

1. *"Sailing down the Clyde in the 'Capetown Castle' [newly fitted 30,000 ton troop ship] in darkness 500miles out into the Atlantic to join a convoy of liners.*
2. *Through the straits of Gibraltar in darkness- escorting vessels more numerous.*
3. *Zigzagging through the Mediterranean – gradually leaving behind our escort of ships - planes began to take over.*
4. *Arrival at Port Said – goodbye to most of the troops, in particular the women's services – about 200 officers and ordinary ranks last to disembark*
5. *Journey by train down the length of the canal to Suez in darkness.*
6. *In camp at Port Taufiq – approximate stay 2 weeks waiting for transport*
7. *Coastal steamer to Mombasa through the steaming heat of the Red sea and the storms of the Indian Ocean. [Kenyan Coast]....."*

He eventually arrived in Addis Ababa after a lengthy overland journey from Nairobi in a convoy of 20 army trucks. My father remained in Ethiopia until the end of the war when his appointment with the Military Mission came to an abrupt end. On October 25th 1945 he began the long and protracted journey

home, some 6,000 miles by his estimate. The journey took place in several stages and with the aid of several forms of transport.

Eventually he came back to Egypt where he sailed from Alexandria to Toulon and then travelled by train to Dieppe. He finally arrived in Aldershot on the 1st of February 1946. I am fortunate to possess the telegram sent to my mother to say he would be home the following evening.

The ten year gap between these two sets of events represents the whole of my formative years. As a child my father's journeys seemed to be in the distant past – before I was aware or could remember. He was a great story teller and would occasionally recount an incident or an event in graphic detail. When I eventually set sail for Egypt and the Red Sea I did not realise the similarity in our journeys. It is only recently that I looked more closely at his wartime documents and made the comparison.

Like all WW2 soldiers he carried a pocket sized 'Army Service and Pay Book'. His has been carefully preserved. When analysed it reveals a comprehensive account of his army career. However it does not record his postings. With the aid of some notes he wrote after the war, a few photographs and the stories he told about his travels it has been possible to follow his movements.

In researching and then writing this brief account of my father's journeys and my own voyages, I have come closer to understanding the continuity of historical events. For whatever purpose they often need to be dealt with as separate topics and so they may therefore appear to be distinct from each other. It is not always possible to stand back and take an overview and recognise that our families' histories are set against a huge backdrop of both local and world events. In the case of the personal events described it has taken me around sixty years to gain this sort of perspective.

Footnote: John Moorhouse was the youngest child of John William Moorhouse and Margaret [nee Peacock]. He was born in June 1912 in Skipton and died in May 1987 in Addingham.

Sheila MARKENDALE 1952-2016

We were saddened by the untimely death of Sheila Markendale on August 29th at the age of 63. Born in Birmingham she moved to Fence when she was nine. She trained as a teacher, specialising in maths and PE, and taught at various local schools as well as participating in hockey, netball and athletics. Married to Dave in 1975, Sheila had three children, which may have sparked her interest in genealogy. She joined the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society and served as Secretary of our Branch for 9 years in the 1990's. She co-ordinated the survey of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Gt. Marsden, and compiled the index to the 1861 Census for the whole of Pendle as well as helping many people with their research. Although not active in the Society for the past few years, she did occasionally visit our Branch meetings and always had a lovely smile for everyone. We send condolences to her family.

Sylvia Marshall

Gladys WHITTAKER 1916 – 2016

Sadly, I have to report the death of long term member, Gladys Whittaker.

Gladys had a love of both local and family history. In the late 1960s she joined local historian, Wilfred Spencer's genealogy class and in 1979 she became a founder member of the Pendle & Burnley Branch LFHHS. A very active member, she helped to survey and record many of the area's churchyards Memorial Inscriptions. This was in the days before "Ancestry" or "Find My Past" or indeed personal computers! Together with Doreen Crowther she transcribed and indexed, **by hand**, the 1851 census for our area. A mammoth task which benefited many of us researching our roots here and continues to be of use today.

Gladys' maiden name was LANDLESS and on researching her own ancestry she found she could trace her family back to Scotland and, with strong evidence, to the famous and notorious Rob Roy MacGregor. In 1970 she published a book on this research entitled "The Family Of Landless".

A quiet, unassuming and very knowledgeable lady who was always willing to share her expertise, she was greatly respected by all who knew her.

Gladys died just three weeks before her 100th birthday.

Jean Ingham