

THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF
LOCAL HISTORY

AUTUMN 2017

2017 No.2, issue 72	Price £1.00
Contents	Page
A RARE WARTON MAP IS DISCOVERED Simon Williams	1
A VICARAGE FOR THE VICAR: THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF THE ANGLICAN CLERGY IN CARNFORTH IN THE 19 TH CENTURY. Part II The Reverend Ian Pearson	5
WALDUCK'S GOOD DEED Simon Williams	14
THREE SUMMER TRIPS: COPPICING AND CHARCOAL BURNING Andy Denwood	19
LIME BURNING IN THE ANCIENT PARISH OF WARTON Geoff Wood	24
A VISIT TO THE BOWES MUSEUM AND BARNARD CASTLE Clive Holden	32
REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS Clive Holden and Richard Carter	33
NOTES AND QUERIES: Awena Carter and Philip Platt	37
MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S PROGRAMME: November 2017 April 2018	39

A RARE WARTON MAP IS DISCOVERED

Simon Williams

One of the advantages of a society having a website is that it enables people to track us down – usually via the email contacts provided there. In July 2016, I received an email from Cheryl McDonagh to say that she had recently purchased a box of miscellaneous books at a Lancaster car boot sale, and that inside was a large linen-backed map of lands in Warton, dated 1794. And would I like to see it?

Unsurprisingly I jumped at the chance, and taking one of the society's map experts along (Rod Ireland has extensively studied the maps of our area), met with Cheryl one lunchtime in the George Washington, Warton. We soon rearranged the pub furniture, pulling tables together, to unfold and display what is a very large estate plan. This has been separated into segments, each hard backed and attached by linen, so that the entirety is folded and contained in a green leatherette envelope – (probably 20th century). The map covers the lands owned by a Charles Clowes esquire, and shows field boundaries, lanes, buildings, and the church. It predates the inclosure awards map by 23 years, the tithe map by 52 years and the first Ordnance Survey by 54 years.

Cheryl allowed Rod and I to photograph the map, and promised to keep in touch. Several months passed, and Cheryl made contact again – saying that she would like to sell the map, but preferred it to be held by a local history society, rather than fall into private hands. We both did our research and agreed a price of £175. With the agreement of the Mourholme Local History Society's trustees I then contacted County Records – and through them, Friends of Lancashire Archives. We agreed that

the map should be jointly purchased by the Mourholme Local History Society and the Friends of the Archives, and that its final home should be in the archives at Lancashire County Records.



Figure 1: Map finder Cheryl McDonagh, Simon Williams, and Archivist Jacquie Crosby

One year after first seeing the map, once again the map was unfolded in a pub – this time at the newly refurbished New Inn at Yealand Conyers. This time I was accompanied by Mourholme Local History Society member Andy Denwood. Archives Service Manager, Jacquie Crosby, joined us, and shared our excitement at once again seeing the quality of the map and the fascinating detail it contains.

A little research shows that the estate owner, Charles Clowes, was from Buckinghamshire – where he held lands at Delaford. He was honoured by serving as sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1794. In 1780 he married Anne Dawson, daughter and co-heiress of Edmond Dawson, by which means he came into possession of the Warton lands. Why did he commission the

Edmund Clowes sold his Warton estate, including Warton Hall, to a relative, Edward Bousfield Dawson¹ – already a major landowner in the parish and elsewhere.



Figure 3: Mourholme Local History Society member, Wendy Williams, examining the map

Where had our map lived these last 220 years and more, and how did it find itself in a car boot sale? After a display of the map to Mourholme Local History Society members at our October meeting, the map will be given to the Archives so that it is properly conserved, and made available to any researcher in the future. Our thanks go to Cheryl McDonagh, the map's finder, for coming to us with her find, and to the Friends of Lancashire Archives for helping fund its purchase and placement in a safe permanent home.

¹ See footnote 4 on page 15

**A VICARAGE FOR THE VICAR:
THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF THE ANGLICAN
CLERGY IN CARNFORTH IN THE 19TH AND EARLY
20TH CENTURIES: Part II**

The Reverend Ian Pearson

In this year's Spring Magazine (2017 No 1, issue 71), Ian Pearson recounted the housing problems besetting Carnforth's first Anglican Priest, the Reverend John Atkinson Fidler. He continues with the problems encountered by Mr Fidler's successor.

The Reverend Edward Anderson Seymour Scott, the Second Resident Anglican Priest

Edward Anderson Seymour Scott was born in Hackney in 1865, one of the children of a family originally from Scotland. His father was David Wardlaw Scott (chiefly remembered today as the author of book proving that the earth was not a planet). Edward Anderson Seymour Scott was a very able man, and the only Vicar of Carnforth ever to grace the pages of *Who's Who* – indeed one of the few people with Carnforth connections to appear in that publication. Carnforth was his first incumbency and he was newly married. He was a young man in his early 30s and there was much to do. There were two problems which needed tackling as a matter of urgency. There was nowhere suitable to live, and the congregation had outgrown Christ Church. His dilemma was which one to tackle first.

Fortunately for the historian, one of the new Vicar's first tasks was to establish a Parish Magazine (issue number 1 dated July 1897) , and a complete set covering the nine years he spent in Carnforth survives in the church's archive. So we know a great

deal about this new Vicar and about this period in the life of the parish church. In addition his letters to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are also very informative, and far more candid about the matters which gave him concern.

His first letter to them is dated 3 June 1897 and finds him living at 15 New Street, Carnforth. He had been in the town for exactly one month and now he tells the Commissioners about his new parish, *“The Population has by reason of the Iron Works and there being a large Railway centre here now risen to 3,000, composed almost entirely of working people, hardly any of whom keep a servant. Consequently only houses such as they require can be had, and even these only very rarely, as the place is growing so fast.*

My wife and I are therefore now in a 5 roomed Cottage (which we had difficulty in getting). It has no Garden whatever, and only one small reception room. It is in the midst of others in a small Street. The only other one that would have been in any way suitable is still occupied by the widow of the late Incumbent.....

A great deal is going on in the parish but I feel that both our health and usefulness are suffering from the very confined state in which we live. We can ask no one in, nor have I a proper study, nor a place to see Parishioners...”

In view of this dire situation, he asked the Commissioners for a grant of £700. He had secured promises totalling £700 from his family and friends; would the Commissioners match this? In reply, they sent a holding letter to him. They would consider the matter.

In January of the following year, he went to London to plead his case in person. He followed this up with a further letter dated 15 February 1898. By this time he was living at 10 Scotland Road. He reiterated much of his earlier accommodation problems, and then continued, “*Since then we have managed to get one with 6 rooms (at a rental of £20) and into this, myself, wife, child and maids are crowded (most of our furniture and books being stored).*”

He reminded them once more of the promises totalling £700, and asked for a grant of £700. He now had the offer of a suitable building site of half an acre for £160. If the money were forthcoming, building could start straight away.

The answer was no. One can almost feel the exasperation coming off the page of the next letter (4 April 1898, and still at 10 Scotland Road), “*It is absolutely necessary to begin building at once as my usefulness in this place is being seriously hindered.*” Indeed, so exasperated was he that he appears to have instructed his brother, the architect William Gilbee Scott, to draw up plans for a proposed new Vicarage and to put the scheme out to tender, because in November 1898 he was reporting in the Parish Magazine that the contract for building the new Vicarage, on a site in North Road, had been signed. The tender of Mr. Richard Bush of Grange over Sands for £1560 had been accepted. Although this sum was not yet raised, the need was considered so urgent that Seymour Scott had made himself personally responsible for the balance. The cost was considered reasonable, he explained to his parishioners, “*for everything is of the plainest description with no ornamentation inside or out, but the house will be very strong, as it is not for me only, but for all the future incumbents of Carnforth.*” He reported nothing of this to the Commissioners in London, and continued his

campaign for a grant. The next appeal letter is dated 24 November 1898 (and by this time he had moved with his family to Warton): *“I am compelled to live over a mile from my work. As no house is to be had in Carnforth I must therefore continue to rent one at Warton until there is a Parsonage. I go in daily, in all weathers (often twice)...”*

And he remained at Warton until the Vicarage was built. It is at this point that one becomes aware of mounting criticism of the new Vicar, since there appears a vigorous defence of this move in the Parish Magazine. It would only be for a few months at the most, he explained. He hoped to be in Carnforth every day and anyone with urgent business for him was asked to leave a message with Mr. Rowlinson of 5 Haws Hill, with whom he had left a stock of telegrams.¹

Finally on 22 February 1899 came the long-awaited news that the Commissioners were prepared to make a grant of £700, and six days later Seymour Scott went to see the Commissioners in London, together with his brother, the architect, who took the plans of the proposed new house. In the March Parish Magazine he shared the joyful news of the grant and also took some delight in explaining that the Commissioners had passed the plans *“without the slightest alteration (a very rare thing) requiring only one or two slight additions, which we had omitted for the sake of economy (e.g. outside steps etc.).”*

¹ This is of interest to me personally: Mr. Rowlinson, of 5 Haws Hill was my great grandfather (Thomas Rowlinson, 1836-1900), who acted as Verger and Parish Clerk.

Fortunately Mr. Bush did not yet appear to have begun to build, and the first reference to actual building work is in May 1899. The work was completed by October 1899; the dedication of the new house took place on All Saints' Day (1 November), and Seymour Scott wrote to the Commissioners two days later to inform them that he had moved from Warton and was now living in the new Vicarage. The total cost of the building had been £1986.

Within a few days Seymour Scott turned his attention to pursuing plans for enlarging the church, his other urgent project. It might be considered incredible in the early 21st century that a church capable of holding over 300 people was considered too small for a town the size of Carnforth. It was not only that it was considered too small – it was in fact too small. There are several references in the Parish Magazine to the terrible overcrowding in church and how parishioners were sometimes ill because of the crush. The report of the Harvest Festival in October 1898 is quite amazing to modern eyes. *“I never saw a church so full,” said Seymour Scott, “and regret to say that a large number of people could not get in at all.”*

In late November 1899 Seymour Scott wrote to the Commissioners asking for help with this. They offered £25, and no more. He would have to look elsewhere. He did, and by the end of the year 1901 the church had been enlarged – a north aisle built, the nave extended westwards and a new chancel constructed. There were now enough seats for about 550 people.

How was all this financed? Was it only Seymour Scott and his family and their wealthy friends? They helped, certainly, and especially with the Vicarage. But a different story emerges from the Parish Magazine. There we are given a picture of a

clergyman who, from Autumn 1897 until the end of 1901, literally turned himself into a fund-raiser, devoting a great deal of his time to finding over £7,000.

There was a Building Committee, but it is evident that a great deal of the work was done by the Vicar himself. Indeed this is one reason given for the move to Warton; all the paperwork and equipment required for the fund-raising campaign were taking up too much room in his little house in Scotland Road. The main object of the campaign was to write to railway shareholders. Seymour Scott had acquired the shareholders' lists of the three railway companies which ran into Carnforth – the London and North Western Railway, the Midland Railway and the Furness Railway². It must be remembered that the railway station was shared between all three companies who employed porters, clerks, goods staff etc. These companies also maintained their own individual depots in Carnforth, so there were three engine sheds, each with its own set of support staff, drivers, cleaners, shunters and so on. The railway thus gave employment to a large percentage of the working population in the town. It was argued that it was obvious, and indeed reasonable, to appeal to those who employed them for help in providing for their workers' spiritual welfare.

So thousands of circulars, together with a letter inviting donations, were sent to railway shareholders. This involved a great deal of work, to say the least. In one edition of the Parish Magazine Seymour Scot explained exactly what had to be done. Each donation received in response to the appeal letter was balanced by many other fruitless letters. Each donation then

² See the account of Clive Holden's talk on The Railways of Carnforth on page 33

required a letter of thanks, together with a receipt, an entry into several books and a trip to the Bank. All this was not something he could do on his own, and there are several appeals for assistance with the more mundane side of this work, as the following illustrates:

WANTED WORKERS

To Cyclostyle Circulars (2 – 3 hours per week).

Children to fold Circulars and do them up.

In March 1898 he shared some details about the replies coming back to him, *“I get all sorts of replies as you can imagine from the great number sent out. Sometimes they are not very kind, but many, besides sending an offering, send words that help and encourage one.”*

Each month's magazine contained a list of all the donations received, and it is possible to follow the steady progress of the fund. Seymour Scott himself gave £40; the Bible and Sewing Class Tea £4; “a working man's wife” £1 10s. 0d.; “the Boys of Aysgarth School” £2 2s. 0d.; and there were various contributions from places as far apart as Scarborough and Bournemouth, including one for the amazing sum of £800. That donation must have caused equal amounts of both shock and rejoicing in the Scott household. Each donor was asked whether they wished to contribute either towards the cost of enlarging the church or the cost of building the new Vicarage. Those sums where the donor had not specified were divided equally between the two accounts.

Meanwhile the parishioners were muttering about *“too much begging in the magazine”*, a complaint which produced this outburst, *“I am only begging for your welfare. I want you to*

give to make your own CHURCH comfortable and large enough to hold you. Moreover it's quite clear that if the work has to be done, somebody must beg, the money doesn't grow on hedges! It is not a very delightful task, so I hope no other parishioner will scold me for trying to get the money.” This was followed by a reminder that the parishioners should also contribute their own money to the fund, *“I want the parishioners to stand creditably as a body when the balance sheet is out.”*

It was obviously not enough for the parishioners to organise a yearly three-day bazaar (£246 16s 9d was raised at such an event in 1899). There are repeated pleas for money and for more help: *“Will not some of you write a few letters to friends and get even a few shillings for your Church?”* (February 1899). Then, in September 1899, *“I wish a few more would help me with it [i.e. the circulars]. It is for your sakes that I am doing it, for I want Carnforth to have a Church where the people who wish to can worship God in comfort.”*

Yes, the raising of £7000 in four years was a tremendous achievement, and all credit to him for that. But it was achieved at a cost. From another viewpoint, we can say that the first half of Seymour Scott's ministry in Carnforth was dominated by this overriding necessity to raise money. Some 70 years later, when collecting information for the centenary history of Christ Church, in 1973, and talking to people who had known him (or rather to those whose parents had known him), I heard time and time again the refrain - “people didn't like him”. My first reaction was sadness that the man who had done so much for the Church of England in Carnforth should have left that memory. Reading his chiding and the complaining in the Parish Magazine, one begins to understand why.

Sources used in compiling this account

1. The Lancashire Archives at Preston hold the Carnforth Parish Records. These were particularly helpful in supplying details for the period 1897 – 1901(they include the Parish Magazines together with examples of the fund-raising circulars and the covering letter).

2. The Records of the Church Commissioners in London: Here are the correspondence files of their predecessors, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The files for Warton from the 1850s onwards were consulted for earlier information about Carnforth before the creation of the new parish. The separate Carnforth files exist from the 1870s.

3. Population Surveys : the various censuses 1871 – 1911, and the 1939 National Register.

WALDUCK'S GOOD DEED

Simon Williams

While reading an old copy of the Lancaster Gazette¹, I came across a story that presents a fascinating insight into the character of Silverdale's nineteenth century industrialist, Herbert J. Walduck.

Mourholme Magazine readers will know of my enthusiasm for Walduck – one of that breed of Victorian engineers whose entrepreneurial activities helped create the wealth of the nation through their engineering innovation, business skills, and risk-taking. Admittedly our Walduck was not in the same rank as George and Robert Stephenson, or Isambard Kingdom Brunel. But no account of the economic history of Carnforth, Warton and Silverdale would be complete without him.

As one of the driving forces behind the building of Carnforth's ironworks (1864), Walduck experienced success. But then followed a spectacular failure – the Warton Land Company was formed to build embankments to reclaim land from Morecambe Bay. In the event, after severe restrictions were imposed on the scheme by Parliament, the only building that took place was the mile-long sea wall at Jenny Brown's Point near Silverdale (1875-179). Then the scheme ran out of money, and the company was liquidated in 1885.²

Meanwhile, Walduck had bought up various small-scale iron mines and deposits on Warton Crag (including the shaft at Crag Foot now known as the Paint Mine) and in Silverdale (among

¹ Lancaster Gazette, Wednesday, June 8th, 1887

² See Mourholme Magazines 66 and 67 for this story – also available at www.mourholme.co.uk

them, Red Rake, in the Cove) In 1879 he consolidated these holdings into the Warton and Silverdale Mining Company.³ The clear intention was to emulate the successes of iron mining and smelting just across the Bay, in Barrow-in-Furness, driven by the entrepreneur William Schneider. Unfortunately, Walduck's iron ore deposits turned out to be meagre, and of a quality fit only for paint. To make matters worse, iron ore prices tumbled during the 1880's. Nonetheless, the mines continued to be in operation in some small way until shortly after Walduck's death in 1892.

Against this backdrop of Walduck's frenetic and fluctuating business fortunes, a curious incident took place. The Lancaster Gazette reported the County Petty sessions of Saturday, June 4th, 1887. One case concerned wilful damage undertaken by four Warton youths – Thomas Bates, 16, John Stewart, 13, Robert Bolton, 18, and Isaac Beck, 15. The charge had been brought against them by one of the gamekeepers employed by Mr Gillow at Leighton Hall. The lads had been seen throwing stones from a wall at the top of Warton Crag down the slopes. Unfortunately for the youths, the witness was a local policeman, PC Dickinson. The prosecuting lawyer was a Mr Sharp. But before the case could even begin, H.J. Walduck was on his feet, asking the Chairman, Mr Starkie⁴, if he could say a few words. Walduck suggested the case be adjourned, so that a proper defence could be arranged. He had learned of the prosecution just the day

³ The full history of mining in our area is contained in *The Metalliferous Mines of Cartmel and South Lonsdale*, Max Moseley, 2010.

⁴ Chairman of the court was Mr JPC Starkie, of Ashton Hall – an MP. Among others on the bench was Mr EB Dawson – who, beside Richard Gillow, was the second major landowner on Warton Crag. EB Dawson had been Chairman of the company formed to pursue Walduck's doomed land reclamation scheme.

before, and had been unable to arrange a defence in the time available. Walduck added that he had sought out Mr Sharp for the role, only to learn that he was prosecuting!

Mr Sharp objected to an adjournment, saying that Walduck could have walked into any solicitor's office and arranged representation. But Walduck replied that he had been too busy on this day, as Saturday was wages day. The Bench decided to press on with the case.

The prosecution called PC Dickinson as a witness, who explained that on Sunday 22nd May, he had seen the defendants rolling stones from the wall on Warton Crag down the slope. When he reached the four lads, they admitted their offence and were charged. Mr Sharp noted that Mr Gillow of Leighton Hall had reluctantly agreed to the prosecution to discourage others from damaging his walls.

At this point Walduck could not restrain himself. He sidled into position alongside the dock, and started to whisper suggestions to one of the defendants as to what questions might be asked of PC Dickinson. The prosecutor, Mr Sharp, jumped up: "This is most irregular. I protest against Mr Walduck proceeding in this way. Will you order him to sit down?" The Chairman (wearily), "You had better sit down, Mr Walduck." Walduck had another try, "Will you allow me to ask a few questions, myself?" Before the Chairman could answer Sharp stepped in with, "Certainly not. You are not an advocate."

Walduck did indeed sit down, but carried on suggesting questions that the defendants could put to the policeman in cross-examination. Sharp now exploded, "Now, Mr Walduck, this cannot be allowed. I shall have you removed if you proceed

in this way.” (To the Bench), “Will you order Mr Walduck to sit further away from the boys?” The Chairman answered rather emolliently, “We hope Mr Walduck will not compel us to do that. We trust he will not speak again.”

The lads did their best to cross-question the policeman, and with help from the Chairman established that PC Dickinson had been half a mile away when he first witnessed the offence, although it continued as he approached, and that he had eventually counted 16 stones which had been rolled down.

Walduck was showing signs of being fit to burst by now, and the Chairman observed, “Mr Walduck seems anxious to address the court.” He added that he would allow him to do so, but only regarding the character of the boys. Walduck struck upon a new line of attack and asked to be called as a witness, but without preliminaries, described his visit to the scene of the crime. He noted that there was a large amount of rubble at the base of the hill, and that the wall was exposed to gales and hurricanes – the boys could not possibly have created so much damage themselves.

Sharp was leapt to his feet, interrupting Walduck’s flow, and saying that this sort of thing must not be allowed. “Mr Walduck is not an advocate, and if he is going to give evidence he must be sworn in the usual way.” Walduck had his way, and entered the witness box (albeit using an alternative form of words as he objected to taking an oath⁵). He made the telling point that sixteen stones amounted to a small proportion of the stones at the bottom, and this was hardly an ornamental wall in the first

⁵ Walduck was baptised, married in church, and received a Christian burial. But he objected to a religious oath.

place. And he couldn't tell whether the stones thrown were from the wall or were just loose stones.

He was then invited to give a character witness. He said that Bates and Stewart were industrious and honest workers at his mines although he did not know the other two lads. Walduck was challenged over the costs of taking stones back up to the wall, and here he noted that there were plenty of loose stones at the top. "There is an old ruin there," he asserted, at which point the Chairman noted drily, "Yes, but Sir John Lubbock will be down upon you for interfering with ancient monuments." (Sir John Lubbock MP had introduced the country's first law to protect archaeology in 1882).

The case was quickly wrapped up. The youths were found guilty, and the sentence pronounced: a fine of five shillings each; one shilling damage each; and, dwarfing all, sixteen shillings and sevenpence halfpenny costs each; or seven days imprisonment in the Castle.

It's quite unclear whether Walduck's interventions had helped, or just irritated the court. But here was a prominent local industrialist prepared to step in to help when his young employees got into a little trouble. When Walduck died 5 years later, aged 61, his funeral in Silverdale was attended by the entire workforce of the Warton Mining Company. Perhaps it was this brand of humanity as shown in this little episode that accounted for his popularity. Following their conviction, a harsher employer might have sacked the two that he employed. Walduck was different. Four years after the court case, the 1891 census records show each of the young men as being an Iron Paint Miner, and each lived in Main Street, Warton.

THREE SUMMER TRIPS

This summer three trips were organised. The first two were local: one to the Gait Barrows Nature Reserve and neighbouring fields; and one to Coldwell Parrock, near Gait Barrows. The purpose of these two visits was to explore important local traditional crafts and industries. Here, Andy Denwood writes about coppicing and charcoal production, and, on page 24, Geoff Wood writes about lime burning. A third trip was to the Bowes Museum and Barnard Castle and Clive Holden writes about this visit on page 32.

COPPICING AND CHARCOAL PRODUCTION ON THE GAIT BARROWS NATURE RESERVE

Andy Denwood

In July, 20 Mourholme members were given a fascinating glimpse into the world of coppice working and charcoal burning during a walk and talk led by Rebecca Oaks from Yealand Storr. Rebecca first took our party to see some recently coppiced hazel. She explained that 12 years' growth produced stakes suitable for hedging, while wood for hurdle making would normally be between seven and nine years old. Poles left to grow too long before being coppiced were of no commercial use. A coppiced hazel tree, Rebecca told us, could carry on producing poles indefinitely when cut back to the ground, although fences around the trees were needed in the early years of growth to prevent deer spoiling the product by nibbling the new growth.

Gait Barrows site manager, John Osborne of Natural England, accompanied our tour. He pointed out that coppicing on the nature reserve today was essential to the creation of habitats

suiting to some of the reserve's rare and endangered species of butterfly, such as the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and the Duke of Burgundy.

Coppicing wood for tools, stakes and fence-posts had gone on locally for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. From the Victorian era onwards an important market for local wood had been the bobbin mills which made cotton reels for the Lancashire textile industry. Staffordshire potteries also wanted our wood to manufacture crates for the export of crockery. Unhappily these established markets had all but dried up by the 1950's. However, at Sam Ansell's coppicing co-operative – next door to the nature reserve – Rebecca showed us modern products ranging from hedge stakes and hurdles to pea sticks and brash for besom brushes and even poles for yurts.

Rebecca told us that her own history in the craft began when she learned coppicing techniques from Bill Hogarth, one of the last traditional coppice merchants still working in the Silverdale area. Bill had been happy to share knowledge where others had jealously guarded their trade secrets. In 1996 Rebecca had bought the coppice yard now used by Sam Ansell's coppicing co-operative. This previously had been a depot for a quarrying company which extracted limestone pavement from Gait Barrows before that rare and important habitat was protected by law in 1972.

Producing Charcoal by using Charcoal Kilns:

Charcoal production had always gone hand in hand with coppice crafts, Rebecca said. In the coppicing co-operative's yard we inspected twin 8 foot diameter charcoal kilns – large cylinders capped with a metal lid. A one day burn in each bin would produce half a ton of charcoal. In recent years much had gone to

B and Q DIY stores who sold it as barbecue fuel. With care the same kilns might produce charcoal for use by artists.



Figure 1: In the coppicing co-operative's yard

The use of charcoal to smelt first copper, and then iron, goes back many thousands of years. A feature of woodland coppicing was that no element of the tree should be wasted. Brush could make besoms, and oak felled for charcoal would first have had its bark stripped. Bark is high in natural tannins and could be used in the production of leather. Even today there was a market for stripped oak bark from the last working craft tannery in England.

Producing Charcoal by using a Barrel:

Moving on to her own field across the road from Gait Barrows, Rebecca demonstrated small-scale production of charcoal using

a barrel which she had filled and fired earlier that day . As members ate their sandwiches, Rebecca explained through dense clouds of smoke that good charcoal was 90% carbon. Although the barrel burn was effective, it was dirtier than more modern retort kilns which also produce a higher proportion of charcoal from the wood used.



Figure 2: Rebecca Oaks demonstrating small scale charcoal production

Producing Charcoal by using Earth Clamps:

Earth clamps were used to produce charcoal locally up until the 1930's. This method is described in some detail in John Lucas's eighteenth century 'History of Warton Parish' and involved the construction of a layered pile of wood covered by earth or turf. Rebecca told us that traditional charcoal burners would camp in the woods in buildings made from tree branches which looked rather like wigwags. The wills of charcoal burners suggested they were not the poorest people in the countryside as they often

kept a small-holding and a pig. The peak period for charcoal production probably came before the introduction of coke for iron smelting in the mid nineteenth century.¹

The final chapter in the day's introduction to coppicing crafts came when Rebecca showed us the several species of willow she now cultivates to supply her latest activity: basket weaving.



Figure 4: Rebecca Oaks with one of her woven baskets.

¹ Rebecca Oak's new book 'Charcoal Burning, A Comprehensive Guide' is expected to be published soon. Her two earlier works 'Greenwood Crafts' and 'Coppicing and Coppice Crafts', both co-written with Edward Mills, are published by The Crowood Press.

LIME BURNING IN THE ANCIENT PARISH OF WARTON Geoff Wood

14 July 2017 was a beautiful sunny day and in the afternoon about 20 Mourholme members gathered at Coldwell Parrock, near Gait Barrows, to hear about lime burning. We were very lucky to be able to study the remains of two lime kilns in close proximity - a small, basic lime kiln and a much bigger industrial version. This article explores the history, the chemical processes, the production, and the uses of this most versatile resource.

Historical Background:

For many centuries lime has had many uses including domestic, agricultural, industrial, and pharmaceutical. For most of these it is necessary to convert hard limestone into useable powder or liquid. Due to the abundance of limestone and suitable fuels for converting it, our area has a long history of converting limestone to lime and using it mainly for agriculture and for building purposes.

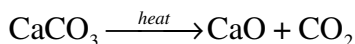
There is much historical evidence from around the world of the knowledge and capability of preparing lime. Evidence for this includes: lime plaster having been used in Anatolia from 7000BC; the presence of lime kilns dating from 2450BC in Mesopotamia; and lime mortar having been used for building in Crete in 1800BC.

In Britain, the Romans built kilns and produced lime and, although use declined when the Romans left, there was a big revival with increased building activity when the Normans arrived. The Agricultural Revolution, inclosure of land and the

Industrial Revolution caused huge increase in demand, especially from 1750 to 1850.

Chemical Processes in the Production of Lime:

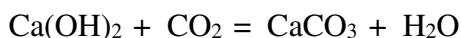
Limestone is Calcium Carbonate (CaCO₃); when it is heated to 800°C in air or oxygen it breaks down into 56% Calcium Oxide (CaO), also known as quicklime, and 44% Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). It thus takes about 2 tonnes of stone to produce 1 tonne of quicklime. Heating to a high temperature in air or oxygen in this way is called calcination. The chemical formula for this is:



When calcium oxide, or quicklime, is mixed with water it becomes calcium hydroxide, or slaked lime, Ca(OH)₂. This is a very vigorous and potentially dangerous reaction in which a lot of heat is produced, making the water boil, and sometimes resulting in explosions. The chemical formula for this is:



Slaked lime can be used dry or mixed with water. If used as a mortar in building, atmospheric carbon dioxide is reabsorbed by calcium hydroxide which then becomes Calcium Carbonate. The chemical formulas for this is:



In agriculture, lime aids release of Nitrogen from manures, improving crop yield.

Lime Production:

Raw materials, sources, and transport:

Most lime kilns in our area produced lime for local use. A convenient quarry or outcrop was essential to minimise transport problems. Limestone pieces for effective burning had to be not less than 2 inches and not more than 6 inches across. It is likely that women and children broke up bigger rocks to produce pieces of the correct sizes. The size was important to create

space between adjacent pieces in the kiln to give a good through-draft, and to ensure thorough heating and calcination of all the pieces. They had to be heated all through to 800°C as any unconverted lumps would spoil the lime produced.

Ideally the fuel would be available from local woodlands or coal pits, but coke and peat were sometimes used. To burn 1 tonne of limestone would use about 1.5 tonnes of hardwood, 0.25 tonnes of coal, or 2.5 tonnes of peat. Transport in early times was by pack ponies called “Lime Gals” (Galloway breed), or in small carts.

Types of Kiln types: (names can vary according to locality).

Flare kilns:

Almost all kilns in our area are of this type and were normally for local small-scale farm use. These kilns would be filled and burned once and then emptied. Sometimes they would be fired a second time, while the kiln was still warm, to get improved fuel efficiency. We studied the small kiln of this type at Coldwell Parrock.

Continuous flow kilns:

These were much bigger structures that were operated continuously for long periods, providing large industrial quantities of lime. They had a grille at the base of the bowl to allow regular removal of quick lime through the draw hole. High level openings on the sides would allow fuel and stone to be added, thus allowing continuous operation. We walked down the lane to see Coldwell Limeworks which is a kiln of this type.

The structure of a flare kiln

Flare kilns varied in detail, Figures 1a and 1b, below, show the principal features, which are then listed.

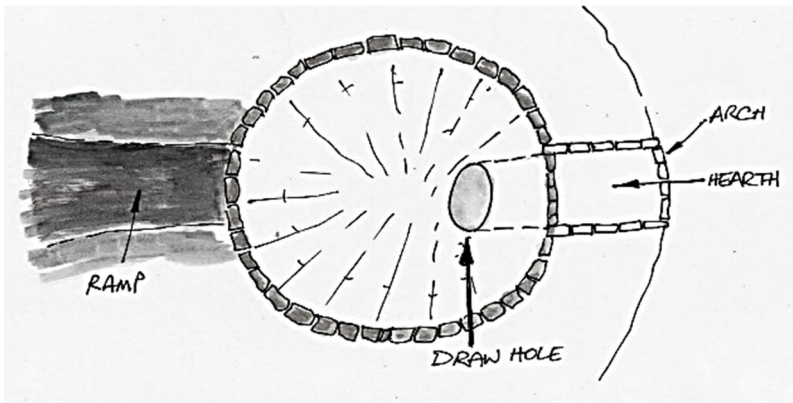


Figure 1a: A plan view of a flare kiln

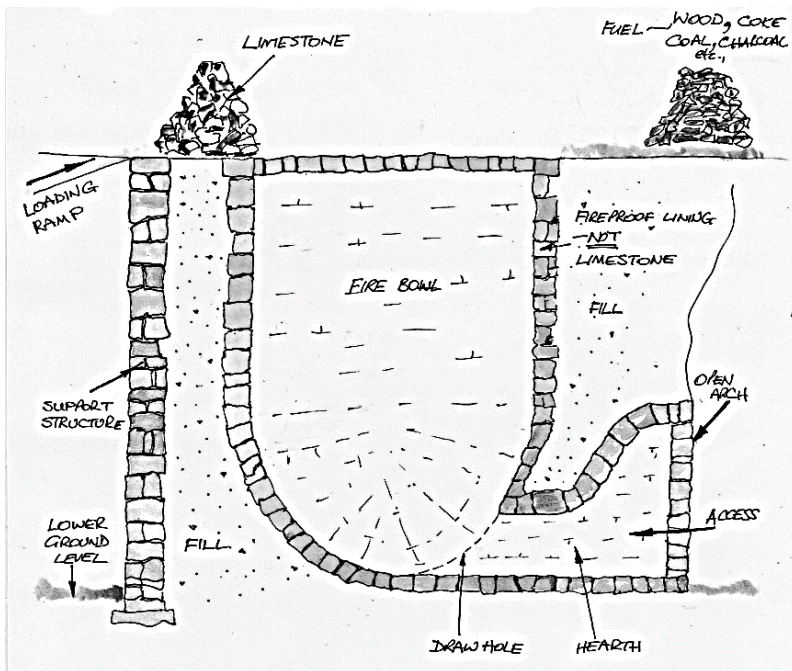


Figure 1b: A Side elevation of a flare kiln

A list of the principal features of a flare kiln

- Burning was carried out in a Fire Bowl shaped like an elongated eggcup.
- An opening at the bottom called the Draw Hole joined the bowl to a hearth which gave access from outside.
- The bowl was part lined with sandstone or another material which would not be affected by the intense heat.
- The bowl was protected by an outer “jacket” of local material.
- Normally the bowl height was about twice its diameter.
- Kilns were usually built into an earth bank to create a ramp up to the bowl’s top for easier loading of the limestone and the fuel.

Method;

The initial kindling layer was prepared at the bottom of the bowl. From the top, the bowl was loaded with limestone and fuel in alternating layers approximately 12 inches (300mm) deep.

When the bowl was full to the top the kindling was ignited through the draw hole. Draught caused by initial burning gradually ignited the upper layers of fuel and the kiln reached calcining temperature. This process could take a few days. With no means of measuring temperature, experience was needed to judge when the fire was “red hot”.

It was important to avoid the fusing together of limestone pieces which might have jammed across the bowl, thus preventing burning and extraction. This was known as scaffolding, or bridging. Long iron rods were used from the top to break up any fused pieces – a very dangerous activity.

On completion of the burn, burnt lime (CaO, or quicklime) was removed through the draw hole using an iron rod and a rake. The quicklime had to be kept dry to avoid unintentional slaking, which was very hazardous.

Hazards:

The work was done with no safety precautions as we understand them today. The open top of a burning kiln must have been very frightening. People relied on their common sense. Oxygen deficiency and toxic gases created during the process were serious hazards. In addition, the accidental wetting of quicklime could produce slaked lime. As has been explained above, in the section on the chemistry of lime production, this highly volatile process could result in an explosive reaction causing severe burns. Most hazardous of all, tripping and falling could have had dreadful consequences.

Casual visitors, often travelling people, sometimes took advantage of the warm and dry hearth to spend a night. However, suffocating, due to the high concentration of Carbon Dioxide produced, was a strong possibility.

Why flare kilns became redundant:

As transport improved, farming and building demands grew so more lime was needed. Greater quantities were produced from industrial kilns with better efficiency and cost effectiveness.

One of the main reasons for building the Lancaster Canal was to carry lime South from Kendal, and coal North from Wigan. It was called the “Black and White” Canal by some people. Alongside the canal at Farleton and elsewhere, industrial kilns were built to improve efficiency.

Today machinery is used to grind limestone very finely, which is an alternative method of production.

Limekilns in the Ancient Parish of Warton¹:

Figures 2 and 3 show two of the lime kilns in the ancient Parish of Warton, the area studied by the Mourholme Local History Society, and the table that follows shows most of the kilns in this area.



Figure 2: Bottoms Lane, Silverdale

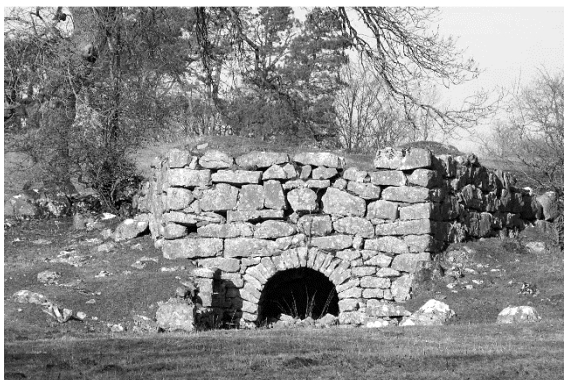


Figure 3: Summerhouse Hill, Yealand Conyers

¹ With thanks to Peter Standing for providing the photographs in Figures 2 and 3, and the details of limekiln locations in Table 1.

If you have the chance, visit them and imagine what it was like when they were working. Find the quarry, see the loading and access. Imagine the smoke billowing from the bowl and the quicklime being pulled from the draw hole, cooled and bagged.

VILLAGE	KILN NAME	OS GRID REF	ACCESSIBILITY
Silverdale	Bottoms Farm	SD 4685 7523	Open from road
Silverdale	Jack Scout	SD 4604 7392	Open NT land
Silverdale	Waterslack	SD 4699 7640	Top open on NT land
Warton	Boon Town Farm	SD 5037 7271	Open by footpath
Warton	Crag Road	SD 4961 7239	Open by road
Warton	Hyning Lane	SD 5033 7316	Open WT reserve
Warton	Scout Crag	SD 4829 7265	Open by road
Yealand Conyers	Peter Lane	SD 5000 7385	Open by footpath
Yealand Conyers	Summerhouse Hill	SD 5002 7417	Visible from road
Yealand Redmayne	Brackenthwaite	D 4909 7722	Visible from road
Yealand Redmayne	Coldwell Lane	SD 4800 7779	Open LT reserve
Yealand Redmayne	Coldwell Lime Works	SD 4759 7796	Open permissive path, RSPB land
Yealand Redmayne	Thrang Brow	SD 4927 7623	Open

Table 1: Limekilns in the Ancient Parish of Warton

A VISIT TO THE BOWES MUSEUM AND BARNARD CASTLE

Clive Holden

On the morning of Wednesday 7th June we set off at 8.30a.m. from Silverdale, calling en route at Travellers' Choice at Carnforth, for our journey to Barnard Castle, where we arrived at 10.15 for our visit to the Bowes Museum. We were put at our ease with a hot drink and biscuits in the Jubilee Room before the first of our two guides gave us an expert commentary as we viewed some of the magnificent paintings, by such renowned artists as Canaletto, Goya and El Greco, to name but a few. Our second guide, the Museum's Archivist, told us of how John Bowes and his French wife, Josephine, built up their wondrous collection of ceramics, costumes, clocks and all manner of things. One of the most admired items was a mouse which was very probably worth its weight in gold; and those who stayed until two o'clock had the pleasure of witnessing the silver swan automaton go through its motions. The afternoon was spent in the town of Barnard Castle where it was left to our discretion either to visit the castle or simply to explore the town at our leisure. We departed from Barnard Castle at 4.30 and, after a comfortable journey, arrived at Silverdale at 6.15.

Thanks to Dr Awena Carter for organising such an enjoyable visit, and, in a period of such unreliable weather, she is to be congratulated on persuading the sun to shine on us. The only disappointing feature was that more members did not take the opportunity to have a good day out. They would certainly have enjoyed it.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS

Clive Holden and Richard Carter

22nd March 2017: The Railways of Carnforth from 1846 to the Present Day

Carnforth as we know it today was shaped almost entirely by the railway. By September 1846 the railway had reached Kendal and three trains ran daily in each direction, calling at the “delightful little village of Carnforth”. **Clive Holden** took us on a journey through the subsequent development of the town whose population grew from less than 300, before the coming of the railway, to more than ten times that size by 1901. The importance of Carnforth grew with the opening of the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway in 1857 (later extending to Barrow and renamed the ‘Furness Railway’) and the Midland Railway line to Leeds in 1864. This made the town a good site for the opening of the Ironworks in 1867 and for its choice for the Post Office sorting office.

A new railway station was built in 1878 with provision for the three railway companies using it: the London and North West Railway (LNWR) trains to London and Scotland; the Furness Railway to Barrow; and the Midland Railway to Leeds. Each had their own platforms, their own engine sheds, and staff. A second platform was added on the Furness line in 1938. By 1963, after the nationalisation of the railways, 213 footplate staff and 72 other staff were based at Carnforth. However, the impact of the railway was dramatically diminished by the closure of the steam shed in 1968, no longer needed as steam trains had been phased out. Another big change was the closure of the main line platforms in 1970 because the London trains no longer stopped at Carnforth. Clive showed us a series of photographs showing

how the station was dismantled following these changes so that it took the form we know today.

A further development was the refurbishment of the derelict station buildings as a visitor and exhibition centre. The displays record the history of the railway at Carnforth and the role played by the station in filming 'Brief Encounter' in 1945. A less obvious reminder of the importance of the railway in the history of the town can be seen in the distinctive streets of houses built by the different companies for their employees.

26th April 2017 (following the AGM): A Picture Post Card View of Silverdale.

Dr Awena Carter began by acknowledged the work done by Dr Julia Gillen, Professor Nigel Hall and others on Edwardian picture post card writing, before she focussed attention on thirty eight post card views of Silverdale sent between 1904 and 1963. She explained that the earliest post cards were without pictures and subject to certain restrictions, such as address on one side and message on the other. When picture postcards were produced they, too, were heavily regulated with instructions about what space could be used for the address and which for the message. With developments in photography and the ready availability of card, these picture post cards quickly achieved popularity with the Edwardians. Picture postcards were cheap to produce and to buy; there were many postal deliveries per day, making the speed of delivery from sender to recipient almost like today's instant messaging; and they lacked the formality of letters. There were no rules for writing post cards, messages could be almost as detailed as a letter while others could consist of only a few words, such as 'beautiful place, you would like it here' or 'leaving on 10:30 train, will need tea when we arrive home.'. This 'postcardese' way of writing in note form, and

errors in spelling, such as ‘splendid wheather’ and ‘dear farther’ were visible to all who saw them (unlike the errors in letters safely concealed in envelopes) and attracted the censure that textese attracts at the present time. As for Silverdale itself, most cards commented on the beauty and charm of the place, though the pictures did not always do justice to the scenery, while others might merely contain a message without any reference to Silverdale. One message with which we would all agree was ‘I think you would like this place better than Blackpool’.

27th September 2017: Lancaster Debtors’ Prison.

We expected **Dr Graham Kemp**’s talk to be interesting, and it certainly was. He explained that ‘Gone to Lancaster’ (ie incarceration in the Debtors’ Prison in Lancaster Castle), was not necessarily the misfortune it might at first appear. Prosperous merchants might find themselves in the prison because of cash flow problems: literally waiting for their boat to come in, or, in the case of Quakers, refusing to pay Church tithes. The poorest debtors may have had a hard time, but the Debtors’ Prison was more like a small market town, with concerts, plays, and even a committee of three to keep the peace: though the office of President was an honour to be avoided. Rich debtors could choose appropriate accommodation with room service if desired, and some enjoyed the life so much that they became professional debtors, conducting their business from the prison.

In 1840 there were more than six hundred debtors in the prison, of whom about one hundred were children. A return to normal life outside the castle was not at the whim of the debtor, but had to result from a court decision (hire yourself a decent lawyer!). In 1869 it all came to an end when the Debtors’ Prison was closed, and the prison was only for felons who had, in any case,

always been kept separate from the debtors. From 1821 – 1850 there was also a women's prison, though it housed not more than fifteen or twenty women. Some felons were transported, at first to America.; however, after 1776, for obvious reasons, felons could no longer be transported there. Australia then became the favourite dumping ground, and many of those sent there seized the opportunity to make themselves rich.

This is but a short account of a most fascinating, amusing and informative talk given without notes and aided by Mrs. Kemp at the projector.

NOTES AND QUERIES

MARGARET BAINBRIDGE

Awena Carter

The Mourholme Local History Society is among a number of local heritage organisations in the North West to have received generous legacies from Dr Margaret Bainbridge, who died in May 2016 aged 91.

Dr Bainbridge was born in Barrow and educated at Edinburgh and Cambridge. After teaching in London, she worked in Turkey for several years. On her return to England she worked in London at The School of Oriental and African Studies where she was the leading authority in Ottoman Studies.

On retirement Dr Bainbridge moved to Lancaster, after which her main focus of interest became the local history of the North West of England. She received a diploma in Local History from Lancaster University, following this one of her research projects was into the voyages of the Lancaster Whaler 'Abram'. She also researched the history of Lancaster and played a key role in events at the Judges Lodgings and at the Maritime Museum.

She left two legacies to the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. The larger of these will support study days and research projects into the history of the region. A smaller legacy will be used to manage her archive of regional material and to fund a travelling exhibition. The generous legacy Dr Bainbridge left to the Mourholme Local History Society will enable our members to build on and extend her work.

ANCESTOR ENQUIRY

Philip Platt

My name is Philip Platt and I am researching my family tree.

My 6x great grandparents were John Harrison, Gentleman of Ulverston, and Mary Sandys of Greythwaite, Hawkshead

John and Mary were married at St. Oswald's Church in Warton on 24 April 1741 by License. By 1744 they were apparently back in Hawkshead where their son William was baptised in 1744.

What puzzles me is why the couple got married in Warton when neither of them was born or, as far as I know, lived there, and I was wondering whether any member of your society might be able to provide a reason.

philipplatt01061917@gmail.com

SPEAKER PROGRAMME
for NOVEMBER 2017 – APRIL 2018

Meetings are held in Yealand Village Hall at 7.30 pm, on the 4th Wednesday of the month (except the December meeting). Our talks generally finish by 9.00 p.m. followed by tea and coffee

Wednesday November 22nd

Place Names and the Landscape in Mediaeval North-West England – Dr Alan Crosby

Thursday December 21st (Please note the date)

Local Surgeons of the 18th and early 19th Centuries – Mr Bryan Rhodes

Wednesday January 24th

Cumbrian Stone Circles – Tom Clare

Wednesday February 28th

Fishermen on Morecambe Bay – Michelle Cooper

Wednesday March 28th

The Arthurian Legend in Lancashire and Beyond – Dr Andrew Breeze

Wednesday April 25th

If God Permits; Myths and Realities behind the Stagecoach Era – Dr Stephen Counce

This talk will be preceded by the Mourholme AGM.