The Rev. Peter Walkden was minister at Hesketh Lane nonconformist chapel from 1711 to 1738. He lived at Daub Hall which he farmed with the help of his family. His diary and discovered in a cottage at Slaidburn over a century later. It reveals that on most Saturdays, at least one member family went to Preston on horseback to sell butter and sometimes a few eggs to Mrs Sudell, a shopkeeper in Church Street.

... 13 Sep 1729 "Being for Proud Preston. I got ready and took my little mare, and the butter for Madam Siddall, and went direct to Preston, and put in my mare at the Flying Horse (in Church St), and had a penny pot of ale. Then went to Madam Siddall, and delivered 4 pounds of butter....and 8 eggs, 1s.6d; so I had a design to buy cannel (coal) today, but had not convenience today to get it home, wherefore I got leave of Ben Barker to lay it, if I bought any, in his stable. So I went into the market, and found a cart with cannel in, about the quantity I would buy. So I asked him what measure he had in his cart. He said 8 baskets, or 8 hundredweight. I asked his price; he said 5s.4d. I bid him 5s. He consented that I should have it I paid the man 5s for it, and Ben's daughter helped me into the stable with it, and I gave her a penny. So I came to the Flying Horse, and got a pennyworth of ale again, ...and went to the New Shambles, and offered to pay Thomas Morton for a cow belly and feet we had of him the last spring, but he said he would give them me. So I bought a hough (the ham) and marrow bone of him, at 1s, and he gave me a treat at the Cross Keys. Then I went into the market, and bought a half bushel of apples, 1s.1d; and a piece of beef, 1s.1d; and a pair of shoes for my Margaret, at 2s.1d; and so brought all to the Flying Horse, and dined, and got a pint of ale. Then having left my gloves at the Cross Keys, I went to see for them, but they could not be found; so I went and bought me gloves, 8d; saddle girth buckle, 2d; shoe buckles for Margaret, 22d; studs 2d. Then bought 4 toffeys, 1d; 20 plums, 2d William Hesmondhalghhad a bushel of apples to sell in the Flying Horse. He said ... I should have them at 2s. I gave him 2s for them, borrowed his sack, laid them on my mare, and gave the hostler a penny, and came direct home...."

(On the following Monday Walkden went to Preston to collect the cannel coal -- and the hough of beef which he had forgotten at the Flying Horse!)

SATURDAY SHOPPING!!

27 Sep 1729 "My love and I got ready for Proud Preston, and about ten o'clock we set forward....my love went to Madam Siddall's with butter and eggsThen dined, and paid 4d, and a penny for ale; then I bought a wheat and barley riddle, 1s.4d; then I bought a hough and rack (neck) of mutton, 1s.8d. Then I bought apples, 1d; then I had a pint of ale, 2d; then I bought salt, 6d;so I and my love got our mares and goods, and I gave the ostler a penny and we came direct to Longridge end, where I called at Shuttleworth's smithy for son John's shoe buckle we left there to mend, and I paid him a penny. Then I called at Mr Eccles's shop, and bought a quartern of tobacco, 3½d.....and got in (at home) about sunset."

15 Nov 1729 "... My love, having butter to go with to Preston, and she being throng, and the day wet, I got my great mare, rid with it to Preston, and put in my mare at the Flying Horse, and warmed me, and had a penny pot of ale; then went to Madam Sudal's with the butter, and got pay for it; then went to the bought Market-place and fish. 2d: onions, 3d. So came to the Flying Horse, and they being just for dinner, I set and dined with 3 soldiers and a paper maker ...who when dinner was over, set with me while we smoked each a pipe and had each 2d in ale.... So I went and bought son Henry a new grammar, cost 1s.3d; so came to my mare, paid for dinner, 4d; ale, 2d; hay for my mare, a penny; so got her, and what I had bought, and came direct home."

24 Jan 1730 "Sent my love and son John to Preston with butter for Madam Sudal, and to buy some clothes for our John to wear this plow-time. In the evening my love and son John came home from Preston, having bought John a coat, 3s.6d; a hat, 1s.2d; a brat, 6d; in all, 5s.2d ---- a pair of gaiters, 4d; an almanack, 6d; ... for me."

From "Extracts from The Diary of The Rev. Peter Walkden" for 1725,1729 and 1730. with notes by William Dobson. publ. Preston. 1866.