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Vol III

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winter '85

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE

OF LOCAL HISTORY

VOL III, No 2

Price 30p

Winter 1985

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Centre Insert

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The Mourholme Magazine of Local History is issued quarterly by the Mourholme Local History Society for the study of the history of the ancient Parish of Warton and its seven constituent townships: Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton with Lindeth, Yealand Conyers, and Yealand Redmayne.

The Society is named after the Manor of Mourholme, the home of the medieval Lords of Warton. Their seat, Mourholme Castle, stood on the site now covered by Dock Acres Quarry.

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Yearly subscription, £2.50, includes evening lectures and field trips (guest admission 40p), and The Mourholme Magazine of Local History (non-member price 30p).

Application for membership should be made to Mrs J. Chatterley, 173A Main St, Warton, Lancs LA5, 0QF.

* * *

Contributions of articles, notes, queries, letters, etc, are invited and should be sent to Mrs N. Thomas, The Gables, Silverdale, Lancs LA5 0TX, Tel 701230.

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CARNFORTH'S PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Jean Chatterley

By the late 1880's, following the rapid growth of Carnforth from a village to a busy manufacturing and railway centre, the situation in regard to public health was being seen as alarming by the residents.

In November 1887 the Rural Sanitary Authority (R.S.A.), a subsidiary of the Lancaster Union's Board of Guardians (1), received a letter of complaint from a Carnforth resident (Lancaster Gazette 26 Nov 1887): it and the discussion which ensued illustrate the state of affairs at the time.

The complaint concerned a triangular plot of land behind the writer's house, Ash Cottage, Carnforth, a former sand and gravel quarry which was being filled with town rubbish and filth from the local ash pits (2). Fifteen houses had backdoors within a few yards of this 'nuisance,' and the writer linked it to the current scarlet fever epidemic. A discussion followed: the site had been visited and indeed found to be a 'great nuisance'; moreover, it was only 5 yards from the church, and the 'smell experienced' by the congregation was 'very bad.' There was still room for waste disposal on the shore, it was said. The homes of the scarlet fever cases had been supplied with disinfectants, and 'all care had been taken.' All three cases involved young children.

A month later, things were no better. Mr Jowett reported a further three fever cases in Carnforth (report of RSA meeting, 24 Dec 1887), in the same houses as the earlier cases. The premises had been fumigated and disinfectants freely used. Dr Jackson reported that there were many other fever cases and recommended 'a thorough search round the place with regard to privies and ash pits, and also an investigation into connecting all houses with the new sewer system.' Dr Parker, the Medical Officer for the

Lancaster Union, was called upon to give a report: there had been 'only' 39 cases of fever in 12 months in Carnforth and in 'that portion of Warton called Dudley', he said, and

in the absence of an isolation hospital and compulsory notification, I do not see what the Authority can do to prevent the spread of epidemic disease. The ashpits shall be inspected, and if found to be insanitary must be cleansed out and put in proper order.

He asked that a copy of the by-laws relating to ashpits be sent to him. He went on to say that because of the three new fever cases, the trustees of the school (350 children on the roll) had thought it necessary to close the school until February 1st.

Dr Jackson thought fever cases ought to be reported to Dr Parker by law. Practitioners were not paid to do so at that time.

Matters were brought into sharper focus in the new year, January 1888. The Gazette for 7 January reported the meeting of the Guardians, as it always did, and it is worth looking at this report for the vivid picture it gives of Carnforth in 1888, of the workings of local government at the time, and of Mr Edward Barton. As well as being a Guardian, Mr Barton was the manager of the Carnforth Iron Works and was living at Warton Grange, which had been built for him on Sand Lane. The meeting was warned to take precautions against a smallpox epidemic which was spreading northwards and already 'raging' in Sheffield and Leeds. It was suggested, for immediate precautions, that all tramps visiting the Workhouse in Lancaster be examined, and that work on the isolation hospital [now Beaumont Hospital] should be finished as soon as possible. A member of the Board wondered if the porter at the Workhouse was discriminating enough to spot smallpox cases as they entered and refer them to the M.O. It was decided to pay the M.O. extra money and 'require him to visit the Workhouse every

day,' instead of twice a week, for the duration of the epidemic.

Mr Edward Barton then addressed the meeting. He expressed the 'very strong feeling of dissatisfaction in his neighbourhood at the entire absence of any provisions for dealing with an epidemic.' 'In his district,' he said,

many of the ashpits were erected contrary to the by laws, and although they had gone to great expense in sewerage the place, many of the houses had no connection with the sewer whatever....They might instruct the Master to be careful about the admission of tramps...but that would be no use at all at Carnforth unless they had some means of isolation open to the whole Union. At Carnforth, as they knew, the population was of a migratory character, and every day almost they had new inhabitants in the place....they ought to get to know authoritatively...whether this hospital [the isolation wing] at the Workhouse would be available for them or not in case an epidemic broke out...and he would like to know...whether anyone, either the medical officer, a local doctor, or anyone else had power to send a person to that hospital and demand that the person should be admitted....

Mr Barton continued to speak plainly:

We have had fifty cases of scarlet fever in our district and not one tenth of them have been reported to the Board. If there are fifty cases of smallpox, and they are dealt with in the same way...then they will not come under the notice of the Board until it is too late.

Mr Barton spoke at length and I have been selective. His contemporaries on the Board, however, were far more verbose, and Mr Barton comes across as being comparatively blunt and direct! The discussion became quite heated, but eventually Mr Barton was obliged to

accept a decision that the M.O.'s word would be sufficient.

The floor was then taken by the Sanitary Inspector who reported three more cases of scarlet fever in two of the houses already infected, and, he said

There is small pox in Sheffield, and the railway officials, though living in Carnforth, stay all night in Sheffield.

He wanted a building in Carnforth to be set aside for use as a temporary hospital, and he and Mr Thwaites, the Poor Law Guardian for Carnforth, were empowered to look for a suitable house. Another Guardian, Mr Kellet, suggested that 'carts for collection of ashes be sent round every day for a short time until the ashpits had been thoroughly cleaned out.' When questioned, the Inspector explained that usually 'the carts were sent round once a month.' Most of the houses in Carnforth had water closets.

Yes, agreed Mr Barton, 'but there were still a great number of houses with filthy, stinking ashpits, the contents of many of which were exposed to the weather.' He thought Carnforth was 'losing its character as a rural place' because of these problems.

Finally, Mr Barton announced that

unless some steps were taken to remedy the present state of affairs, there was only one course that would be open to them, and that was to sever themselves from the Union altogether and take measures to obtain powers to make their own sanitary arrangements...

'He had been agitating,' he said, 'for the last eight or ten years for the provision of a hospital for the isolation of cases of infectious diseases, and they did not seem to be any nearer its accomplishment....He could take them to houses in Carnforth where there were five or six persons in one house suffering from fever.'

Two weeks later the Board met again (Gazette, 21 Jan 1888). Mr Barton's fears were confirmed when a Clerk read letters to the effect that only paupers were entitled to beds in the Workhouse's isolation wing. By now there were 51 cases of scarlet fever in Carnforth and Dudley, and two had died. Even so, families were unwilling to notify cases to the authorities. Three cottages on the Kellet Road had been taken with the idea of using the middle one as an infectious diseases hospital, but Dr Parker disliked the choice because it was too near other dwellings and the road. The ashpits and privies had been surveyed, and, as expected, found to be 'in an improper condition.' 'In Dudley,' Dr Parker remarked,

although the houses are in most instances provided with a means of screening their cinders and letting the ashes run into the pit of the privy, in only one or two instances were those outbuildings in proper use. In the outhouse containing the screens it is the rule to keep fowls, ducks or rabbits, which are so neglected as to give rise to an unpleasant odour. The day upon which I visited Dudley was very wet, and I observed in nearly every privy children playing; and considering the offensive state of the pits in the cleanest of privies, it cannot be considered a proper place for children to spend any length of time. The only property I could find not connected with the sewers is Midland Terrace, and two detached houses situate between the Midland Railway and the river Keer.

He then went on to make numerous recommendations. These included the Board's Rural Sanitary Authority's acquiring the Waterworks and compelling all houses to be supplied from it, and closing all the wells and pumps. Other measures proposed were the control of keeping fowl, etc, the paving and sewerage of all the 'back streets,' the conversion of all privies to water closets, the covering of all ashpits, and the compelling of all owners of property to drain into the

sewer. He then reported that the three cottages referred to had already been abandoned as a potential hospital: people were threatening to leave the surrounding houses! He urged the building of a proper hospital.

By the time the R.S.A. met on 4 February 1888, Mr Edward Barton had been busy investigating the possibilities of another idea to cope with the expected imminent arrival of smallpox. He could not attend the meeting in person, because of another engagement in Manchester, but by letter he offered the R.S.A. the use of the 'barracks' belonging to him at Warton. The Chairman, Mr Dawson, explained:

The building referred to by Mr Barton was erected in connection with the Warton embankment reclamation scheme, and was now unoccupied. It was made to accommodate about 40 men...would be available for a certain time if they liked to take it; but there was this objection, that it was a long distance from any doctor's residence.

Other Guardians and local residents had also offered solutions. Thomas Jackson, of Hall Croft, Carnforth, offered the use of 'any isolated portion of my ground' if an epidemic broke out and if a mobile hospital could be provided, and this offer was considered 'a handsome one.' Details of two types of portable hospital were then discussed, and the R.S.A. decided upon a Docker Field Hospital. The Docker Field Hospital had two wards for eight patients, 5,200 cu. ft. of ward space. It had a room for a nurse, a roof ventilator, and 'an arrangement for a stove.' It weighed 64 cwt when packed up and would cost £220.

Within 3 weeks the portable hospital had been set up and was being furnished, on a site at Skerton known as the 'Folly.' On 25 February, Dr Jackson was asking the Board if he could use it, 'a case had occurred at Carnforth in the house of a poor fellow who had lost his wife. He had six children, and the fever had broken out amongst them.' That case was left in the

hands of Dr Jackson, Dr Parker, Mr Thwaites, and Mr Jowett. (It transpired that only one of the children was infected, and the case was a mild one.) By June, there were records of cases of scarlet fever being sent to the new hospital.

Interestingly, the portable hospital cost the Lancaster R.S.A. only £205.17s.0d, and the Newcastle company which produced it paid the £143 cost of transporting it!

Also interesting is that I have not so far found any reports of cases of smallpox being found in the Lancaster Union area, either in the Workhouse or amongst the migrant population of Carnforth and Dudley.

NOTES

1. The Lancaster Union had been formed in the early 1840's and comprised 19 parishes: Lancaster, Aldcliffe, Ashton-with-Stodday, Bulk, Carnforth, Cockerham, Ellel, Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Middleton, Overton, Over Wyresdale, Priest Hutton, Scotforth, Silverdale, Skerton, Thurnham, Warton-with-Lindeth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne. The Union's Board of Guardians provided these parishes with what we would now classify as social services and public amenities. The men mentioned were all Guardians. Each parish elected two annually.

2. Ash pits were forerunners of dustbins.

* * *

JENNY BROWN'S POINT

M. R. Walling

For many years the origin of the name 'Jenny Brown's Point' has been the subject of much speculation. Several writers on local history have suggested that Jenny was a large steam engine, used for copper smelting in the vicinity of the chimney at Jenny Brown's Point. One theory was that the famous lady was a lodging-house keeper looking after Irish Miners employed in copper mining and smelting.

I think that the will of John Walling of 1671 suggests another, and better, identity for the elusive lady.

The rental and survey of Warton with Lindeth of 1609 mentions William Browne and Thomas Browne both holding pasture on Lindeth Marsh. John Wawen [Walling] is also listed in the survey. Warton Parish Registers record the baptism on March 9, 1605, of John, son of John Wawen of the 'Dikhouse' in Lindeth. Dikehouse was the name of the dwelling at what is now Jenny Brown's Point.

The will of John Walling dated August 29, 1671, makes his two daughters, Jann Walling and Jennye Browne, beneficiaries of sums of money to be paid to them by his son William. Jennet, Jennye's baptismal name, is one of the commonest names in the wills of this period, but 'Jenny' occurs only this one time. I think the proven existence of a woman called Jenny Brown who lived in the place now called Jenny Brown's Point provides the simplest and most reasonable explanation for the place name.

The Inventory of John Walling is of considerable interest. He was the owner of a 'mere' (mare) and a gelding worth £3, bease (cattle) worth £10, sheep worth £8.5s, and Torfe (peat) worth 13/4. Amongst his other goods were Netes, Stukes and panyers worth 5s. This indicates fishing, perhaps, for both his own use

MLHS NEWSLETTERSAVE SATURDAY, 20 APRIL 1985, FOR THE MLHS

On Saturday, 20 April 1985, the society will hold a COFFEE MORNING at the Gaskell Hall in Silverdale.

There will be

Refreshments
Home Baked Cakes
White Elephants
Garden Goods
A Sewing Box
Old Books
Bring and Buy
A Grand Raffle

And

A MLHS Silverdale History exhibition

And

A MLHS Book Stall with exciting new publications for sale.

DON'T MISS IT!

Contributions of help and goods would be welcomed by
Mrs W. Hayhurst, Coach Rd, Warton, 732668
Mrs Chatterley, 173A Main St, Warton, 735990
Mrs N. Thomas, The Gables, Silverdale, 701230
Mr D. Peter, 18 Hazelwood, Silverdale, 701635

* * *

MLHS FEBRUARY MEETING

14 February 1985
7:30 Hynning

Cistercian Monasticism and Furness Abbey

Paul H. W. Booth

Bringing local history societies and research groups into existence is not all Paul Booth does. He is also a working historian. A lecturer at Liverpool University's Institute of Extension Studies, he is an expert on medieval England and an author of books and articles on medieval Cheshire and Lancashire.

* * *

MLHS MARCH MEETING

14 March 1985
7:30 Hynning

Dialects in the North

G. Knowles

Mr Knowles is a Lecturer in Linguistics at Lancaster University. Working in the Phonetics Laboratory there, he has made a particular study of the variety of English dialects. His lecture will be full of interesting sounds.

* * *

MLHS APRIL MEETING

25 April 1985
7:30 Hynning

Annual General Meeting
and
Members Evening

* * *

NEW MLHS RESEARCH CLASS

The Society is pleased to announce a new 'service' to its members. Some of our most experienced researchers will conduct informal classes in 'Reading Historical Documents.'

Meeting at members' homes at convenient times, well supplied with tea, coffee, and documents, we will undertake to show you how to read English as it was written in the 16th and 17th centuries.

If you are interested (and getting over the hurdle of 'Secretary Hand' is the essential first step in local history research), please let us know, and a time and place in early March will be arranged for our first meeting.

Phone Nancy Thomas, 701230, to enrol. No charge to members!

* * *

TWO ANSWERS TO 'THE NIB'

In the last issue of the magazine, we asked if anyone could explain why Millhead's Westview Hotel is locally known as 'The Nib.'

Two answers have been offered. First, 'The Nib' is short for a longer nickname, 'The Nibble and Clink.' The second answer turns on the pub's being a Boddington's house. The front door of the hotel, so the story goes, had a glass panel on which was written 'Boddington's.' As you entered the pub, you read 'Boddington's,' naturally enough, but as you came out, the letters in the centre of the reverse side of the name seemed to spell 'nibb', especially, it may be imagined, if there had been any impairment of one's peripheral vision.

Any other suggestions?

* * *

WARTON HISTORY GROUP'S FIRST BOOK GOES TO PRESS

Some twelve years ago (1973) the Department of Extension Studies of Liverpool University organised a class on local history in Warton, conducted by Mr Paul Booth. The original course, which consisted in the main of a series of lectures, gradually developed into a number of serious studies undertaken by the class members dealing with specialised aspects of the history of the ancient parish of Warton.

The following main subjects were selected for investigation: Warton in the 17th century, census returns of the 19th century, 19th century newspapers, oral history, industry and communications, and agriculture.

The intention was that eventually the 'findings' would be published as a series of booklets. The whole of the work was to be guided by Paul Booth who was also to be the Editor of the booklets in order to ensure comparability of standard. These researchers have come to be referred to as the Warton History Group, and it is from them that the Mourholme Local History Society evolved, with the W.H.Group members continuing their work independently.

Industry and Communications, by David Peter, the first of the booklets, is to be published in the near future. Its main topics are Roads, Canals, Railways, Mining, Quarrying, the Carnforth Iron Works, and the Effects of industrial development on population.

The booklets are being published by the Lancashire County Library Service. The Library and the MLHS with the WHG will each undertake to sell 500 copies, and they will be sold at £2.50 per copy.

Members will have every opportunity to place their orders for this historic publication, and the Society hopes everyone will help with energy and initiative to encourage the sale of our new booklet.

* * *

and income supplement. The total value of goods is £31.15.8. This includes 11s owing to William Stout, perhaps the famous Ironmonger of Lancaster.

John Walling's son William died at Dike House in 1722. The property then passed to a daughter who married a Hutton. William Walling married Elizabeth, a daughter of the Waithman family. William Walling's son, another John, had by this time established himself at Bradshawgate in Silverdale. It is from these people that my family descend; they may have been kin to the more affluent Wallings of Slackwood.

The Marsh must have been extensively grazed in Jennye Brown's time, as the area of hard land there is small and would be needed for winter fodder. The tides would also have to be watched closely. Live-stock would have to be moved to the higher land in periods of high tides. The grass must have been kept very short by the various livestock. Lindeth Marsh was probably grazed by several others, as well as the Browne and Walling families; perhaps William Waithman also had grazing here. At the east end the Slackwood and Crag Foot holdings would also graze the Marsh.

Jenny Brown must have been a local character to have given her name to this rather isolated place. There is another example in Silverdale of a woman giving her name to a property. When Thomas Clark, blacksmith and farmer, died in 1717, he left his smithy and farm at Elmslack, in the care of his wife Julia [Jullian, Gillian]. She survived him at the farm by 31 years, and when her son sold the property in the 1740's, it had become known as Gillian House and the field in front of the house as Gillian Field. Over the years the name suffered certain corruptions, some 19th century records refer to it as Tollian House, for example, but Gillian Field is still called by that name today. Perhaps Jenny Brown was a widow like Jillian Clark, who held the farm on the Marsh for so long that her name came to identify the place.

* * *

ON READING THE NEWSPAPERS

K. Hodgson

What to do on a wet, miserable winter's day? Why, how about sitting in a nice warm library - like Lancaster's first floor Reference Room - where you can make Mrs Jean Chatterley happy by reading some 19th century newspapers and helping the Mourholme Society expand its knowledge!

For the first half of the century you can read a year's papers in about two and a half hours. There is more national news than local; the gossip of the district must have been passed by word of mouth, and it is mainly the adverts that make you get out your biro and start writing. However, the latter half of this period you will be hard put to cope with three months worth of news in two and a half hours, especially as you are more inclined to let your eyes dwell on matters other than Warton's doings.

So I indulged in the events of 1829 one wet day. I would have preferred the Lancaster Guardian, but I was before its time and had to have the Lancaster Gazette on microfilm.

In January various toll gates were to be let, the nearest to us was Beetham Gate at £217.

At the end of January an ad 'To Stone Masons and Stone Getters to be let by ticket. To the getting of stones and the building of a barn, stables, shippens and offices at Borwick.' Now then, Borwick readers, that should get you interested? Where is that barn now?

February was short of news unless you wanted a coffee plantation in Jamaica or a read about someone setting fire to York Minster.

By March the ploughing match had taken place at Over Kellet and George Townson and William I'Anson of Borwick had won prizes along with John Lindsey of Warton.

April - To be Sold, One-Third part or share of the Rectorial Tithes of the Parish of Warton.

End of May and a sale by Auction at the house of Mrs Jennings at the sign of The Shovel, Warton, of a messuage or dwelling house with Barn, Stable, etc, in Warton, 3/4 of an acre, in the late occupation of Mrs Mary Grey, deceased.

July - 'To be Sold, a steam engine, 10-12 horsepower with 2 boilers - apply to Waithman & Co., Yealand.' What does that mean, you Yealand people, any ideas?

September - 'To be let by proposal for a term of years and entered on at Candlemas and May-day next'....a newly erected farmhouse belonging Rev. William Mason, with 173 acres and a limekiln.

What a lot of To be Sold ads. Many more for Warton and I will be late home!

At the house of Joseph Western at the sign of the Red Lion in Warton is to be an auction for 4 valuable Closes - Lower Boon Town, Higher Boon Town or Bracken Bank, Pots Close, and Crooklands.

Also a Close called Byerstead in possession of James Robinson, the last mentioned held under the Lord of the Manor of Warton for 3/6.

To be Sold by Auction. Dale Grove in Warton - Farmhouse etc, totalling 55 acres 2 roods.

'Contiguous to Canal.' Apply Mr Kew of Dale House.

By October the Dale Grove property is given in 5 lots all detailed.

By October 17th, the Sale of Dale Grove is withdrawn.!

I look for more interesting ads but the property market is quiet - no more articles about our locality.

So I wind back the microfilm and I shall be home in reasonable time after all. Nevertheless it has made me forget the weather, and Mrs Chatterley can cross off another year of the 100 years of newspapers on her list.

If you wish to follow in my footsteps and read and make notes of newspapers for our archives, Mrs Chatterley will be pleased to advise you.

A RESEARCHER'S GUIDE TO THE LANCASTER REFERENCE LIBRARY

compiled by Miss I. E. Gaddes, Librarian

The following is an outline list of some of the material held at the Lancaster Library which may be of interest to researchers in local history. It is a preliminary listing which will be added to as time permits.

CENSUS ENUMERATOR'S RETURNS

These are on microfilm and cover the returns for 1841 (no specific places of birth), 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1881.

They cover Lancaster District, an area within about a 15 mile radius of Lancaster.

DIRECTORIES

From the 1770's approximately every five years, to 1970. Earlier directories tend to exclude all but gentry and master tradesmen. A "finding list" of streets is not available until 1899.

ELECTORAL ROLLS OR ROLL BOOKS

From 1784, with a gap from 1888 to 1908 inclusive. They gradually become more comprehensive as electoral reforms extended the franchise. Women appear this century.

ROLLS OF FREE BURGESSES

Printed ones cover 1680-1840 and have indexes; professions stated. Father usually named. Originals at Lancaster Town Hall and in progress. Men only listed.

APPRENTICE REGISTERS FOR LANCASTER (microfilm)

1736 to late 19th Century. An earlier volume is at Lancaster Town Hall. Most useful and more comprehensive from 1736 to c.1810. Parent and master and trade are listed. Card index of apprentices in 18th Century excludes the Town Hall's volume.

LANCASTER CHARITY SCHOOL REGISTER

1770-1819. Notes parentage and future master and trade. Card index of boys.

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL REGISTER

Printed and very selective with short biographical notes of notable scholars.

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX AND FILES

The library has an alphabetical index of biographical items including manuscripts which may date back several centuries. Some items have been put in manilla files under the family name. Items are mostly sporadic but for some families we have more numerous documents of printed pedigrees; for instance, Backhouse, Cumming, Faithwaite, Parkinson, Beakbane.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND OBITUARY CUTTINGS

Of local notable people from 1800 to 1932. Then there is a gap until the 1950's when cuttings began to be taken systematically once again.

NEWSPAPER INDEX

Sporadic from 1801 to date. As well as the subject entries there are alphabetical entries under personal names and names of houses and streets.

Births, marriages, and deaths have only been entered in detail for the early years of the 19th century. There is a list of the general subject headings which are commonly used.

COLONEL CHIPPINDALL'S FILES AND BOOKS

The Colonel died in the 1940's and left a set of files which are kept alphabetically under family name. These include manuscript pedigrees and transcripts of families in the Lune Valley area and some from Lancaster. Colonel Chippindall published books which include much interesting detail on Ireby, Tunstall and Gressingham parishes.

SETS OF TRANSACTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS OF SOCIETIES

Chetham Society

Lancashire Parish Register Society (Warton Registers, Vol 73)

Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society Transactions

Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society Transactions

Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Catholic Record Society

Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society

* * *

THE WESTMORLAND DIALECT (continued)

from Ann Wheeler

This Dialogue* entitled 'Between Ann and Mary, upon running away from a bad husband,' describes a bad domestic situation but in the telling reveals a glimpse of Arnside/Silverdale at the turn of the 19th century. As explained in the last issue, Mrs Wheeler was living at Arnside Tower when she wrote these dialect dialogues, c.1800. [NYT]

Ann. What ails tae? ... What's Joan [John] an thee fawn awt [fallen out] agayn?

Mary. Aye, Ise gangin tae Lirple [Liverpool] wie Peter, I'll stay nin here, I'll nivver leev [live] wie him maar, Ise git a servis sum whaar I racken.

Ann. Nae daut but thau may, but thaul want to be at heaam [home] agayn.

Mary. Nay nivver while I leev, for I've born his ill humour and sorliness ivver sen I wor wed, naw gangin ea [on] eight yeer, an hees ivvery day waars, and I'll bide nea langer, sae gang I will.

Ann. But what, hee's nea waars then he wur, is he?

Mary. When we wor wed he tewk me heaam to leev ith auld end with fadder fawk, it wur sic a spot as yee nivver saw barn, it wur as black as the Dule's nutin bag wie seat [soot], an it reeks yee cannit see yan anudder; he began wie corsin an lickin me an hees hodden on ivver sen. I doant like cocklin, an gang toth skeer I'll net [not], an I can nivver spin tow enuff to please him, hees sic a reeden paddock; last neet he lickd me with steal, threw a

teanale [basket] wie cockls at me, brack aw me cups an saucers, a teepot I gav a grote for at Kendal Fair, threw tee imme een [eyes], but I was gaily une wie him for I slat a pot a weatin in his feace, meaad his een sae saar that he cud net hoppen em; he swaar he wad kill me when he gat haad omma [hold of me], soa he may, for Ise nivver ane him mair while i Leev.

Ann. Thau tauks terrably, whya thau wod be teerd in a lile time was tae frae him, what cud tae dea at Lirple, nae yan [no one] dar tak the in, a husband has terrable pawer, nae justice can bang him, he can dea what he will wie the, he may lick the, nay hoaf kill the, or leaam [lame] the, or clam [starve] the, naae sell the, an nae yan dar mell on him.

Mary. Oddwhite justice an king teea, for meaakin sic laas, nae yan can bide wie him, an arrant filth! Hees oways drunk when heeas brass [money], an then he grudges me saut [salt] to me podish [porridge], nae he taks brass I git wie spin'in tow, an barns an I may clam ith hause, he cares nawt about it; leak et me shoon, me coasts, Ise soa mad at him I cud welly hong me sel.

Ann. Nae, that wad be wars then runnin away frae him; he wad like to be rid baith oth wife an barns I racken.

Mary. Aye, then he mud gang hefter oth filth ith parish, for thear is not a dannet ith cuntry byt he knaas her; dud not he spend hoaf-a-crawn on a lairly ugly, and stayd oa neet wie her? Lost poak [sack], and hoaf a steaan a woo [half a stone of wool], a paund a shuger, hoaf a quartern a tee, a conny lile chees. Dule rive him for a drunken foal, its enuff to meaak onny woman mad, but ea godlins I'll match him, as sure as ivver he matchd awr cock at Beetham.

Ann. What is he a cocker teya?

Mary. Aye, that he is, he meaad breead for cocks when barns clamd, an lickd lile Tom for brickin a bit oth cock breead, an becaase I tewk up for me nane barn, he up wie his gripen neaf an felt me owar.

Ann. Hees fearful nowt I racken, but sum haw I wad nit hae the leaave him. Whya whaarst caw [where's the cow], what yee hae milk an butter?

Mary. Dule tak him he selt her. Yee mun kna we tewk sum gerse [rented some grazing] for her, it wor tae be a ginny, man com to lait the brass mony time, I towd him it wur a sham he dud nit payt, he sweaar he wad sell her, an like a rascot as he wur, he dreav her to Kirby Fair an selt her, an stayd thear tul he hed spent oth brass he gat for her. I thout I shud ea gean craisy I wur sae wae [unhappy] about partin wie her, thof she wor but a lile Scot she gav a conny swoap oa milk, an I've churnd five paund a butter ea week frae her, I cud sumtime selt a paund unknown tae him, an fadder fowk dud let us chop her intil ther parrak ith winter, sae we dud varra connoly while we hed her: he cud net clam us while we hed a caw, but now oas gean, an leav him I wul.

Ann. But what'al become ath barns? Ise wae about them?

Mary. Whya they mun gang toth cockl skeer wie him, th lads is gayly weel up [pretty well grown up], an lass is wie her grondy; for tae leev ith auld end wie th auld fowk I nivver will, for they meaak bad waars and hes ivver sen se wur wed, they er arrant filths; en he caant dea wieth barns he mun fest em awt.

Ann. Aye they'er a terrable breed for sartan en thau hed ill luck tae cum amang sic a bad geat.

Mary. Aye, en I hed net been wie barn I wad nit hae hed Joan; but what cudee dea, tother fello et hed tae dea wie me [that had to do with me] ran away, soa I wur forst to tak this lairly.

Ann. When lasses deas sic tricks as that they mun tak it as it leets, what et dow can cum ea sic deains; but I mun say thau has carried the sel mannerly enuff sen thau wor wed.

Mary. Aye, I nivver rangd him, but he has hed deains wie awth lairlys ith parish, an mony a lump ea brass he hes teaan frae his poor barns an me, to carry to thor uglis. But I'll gang an see for captan an kna when he sails, for gang I will, I'll nivver stay an clam hear.

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*Wheeler, Ann, The Westmorland Dialect, in Four Dialogues (1834).