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The
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*Mourholme Local History Society (Charity Reg. No. 512765
covers the Old Parish of Warton containing the Townships of
Warton-with-Lindeth, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne.*

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A SILVERDALE GRAVESTONE

Margaret Bainbridge

In Silverdale cemetery, beside the path running parallel to the north wall and under a yew tree, stands a gravestone bearing in rather elegant lettering the following inscription:

SARAH BURROW
of
Arnside, Westmorland
widow of the Rev. Tho. Burrow
died 1 February 1900
and her daughter
AGNES LETITIA BURROW
Died 25 March 1930
aged 88.

For a headstone in Silverdale to bear the name Burrow is not surprising, since that family has flourished in the township for centuries. Nor is it surprising for the first named to be "of Arnside", since burials in Arnside itself were not possible until 1904. However, the two people lying in this grave did not belong to the local Burrow family. Nor were they really "of Arnside" since they moved there only in 1888. What had persuaded them to choose the Silverdale cemetery as their last resting place? What was their connection with Silverdale?

[Family Trees on pages 13 and 14 will help readers to follow the story.]

Although no evidence has come to light of their ever having been resident in the township, it is probable that they had been visitors since they had relatives who owned two local estates. One of these was Hill House in Silverdale, until 1851 owned by the Inmans, merchants of Lancaster.¹ Thomas Inman's wife was Elizabeth Burrow (1780-1858), eldest child of Thomas Burrow II, West Indies merchant of Lancaster and aunt of the Rev. Thomas of the gravestone. The other, Buckstone House in Priest Hutton, had been bought in 1810 by the Rev. Thomas's great uncle, Christopher Burrow (1761-1827), Thomas Burrow II's youngest brother. It remained in Burrow possession and occupation until 1915.

These Burrows, however, had no earlier connection with Warton parish. The family originated in Thornton-in-Lonsdale. Their farm, "Trees" in Westhouse, was first mentioned in the parish register as the home of a Burrow in 1623. A descendant of that Burrow, Thomas I (d. 1768), yeoman, had ten children. His eldest son, Robert (1742-1825), inherited the property and remained in Westhouse where he later built a cotton spinning mill. It was Robert's grand-daughter Miss Anne Burrow who became the owner of Buckstone House in 1889, when Christopher's family died out. She remained there until her death in 1915.

Three of Thomas I's remaining sons sought their fortune in Lancaster, then at the very height of its prosperity. All took up apprenticeships there, two of them in industries thriving in the town for the supply of goods needed on West Indies plantations where the sugar, rum and cotton that were to be imported were produced. Of these, George I (1748-1812) was apprenticed in

1761 to a tallow chandler and soap-maker, John (1756-?) in 1771 to a cabinet maker. The apprenticeship of the third, Thomas II (1753-1821), begun in 1768 to a linen draper and grocer, implies involvement in the export and import business.

Thomas I's youngest son, Christopher (1761-1827), was not apprenticed to a trade in Lancaster. By becoming an agent in Jamaica he was following in the footsteps of Thomas Inman's grandfather, Charles (1729-1767).

Of these brothers it is Thomas II who is most closely linked with the Silverdale headstone, for he was grandfather of the Rev. Thomas of the inscription.

Thomas II became a figure of importance in Lancaster. Made a freeman in 1784, he went on to become a West Indies merchant and ship owner trading between Lancaster and the Virgin Islands, having as partner for part of his working life Thomas Mason (1767-1827), member of a Silverdale family. Thomas Burrow was a member of the town council, serving as mayor in 1806 and 1815, and undertaking other public duties, such as that of port commissioner. After his death the business was carried on by his son George II (1790-1861), the Rev. Thomas's uncle. George also became mayor of Lancaster twice, in 1833 and 1836, a J.P. and a port commissioner, as well as being part owner of ships and of a cotton mill in Lancaster.

Thomas II had another son, however. Edward, baptised at St Mary's Lancaster on 2 March 1783, spent some years as the firm's agent in the Virgin Islands where Elizabeth Schaltenbrand, herself born on the Danish island of St Thomas's, bore him three

children about 1804, 1807 and 1811.² Edward returned to Lancaster where he died, aged only 37, on 9 April 1820. In his will, he writes of the upbringing of the three children, Thomas, Mary and Catherine "whom I had by my wife before our intermarriage". The "intermarriage" took place at St. Mary's Lancaster on 28 September 1819, only a few months before his death. The Rev. Thomas of the headstone was the first of these three children, all born in St. Thomas's but brought to Lancaster in childhood.

Two years after his father's death, in 1822, Thomas became a pensioner at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he matriculated in 1824 and was awarded a BA in 1828. The following year he was ordained. After a curacy near Maidenhead, in 1833 he became Perpetual Curate of the chapel at Pinner, Middlesex, an appointment in the gift of the vicar of Harrow, with a stipend of £75 and a house. There he remained until his sudden death, intestate, on 15 September 1861. He was 56 and had served there for 30 years. The people of Pinner subscribed to the purchase of a five-light stained glass window at the east end of the church in his memory. It is there today.³

The Rev. Thomas married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth, eldest of the five children of the Rev. John Gathorne (b. Kirkby Lonsdale 1780, d. 1831) and granddaughter of the Rev. Robert Housman, founder and first incumbent of St Anne's chapel in Moor Lane, Lancaster, now the Duke's Theatre. They were married in Lancaster on 11 October 1836.

From this first marriage there was a daughter Mary Elizabeth, born in Pinner in August 1837. But little more than a

year later, on 3 October 1838, Elizabeth, Thomas's wife, aged 23, died of "fever" following the birth of a son, Edward George. She was buried in Pinner churchyard where baby Edward George joined her on 27 April 1839. Seventeen years later, on 16 July 1856, the Rev. Thomas himself performed the marriage ceremony of his daughter Mary Elizabeth to Charles Hill, a Bristol merchant and ship builder. They were to have two sons, Charles Gathorne Hill (1857-1934) and Edward Burrow Hill (1859-1897) and two daughters before she died in 1864.

The Rev. Thomas's second marriage took place on 9 December 1841 in Manchester. His bride, the Sarah of the inscription, born about 1817, was one of the daughters of John Chippindall, a calico printer in Manchester but of an old-established Blackburn family, who about this time moved with his wife and some of his grown-up children to Lancaster where he had family connections. His wife, Sarah's mother, was Mary Higgin, a daughter of John Higgin, governor of Lancaster Castle, and Mary Housman, a sister of the Rev. Robert of St Anne's. One of Mary Higgin's brothers was Thomas Housman Higgin, a figure prominent in 19th century Lancaster who had acted as Edward Burrow's executor and trustee and was George Burrow II's partner as owner of a cotton spinning mill in Lancaster. Another brother was John Higgin the Town Clerk. Letitia Higgin, wife of George Burrow II, was her mother's sister. Of the next generation Col. W.H. Chippindall (c.1850-1942), local historian whose papers are kept in Lancaster Reference Library, was Sarah's nephew. There was one child of this marriage, Agnes Letitia, baptised by her father on 25 November 1842 at Pinner.

When the Rev. Thomas died in September 1861, his widow Sarah and Agnes Letitia their daughter moved from the parsonage in Pinner to Lancaster. This was the natural thing to do, for not only did Sarah now have her widowed father and three unmarried sisters living in the town but she, as the Rev Thomas's heir, had become the owner of the house in Fenton Street which had been built for Thomas Inman. Four years before, the Rev. Thomas had been the sole executor of the will of his aunt Elizabeth, Thomas Inman's widow. He was to have possession of the Inman house and land in Fenton Street, as well as of some property in County Durham, although his uncle George Burrow II (who was to inherit the rest of her estate) and his wife Letitia née Higgin were to have the use of it during their lifetimes. It was probably in this house that Sarah and her daughter took up residence at some time after the Rev. Thomas's death; they were certainly there at the 1871 census. George died there only two months after his nephew, Letitia, his widow, in April 1864 leaving the bulk of her estate to her three unmarried Chippindall nieces, Sarah's sisters.

The Rev. Thomas Burrow's widow Sarah, née Chippindall, and their daughter Agnes Letitia, lived at what is now no. 5 Fenton Street, Lancaster, from perhaps 1861 until 1888. During that period they had both relatives and acquaintances in the town. Sarah's unmarried sisters lived nearby, first in High Street, later in Westbourne Road where her father died in 1873 and sister Lucy in 1881; the other two sisters, Fanny and Maria, lived there until 1902 and 1903 respectively. There were Higgin and Housman relatives, too. As for Burrow relatives, the Rev. Thomas's sister Mary Burrow moved to Morecambe from Brighton after the death

of her younger sister there in 1883. Brighton had been their home since at least 1850; their mother had died there in 1860.

Among Sarah's close acquaintances in Lancaster was Julia Ripley (1804-1881), engaged in carrying out the wish of her late husband to use his considerable wealth in founding an orphanage in Lancaster modelled on the Liverpool Blue Coat School. Although as a merchant Thomas Ripley (1790-1852) had operated entirely out of Liverpool, trading first with the West Indies, then with the Far East, he had begun his career in Lancaster as apprentice to Thomas Burrow II, the Rev. Thomas's grandfather. Ripley Hospital (now Ripley St Thomas Church of England High School) was opened with due ceremony on 3 November 1864. The Chippindalls were present. Indeed they had been involved in the project from the start: Sarah's father and sister are listed among the guests at the laying of the foundation stone on 19 January 1856, as are George and Letitia Burrow. Her father was a member of the committee charged with collecting subscriptions to the fund financing the procession held at the grand opening.⁴

At some time, Sarah purchased a block of land in Arnside, comprising two adjacent properties, houses called Arnmoor (later to become the manse of the Methodist church in Chapel Lane, the neighbouring property) and Springfield, each with garden and orchard, as well as two cottages. She and Agnes Letitia left Lancaster about 1888 to settle at Arnmoor, taking with them two servants from their Fenton Street house which was to be let. The younger of the servants was Isabella Wilson, originally from Dalton in Westmorland, just north of Priest Hutton, who had come to work for George and Letitia Burrow in 1858 as a

22-year-old housemaid and was to remain with Sarah and then Agnes Letitia at least until 1905.

Why did they move away from Lancaster? Perhaps Sarah's involvement with Julia Ripley provides a clue, for her house in Arnside became known locally as "the Orphans' Home". One of Sarah's charitable works was to take in orphan boys from Ripley Hospital when they needed accommodation and care during their holidays as she had done in Fenton Street.

Sarah died on 1st February 1900 aged 83, naming Agnes Letitia as her sole heir and executrix. However, subsequent events suggest that Sarah and her family were already aware that Agnes would not be able to manage her affairs. Within months of Sarah's death the Chippindalls, represented by Sarah's oldest surviving sibling, the Rev. John Chippindall of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, applied for management of her financial affairs to be put on an official footing. The Commissioner in Lunacy accordingly appointed as her receiver Robert Palmer, manager of the Kirkby Lonsdale branch of the Lancaster Bank, whose wife was Mary Ann Chippindall, Sarah's niece (and Col. Chippindall's sister). Agnes continued to live at Arm Moor, receiving the income from her estate in monthly instalments of £35.

As time passed, however, disquiet increased. The state of the house and of Agnes herself made it clear that she was not being cared for properly. Suspicion was cast upon both the competence and the honesty of the servants she had engaged on the death of the elder of the two who had accompanied her from Lancaster. So great was the deterioration and so untoward was the behaviour of those supposed servants with their hangers-on that

neighbours ceased calling. At one point the faithful Isabella Wilson was obliged to call the police.

The crisis came late in 1904 when Robert Palmer on one of his regular visits discovered that Agnes and servants were no longer at Arm Moor. He reported their disappearance to the Commissioner. They were traced to Morecambe where Agnes was found living in rented rooms with her servants and the hangers-on at 1 Skipton Street and 9 Oxford Street. The move has not been explained. One suspects the influence of the new "servants", for Agnes herself had no connection with Morecambe, her aunt Mary Burrow having died in 1889. It was clear to the Commissioner in Lunacy that the 1900 arrangement was no longer adequate; this "well-educated gentlewoman of good social standing with charming manners" now needed to be protected from those by whom she was surrounded and to be cared for in a manner "suitable to her position in society". The Commissioner therefore directed Agnes's nearest relative, Charles Gathorne Hill of Bristol, to present a petition in order to initiate the enquiry needed as a preliminary to authorising action being taken for her care. Gathorne was a grandson of the Rev. Thomas by his first wife and thus Agnes's "nephew of the half blood" and her heir-at-law. He was carrying on his father's business in Bristol as shipbuilder and ship owner, his father, the Rev. Thomas's son-in-law, having died only three months before Sarah. At probate his effects had been valued at £260,000, a very different order of wealth from that of the Burrows and Chippindalls.⁵

The enquiry could have taken place in private as the Master in Lunacy recommended. However, Agnes had been advised that a hearing before a jury would prevent her being committed to an

institution, which she dreaded. It was bad advice for not only was there no such danger but a public enquiry would mean the presence of the press. As a result, no fewer than 115 column inches were devoted to it over two editions of the *Lancaster Guardian* under the title 'Lunacy Enquiry at Lancaster' and 110 column inches of the *Westmorland Gazette* under 'The Delusions of a Lady' and 'The Arnside Lunacy Case'.

The enquiry was held on 13th, 14th, and 15th April 1905 in Lancaster Castle before the Master in Lunacy, with King's Counsel for both petitioner and respondent, and a special jury of 23 (paid for by Miss Burrow herself: their fees amounted to £70). Witnesses were called from both Arnside (the local policeman, shopkeepers, neighbours) and Morecambe (landladies) as well as Robert Palmer, a Chippindall uncle, and the faithful servant Isabella Wilson, though not the manipulative new "servants" — they had disappeared. The jury reached the expected decision, namely that she was unable to manage her affairs but was not a danger to herself or to others. It was therefore decided that steps should be taken to provide the care "appropriate to a lady of her standing".

A Lancaster firm of solicitors⁶ was appointed to be her trustees and for the next 25 years, almost until her death, she continued to live in her Arnside home, Armmoor, with companions to care for her. She died, however, in 1930 aged 88, not in Arnside but at Chapel-le-Dale in a house, Springcote, possibly the home of one of her carers, where people of means in poor health were looked after. Her funeral at Silverdale, advertised in the *Lancaster Guardian*, took place on Friday 28th March.

Her heir, Charles Gathorne Hill, died at Clifton on 11 December 1934. He and his son lost the whole family fortune by borrowing to replace their ships in the first World War and were insolvent from 1921 to 1938. His descendants still live in the Bristol area⁷ but there are no longer Burrows of Thomas I's line either in Thornton-in-Lonsdale, or in Lancaster, or in the townships of Warton.

Notes

1 Michael Wright: 'The Inman family of Lancaster and Hill House, Silverdale', *Mourholme Magazine*, 1999-2000, no 2.

2 According to Col Chippindall's notes on the Burrow family kept in Lancaster Reference Library Edward's wife was a mulatto. However, confirmation of this has not been found.

3 I am indebted to J.S.Golland of Pinner Local History Society for information and also for photographs of the memorial window and of the Rev. Thomas's grave in Paine's Lane cemetery, Pinner.

4. Linda Moorhouse; *The opening of Ripley Hospital, Lancaster*, n.d. I am grateful to Mr J.A.V. Lailey, headmaster of Ripley St Thomas Church of England High School, Lancaster, for further information.

5 Their "effects" at probate were closer to £6,000: the Rev Thomas Burrow, (d.1861 intestate) £5,000; his aunt Elizabeth Inman (d. 1857) under £4,000; his uncle George II (d. 1861) under £6,000; George's widow Letitia (d. 1864) under £5,000; the Rev. Thomas's mother (d. 1860) under £450; his younger sister (d. 1883), £54; his elder sister (d.1889), £2,600; his widow Sarah (d. 1900) £8,445; their daughter Agnes Letitia (d.1930) £10,000.

As for the Chippindalls, Sarah's father John (d. 1873) left under £7,000; her sister Lucy (d. 1881) £5,200; her sister Fanny (d. 1902) £6,700; her sister

Maria (d. 1903) £12,500 which would include Fanny's effects since Maria was her heir.

Agnes Letitia's heir Charles Gathorne Hill's effects were valued for probate at £52,580

6. Probably Maxsted, Gibson and Sturton, the partnership which in earlier guise had been that of John Higgin, the Town Clerk mentioned above, and Agnes Letitia's uncle.

7. I should like to acknowledge the help of Bristol Central Library in tracing the Hill family and providing information about their shipping interests. And also that of Richard Hill, Charles Gathorne Hill's surviving grandson.

SOURCES:

Parish Registers of Lancaster, Thornton in Lonsdale, Pinner.

Lancaster Apprenticeship Rolls and Freeman Rolls.

Arnsdale Electoral Registers.

Probate Records.

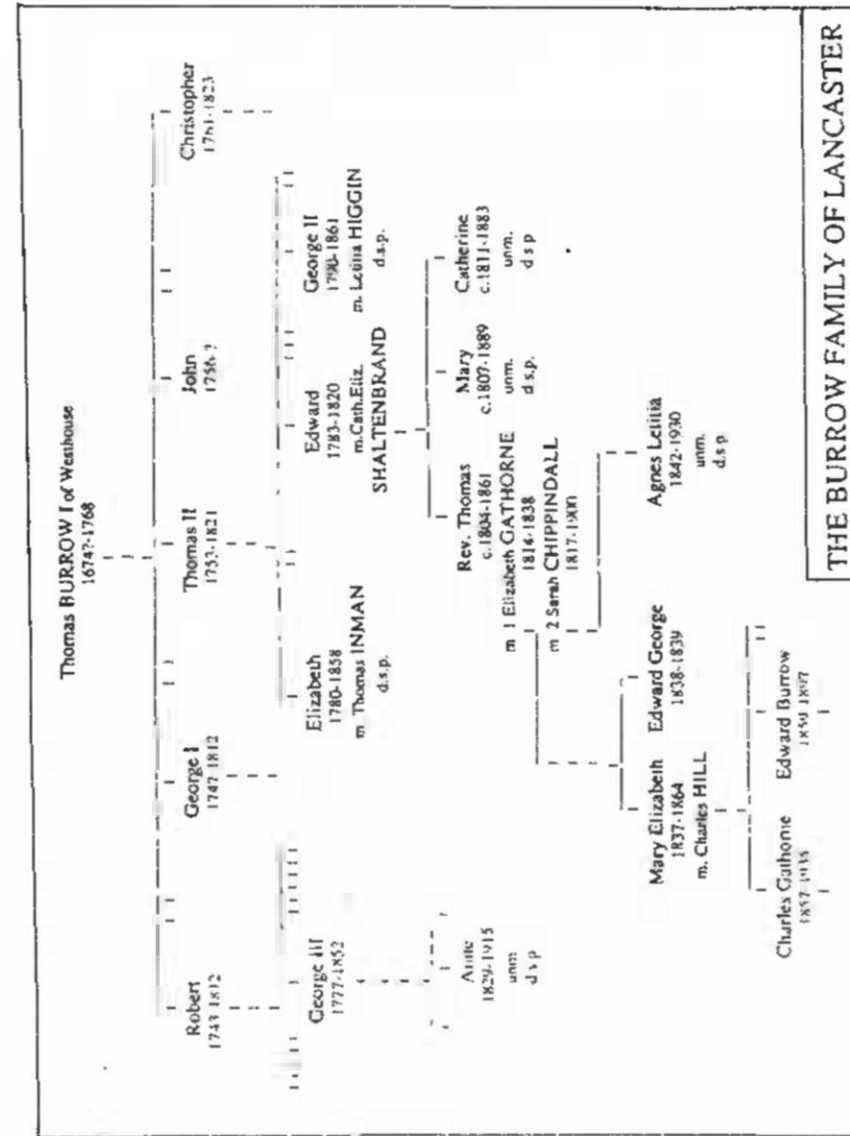
Census returns: Lancaster, Arnsdale, Pinner, Somerset.

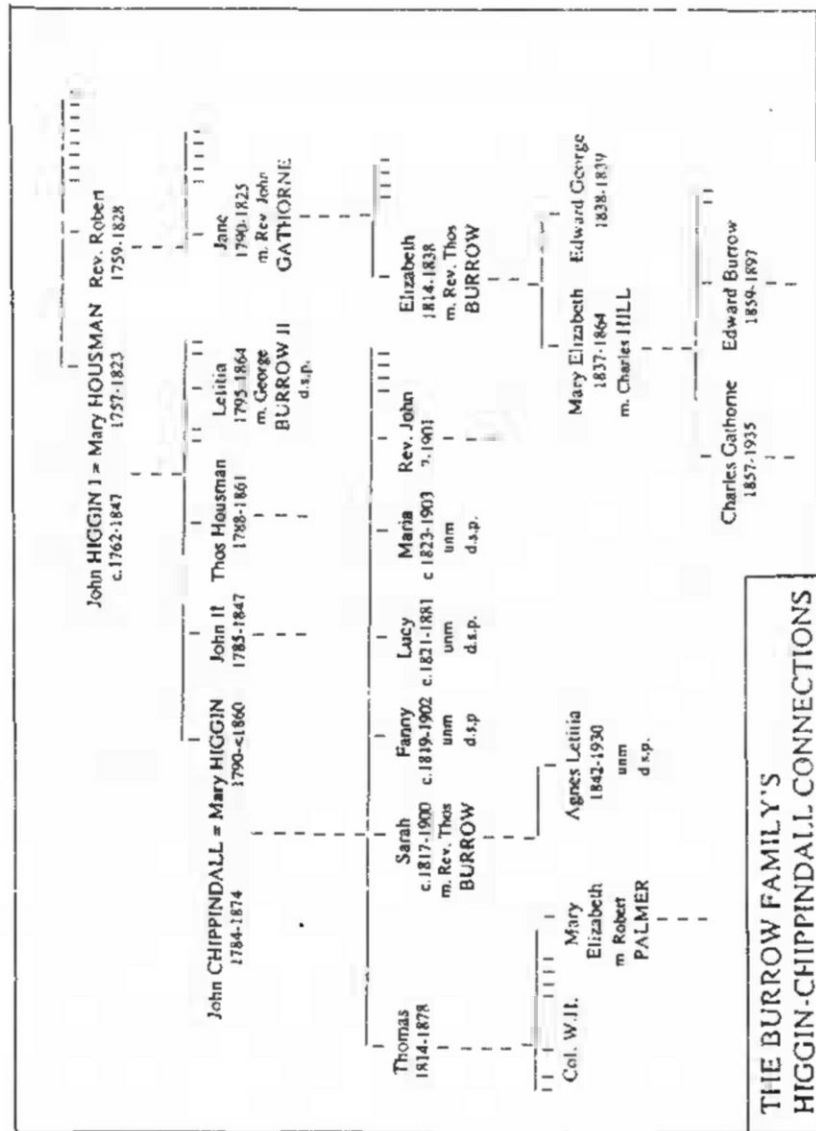
Newspapers: *Lancaster Gazette*, *Lancaster Guardian*, *Harrow Gazette*, *Westmorland Gazette*.

Alumni Cantabrigiensis

John Charles Gathorne Hill: *Shipshape and Bristol Fashion*, Bristol, 1951, revised edition 1983.

Col. G.H.Chippindall's papers in Lancaster Library.





THE DOBBY CALLS AGAIN

Joan Clarke

A poem appeared in the first issue of the 1999/2000 Mourholme Magazine. It was by a Miss Parkin on the subject of the 'dobby' at Silverdale. We asked if any reader knew anything about this 'dobby'. In response Dr Margaret Bainbridge has drawn attention to a nineteenth century description of other dobbies. It seems that our doobby was not alone. Lancashire teemed with dobbies. Dictionaries think a doobby is either a dullard or a brownie, but Lancashire thinks otherwise. As an Ulverston man said in 1867 (and Ulverston was in Lancashire then) "*Ghosts! Eigh, me lad, we've had plenty on 'em i' Forness, but we'd anudder neam for 'em; we ol'as co'd em dobbies or freetnins. Here about U'lstun we'd t' Puntun Ho' doobby, Lebby Beck doobby, 't Swing Gate doobby an' we had 't King's Arms doobby!*"¹

Natland had so many dobbies waiting to pounce on the unwary that it is surprising anyone ever went out after dark. Very odd creatures they seem to have been too. As well as conventional ghosts who clanked chains, there was a black cow that lay across the path. If you tried to jump over her, she rose up and charged you. There was a Versi-coloured Rabbit (an iridescent one, that is) which ran between your feet and tripped you up, and an Invisible Hand which would hold you fast all night, and the Mill Brigg Cotton-rogger (what's that?) who upended you, leaving you upright but head down in a puddle. Not to mention the White Cat of Crakelt with no head and in its coffin². The writer of the description recommended that after encountering these horrors you should go to "Mrs Dawson at the public house and recruit

yourself with Natland-bonny" - where doubtless the locals would tell you still taller tales.

Dr Marshall supplied us with Edwin Waugh's description of Silverdale in the nineteenth century. From it one can learn a little more about our very own dobbies. The company at the Victoria had plenty to say about them. There was a headless woman who haunted Jack Scout and the cave below, Cow's Mouth. A local currier explained, "You see, sir, these dobbies have each their own beat marked out, like so many policemen". It seems the currier was a non-believer for he added that "the weather last back-end had been very hard for dobbies", and that he was "afraid that some of them had not got over it". Perhaps that is why no-one seems acquainted with dobbies these days. Nor the fairies who danced in the Cove on moonlight nights, nor the big snig, the great eel, that haunted Silverdale tarn. It coiled itself round a rock on the shore, wearing away the rock by its grip, and then pounced on passing sheep. It was so big that when it was finally killed "there was nearly a pack of wool in the hollow of just one of its teeth".³

Notes

1. John H. Nodal & George Milner, (1875), Glossary of the Lancashire Dialect, Publications of the Manchester Literary Society.
2. Lonsdale Magazine (1821) Vol. II, p95 (in bound volumes held at Lancaster Reference Library).
3. Waugh, Edwin (1861) *Rambles in the Lake Country and its Borders*, London, Whittaker and Co. Pp 231-232, 235, 237-238.

MR ERVING'S BOOK

Arthur Penn

A year or so ago Mrs Anne Hillman spoke to the society about a nineteenth century resident of Carnforth called James Erving. What she said was mainly based upon a sort of commonplace book in her possession, which he kept for some twenty years in the middle of the century. [1850-1873] She kindly allowed the society to make use of the book, which throws a lot of light on the area in that period.

It is a curious book and the entries in it are very varied. Some are personal and concerned with his own family, some are about finance, property, local valuations, prices and the like, some are about current affairs, but a significant proportion are about the ecclesiastical parish of Warton, of which, it seems, Erving was warden for the Carnforth township.

The book reveals a good deal about the man himself. He was obviously cranky and awkward, claiming great uprightness, but recording any evidence of what he thought the failures of others, particularly the clergy. He writes boldly, often in note form and his punctuation is almost non-existent. Much of what is written seems to be recorded as evidence of injustices by others, and what makes it so hard to use, is that we can usually have no idea of how the others saw the matters. Nevertheless the information contained is a valuable source, provided it is taken with some scepticism.

Erving's writings are at the time when Carnforth was beginning to grow, when railways and the ironworks were

becoming important elements in local life. However, it was still a township in Warton parish and in the early years Warton Church was its only Church of England place of worship. Thomas Dean was vicar until his death in 1870, when he was succeeded by Thomas Pain. Both of these presided over much improvement in the church building. During this time Dean initiated an informal place of worship in Carnforth and from 1850 the school was licensed for worship. In 1865 a curate was appointed for Carnforth and, after several short tenancies John Atkinson Fidler was appointed in 1869. Erving liked the word 'priestcraft' to epitomise his unfavourable view of dealings by the clergy. None escaped his criticism. It is not clear how far his attitude was based on ideological issues. The Church of England in mid-Victorian days was troubled by controversy, sparked off by the Oxford Movement, with its Catholic emphasis and revival of ritualism. This was met by great suspicion of 'Romanizing'. Was this an issue in the parish? There are hints that it may be so, though the matters which cause one to wonder are to us quite neutral things like 'chanting' psalms and erecting stained glass windows. Erving's main concerns regarding the church, the clergy and the schools, are alterations in the church building, the schools especially the Carnforth one, and the appointment of a curate for Carnforth, but one suspects that Erving had a weakness for gossip.

GOSSIP

Dean is the main object of his criticism. Dean's first wife Mary died in 1862 and in 1864 he married a Miss Whitworth, of Facit, near Rochdale, which seems to be the area where Erving had lived. He notes that in 1857 her father died intestate, but his sons agreed to give their sisters £2000 and take all as it stood. It

seems to be suggested that Dean's bride had a modest fortune. At the time of the marriage Erving writes of "scandalous reports about his conduct with Miss Smyth which she affirms Wardens lay the matter before the Byshop and then find if they go on will be subject to about £300 costs so the thing is allowed to drop." The next year, however, he writes "Had Books and Cushions removed from Warton Church having waited since last October for the vicar taking some steps to clear his character which he either cannot or will not do."

When Edmund Lawson died in 1855, Erving attended Warton Church seven days later when "every hymn and psalm had reference to death, sermon by the vicar T. Dean 9th Hebrews 27 verse And as it is appointed unto all men once to die, but after this the judgement - it was in every respect extraordinary under the circumstances in reference to Mr Lawson's death, the presence of relatives and friends it must be considered of a personal nature if so what are we to think of observations such as 'The Hamons of this world', 'The Lazuras at the gate', 'The mask of hypocrisy', 'The midnight slanderer', 'The reveller in ill-gotten wealth'. "The man who had done wrong going to another country where he might by care earn a good name" and lots more of the same import whereby the owners of the above descriptions if any were freely sent to everlasting torment, "can I forget T. Dean calling Mr Lawson his friend". He could not tell how the various charities could get on without him and his vote was always right. "How can this be reconciled with his sermon after death painting human nature in the blackest colours. Bolden and T. Jackson were described by this man as paragons of excellence and his motive may yet appear."

It would appear that he had a particular animosity for Dean, but thought no better of others. Mr Wallis was incumbent of Sedgwick. "This gentleman made my wife's sister Jane an offer by letter. An interview took place between them at Bolton le Sands 2nd August 1854 subject discussed religion nothing about marrying is on £80 a year our vicar was the means of bringing them together inviting her to the vicarage where Wallis turned up I fear all is simply to get someone who can supply him with a leg of mutton to help out the potatoe pie which is said to be his dinner the week round. August 10th they met again when they could not agree about their faith he being a successor of the Apostles (probably a High Churchman), she deeming the idea nonsense so they parted."

"William Bradshaw Incumbent of Over Kellet died in November last (?1861) I knew him when a lad at Halton Hall, his father gave him the incumbency In his young days he was a wild drinking fellow, he actually paid a man called Dixon 3/6 a day when on the spree to sing and drink with him and has appeared in the pulpit with black eyes, my acquaintance with him has been renewed for the last 12 years during which he appeared much changed for the better."

The fault with Fidler, the curate, seems to have been debt, perhaps due to the change of vicar and having to wait for the payment of his stipend. Erving says that "he came here in debt and is yet hard pressed for money. Mrs Lawson says the £10 she lent him was to pay a tailor who threatened to put him in the County Court."

Laymen do not wholly escape. Edward Barton, manager of the ironworks is accused of some financial irregularity over the price of limestone, and John Bolden of the Hyning at the time of his death has a colourful accusation. "This gentleman was interred in Warton Church under his own pew 6 Feby 1855 How the vicar could allow such a thing after saying so much against such practice astonishes me this gentleman when at college was chairman of the Hellfire Club and would not allow the Bible read in his presence but about 14 days before his death he sent for the vicar who says that period was spent delightfully he recanted his former opinions and prepared to meet what his whole life had denied to exist".

CHANGES AT CHURCH

"Attended a meeting at the vicarage when T.Dean proposed alterations in church and requested I.Jenkinson R Jackson and myself to undertake to say whether such alterations should or should not be done we adjourned for a week - I intimated the alteration would be more ornamental than useful, the same object might be obtained at less cost, Estimated at £210-19 February attended by appointment at the Vicarage gave an opinion individually without prejudice to others - 'that it was not expedient to meddle with proposed alterations'. In July a new chancel window was put in by Bolden and ceiling partly opened Gable carried up and a cross put on top. This is a memorial window to the late Mr Bolden of Hyning, chairman of the Hellfire Club. List of subscriptions for opening chancel ceiling -W.Bolden £10, Mr Clews £10, Mr Marton £10, Thos. Dean £10, Revd. Mason £5." The following year "The Vicar T Dean exhibited a scarlet book mark and device like a cross also a fancy plate for

collecting offering before sacrament Soon after this a large falling off took place in people going from Carnforth to church various reasons are given some say it is the new chancel window others the singing, some that the vicar is losing himself whatever the cause it is clear not more than 10 or 20 go where a year since 50 to 65 regularly attended." In 1868 he records that the church was enlarged at a cost of £380.18.0 raised by the rates. Silverdale 0 Yealands £16.3.8 Warton got from railways £69.10 (half ought to have been for Carnforth) Carnforth paid £71.13.10. This would be the last year before the abolishment of compulsory Church rates.

A little earlier he had recorded:

"Captain Yates Churchwarden and Thomas Dean the vicar summoned before the magistrates Ford, Batt and Preston (Quakers) for church rates did not appear judgement against them". Another stained glass window is mentioned when Elizabeth Lawson put a memorial window to her husband at a cost of £18. 18.0 6 "we were not favoured with the knowledge".

"A vestry meeting to examine the accounts received objections by John Jenkinson to the bill for oil and candles used on Wednesday evenings to other payments and to any charge being put on the rate for paying for the new clock which had cost £75 - £53 of which had been subscribed. Jenkinson and Mucalt objected to stained windows. Mucalt asked if the vicar could allow them to be put in without the wardens he said he could - so Mucalt thought wardens were of no use and would oppose the rate Jenkinson said Wednesday evening services were of no use and the windows looked as if the vicar were going over to popery."

CARNFORTH SCHOOL

The first reference to the school is dated 1.6.1860 when the vicar asked Erving to a meeting at which the Master Mr Townson was asked to resign on account of age and infirmity, although the vicar wished him well and expressed respect for the way he had done his duty. Erving says he refused to express an opinion. "In fact he had brought the wardens to turn the old man out and put a mistress in his place which he did." He reports a bazaar for the school on three days in August 1861 in a large tent, which realised £536.

In March, 1862 he says "a notice appeared on the church door from the Charity Commissioners of Education to place the school under their jurisdiction. 'Jackson, Stelfox and I had heard nothing of it so went to the vicar to ask the meaning of it. It came out he and Peacock had made application setting us aside altogether. They propose to create 'noneofficials' as managers which they say are to act as such the truth is the power will be in the hands of the vicar and we noneofficials will be used so far as suits his purpose, the book of Minutes says the old trustees were unanimous in this application but Stelfox says when the vicar called upon him as warden to sign a paper respecting the school he asked if the Charity Commissioners were to have anything to do with it when the vicar said no altho he was at that time in conjunction with R.Peacock placing the school under the Commissioners."

On October 11 1871 Erving says he paid the trustees and managers £500 in lieu of the Bond "I hold from Dock trust Liverpool which I had been requested to place there for the

benefit of the school. It appears some of them thought it was not safe in my name and as Fidler had been often referring to it the last 18 months I determined to pay it and let him see I could do without being in debt which he so far is unable to do which one might have thought would have kept his mouth shut."

Under the heading 'Priestcraft' in December 1871 he describes tortuous goings on about the appointment of the secretary of the Carnforth Gas Works. Erving's son and Mr Orr the schoolmaster applied and apparently Fidler supported both. A question arose about Orr's forms and desks. On 9th January "a nice little game was played out by Mr Barton at the meeting of school managers when he proposed that Mr Wrightson purchase Orr's Forms and Desks making it clear Fidler, Barton and the vicar (for he had mentioned the Forms to me) were all in it, notwithstanding Fidler's fussey pretence of consulting me on the matter, telling part but not all about it."

In May 1872 "when I was absent in Wales a meeting was held in the school present Mr Barton R. Clark Joseph Jackson and J.A. Fidler when they decided to enter into contract with John Wilson to extend and alter the school to contain 300 scholars and I find now in August there is a debt on the building of £75.0.0."

THE CURACY

The first mention is when Manchester Diocesan Church Building Society granted £50 per annum for a curate. "Vicar said he had promised another £50 and wished me to see among friends what I could get. I thought it simply paying a curate to do the vicar's work." On February 9th 1865 a meeting at the school

heard "what the vicar had to say about having a full service here on Sundays he wanted the curate to have £150 a year. It turned out after he had engaged Mr Johnson of Preston, did duty first time 14 May Mr Johnson called and said the vicar would do nothing beyond paying the £50 a year - 5th June Johnson agreed to be licenced as curate Had service in the morning when the vicar stoped it Oct 23 Mr Johnson left for Preston - vicar began duty again himself."

"Revd. Ismay Barns left this district in Oct 1866 he has been curate since Mr Johnson left and has high church notions his principal reason for leaving was the lending of school forms by schoolmaster to an Inn for a club dinner, he preached for the members on the occasion at Kellet and thought the forms would be desecrated by being so used - Dec 1866 Revd G Pattison came as curate. left on 1 Dec 1867 - Dec 10/67 a Mr Jenkins called it turned out after he had engaged the vicar told him the salary was £150 a year so he re-opened the matter and in the end gave it up - I obtained from Ecclesiastical Commissioners a grant of £120 for a curate and Mr J A Fidler began services in the school 12 Sept 1869."

In fact Erving writes six pages giving in full his letter and the Commissioners' response. He supports the application by saying that the average distance to the parish church is 1½ miles, the population of Carnforth about 1400, an increase of 1000 in 8 years and growth likely as the junction of Railways. He expects that in time a new church will be built. The Commissioners agreed to make a grant of £120 per annum to the vicarage on condition that Divine services are performed at Carnforth by a

duly licensed curate receiving a salary of not less than £120 per annum.

So Mr Fidler began service on 12 Sept 1869 for Carnforth and Borwick. "He was then a Deacon but after he received Priests orders in 1870 he gradually assumed more importance". Dean died in that year and Fidler claimed he was in 'sole charge' and almost kicked up a row at the funeral over the vestry surplice. He is criticised for financial irregularity over a Soiree and Tea Party and the presentation of a mantel clock to a Miss Pickford.

What is one to make of all this? It is all very small beer and no doubt fairly typical of affairs in a small community. What is remarkable is the preservation of the thoughts of one self-important and rather quarrelsome member of our local community.

THE VILLAGE DOCTOR Lonsdale Magazine (1820)

Luckless is he whom hard fate urges on
To practice as a country surgeon;
To drag a heavy galling chain
The slave of all for paltry gain;
To ride, regardless of all weather
Through frost, and snow, and hail together;
To smile and bow when sick and tir'd;
Consider'd as a servant hired;
At every quarter of the compass,
A surly patient makes a rumpus,
Because he is not seen the first,
(For each man thinks his case the worst)
And often at two points diametric
Call'd to a business obstetric.
Then here's a man, with broken limb,
A lady here with nervous whim,
Who at the acme of her fever,
Calls him a savage if he leaves her
For days and nights in some lone cottage,
Condemn'd to live on crusts and pottage,
To kick his heels and spin his brains
Waiting forsooth for labour pains,
And, that job over, happy he
If he squeeze out a guinea fee
Then worn like culprit on the wheel,
He sits him down to hasty meal;
He sits - when lo! A patient comes
With rotten tooth and putrid gums;

The doctor takes his dentist-tools,
Fixes the screw, and tugs and pulls,
His dinner cools, his hands this mess in,
All for a shilling or a blessing,
Now comes the night, with toil opprest,
He seeks his bed in hope of rest;
Vain hope, his slumbers are no more,
Loud sounds the knocker at the door.
A farmer's wife at ten miles distance,
Groaning calls for his assistance;
Fretting and fuming in the dark,
He in the tinder strikes a spark,
And as he yawning heaves his breeches,
Envies his neighbour blessed with riches.

[Note:

This revives old memories! - Ed.]