



Pendle &
Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 76 October 2019

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Open Day Event

at

Colne Library

9.30 am - 12.00 noon

on Saturday

2nd November

We will need helpers
to assist people with their Family History,
but we also need helpers to book people in etc.

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2019 Programme

- 20 November **The Woollen and Textile Industry
in 19th C. England**
Edgar Holroyd-Doveton
- 4 December **Christmas Party - Christmas Talk**
Linda Sawley

2020 Programme

- 15 January **William J P Hartley**
Keith Richardson
- 19 February **Update on DNA in Family History**
Rodney Brackstone
- 18th March **TBA**
Denise North

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DROP-IN FAMILY HISTORY HELP SESSIONS

will be held at Colne Library on the following dates:

October 23rd

November 27th

10.00 am – 12 noon

Volunteers welcome

GAZETTE

Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the January 2020 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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Burnley Civic Trust Heritage Image Collection www.bcthic.org

In 2016 Burnley Civic Trust was gifted the Burnley Express Newspaper Archive by Johnston Press.

The archive is extensive and the aim is to make as many of these images available online as soon as possible. As this is an ongoing project it is advisable to keep checking the site. Surrounding areas of Burnley (such as Nelson, Colne and Barnoldswick etc.) are also included.

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Query Corner

Michael writes "My 10 x great Grandfather was Henry Mitton of Colne who died there in 1597. I have just purchased a copy of his will from Lancashire Archives. I'd love to know more about this family, particularly in light of the fact that a Henry Mitton was the supposed victim of the Pendle Witches c1610. I wondered if there were any written accounts of the family or if you know of anyone who is researching the Mitton family in the Colne area. Any help would be gratefully received."

Replies please to Jean Ingham
Email: enquiry@lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

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Eighty years since the beginning of WW2, it seems appropriate to print this article, kindly sent to us by Mr. E. Craig.

Memories of a Wartime Evacuee in Trawden.

I was one of the children who were evacuated from Hulme to the village of Trawden. The date we were evacuated was in January 1940, on our first day back at Mulberry Street school after the Christmas holidays. When we arrived at school a row of double-decker buses was waiting to take us away. We had no idea where to.

Trawden was only a very small village and only had one school, Dean Street School (now known as Trawden Forest Primary School). The headmistress was Miss Tillotson.

Fortunately I have an extremely good memory and can recall the day, and my stay, when we went as though it was yesterday. When we arrived at Trawden, at a Chapel hall on Colne Road, it was very cold and there was a light covering of snow on the ground. Everybody was taken off the buses and walked into the main hall where we were seated on chairs and pews. Sometime later people

from the village began to come into the Chapel. I later found out that they had been made aware that we were coming that day and had been asked to accommodate us as a contribution to the war effort. After what seemed ages a lady with ginger hair came up to me and said " would you like to come and live with me". I said "yes". She took me by the hand and we walked off together down the lane to her cottage. It was the beginning of a relationship that lasted well over 50 years until she and her husband died. I had the joy and good fortune to stay with Sarah Emma and Arthur Benbow for over 4 years and became a "son" to them.

To give some idea of life in Trawden at that time – it was a very quiet place, the road ends at the bottom of the nearby moor. It was a strongly Methodist community and most people attended church once or twice on a Sunday. Crime was almost unknown – most residents didn't bother to ever lock their doors. Everybody said "Hello" and it was a lovely place to be in. It was a very self-contained society and they provided most of the entertainment for themselves. Barn dances, fancy dress parties, amateur performances of things like Gilbert and Sullivan operettas etc., everyone joined in.

The winter of 1940 was particularly severe. Trawden is on the edge of the moors and very exposed. I remember the snow was so deep where we lived we couldn't get out of the house for several days, but it was no problem as everyone was prepared. Although there was strict rationing during the war food never seemed to be short. After all we were deep in the countryside surrounded by farms.

I have many wonderful memories of my life in Trawden. I feel so lucky to have been given the chance to spend that part of life that was in danger during the blitz in Manchester with people I learned to love, in such a beautiful place. By the way, we all wore clogs.

I have continued to visit Trawden for most of my life.

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WHERE THERE'S A WILL

This story is constructed from the finding of the wills of Mary and Henry Eltoft from the county of Lincolnshire and well before Civil Registration and the G.R.O. These days finding wills is much easier – many helpful websites will point you in the right direction and even offer to assist you in sending for the wills. There is also a Government website for wills and probate from 1858 to the present (it holds around 4 million records). Go to the website www.gov.uk/search-will-probate. To use the site you will have to register after clicking on Start Now. Enter your ancestor's surname and year of death to start. This will bring up an image of the relevant page in the Index. From this you can find the further details requested (first name and the actual dates of death and probate together with the place registered. Wills can be ordered online and an image will be on your computer in about 10 working days. When introduced this service cost £10 per will but now the price has been reduced to £1.50 making it really affordable to check your ancestors' wills

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk is the wills online site of The National Archive, which has around a million Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC for short) from 1384 to 1858, digitised and downloadable. This court, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, was the highest in the land but given there are so many wills I was considerably surprised to find just one Eltoft Will indexed and from Lincoln at that. I downloaded it and was rather daunted to find seven pages of secretary hand dating from 1619. Having discovered, with difficulty, that it was actually the will of a widow, not a birth Eltoft, I put it on one side to be dealt with later.

'Later' came one Christmas when, I decided to transcribe the Will– it couldn't be any more demanding than the brick walls I was waiting to knock down and might prove interesting.

I bought a book on old handwriting, enlarged the Will to print at A3 size, read the first words – In the Name of God, Amen – and I was off. I disentangled the date, which referred to regnal years, jibbed at James named as King of England, Ireland, Scotland and *France*, ploughed through her hopes for the life to come, and came to the meat of it – the bequests. The authorities always tell you to go for the Wills of spinsters and widows as they give you more detail, and they are right! Mary Eltoft of Caenby and Glentham names over *fifty* people in her Will. Unfortunately only two of them are Eltofts, one her deceased husband and the other an unidentified gentleman living in Suffolk (*Suffolk* – no Eltoft ever went into Suffolk, surely?).

It turned out that Henry Eltoft was Mary's second husband and by her first she had at least three children who had provided her with numerous grandchildren and she makes clear that this Will is mainly to benefit them. She leaves ruffs and scarves, kirtles, doublets and petticoats and a 'saveguard' which, I discovered was an overskirt to protect your clothes when riding. She leaves personal and domestic linen; Priscilla, who may have been her favourite grandchild, got a cupboard, a bedstead, and a brass pan – all carefully identified with the name of their supplier. Her daughter Margaret gets ten pounds a year to be given to her in two instalments publicly in the South porch of Glentham Church. I'm not sure whether this was to make sure that her brother, the executor, did pay it or whether it was so that her husband couldn't have it paid to him. Most get one-off payments to be handed over on their attaining their majority or, in the case of the girls, if they married before reaching that advanced age. One little boy, who I think is a great-grandchild, gets five pounds which his parents are to invest for him until he comes of age – and pay him *all the profit*. There are small legacies to servants providing they are in her service at the time of her death, and of course, money for the poor people of surrounding villages. She also appoints Supervisors of the Will: her 'very good friend' Sir William Wray of Glentworth; her 'nephew' Sir William Ingilby of Ripley Castle and William Ellis, who lives in The Close, Lincoln.

This is the main body of the Will, made in 1616/17 but in 1619, shortly before her death, Mary wrote a codicil. It adjusts bequests, cancelling some, probably for servants who had left her employment, and increasing others but, Sir William Wray and Sir William Ingilby having both died, it also appoints additional Supervisors: her son in law, Edward Cowper and Christopher [Randes] ,notes that William Ellis

is now Sir William Ellis and further adjures her Executors to enter into a Bond of £400

Having deciphered all (or most) of this I felt a certain curiosity about all these people and their lives. A first check in Pevsner's Buildings of England for Lincolnshire and various guides to Lincolnshire led to a swift call to Lincoln Central Library. Katherine, the assistant on duty in the Reference Library, was both interested and had enough time to check for me in a book of Lincolnshire pedigrees compiled in the nineteenth century. 'No, no Eltoft pedigree' she said, 'but just a moment, I'll look in the index. . . . oh, yes. Yes, there is a Mary Eltoft . . . page 1023 . . . Ah, she's in the Tournay tree, married to Anthony Tournay. Henry Eltoft was her second husband.' Two weeks later I was in the Library, leafing through the book, and attempting to reconcile the names printed and the names from the Will. It is actually in four volumes, three of the main pedigrees and one of addenda, corrections and index. The introduction to the whole by the worried author points out that he *knows* there are mistakes and pedigrees missing but he trusts that those who have the necessary information will give it to him in time for the next edition. There was no second edition but there was this fourth volume which did include some major pedigrees omitted because he thought they were already easily available. This had provoked many complaints.

I did end up with a lot of information including the fact that Mary was the daughter of Sir Richard Bolle, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire and therefore Christopher 'Boole' was indeed her nephew, which is more than can be said for Sir William Ingilby whose relationship, while it does exist after a fashion, is so tortuous that it begins to sound like 'I'm my own grandpa'. Sir William's father's widow, who was his second wife, became the first wife of Anthony Tournay's father. She is not credited with having any children by either marriage. Unfortunately there are very few dates in the pedigrees nor any indication on the Will itself of any age for Mary. An Administration for Anthony was applied for in 1575 with Mary as Executrix and an Administration for her son, John, in 1605. These should be indications that they died in those years although I have come across an Administration applied for nearly twenty years after the death. In the Index for Lincolnshire Wills I found a treasure – the reference for Henry Eltoft's Will, which is held in the Lincolnshire Archives where I had already made an appointment to visit the following day.

On the way to the Library I had visited both Glentham and Caenby which are adjoining villages about fifteen miles up Ermine Street (A15) from Lincoln. The Glentham church with its south porch still presents the outward appearance it had in the seventeenth century but inside it has been 'done over'. What was the Tournay Chapel is now the vestry. Presumably all the Tournays through the centuries who willed their bodies to be buried in Glentham Church are mouldering away quietly in vaults under the carpeted floor, but there is no sign of monuments or inscriptions on the well-whitewashed walls. Outside the vestry door, behind the pulpit, is just one plate commemorating Ann, the widow of John Tournay, daughter-in-law of Mary but not mentioned in the Will.

At Caenby Old Hall Farm, reconstructed in the eighteenth century, is all that is left of what was the seat of the Tournays. They were an important family in this part of Lincolnshire, coming from Normandy, presumably near Tournai, and settled here by the thirteenth century. They had entertained Henry VIII at Caenby, putting up many of the Court in the village houses but by the early seventeenth century the family was in a slow decline. Mary's grandchildren moved to London and eventually the lands passed to the Middleton family of Belsay in Northumberland from whom much of the Tournay archive has passed to the Record Office at Morpeth. The son of the present owner of the farm was interested in the story of the Tournays. They knew the site was older than it appeared – there is a deconsecrated chapel rebuilt in the nineteenth century on the mediæval foundations – and had excavated what appeared to be a stewpond and also the remains of a moat, although it is the farm just down the road which is called Moat Farm.

My time at the Lincolnshire Record Office the next day was, unfortunately, limited. I had booked a 'fiche reader with the intention of examining some parish registers but having found the reference for Henry Eltoft's will I could not pass up the opportunity to see it. I put in a request and fairly quickly received a stout volume containing all the Wills for 1612. I turned to the correct page and received a shock. I could read it as easily as if it had been written yesterday. All the work over Mary's Will was justified. There were, however nine pages and although I could read most of what was on them I couldn't possibly copy them out or even comprehend fully some of the legal wording. I ordered a copy which I was told would take up to six weeks, possibly even two months – 'The Who Do You Think You Are effect, you know' –

and checked that there were indeed references to other Eltofts, most interestingly to a Thomas of Baslow in Derbyshire, who is possibly the Mr Eltoft referred to in a note about Papists a few years later among the Gell of Hopton papers.

When Henry's Will arrived and I could read it at my leisure I did discover that the 'unknown' gentleman in Suffolk was his son by his first marriage, also called Henry. This Henry was living in the household of William, 3rd Baron Willoughby of Parham in east Suffolk and is witness to Lord Willoughby's Will. As William died in 1617 it was apparent that news travelled slowly from Suffolk to Lincolnshire. A short holiday down in Suffolk afforded me the opportunity of going to look at the site of Parham Hall which I found still existed and looking quite like the picture with the moat still in water. An interesting addition to my One-Name Study, opening up a new geographical area for exploration of far-flung Eltofts. The connection with the Wray family too gives me some clue to an event further back but closer to home. Perhaps more later!

Pat Dyson

