



LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION

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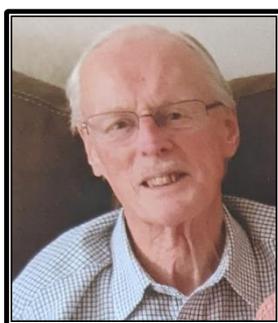
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Please see the website www.lancashirehistory.org for more contact details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Just a reminder: membership is due for renewal on 1 January. Zoe Lawson, the Membership Secretary, will be sending out a notice at the beginning of December with the details for renewing your membership. The fees are unchanged at £5 for an individual, £8 for joint membership and £8 for a society.



MORRIS GARRATT 1937-2021
An appreciation of our Honorary President
by Diana Winterbotham

Readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Morris Garratt which occurred on 5 September. Morris will be chiefly known as the long-serving Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society (LCAS), but he has also been for many years an active companion in the activities of the Lancashire Local History Federation, serving on our committee and for a time as our Chairman. In recognition

of his service to the Federation and his contribution to local history, Morris was elected Honorary President in 2019. He helped to organise the day schools which the Federation has held in partnership with the LCAS, and regularly attended all our other events.

Morris was born in Warrington in 1937, and spent his childhood at Thelwall nearby, attending Lymm Grammar School. He worked at Stretford Library for a time, later moving to a post in Stafford. In 1962 he married Eileen Hill. Many readers will also remember Eileen as she regularly attended meetings with Morris. They returned to north Cheshire in 1969, living in Cheadle Hulme. Morris then took up an appointment at Middleton Library, where he stayed, holding various posts, until his retirement.

In 1975 Morris joined the LCAS and soon became its Secretary, an office which he held for 34 years until 2013. He also held other offices from time to time, including those of Editor and Assistant Editor of the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, and was elected President of the Society for 2012-16. On the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2017 his contribution to the Society was recognised by his election as an Honorary Vice-President.

Morris also chaired the Middleton Civic Association, and with Eileen was a member of the Friends of Bramall Hall and Park. He additionally wrote several books and articles, including *Samuel Bamford: portrait of a radical*, and books on Middleton and Stockport; he was a member of the Stockport Local History Society.

Our local history societies have many people who give a great deal of their time to the activities of those organisations, but it would be hard to find one who did so much over so many years for his own and other societies as Morris. We will miss his energy, resourcefulness and the unfailing warmth of his friendship.

A full appreciation, together with a bibliography, will appear in the Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, due for publication later this year.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Here is a story of our times, one which saddens me and which I fear is far from unique. In the summer we learned in unhappy detail of the problems which have beset the Poulton [le Fylde] Historical and Civic Society. The Poulton-le-Fylde Historical Society was founded in November 1981 after an upsurge of interest in local history and heritage, encouraged by the Reverend David Wiseman who in 1979 and 1981 had published two books of old photographs and oral history about the town. The Society was very active for many years, holding a lecture programme, organising exhibitions and heritage events, publishing town trails, local history books and a journal, and for almost ten years from 1986 promoting continuing education evening classes researching the history of Poulton and the north-west Fylde. I had the honour of tutoring those classes, and found them richly rewarding and very fruitful in all sorts of ways ... and my word, there were some good students there – people who'd never been involved in historical research before, but who picked up 17th century palaeography as though it was their destiny (which perhaps it was?)

But times change, as we all know so well. Technology, the internet, the multiplicity of other entertainments, a reluctance of people to go out at night, an 'ageing clientele' ... the possible reasons are many and varied, but attendances, once so impressive, began to dwindle, the challenges of promoting other activities grew, stalwarts of the committee moved on or passed away and it became ever harder to find successors. As I was told by Christine Storey, one of the founders back in 1981 and for many years a familiar figure in Lancashire local history circles, in recent years the activities shrank to organising nine talks per year with an occasional exhibition in the library and at the Great Eccleston Show. This meant burdening the small number of hard-working people running the society with these responsibilities.

And therein lies the real problem. As Christine said to me, "The issue was that we were not able to put any succession planning in place, though we asked, invited, hand on shoulder, etc. ". The committee dwindled to five of whom two played a role but were not involved in local history. Christine said that she and another member "used to joke that if anything happened to one of us the society would be in trouble, and of course she died a few years later". Fortunately, there was a hardworking successor, and "we have carried the society on more or less between the two of us [but] when the pandemic struck we stopped after March 2020".

Christine of course regrets that, but admits that in another sense it was a relief, and the other committee member acknowledges that she has not really missed the society. Neither the treasurer nor the 'signing-in welcomer' wants to continue; and no volunteers have joined the committee. So matters have come to a standstill.

The Society has not been wound up, but there is no lecture programme in sight. It is still a consultee for Wyre Borough Council in relation to the town's conservation area, it is hoped that exhibitions will continue to be held, and the website is still functioning. Christine says, "It just needs a few volunteers and PHCS will spring back into life".

Let's hope that happens, but I'm afraid that we can't be over-optimistic. I'm sure that we can all think of other societies – perhaps even your own? – which are facing these same challenges. Finding answers is exceptionally challenging, and it's impossible to predict how the situation will evolve over the next couple of years. What with Zoom or Teams on the one hand, and a lack of 'new recruits' on the other, is the era of 'live' lecture programmes finished? I am to give the last-ever lecture to be held by a Lancashire branch of the Geographical Association, which is being wound up for all the same reasons. It affects a very wide range of organisations: a sea-change in society itself, perhaps?

NEWS FROM ARCHIVES

LANCASHIRE ARCHIVES

I'm pleased to report some positive changes in welcoming you to Lancashire Archives from 1 November:

- 12 people will be able to look at original archives in the searchroom

- if you are using original archives you will still need to book a seat and documents in advance
- if you want to use the computers, microform readers, or listening post there is no need to book
- opening hours will be 9.30am to 5pm
- you will enter through the main automatic doors
- you will be able to book for morning, afternoon, or all-day sessions
- if you stay all day you will not have to leave the building at lunchtime
- the refreshment room will be open so you may bring flasks and sandwiches, and have a break. A chilled water dispenser and fridge is available
- an archivist will be on call to provide professional advice

For more information, or to book a visit, please go to our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives

We're all aware however that COVID is still with us and we will be ensuring that we follow the latest government instructions and guidance:

- Staff will be wearing face-coverings, using hand sanitisers, wiping down high touch areas, and keeping spaces well ventilated
- We encourage our visitors to wear face coverings, if they can, to use hand sanitisers and respect other people's personal space
- Most importantly we ask people not to visit while self-isolating or while showing any Covid-19 symptoms

On **Tuesday 9 November** there may be some noise and disruption in the searchroom due to essential cabling work. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Jacque Crosby

ONLINE TALKS

Friday 26 Nov: Not disabled, just differently abled – marking Disability History Month. Victoria McCann.

Tuesday 14 Dec: Joy to the world. Victoria McCann and Kathryn Newman.

Email archives@lancashire.gov.uk for logon details.

WIGAN AND LEIGH ARCHIVES



The new archives facilities for Wigan borough have opened in the transformed Leigh town hall. As local history and heritage groups start to reopen for meetings and activities, the service is offering to any interested groups a tour of the newly restored premises. This will include seeing the new research facilities and exhibitions and a look behind the scenes.

Contact Alex Miller to arrange a tour a.miller@wigan.gov.uk

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Wednesday 24 Nov 7.00 pm: Ashton Aesthetics? Working-class poetry in Ashton-under-Lyne from Luddism to Liberalism. Talk by Michael Sanders, Senior Lecturer in 19th century writing at Manchester University. There were a number of radical working class poets in Ashton, including John Stafford, “the Charlestown Poet”. [This talk is over Zoom – ask for logon details.]

Wednesday 9 Feb 2022: Thomas Ferriar, the Mancunian liberator of Venezuela. Talk by Nick Mansfield.

The Society is suggesting a group visit to the **Portico Library in Manchester**, with a chance to hear about new projects – contact the Secretary for more details.

Email Alice Lock secretary@landcas.org.uk.

LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings have resumed in the Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, South Ribble Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH. £5 for visitors (but new members always welcome) www.leylandhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Monday 6 Dec: Coal mining in Lancashire – the photographic record. Alan Davies

Monday 10 Jan: The yearly archaeological update. Chris Wild

Monday 7 Feb: The return of Sid - dialect poems, prose and songs with Sid Calderbank

MANCHESTER VICTORIAN SOCIETY

- Please book places in advance for events, to ensure there is sufficient space for the number of attendees
- The venue is Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 0LG. This is easily accessible by car and by public transport, including the tram. It also helps to support a community hall, which is Victorian. The AGM is slightly earlier in January than usual to avoid a Manchester United home fixture.
- Meetings have moved to a day/weekend meeting time for a while – views of members and visitors about the change would be welcome.

Saturday 15 January 2022 at 2.00 pm for 2.15 pm: AGM

In light of Covid precautions, please indicate attendance by emailing anne.hodgson@hotmail.com. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

Saturday 19 February 2022 at 2.00pm for 2.15pm

Digging the Bridgewater Canal: recent research at Worsley Green Workshops and Worsley Delph. Speaker: **Dr. Michael Nevell**, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Please book by emailing anne.hodgson@hotmail.com. £7 payable on the day.

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM 21ST BIRTHDAY

Plans to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the setting up of the Forum had to be abandoned in 2020 but were replaced by a 21st birthday celebration this September. An exhibition was opened at the Portland Basin Museum on Saturday 4 September by the Civic Mayor of Tameside, Janet Cooper. Founder member Jill Cronin also spoke about the setting up of the group. Luckily our Secretary, Chris Clough, who has been in post since the beginning, was able to attend despite a period of ill health. Many of the Forum's constituent societies also provided displays - Dukinfield Old Chapel, Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Albion Chapel, Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel, Denton Local History Society, Ashton Civic Society and Mossley Civic Society were among those represented.



The Forum's history was illustrated by a series of panels designed by Janet Warr and researched by the History on Your Doorstep Group, although it was difficult to condense twenty-one years of activity into an exhibition.

The Forum acts as an umbrella organisation for local history, civic and other heritage groups in the borough. It has played a role in local history publishing, lobbying on planning and other matters, conservation of local buildings, art works and objects, blue plaques and facilitating the deposit of local records.

The picture shows (left to right) Phil Blanchard, Jill Cronin, Chris Clough, Anne Brewster, Janet Warr, the Civic Mayor of Tameside Janet Cooper and her consort Dennis Fitzpatrick, with the exhibition in the background.

The exhibition was part of the series of events held as part of Heritage Open Days and also included an online talk on the history of the Forum by Gay Oliver.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday 20 Nov: Saints' lives and medieval history in northern England.

There will be a live element of this online event. The recorded presentations will be available in the week leading up to a live Q&A for everyone who registers, and will be available after the event as well.

Saturday 6 Feb: Outsiders looking in – visitors' impressions of the north west 1600-1939. Annual study event with **Dr Alan Crosby**. [Check in advance whether this will be in person or online.]

NEWS ROUNDUP

LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Friday 19 Nov 7.30pm – meeting in person. All are welcome. New venue: St Margaret's Church Hall, Tag Lane, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU.

The Cuerden excavations 2018: finding the Roman road – Oliver Cook, University of Salford

STREET MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM STREETS

William Longshaw, social historian, artist, writer and curator, has worked on a number of different museum and heritage projects. His website <https://billlongshaw.wordpress.com> details his aim of 'putting streets in museums and museums on the street'.

Manchester Centre for Public History and Heritage has made available Bill's illustrated article 'Street museums and museum streets: researching museum history'. He states, 'My research has now produced a list of around 130 'streets' of all shapes and sizes'. These range from Lark Hill Place in Salford Museum and Art Gallery to recreated streets in care homes to stimulate residents living with dementia. Visit <https://bit.ly/3mp6HMb>

Bill can supply a list of the street museums, and would also appreciate ideas, help or advice on taking the project forward. Email williamlongshaw@msn.com.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

TWO PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO TURTON TOWER

Richard Horrocks, a member of Holcombe Moor Heritage Group, and a Turton Tower guide, has written two related books. Both are available from Amazon (links below), or at a discounted price from the Tower shop <https://turtontower.co.uk>

James Kay of Turton Tower: inventor and flax spinner (1774-1857).

Kay invented a novel wet spinning system for flax in 1825, which was taken up by Irish spinners and enabled the Irish linen Industry to become of global importance in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In England, his patent was invalidated by John Marshall of Leeds following a series of lawsuits during the 1835-41 period. In so doing, Marshall, one of the richest and most powerful "textile barons" of his time, destroyed Kay's reputation in England to the effect that his importance has all but been forgotten. Kay's invention, which enabled very fine linen yarns to be produced by steam-driven machinery, may be compared in importance to Samuel Crompton's more famous cotton spinning mule, invented over 40 years earlier in the late 1770s.

Kay's wet spinning process is still the basis of modern spinning of fine linen yarns, although this industry is now concentrated in Russia and China.

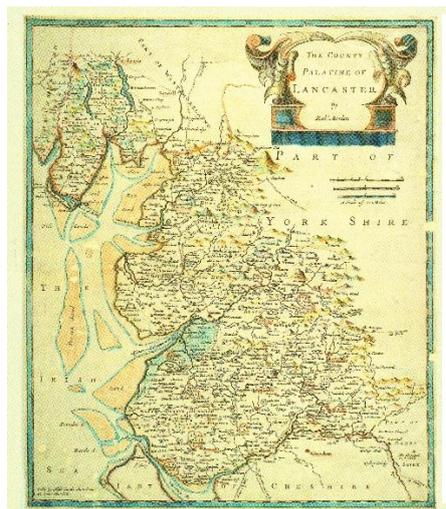
James Kay became sufficiently wealthy from his invention to enable him to buy and refurbish Turton Tower but his contribution to industry has never previously been told. Details at <https://amzn.to/3BeW7ha>

Turton Tower: a caretaker's history. Ed. Richard Horrocks, from the notes of Albert Barrett, caretaker 1948-1964

These historical notes came into the possession of the editor following the death of Doreen Hough, Barrett's niece, who lived at the Tower with her uncle and aunt.

Turton Tower is one of the oldest buildings within the south Lancashire region, with a history reaching back to the time of William the Conqueror. While the Tower has been in the possession of many families since the early 15th century, for the last 90 years or so it has been the responsibility of local authorities. During the stewardship of Turton Urban District Council from 1930-1974, Albert Barrett was appointed caretaker in 1948 and lived in the Tower with his family until he retired in 1964. He began compiling a handwritten notebook of the Tower's history in November 1949. His notes end with the anticipation of the opening of the Tower as a museum by the Urban District Council in 1952. It has been open to the public since then.

The notes have been edited to create an informal history, updated in parts where necessary, which the editor hopes will give the reader an appreciation of the long history of the Tower and its former estates, as well as some of its associated myths and legends. <https://amzn.to/3mpuZpA>



LANCASHIRE STUDIES: HISTORICAL ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF ALAN CROSBY

Marianne Howell, Geoff Timmins, John Wilson, Diana Winterbotham, and Jacquie Crosby (eds). 155 pp. ISBN 9781527265332 £15.00 paperback.

In 2020, the Federation published this book, containing nine original essays on differing topics and from several centuries of Lancashire history.

Copies are still available – contact John Wilson j.r.wilson@cantab.net

Professor R C Richardson of Winchester University wrote a lengthy review in the *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* (vol. 170), which concluded: *Designed in the first instance as a presentation to an evidently much loved and respected local historian, Alan Crosby cannot possibly have been disappointed by this volume's contents. The ultimate tribute here, however, is to the serviceableness and importance of local historical studies. All the essays display the cutting edge of research and have something new to say about their respective subjects. Some raise questions and problems which extend considerably beyond their immediate subject matter, and all are written in an accessible and lively style.*

**THE LANCASHIRE BARE-KNUCKLE FIGHTER
& LIVERY-STABLE KEEPER:
THE LIFE & TURBULENT TIMES OF 'TOUCH' DUCKWORTH 1800-48**

By Stephen R Halliwell

Published by Minster Park Publishing, Preston, 2021

ISBN 978-1-9196163-0-8

Copies may be obtained from the author at 29 Minster Park, Cottam, Preston PR4 0BY @ £12.99 plus £2.50p postage. Cheques payable to Stephen Halliwell.

Review by Bob Dobson

It can fairly be said that, prior to the author discovering this larger-than-life character in the Preston newspapers, he had gone unnoticed by local historians even in their native town. It seems that his life had been chronicled only by early journalists and archivists.

It must have been a difficult task for Halliwell to decide on a title for the book as, lengthy as it is, the first part of it could also have included the fact that Duckworth was also a brewer, professional fraudster, beer house keeper and publican, a horse doctor and dealer. The manner in which he conducted himself often set him apart from others earning their living in similar businesses, as he frequently sailed close to the wind and was well known in Preston and other Lancashire towns to the early law enforcement officers, solicitors and magistrates.

It seems possible, even likely, that Duckworth gave himself the nickname of 'Touch' as a means of publicising his pugilistic skills, with which he earned a living from an early age in an era before the Queensbury Rules. Fighting in the streets and public places was organised by the betting fraternity with whom he associated. Likewise, he earned prize money at the horse races which were held all over the county, though not on formal tracks as we know them today. He was a man seemingly able to turn his hand to many trades to feed his wife and family, so it would not have been surprising to find him acting as a bookmaker, though his daily connections with horses as a dealer, breaker and stable-keeper probably showed that that was where his interests lay.

Halliwell gives many examples of his subject's frequent encounters with the police of the day - in Preston the force had been present since his teenage years. Halliwell provides many examples of interaction between his subject and constables. This kind of report is infrequent in books of the 19th century, so the present work is not just a record of one man's life but gives insight into ordinary life in a time before the motor car, when housing conditions were harsh and unhygienic and when social gatherings in the open air and in towns with a rapidly increasing population were far different from those experienced by most of today's town-dwellers.

One valuable aspect of the book is the frequent references to Preston's public houses of the period. Halliwell is the acknowledged expert on the subject, having written on the subject and compiled a website devoted to the town's pubs.

Another laudable feature of the book is Halliwell's use of an icon showing a small magnifying glass when he comments on something written by a journalist, in order to explain it to the reader: clever and very useful.

Duckworth, known as Jim or Jem to his associates (I wonder if he was also known as *Duck'oth*, as is common in Lancashire), ended his days as he had lived. Throughout his life he had settled disputes with some degree of violence. During a drinking session he challenged a companion to a fight. At an early stage he was forced backwards and banged his head on a stone protruding from a wall. The fall broke his ribs, which pierced his liver, causing internal bleeding. Despite his having been in business for many years there was no money for his funeral and a public subscription had to raise the necessary funds.

Throughout the book something is mentioned which throws light on Duckworth being different from other men - he kept a pet. A pet bear. [Halliwell gives it a name – Paddington – for most of the book, though at a late stage in his researching he discovered it to be 'Sambo'.]

Self-published, this high quality paperback book of 136 pages is illustrated with recent drawings in the absence of any recorded pictures of Duckworth. The artist has produced a very believable picture of what he may have looked like. The other illustrations in the book – many of them – are taken from newspapers of the day, and greatly add to the reader's feeling of being present at the time.

The author is a retired Preston detective. His book is not the first example of his skills as an enquirer, producing a detailed report on a subject not previously looked into. He has succeeded in showing Duckworth as an intriguing, multi-faceted person set in a period when the news was brought into people's lives by journalists writing in newspapers with a load of 'feel' to them. Some of that news was brought into town on horse-back. There will never be a statue to 'Touch' in Preston but this book will be a memorial to him, one which proud Prestonians will thank Halliwell for.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORIES

PostScript publishers are offering copies of various county titles from the Victoria History of the Counties of England (VCH). They are described as 'off-mint' but cost only £14.99 each. <https://www.psbooks.co.uk/klevu-plp?klevu-search=County>

REQUESTS

THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL LIST PROJECT

Lancashire residents are being asked for their participation in a new project funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and supported by Historic England. The project encourages communities to identify the local heritage which they value most for recognition and inclusion on a Local Heritage List.

Local heritage assets can include any local buildings, structures, sites and landscapes that have historic or heritage merit and contribute to the character of their area. There are many such assets across the UK which are not on national designated lists, but which are significant because they contribute to the character of an area, have local historic associations, are local landmarks or are important to the local community. These could include an unusual building or property, a cherished local memorial, village hall, mill building or simply an interesting historic feature like a village pump or a local park. The county of Lancashire is diverse and rich in heritage, and this project can serve to identify what characterises Lancashire and makes it a unique place to live, work and visit.

The central aim of the project is to better recognise locally important heritage assets throughout the present-day county. To do this, local residents, communities, groups and societies are needed to identify local heritage and to nominate those candidate buildings and sites through a dedicated new website. Additionally, participants will be able to contribute more information to assets already on the Local List, by adding local knowledge: this can include photographs, documents etc. The website provides information about the project and guidance on how to contribute. Buildings or sites nominated through the project will be considered under selection criteria developed from Historic England guidance. The year-long project is being co-ordinated by Growth Lancashire on behalf of the Lancashire authorities.

For further information on how to register and be a part of the project, please visit the website at: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/lancashire>

For more information or to become involved, contact Olivia Birks (details below).

Olivia Birks Heritage and Conservation Assistant, Growth Lancashire

A: Suite 18, The Globe Centre, St. James Square, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 0RE
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E: Olivia.Birks@growthlancashire.co.uk W: www.growthlancashire.co.uk

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A WWII SOLDIER COMMEMORATED IN THE NETHERLANDS

The WWII cemetery in Nederweert contains the graves of many British soldiers. The war graves foundation for the cemetery seeks to find out more about these men.

One is Glyn Edwards, the son of William and Ada Edwards and husband of Lilian Edwards of Davyhulme. He served in the Royal Artillery, 67 Medium Regiment, and died 21 December 1944, aged 33.

Please contact the organisation if you have any information about him. The request came from Josephine Korsten, War Graves Foundation, Nederweert War Cemetery

E-mail: adoptiegravennederweert@gmail.com

Internet: adoptiegravennederweert.nl

Facebook: facebook.com/AdoptiegravennederweertWarCemetery

WATERWAYS JOURNAL

Waterways Journal has a new publisher and seeks contributors

The annual journal, which has provided an outlet for original waterways history research since 1999, has a new publisher and is seeking new contributors. From the 2021 edition (vol. 23) it is being published by the Canal & River Trust's Waterways Archive, based at the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.

From April 2022 (vol. 24), there is also a new editor. Chris Griffiths, a long-standing Society member and previous editor of their RE:PORT magazine, will take over as only the third editor in the journal's 22-year history.

Over 50 authors have already contributed work to the journal; the new editor is keen to increase that number. He said, "We're looking for new authors who can contribute research on any aspect of the waterways: their construction and management, the building of boats and their operation, as well as the people who have been part of canal and river navigation history and the communities they served."

Anyone with ideas for an article, whether for the forthcoming Volume 24 or a future edition, is invited to get in touch with Chris for a copy of the 'Notes for contributors' and to discuss their plans. For further information contact the editor, Chris Griffiths: chris@ivydene.com 07802 755453

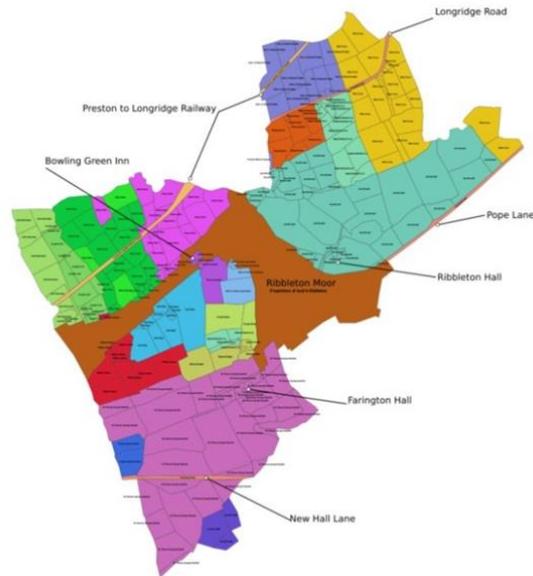
TITHE MAPS AND THEIR USEFULNESS IN LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH

Peter Smith

The article outlines how useful the transcriptions of tithe maps are, explains how the author has used that information to delve further into land ownership, and asks other researchers to contact him if they are also working on the transcripts.

Volunteers working for the Lancashire Place Name Survey have put local historians in their debt by transcribing and putting online many tithe schedules for Lancashire (98,200 records and counting). The project is shaping up to supply one of the most valuable sources for the study of Lancashire history to have become available in many years, detailing who owned what land and listing hundreds of field names, many of which can be traced back to the Middle Ages..

I thought I'd see how useful the transcript is for local history by selecting the records for Preston and its surrounding townships and creating maps showing the owners and occupiers of the plots listed in the schedule, together with the field names. The results so far can be found here: <https://prestonhistory.com/maps-and-plans/who-owned-19th-century-preston/>



Landowners in Ribbleton

*based on the tithe schedule and map for the township
and on the first edition six-inch OS map of Preston
[with further modifications by the author]*

If anybody else is working on the transcripts I would welcome contact to avoid duplicated effort and to share ideas for extracting as much as possible from what is proving to be an invaluable resource. If enough people get involved it should be possible to map just who owned Lancashire in the middle of the 19th century.

Peter Smith prestonhistory1@gmail.com. Website: <https://prestonhistory.com>

[Volunteers to help with transcribing the Lancashire tithe map schedules are welcome to contact the [Lancashire Place Name Survey](#). An article of relevance is: 'Tithe maps and apportionments: their practical value for local historians' in E J Evans and A G Crosby, *Tithes: maps, apportionments and the 1836 Act: a guide for local historians* (British Association for Local History, 1997, pp. 34-63 – Ed.)

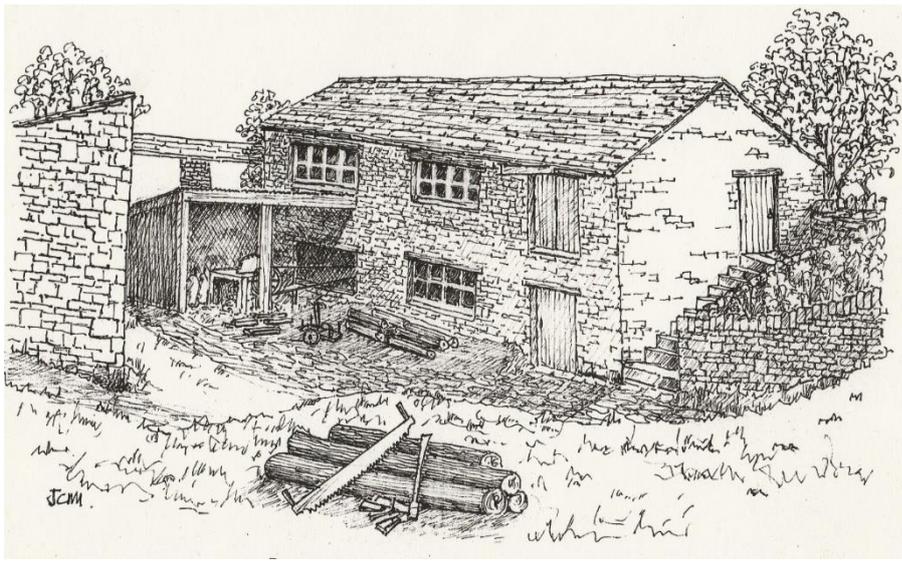
RESEARCH ARTICLES

LANCASHIRE BOBBIN MILLS

Michael Winstanley

Bobbins were essential for the expansion of the textile industry from the late 18th century. English Heritage's Stott Park Bobbin Mill south of Windermere provides an evocative demonstration of how one of these rural mills operated. There have been several studies of the industry in Cumbria (some of which was originally in Lancashire of course!) but, to my knowledge, very little work has appeared on Lancashire South of the Sands. This short piece will hopefully encourage more research on them.

My initial interest in them arose from where I live – Millhouses in the Lune Valley. This hamlet of a few farms and cottages developed around what had initially been the manorial corn mill but from 1827 this had been converted to bobbin production and remained a wood turning mill until the 1940s. Nothing remains of the buildings today but, thanks to the excellent memory and draughtsmanship of Colin Miller who grew up on the neighbouring farm from the 1930s, we have an evocative reconstruction of how it looked then. Apart from the small two storey mill itself, there was a wood store and a covered saw shed. Still visible on the ground are the remains of the weir further up the River Hindburn, the mill race and the pillars of the launder. The launder transported the water to the top of the overshot wheel or, from 1905, the Gilkes water turbine which had been paid for by William Henry Foster of Hornby Castle who owned the mill and water rights. The initial attraction of the site is obvious – there was water and plenty of timber and coppice woods in the valley.



Millhouses Bobbin Mill, c. 1940, as drawn by Colin Miller from memory c. 2010.

The launder carrying the water to the turbine is clearly visible behind the mill.

During the course of its life only two families, father and son in both cases, tenanted the mill. Thomas Coupland came down from Cumbria with his family. He had been joint partner in a mill at Holmescales, Old Hutton, near Kendal. His son John succeeded him and ran it until the early 1880s when it was taken over by Edward Dixon. He was the son of a bobbin turner who had been born at Caldbeck north of Keswick, but whose widowed father had come down to Millhouses to work at the mill when he was young. His son, Thomas Birkett Dixon, took on the tenancy in 1898 after his father's premature death and initially rented the house where I now live.

It seems the workers lived in the hamlet. They were never numerous - at the peak in 1851 there were seventeen. Apart from Coupland's own family of seven, two of whom worked in the mill, he boarded a 25 year old turner and two teenage apprentices. These were both local boys so it seems unlikely that they were recruited from the poor law authorities as many in South Lakeland continued to be well into the 1870s, although it is worth noting that Coupland had taken on one such apprentice when he was at Old Hutton. Thereafter the average age of the bobbin turners rose as the number resident in the hamlet fell steadily, to 12 in 1861, 9 in 1871, 7 in 1881 and just 4 by 1901 by which time they were described more broadly as 'wood turners' producing a variety of turned implements and objects.

I began to wonder how many similar mills operated in the county. I discovered several in the Lune Valley: Cowan Bridge near Kirkby Lonsdale (on the site of the school attended by Emily and Charlotte Brontë); Tatham Fells, Wray, Caton, Littledale and Halton. Some survived for only a few years; most were in premises which had previously had, or went on to have, other uses. Only two at Caton, which had good rail links and both of which were established in the 1860s in old textile mills, lasted until the 20th century, one closing in the 1930s the other surviving as a broader woodworking firm until 1973. In 1904 Royds mill was established at the port of Heysham by the Wilkinson family from the West Riding to facilitate access to imported wood and export markets. What struck me about all these mills, with the exception of Royds, was that although the workforces were local the employers were either all Cumbrian born or trained.

How far did this Cumbrian influence extend? Indeed, what other bobbin mills existed elsewhere in Lancashire and how many people were involved in the industry? None of these questions is capable of an easy answer. The census classification for 1851 listed bobbin makers as 'other wooden tool makers' but the county tables did not distinguish them from others in that category and its overall age structure does not match what is known about the workforce at that time. Online censuses have the facility to search by occupation but searching for 'bobbin' throws up thousands of reelers, doffers and such like, and anyway not all bobbin makers were described as such because of the range of products they produced.

Some clues as to where other bobbin mills existed was obtained by tracing men from the Lune Valley who migrated elsewhere – over the Pennines to Gargrave and Skipton, into the neighbouring valley of Wyresdale, to bobbin mills at Catterall, Preston and Wigan - but locating other sites and finding out any more about their size, the scale of their output, their machinery and their workforces is problematic.

Trade directories and Ordnance Survey maps from mid-century provide some clues. Mannex's directory of mid-Lancashire (1854) lists three mills at Hurst Green where one employer is also described as a 'farmer' (as indeed was Thomas Coupland on one occasion), and bobbin manufacturers at Billington (1), Whalley (2), Blackburn (2), Ribchester (8 - although three have the same surname and address), Cliviger (1), Padiham (1 - also described as an architect), Wigan (2), Bury (1) and Bolton (1 – also a saw mill). Whellan's Manchester and Salford Directory of the previous year has 10 bobbin makers in its general listings but only 6 bobbin and skewer makers in the classified directory although the latter also refers readers to 'Turners', a category which includes firms turning ivory and metal. By the 1890s some of the smaller sites appear to have closed. Others, like the Wilson Brothers at Cornholme Mill (listed as of Todmorden, Manchester and Athlone) had grown into substantial operations which were still owned by the same family. Worrall's directory for 1891 contains advertisements for bobbin and skewer manufacturers from throughout the region, including Irvin and Sellers who are described as of Preston and Liverpool and clearly had a strong import/export trade. Clearly these bore little or no resemblance to the small rural mill in my hamlet, or most of the early water-powered mills elsewhere.

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**BOBBINS, TUBES,
SKEWERS.**

WILSON BROTHERS Ltd.,
Cornholme Mills, TODMORDEN.

ORIGINAL INVENTORS AND MAKERS OF STEEL
AND BRASS PLATED

BOBBINS & TUBES.

WE make a Speciality of *Light Tubes* with small diameters for fine counts. We have excellent facilities for cutting, seasoning, and partially preparing both Tubes and Bobbins before turning. We have large stocks of regular sizes always seasoning, the process occupying from two months up to two years. We are thus enabled to guarantee *exact and uniform diameters.*

We are the largest makers of *Ring Twist Bobbins* and *Ring Weft Pirns.* Every Bobbin is carefully balanced. *Rebbeth Ring Twist Bobbins,* with *Wilson Brothers' Patent "C" Shield,* are the strongest Bobbins in the market, and capable of resisting 50 per cent. more pressure than any other protected Bobbins, and 150 per cent. more than Bobbins without Metal Protectors.

Warping and Winding Bobbins fitted with *Wilson Brothers' Patent Flange Binders* cannot open at the Joints, and are so made that it is almost impossible for them to be broken with ordinary usage.

We have put down a plant for making *Wood Bobbins* and *Skewers Damp and Steam Proof.* We enamel *Rebbeth Ring Twist* and *Ring Weft Pirns,* also *Lanswood Cop Skewers,* so that Yarn can be conditioned on the Bobbin or Skewer without damage.

IRVIN & SELLERS,
* PRESTON. *

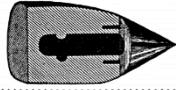
MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF

BOBBINS AND SHUTTLES

USED IN THE SPINNING AND WEAVING OF
Cotton, Flax, Jute, Silk and Wool.

Makers of *Shielded Bobbins* of every description.
RABBETH BOBBINS TESTED at 10,000 Revs. Truth of Bore Guaranteed.
HICKORY PICKING STICKS-WOOD SPECIALLY SELECTED.

D. Irvin's For the
Patent, Prevention of
No. 11,310. Loose Cips.



ESTABLISHED 1796.
Importers & Cutters
of
Boxwood, Ebony,
Lignum Vita,
Cornel,
Persimmon, &c.
WARRINGTON-"BOOTLE"
LIVERPOOL.
Telephone Address: "Tipton."
Preston & Liverpool.
MEDALS-
DUBLIN, 1865.
PARIS, 1867.
PARIS, 1878.
CALCUTTA, 1885.
SINGAPORE-
VIENNA, 1873.

Adverts from Worrall's 1891 directory

Wilson's of Todmorden (L)

Irvin & Sellers of Preston and Liverpool (R)

This brief survey has raised more questions than answers. More research is needed into the extent, technology, workforce, sources of supply, markets and viability of these manufacturers in order to provide a fuller picture of the industry. What it has done is perhaps to suggest that it followed a similar trajectory to textile mills themselves: originating as small water-powered sites in rural areas but gradually becoming dominated by larger establishments with a wider range of products and international connections. The history of bobbin manufacture in the north west has been dominated so far by Cumbria but it seems likely that Lancashire's industry was more important and typical in the longer term. But that is something which can only be confirmed by more research.

BURIED AT WEASTE CEMETERY By Pete Kilvert

Pete has continued his research into the life stories of some local people who are buried in Weaste cemetery. [Newsletter 33, Nov 2020, contained similar articles, about William Boyce Webb Lindley and Joshua Smith – Ed.]

Private Harold Washington (1904-1920) joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was killed in action at the infamous "Kevin Barry IRA ambush" in Dublin in 1920, aged just 16.

He was born on 4 October 1904 at 189 Regent Road, Salford. His father was George Washington (born 1871 in Salford) who was a leather clicker in the shoe trade. His mother was Harriet (nee Whatmough) (born 1871 in Salford), a confectioner. When they married on 30 July 1892 at Christ Church, Salford they were both aged 21 and living at 66 Liverpool Street, Salford. George's father, another George, was a packer, and Harriet's father was Thomas Whatmough, a maker-up.



Harold had six siblings, all born in the Regent Road area of Salford:

- George b. 21 July 1893; d.11 October 1900 aged 7
- Arthur b.13 April 1897; Prisoner of war 1918; m.1922 Elizabeth Spencer; d. 1959 aged 61
- William b. 14 March 1899; Killed in action in France 17 October 1918
- Edith b.1902; m. 1924 Ernest Poyser
- Lilian b. 1907; m. 1938 Arnold Carden
- Robert b. 12 September 1910; m. 1931 Edith Pyatt



Harold enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) in 1920 and was posted to Dublin. He gave his age as 18, when in fact he was only 15. At this time the Irish Republican Army were fighting to liberate Ireland from British rule.

Richard Harvey – Wikimedia Commons

The IRA planned to ambush a lorry that regularly collected bread supplies for the British armed forces stationed at Collinstown Camp. [The camp began as a base for the Royal Flying Corps, later the RAF, and was used to imprison Irish dissidents. It is now the site of Dublin airport.] The IRA's aim was to capture ammunition and guns from British soldiers who were guarding the lorry. On 20 September 1920 armed members of the IRA had taken up positions both inside and outside Monks Bakery in King Street North, Dublin. The lorry arrived at the bakery at about 11 am with a party of ten armed and unarmed troops. Private Washington stayed in the lorry. Three of the unarmed soldiers went into the bakery for the bread, whilst armed soldiers guarded the lorry. The IRA members attacked and demanded that the soldiers throw down their weapons and ammunition. The soldiers refused and a gun battle took place.

Harold Washington was killed outright, two other soldiers who were badly wounded later died of their wounds, and two others sustained slight injuries. One of the IRA members was killed and another wounded. Others managed to escape. Eighteen year old Kevin Barry had approached the lorry and fired two rounds before his pistol jammed, so he took cover behind the lorry. When his comrades ran off, Barry hid under the lorry, but was seen and arrested. His trial and execution made him a martyr in the eyes of the insurgents, and he was immortalised in the 'Ballad of Kevin Barry'.

The Coroner's Inquest in Dublin on Harold and his two comrades determined that 'all three soldiers died from shock and haemorrhage caused by shots fired by persons unknown'. Harold's body was returned to Salford, where he was buried with his brother George in Plot G number 1454 at Weaste Cemetery on 27 September 1920.

TAKING TOLLS: CONCERNS ABOUT FUNDING TURNPIKE ROAD REPAIRS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN LANCASHIRE

By Geoff Timmins

The author has included text box sections which might encourage readers (perhaps including school pupils) to undertake some investigation in their own localities. Historical skills can be applied to further investigation. The reliability of different online primary sources can be evaluated and compared for the insights they offer, to achieve an overall view of the topic and to act as a starting point for further research.

Introduction

Lancashire local historians who are aficionados of Coronation Street no doubt despair when, in introducing new episodes, television continuity announcers declare: 'Next, we return you to the cobbles.' In reality, of course, viewers are taken to the setts, a type of road surfacing material that became widely used in the county, and elsewhere, during and beyond the Industrial Revolution.ⁱ As long as setts were well laid, roadways made from them gave a more even surface than those made from cobbles and were more durable than those made from broken stones. When combined with route realigning, which involved gradient easing, carriageway widening and sharp bend removal, the use of setts could greatly improve road conditions. Yet, as the volume of wheeled, horse-drawn traffic using the county's roads expanded massively from the late 18th century, the damage caused to road surfaces was greatly intensified. Accordingly, a great deal of additional funding was needed to keep them in reasonable repair. This paper considers the concerns contemporaries raised about securing funds.

The concerns

In theory, turnpike trusts established by local acts of parliament could generate the funds required to repair and improve major roads. They were empowered to do so by charging tolls on those who used them and by seeking loans, with lenders anticipating that toll revenue would be sufficient to meet the interest payments (usually between 4 and 5%) owing to them. Additionally, until 1835, the trusts often received 'parish compositions': these were payments from the parishes through which turnpike roads passed, which were provided as a substitute for the statute labour required of parishioners for road maintenance.ⁱⁱ

Yet several concerns arose with such funding methods. One relates to how many toll houses were placed along a road and where they were situated. In his 1795 report on Lancashire's agriculture, John Holt contended that there were too few and that they were located too far away from towns. Citing the case of Liverpool, which he deemed a 'great enemy of turnpikes', he noted that there were only three within eight miles of the town and none within four. As a result, a good deal of potential revenue generated by short-haul traffic that could have been used for road repairs was foregone.ⁱⁱⁱ His own township of Walton, a few miles to the north of Liverpool, through which 2.5 miles of the Liverpool to Preston turnpike ran, actually paid the trustees £430 in 1795 and supplied statute labour. Other townships in the locality were

similarly placed. The distant siting of toll bars from Lancashire's major towns, Holt believed, was 'almost the sole cause of the wretched condition' of its turnpike roads.

Concerns about turnpike trusts being unable to contribute to the repairs of their roads, for whatever reason, persisted, as evidence from Darwen, south of Blackburn, demonstrates. The surveyor of roads there, a Mr Openshaw, who was reported to have kept meticulous records of his receipts and expenditure, remarked in 1853: 'The road through the town is part of the Bolton and Blackburn turnpike trust, but the trust is in debt, and the township has to repair the road without any contribution.' He noted that the township was responsible for about 8 miles of public roadway, of which some 3 miles was turnpiked. Yet the expenditure on the turnpike section took up around three-quarters of the township's highways' budget.^{iv} By this date, competition from the Bolton to Blackburn railway, completed in 1848, had reduced traffic along the road and hence toll income though, in consequence, some savings arose in repair costs.



Holt's claim about the positioning of toll bars finds justification by examining William Yates' 1786 map of Lancashire. The extract for Blackburn, (shown above), records the toll bar on the Whalley road at Little Harwood. It was situated 1.3 miles from the town centre. However, along the turnpike road entering Blackburn from Preston – now Preston Old Road - the nearest toll bar was 3.6 miles distant, not far from Hoghton Tower. But the essential point is that even the nearer of the two was well beyond the built-up area of the town. Yates' map also bears out Holt's figures concerning the distancing of the Liverpool toll houses, as well as revealing that, more generally, the nearest toll houses to towns were often located over two miles away; in fact, the one on the Blackburn to Whalley road was amongst the nearest.

Other concerns Holt expressed about the revenue available to turnpike trustees dealt with the level of toll charges and the exemption of certain classes of traffic from paying the tolls. In his view, the benefit travellers derived from turnpike roads was worth double the money they actually paid. As regards exceptions, his indignation was directed at mail stagecoaches in particular, not only because of the high profits he perceived their proprietors obtained, but also because, he argued, the heavy and speedy mail coaches had a singularly deleterious impact on road surfaces.

You can test these propositions in relation to your own locality by using the freely-available online copy of Yates' map prepared by Lancashire County Council's Environmental Directorate at [Lancashire County Council: Environment Directorate: Old Maps](#). To help in judging distances, Yates usually recorded milestone positions along turnpike roads, including those on the map extract marking the 10- and 11-mile points from Burnley. Bearing in mind the need to generate revenue, where should your local toll houses have been located? And who would have gained and lost from any repositioning?

Yates seems to have missed some toll bars – he does not show any on the Blackburn to Burnley road, for instance – but probably captured most of them.

Some of Lancashire's turnpike trusts made progress in dealing with the matters Holt raised. For instance, comparison of toll charges given in the 1893 and 1809 turnpike renewal acts for Preston Old Road shows that the rates for cattle and sheep rose by fifty per-cent and doubled for coaches drawn by four horses. Substantial increases were achieved, therefore. Also, some toll houses were moved nearer to town centres, as becomes apparent by comparing their positions on Yates' map with those on the 1840s six-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey maps. For example, that nearest to Preston on the road to Lancaster was relocated 1.5 miles from the town centre having originally been over 4 miles away.

You can check toll bar relocations for your own locality by comparing Yates' map with the 1840s Ordnance Survey maps, many of which have also been scanned and made available by Lancashire County Council's Environmental Directorate. Additionally, complete sets of these maps for the county are freely available on the Library of Scotland website at [Ordnance Survey Maps - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#). Using them, assessments can be made of why toll houses were situated where they were; how travellers might have avoided them; and the likely impact that any changes in their location and numbers would have had on the revenues of turnpike trusts.

Conclusion

Generating enough funding to keep Lancashire's turnpike roads in good repair as long-term traffic volumes continued to rise proved a formidable challenge. Revenue derived from tolls proved to be inadequate and the borrowing turnpike trusts undertook to pay for repairs and improvements plunged many into debt. Attempts were made to enhance revenue by raising toll charges and relocating toll houses

nearer to towns, as local investigations reveal. But substantial indebtedness nonetheless became a characteristic feature of the county's turnpike trusts, as was the case more generally. One assessment is that 71 per cent of the county's 65 turnpike trusts were in an unfavourable financial position in 1837, a figure that was towards the top of the range for English counties.^v For some, problems arose as competitor trusts emerged between several of the county's major towns – the county's old and new roads – perhaps mainly with regard to through traffic; the new roads had easier gradients, avoided settlements and, in some cases, were shorter. And railway competition also arose from the 1830s.

References

ⁱ In case there is doubt, cobbles (L) are stones of irregular size and shape worn smooth by tides or rivers. Setts (R) are quarried stones cut to regular sizes and shapes.



ⁱⁱ W. Albert, *The Turnpike Road System in England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972), 165-6

ⁱⁱⁱ J. Holt, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lancaster* (London, 1795), 178-8. The book can be viewed online at the Internet Archives' site at <https://archive.org/details/generalviewagri05britgoog/page/n8/mode/2up>

^{iv} W. Lee, *Report to the General Board of Health on ... Over Darwen* (London, 1853), 26

^v Albert, *Turnpike Road System*, 234-6

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