

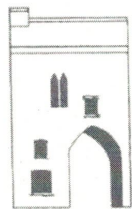
LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- Lectures alternate between Cartmel Institute and the United Reformed Church Hall in Grange
- We still need a new Treasurer
- We would love to hear from you if you have personal stories about life in war time



LIFE AS A LAND ARMY RECRUIT: MY WARTIME STORY

This is an article that formed part of our exhibition on life during the war years held in Grange Library between 7th and 21st May. The author, Miss Marjorie Wilkinson, has very kindly allowed us to reproduce it in our newsletter.

I was 19 when war broke out and I volunteered to join the Land Army. I was sent to a dairy farm situated a mile outside the village of Ben Rhydding, which is about two miles from Ilkley in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The only other animals on the farm, apart from the cows, were the working horses. I can't remember now how many cows there were in the herd.

There were five other land girls, all committed to the variety of jobs associated with dairy farming. These included washing and sterilising milk bottles; bottling the milk; cleaning the milking machines; and ensuring the

cleanliness of the dairy. Men did the milking.

Three of us had milk rounds, delivering milk as far as Ilkley with a horse and float, whilst two had walking rounds in Ben Rhydding.

The daily round meant rising at 6 a.m. in the summer, then out into the field to catch your horse, then prepare his feed. After that you could get your own breakfast! Then it was out to harness the horse, load up the float, and away around 8 o'clock to start delivering - arriving back at about mid-day.

After lunch (for both self and horse), you groomed your horse and checked that his sharp studs did not need replacing in his front shoes. In summer the milk horses were turned out into the fields, but in winter they stayed in their stalls. The cleanliness of the float, stable and harness was our responsibility.

We helped with all the other jobs associated with the farm, including muck spreading,

potato picking, hay making, harvesting and dairy work.

It was hard manual labour, but it kept us fit, and with our weather beaten skin on our arms and faces we looked the picture of health - and we were!

It was also a very satisfying way of 'doing our bit'.

PS. It was not all hard work and I had some amusing incidents such as: muck spreading on the very day you were going out to the cinema or a dance! Learning the hard way how to put on the horse's collar, keeping your balance in the float, trying to catch a run away horse - that story went into the local rag!



MEMORIALS OF THE GREAT WAR IN THE SOUTH LAKES

In March Ian Lewis gave us a fascinating talk concerning the vast number of WW1 memorials he has so far located in the south Lakes area.

The Imperial War Museum has 50,000 war memorials listed in its database with

200 war memorials noted in south Lakes. Ian has so far located 542, and counting, in the south Lakes district! For Ian, war memorials are not just the plaques and crosses etc. that commemorate the deaths of soldiers in action, but those created to

celebrate the fact that these men had gone to war in the first place - including rolls of honour found in numerous churches throughout the district. Flookburgh church, for instance, has a roll of honour dated December 1914 which records the

COULD YOU SPELL THAT PLEASE?

Anyone tracing a family tree soon learns that ancestors are elusive. Apart from emigrating, immigrating, marrying, not marrying, being illegitimate, not being registered when they should have been, or simply disappearing on census night, they ALL have one thing that, sooner or later, is likely to cause trouble: a name.

I have traced 34 surnames in my family tree but, with variations, the total actually comes to over 100. When I started, the first name I sought (in the on-line 1901 census transcript) was my maternal grandfather James Balls, a shoemaker. Simple enough? He was not there. I tried for my grandmother, Amy Lucas. I found her with

her widowed mother and some others including a lodger, James BALES, a boot shop assistant. The 'original image' showed that this lodger was, in fact, James Balls.

Transcribers make mistakes. So do registrars, clerks and census enumerators. Add to that individualistic spelling, illiteracy, archaic handwriting and regional pronunciation and it is amazing that anyone ever finds any of their ancestors. I have only 12 unvarying surnames. The other 22 have at least 2 different forms, first prize going to Rozier: 13 variations. (I have recently heard from a seeker who has several versions of Rosier, some of

which are not in my 13!) A visit to the Essex Records Office to find my great, great grandparents Nathaniel and Mary A Rozier, revealed that they were, in fact, James and Margaret Rozzero. It is not just surnames that cause problems.

So, if you are frustrated at not finding great grandma Mary Brighton in any census or BMD record, try looking for Maud Briten. Then compare place, age, occupation and other people involved to see if she just might be the same woman. It worked for me!

Robina Dexter

robinadexter@aol.com

AN IMPOSTER'S CLAIM TO THE ENGLISH THRONE

BY TREVOR MOORE

In 1485, the Battle of Bosworth gave the Crown of England to Henry VII. At that time, far away in Furness, Lord Lovell and Sir Thomas Broughton were considering by what means they could remove Henry VII from the throne. Even at this early date the north/south divide existed.

Then upon the scene arrived Lambert Simnell, an imposter with pretensions to the throne. Although, in reality of course, he was the son of a baker in Oxford!

Simnell impersonated Edward, Earl of Warwick, who was at that time imprisoned in the Tower of London. Simnell managed to persuade Sir Thomas and Lord Lovell that he was the rightful monarch, and was duly crowned Edward VI in Dublin.

A combined force of Flemish and Irish troops set sail from Ireland, in May 1847, and landed on Piel Island. Alone among the Lancastrian gentry, Sir Thomas Broughton joined the rebels.

There is a wonderful description in the *North Lonsdale* magazine, Vol.1, 1894, of the 8,000 soldiers drawn up ready for battle outside the castle walls on Piel Island. From there they proceeded, via Swarthmoor, Ulverston, and Yorkshire, to Nottinghamshire where, on 5th June 1487, south of the village of Stokefield, a fierce battle was fought with King Henry. The result was a total defeat of the rebel army. Four thousand men were slain and Simnell was taken prisoner. It transpired that Simnell was eventually pardoned and made to serve in Henry's kitchen!

Sir Thomas Broughton fled the battle field and returned to Witherslack. He spent the rest of his days in hiding amongst his former tenants. Piel Island is now an interesting place to visit. Take the ferry from Roe Island and enjoy a drink at the Ship Inn. It is amazing to think that 8,000 soldiers camped here in 1487, in such a small area!

BBC WORLD WAR TWO: PEOPLE'S WAR

Our Society has been approached by the BBC to see if anyone in our local area would like to participate in their national project, which aims to 'pass on your family story for future generations'.

The BBC has set up a web site at www.bbc.co.uk/ww2 where anyone can access the thousands of stories already posted on the web. It is a very worthwhile project which aims to record people's experiences and make them available to generations, both now and to come, who have no conception of what it was like to live through the war years.

You can also put your own story on the web if you wish—it is a simple process. Alternatively we have a number of members in the Society who would be willing to do it for you if you wish—just let us know.



Everyone knows a World War Two story
www.bbc.co.uk/ww2

COCKLING

As early as 1834 information gathered as part of the Poor Law Commission's enquiry briefly mentioned 'gathering cockles on the sand' at Bolton-le-Sands. The 1868-9 Commission provides more valuable information not only of the practice but also of local opinions on the matter. Henry Tremenheere reported that 'great numbers of children, young persons and women who reside in the small villages on the coast of Morecambe Bay go upon the sands on every recession of the tide in parties of from ten to twenty and pursue their occupation until the advancing tide compels them to return.' He considered that around 300 children were involved and explained that, weather permitting, it was an all-the-year-round occupation, the cockles being packed and sent off to markets in the manufacturing towns to the south. Farmers complained that this employment robbed them of local labour and pushed up wages, but the local clergy's concerns about this form of work are typical of those expressed about other child labour in the nineteenth century, not only in connection with the child's health, in that 'the

stooping posture is bad', but more importantly in the effects which it had on their education and morals. 'Cockling' could, it seems, provide a substantial addition to the family's income and it was, as the Commission noted, too attractive for parents to ignore, but unlike other forms of agricultural work, it was not one which met with their approval, being the only mode of employment which was considered similar to the gang labour force in the south and east of England.

Taken from *Working Children in Nineteenth-Century Lancashire*, edited by Michael Winstanley. Chapter 4 *Children and Young People on the Land* by Simone Coombs and Deborah Radburn pp88-90 Lancashire County Books 1995

FAMILY HISTORY

Many of us are involved in tracing our own family trees and some of us encounter some strange anomalies in the records (see the article by Robina Dexter on page 2).

Using online databases, such as the wealth of census material now available, can provide us with much needed information about our ancestors, such as where they lived, where they were born, how many children they may have had, whether or not there were stepchildren, etc.

My own family tree has come to numerous halts along the way simply because the transcribers, who so helpfully work through the old census enumerators' books, can miss out members of a family (usually the one you are actually looking for), or a whole street, although they do appear in the original document. If this has happened to you, try searching for another member of the family, or perhaps the street name (only available for the 1901 census online). It can help! Don't rely on the transcription alone—always look at the original image (available through ancestry.com) - they provide far more information and can offer new possibilities for further searches.

"great numbers of children, young persons and women...go up on the sands on every recession of the tide...and pursue their occupation until the advancing tide compels them to return."

METAL DETECTING AND THE VIKINGS

Our last lecture for the spring season was given by Peter Adams, who introduced us to his fascinating hobby of metal detecting.

I was unaware just how expensive metal detectors are — it's certainly not a cheap hobby to be taken up lightly! However, the rewards can certainly be worth it judging by the finds tray that Peter had brought along with him to show the audience. However, not many metal de-

tectors make such an amazing discovery as an unknown Viking burial in the north of England! Peter's discovery, last spring, is of major importance and has advanced both archaeologists' and historians' knowledge about Viking settlement in England. Conservation and preservation of the artefacts, which were unearthed during the archaeological dig that followed Peter's discovery, is still ongoing and will doubtless provide

even more information about this particular period of England's history.

Peter's talk took us through his experience from day one and explained what is currently happening with the artefacts—and was accompanied by numerous photographs presented through Powerpoint—very slick. From 10th century Viking craftwork to 21st century Viking technology in one hour— it was a treat!

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

Dr Ruth Hughes
Secretary

3 Devonshire Place
Kents Bank Road
GRANGE OVER SANDS
Cumbria LA11 7HF

Phone: 01539 532591
Email: ruthhughes@tiscali.co.uk

We are now on the web at
www.cartmelpeninsulalhs.org.uk

Local History News



Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society was established over ten years ago under the name Cartmel and District Local History Society. Three years ago the Society changed its name to reflect more accurately the historical interests and area that our members encompass. Our aim is to cover as broad a spectrum of historical enquiry as possible in order to reflect the interests of members, and to interest and include non-members in what is, we feel, a very exciting and enjoyable subject. One of the ways we plan to further this aim is through the pages of this newsletter and by having and maintaining a presence on the World Wide Web.

We also plan to hold a series of informal meetings in which specific themes will be discussed and in which our members can play a more active role if they so wish. These meetings have not yet been set and we would welcome suggestions as to possible themes for discussion. For example, a number of you may have a specific interest in the history of Cartmel Priory and the Augustinian monks who lived there; others may be interested in architectural history and would welcome a chance to discuss this interest with other like-minded people; still others may have an interest in archaeology, a subject the Society has not really addressed but to which it is open to suggestions. The list of possible discussion topics is endless.

If you are interested in joining an informal discussion group please contact either myself or Mrs Barbara Copeland who will be pleased to provide further information.

(Continued from page 1)

names of the men who left the village to fight. At that time none had been lost. This particular roll of honour was designed and painted by an incredibly talented female artist in the arts and crafts style. Ian also pointed out that many other types of memorials exist. A row of seven sweet chestnut trees at Hincaster are one such, whilst a bench at Cross-a-Moor, just outside Ulverston and put up in 1990 is another. There are also a number of gold and silver topped walking sticks which he located in Arnside.

The main point of his argument, and the reason why he pointed to all these different types of memorials, was that they were not created originally to commemorate the dead but to commemorate service. Streets up and down the country sported war shrines which included the rolls of honour which were a feature of the end of 1914 and early 1915 - these

shrines were in fact the focus of community patriotism. However, as men began being killed in their thousands, memorials became linked to a tradition of remembrance, and the terminology for memorials changed. In 1914 no-one in Europe had foreseen that war would or could carry on past Christmas, let alone for 4 years. As men began to die in service, Ian argues, the rationale for their involvement changed to make their deaths more acceptable - an act of honour - the heroic sacrifice.

Ian's talk was supported with a wealth of OHP images. Questions raised by the audience were testament to the way he managed to change our perception of what memorials did - and do—commemorate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Barbara Copeland
Chairperson
Tel: 015395 33165

Dr Ruth Hughes
Secretary
Tel: 015395 32591

Mr Peter Wain
Treasurer
Tel: 015395 34814

Mr Stewart E Allen
Dr Malcolm Arthurton
Prof Michael Atkinson
Mr Trevor Moore
Dr Peter Le Mare

Articles for publication in this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact either Barbara or Ruth on the above numbers.

