



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 83 – Summer 2020



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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

On behalf of our Trustees and all members of the CLHF Committee, let me begin by expressing the hope that you are all safe and well, and managing your lives successfully in these trying and troublesome times.

Just before the pandemic struck, as we submitted our bid for a grant to finance our project 'Managing Archives', we felt after a lot of hard work that we could see light at the end of our tunnel. Unfortunately, as you know, it turned out to be a train coming in the opposite direction. Though something of a shock at the time, we are now philosophical about this. The N.H.L. Fund felt that they should cancel all current applications in order to conserve resources for dealing with the crisis then facing existing projects. None of this reflected badly on our submission and there are valuable results from it that, given the chance, we can return to.

Following government requirements, you have had to curtail your programmes and we were obliged to cancel the workshop on 'Writing & Publishing Local History' to be co-hosted with the Upper Eden group and scheduled for Kirkby Stephen on 9 May. Nor could we proceed to organise further Cluster Meetings. At short notice we constructed a quiz designed to divert and challenge you during the lockdown. The response to this was far larger than the final number of formal submissions and you will find details of the outcome below.

We want to stick with our plan to hold our AGM and Convention in Melmerby on Saturday 24 October, if it is safe to do so. An outline programme is published below. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Crosby, Editor of *The Local Historian*. While lockdown is being gradually relaxed, there remains the threat of a 'second spike' in the pandemic. We hope that this will not materialise before then or, indeed, afterwards. If we cancelled now and there was another spike beyond late October, our programme for the year would be in tatters. So we will continue to prepare, decide in the light of circumstances in late August, and send you full details then.

Best wishes,

Peter Roebuck, Chairman CLHF

CLHF Annual Convention and AGM 2020

Saturday 24th October 2020

Melmerby Village Hall

9.30 – 4.00

TRANSPORT HISTORY IN CUMBRIA

08.45 Doors open, set up displays, etc

09.30 Annual General Meeting

10.15 Coffee and view displays

10.40 ALAN CROSBY - *Just passing through, or are you stopping? Linking Cumbria with the rest of the country, 1600 – 1900.*

11.40 Bryan Gray, *Building the Settle-Carlisle Railway.*

12.15 PACKED LUNCH and view displays

13.30 Maks Loth-Hill, *Traipsing Around Roman Britain.*

14.30 Graham Brooks, *Transporting Industrial Materials.*

15.20 Summing up (Peter Roebuck)

15.30 TEA

16.00 Depart

CLHF Members News.

Kendal Oral History Group

Lockdown in the Early Twentieth Century

During the current pandemic medical experts have recommended isolation as a method of stopping the virus from spreading. However this was also a decision made by the authorities in the case of infectious diseases in the early twentieth century. Four diseases; Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid were common among children at this time. Children from Kendal and the surrounding villages were immediately taken to the 'Fever Hospital' off Parkside Road, Kendal. The Kendal Oral History Group archive includes a good number of memories of time spent in the hospital.



The isolation was very strictly observed as Jean Simpson, born in 1921, describes:

I started with Scarlet Fever on January 21st and I was shipped off to the isolation, this awful dump that was up by the canal, underneath the cemetery. Father kept a note of the number of days I was there but it was something like into July because I was nicely getting rid of Scarlet Fever and pronounced fit to be spoken to again when I got measles. So I had another three or four weeks stay.

My mother played merry hell with the M.O.H. wanting to know how I had got measles when she discovered a friend and I had been in the same bed in the isolation hospital. His reply was 'Well come to think of it they were never in the same beds twice when I went round'. Why he couldn't count heads and find out there weren't enough beds for the heads I do not know.

Isolation meant no visitors were allowed at all. Eleanor Barrow, born in 1905, caught Typhoid when she was ten years old. There was an epidemic and Joan believed she caught it from drinking from the horse trough in Beast Banks.

Me mother never come to visit me. Oh and I was worried 'cos where there is a wall by the canal banks the parents, or whoever come to see you, used to have to stand at that wall and you were right away up at the back of some railings – that was your visiting. They weren't allowed in. And I was awfully upset 'cos me mother never come. On the day I was due to come home she was stoking up at Ghyll Head laundry and she missed on t' postman coming so of course she didn't know till she came in about six o'clock at night that I was due out. Oh and I was worried I thought she doesn't want me!

Val Foster was born in 1938 and she got Whooping Cough and was taken to the Gas Works on Parkside Road. Everybody swore that breathing in the air around the giant Gasometers was an effective cure for Whooping Cough and cheaper because you didn't have to pay any medical fees. She then got Scarlet Fever and was immediately taken to the Fever Hospital but she was not a good patient and Matron had to summon her mother.

Matron said to my mother, 'Your very stupid child – she won't eat and won't drink' Mother said 'Can I ask what dishes she is having?' They were tin plates and tin mugs and even as a small child I hated them. Mother went home and got me a proper plate and cup and she was told she would not be able to take it back. It'll have to be thrown away. I did take a doll in but they told me I couldn't bring it back out and that was it!

Conditions for the nurses were not much better than the patients. Mary Sharrat was trained as a fever nurse in London and came to live in Kendal in 1941 coming direct to the fever hospital.

There were eight nurses at the most and they did night duty as well. The hours were very long – eight till eight with two hours off through the day and one half day off a week. We were very skimpily fed, most of our wages went on fish and chips from Hanratty's which we sneaked through the toilet window into the nurses home. We had to come out of our uniforms and change into ordinary clothes in the nurses' home so you never wore your uniform outside. Visiting was just two days a week - two

till four on a Thursday and on a Sunday but the visitors had to stand outside and talk through the windows. We couldn't have them inside because of the infectious diseases. All the laundry was done by a maid in the hospital because of the germs.

The Fever Hospital was closed in 1948 as the National Health Service Act came into effect.

Peter Holme

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## **The age of submerged forests at SW Cumbrian sites**

Submerged “forests” have been reported at several SW Cumbrian locations. The Duddon History group is working with a former Millomite, Professor John T. Andrews, to obtain the age of these trees and to understand their significance under the present-day conditions of melting ice sheets and sea-level change.

The current project builds on work started nearly 40 years ago when wood from the Ravenglass foreshore was dated at  $8634 \pm 200$  years Before Present (BP). The remains of a prehistoric forest have been rediscovered off Haverigg Point by Helen Beaumont who remembered seeing it some thirty years previously. There was a shelf 40m x 20m of dark clay on grey clay with trunks, branches stumps on a hard black surface



The relative sea-level reflects two major factors: whether the Earth's surface is rising or falling and whether ice sheets are growing or shrinking.

Twenty-thousand years ago the British Ice Sheet filled the Irish Sea and reached of at least 250m on the seaward slope of Black Combe. By 14,000 years ago the ice had retreated from the Cumbrian coast.

At the glacial maximum global sea level was about 130 m lower than present. As the ice sheets melted, water added back into the oceans caused sea level to rise. Our first visit recorded the site without any surveying equipment. We have revisited with a drone and tapes in 2018 and 2019.

On the last visit, there was nothing visible and it isn't clear whether the remains have been washed away for good or covered to be revealed in the future. Two samples were taken in 2018. We obtained our first radiocarbon date in April, 2019. This resulted in a "calibrated" age of  $8482 \pm 35$  yr. The samples were then sent to Dr. Hilke Schroeder and were identified as willow, and oak. Another sample, taken earlier from the Duddon Estuary has also just been dated with a result of  $8724 \pm 30$  years.

Our results (5 dates) indicate that ca 8500 years, ago trees were growing at what is now 11 m below the high tide level. Global sea level was ~17 m below present, and the Mesolithic coast would have been seaward of the present-day low tide limit.

John Andrews - Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder

- Miss Helen Beaumont - Captain Shaw's School at Bootle.
- Stephe Cove - committee member of the DVLHG
- Dr Hilke Schneider - Thuenen-Institute of Forest Genetics, Germany
- Funds for radiocarbon dating were provided by a grant from the University of Colorado's Retired Faculty Association.

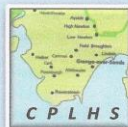
For a copy of the full report visit:

<https://www.duddonhistory.org.uk/haverigg-ancient-forest/>

Stephe Cove

# CARTMEL PENINSULA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

*"Bringing Local History to the Community"*



## The Lucks of Cumbria

Since Medieval times, several of the great Cumbrian households have treasured objects that allegedly brought them luck. Here are four examples involving the Curwens of Workington Hall, the Penningtons of Muncaster Castle, the Musgraves of the Eden Valley, and the Grahmes of Levens. Our story involves Mary Queen of Scots, King Henry VI, and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The **Luck of Edenhall** is a 14<sup>th</sup> century glass chalice, made of Syrian glass, and most probably brought back by a Crusader to replace the pewter communion vessels regularly stolen by border reivers. It has been in the Musgrave household for 600 years, firstly probably at Hartley Castle, then later at Edenhall, near Penrith.

A legend grew up suggesting the chalice had been mislaid by fairies who placed a curse on it saying, *"If this cup should break or fall, beware the luck of Edenhall."* The story has endured in folklore and Longfellow wrote a ballad about it.

Stories persisted about how visitors would play 'catch' with the chalice to see what might happen should the glass ever break. But the chalice remains intact to this day, and it is one of the most valuable exhibits in London's Victoria & Albert Museum.

Other homesteads in the vicinity tried to adopt a similar story. Burrell Green Farm near Great Salkeld had an Elizabethan brass plate engraved with a charm: *"If this dish be sold or gi'en (given), farewell the luck of Burrell Green."* Unfortunately, in





the 1890s, a diligent housekeeper over-polished the plate obliterating the words.

The **Luck of Workington** is a 16<sup>th</sup> century agate communion cup, currently housed in the Helena Thompson Museum in Workington. In 1568, Mary Queen of Scots had escaped from Scotland, crossing the Solway Firth, and landed on English soil. She sought refuge with the Curwen family at Workington Hall. It was here she appealed to Elizabeth I for sanctuary. But the next day, Elizabeth sent troops to have Mary arrested. Mary presented the cup to the Curwens out of thanks adding, *"Here's luck to Workington Hall"*.



Next is the **Luck of Muncaster**, a glass bowl held in the possession of the Penningtons since 1464. The story goes that King Henry VI, after defeat in the War of the Roses, escaped to Cumberland and was found wandering lost near the Muncaster estate by shepherds. The Penningtons took him in. Out of gratitude, Henry presented the bowl to the family, again bestowed with sentiments of good luck.



The **Constables of Levens Hall** are a set of claret glasses originally acquired by the Grahmes to be used each May on the occasion of the Radish Feast, to drink the toast *"Luck to Levens whilst t'Kent flows."*

Now then, did they bring any luck? Despite the Edenhall and Workington Lucks remaining intact, both properties have been destroyed: Edenhall burning down in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and Workington Hall destroyed during the Second World War. Conversely, the Luck of Salkeld has been lost, yet the property remains intact, as does Muncaster Castle.

Andrew Musgrave



## Hidden Courtyards, Lost Wells and Disused Privies

The 1871 census records Broughton as a town with 1,255 inhabitants and a bustling place with many retail outlets. But there were issues to be addressed. Infant mortality was very high and children aged 11 or under died each year in unbelievable numbers.

Without a mains water supply the townsfolk relied on an ancient system of wells for their water. A recently tested sample from one of the old wells shows it was of doubtful quality. Of even more concern were the communal privies.



The Council minutes from September 29<sup>th</sup> 1895 record the potential hazard of hundreds of people living close together without a sewerage system and relying on shared privies. There were growing demands on the Parochial Council to improve matters and the minutes from their meetings suggest a strong determination to meet those demands. They resolved to install a new sewerage system to replace the town's privies with flushing water closets and a mains water supply to replace the town's wells. Worthy aims, but as the minutes of their meetings show, there would be many challenges to come and damage claims against them continued for several years.

The Council began very efficiently in February 1895 by inviting tenders for the work on the new sewers. By late March, 1895 they were in a position to accept four tenders: earthenware pipes to be provided by Duckett and Sons of Burnley (£174.4.4), Iron pipes from Clay Cross of Chesterfield

(£129.19.2), Manhole covers from David Clarke, Carlisle (£44.5.0), and the main excavating and digging work to T.J. Dirkin (£739.14.0).

Work began in May 1895 on the main outfall sewer running parallel to the railway line along Station Road to Foxfield and then the branch sewers along Broughton's Streets.

The first successful claim against the Council came from Hannah Douglas, widowed licensee of The Old King's Head. She claimed compensation of £10 for loss of business due to the work in front of her premises and a further £10 compensation for loss of her cow which had been poisoned by a toxic discharge from the new works.

The excavations continued well into 1896 and gradually most houses in the town were connected but it soon became obvious the new sewers were not functioning as they should. Residents began to notice *"foul and offensive smells issuing from the manholes in Church Street"*.

The Broughton Water Co. provided mains water to Broughton homes in 1898 and townsfolk were invited to have water in their houses and water closets. The Parochial Committee's aims had been achieved and the old wells were covered, the privies converted to store sheds. But some of those privies survived. (See image)

Stan Aspinall

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Upper Eden History Society

Blue Plaques

The London Blue Plaque scheme was started in 1866 and has been run by English Heritage since 1986. There are now 933 plaques that mark where a notable person has lived or worked. Providing it is not in London, and given the right permissions and budget, there is no reason why blue plaques can't be put up anywhere and there is even a market for personalised plaques. You might consider marking a notable person, similar to London's scheme, or a building's history.

Kirkby Stephen learned of this innovative idea from the 'Snaith and Cowick Walkers are Welcome' group at a Northern Region Get-Together. The 'S and C Walkers are Welcome Group' worked together with 'The Vale of Snaith Action Group' to make a number of heritage walks in their area <http://www.walkingsnaithvale.co.uk/> and have added three plaques with another ten in various stages of planning.

It was thought Blue Plaques would be appropriate for some of the old buildings in Kirkby Stephen's Conservation Area, to highlight some buildings' history, not only to encourage residents to appreciate the past and respect the Conservation Area but also to create an additional visitor attraction to be enjoyed by walking around the town. Kirkby Stephen now has two plaques up and others are on the way, hoping for eventually ten or twelve for a blue plaque trail leaflet.

These particular plaques use a little modern technology with a QR code and webpage link that takes you to additional information. See Snaith Clog Mill <https://snaithbluesigns.btck.co.uk/SnaithClogMill> and Kirkby Stephen's Candle Factory Fire <http://www.upperedenhistory.org.uk/bp2.htm> These particular plaques were supplied by Systematic in Caistor <https://systematicprint.com/> costing £26 plus postage, other suppliers will be available. So how to do it:

Research.

We all have local people that are knowledgeable about the town's buildings, it might even be someone within your own committee. Or contact your local history society, they may also wish to suggest some suitable sites, as may residents. There are details on the listing information referenced below but be careful to determine that the information is correct, there can be mistakes. Libraries and Record Offices may provide valuable information. Look for early trade directories <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/map/collection/p16445coll4> For early OS maps see <https://maps.nls.uk/>

Permissions.

A lot of different permissions are required.^[1] Firstly, the current owner of

the building, if tenanted or rented this might be the tenant and the actual owner. It is not always easy to tract down an absentee landlord. Obviously, commercial premises may be more enthusiastic, seeing the potential for additional customers taking notice of their business.

If there is a Conservation Area, the Local Authority or Planning Authority and town or parish council need to provide permission for the scheme in general within the Conservation Area. There should be a Conservation Officer within your Local Authority Planning Department to contact. It is always good to at least liaise with the town or parish council, in any event, and enlist their support, there might even be some funding available. Other planning restrictions may apply in, for example, a National Park.



The building may be listed, see the Historic England website for confirmation and the listing number <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list> You or the owner will need to apply for Listed Building consent to your Planning Authority. This is free but you may incur costs in preparing the application. You will require an application form, location map, drawing of the building and plaque location, drawing or photograph of an example plaque, size and materials information, Design and Access Statement and a Heritage Statement. The Heritage Statement will also form the basis of information for the plaque webpage so at least this exercise is not wasted. The decision will take one to two months to come through subject to any objections. Try one application first for experience before considering other applications.

Finally.

You will need a website to host the information. With all your permissions in place, order the plaque, in batches will save on postage. Then you will need a kind volunteer to add the plaque to the previously agreed position. Screws and plugs and a drill suitable for the wall material will be required. Congratulations.

Anne Sandell

Kirkby Stephen Bench Walk

What is it?

- A mapped walk around Kirkby Stephen town and the surrounding area, with clearly marked route options, the key feature being the **benches** – there are over 80 in all.
- The bench walk offers accessible routes for all to explore our town, including visitors, families with young children in buggies, and wheelchair users.
- There are opportunities for people to enjoy the six 'Happy to Chat' benches which provide somewhere to stop for a chat if you are out walking alone.
- All benches along the routes are clearly numbered in red on the map, to give walkers confidence in their ability to walk a certain distance and knowledge of essential 'bench' resting places should they need them.
- Walkers choose their own routes, visiting their favourite or different benches, enjoying the views, the local flora and fauna and having a 'Chat' if they wish to.



The Bench Walk Project has three specific aims:

- To help less able people in the community, and visitors, enjoy the benefit of short accessible walks, increasing their physical activity
- To help tackle isolation and encourage people to engage more with their local community
- To combat loneliness by creating an opportunity for people to chat to others on a few 'Happy to Chat' benches along the walking routes.

The origins of the project

The first ideas for a bench walk were suggested in 2019, and the project has been led by Nateby and Wharton WI, and Kirkby Stephen Walkers Are Welcome. There were several preliminary exploratory walks in that year,

to produce a fully documented BENCH SURVEY. This was vital, not only to establish the number of benches, but to assess their condition and any historical background. Many of the benches have plaques attached, showing the maker, the donor, and/or in whose memory the bench was placed. A copy of the resulting document is now in Upper Eden History Society archives.

The project has been developed in partnership with, and funded by, other local organisations including Kirkby Stephen Community Arts, Westmorland Dales Partnership, Kirkby Stephen Town Council and Cumbria County Council (Eden). Cerberus Print and Graphic Design, based in Kirkby Stephen, have printed the maps.

2020 update

The plan was to have everything ready for July this year with a whole day of activities to launch the project. However, even though the coronavirus lockdown had eased substantially by this date, it was felt it was too early to be promoting extensive use of these seats, and in particular the 'Happy to Chat' benches, where 2 people would be sharing a bench. We hope that by the time you read this article the project will have been launched, even if only virtually.

Image shows one of the benches, near Stenkrith Millennium Bridge, which was presented by Kirkby Stephen Parish Council in September 1993 in memory of Arthur Llewellyn Salter, Council Chairman 1983-1990.

Anne Cradock

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## **Waberthwaite Local History Group**

### **A Maritime Incident at Ravenglass in 1601**

The letter below from the Cecil Papers, Vol 11, a privately held collection of documents gathered by Queen Elizabeth I's spymasters and statesmen William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520-1598), and his son Robert Cecil, First Earl of Salisbury (1563-1612) gives an intriguing glimpse of the reach of the Tudor Secret Service and draws Ravenglass to the periphery of international events.

Thomas Preston to Ralph Ashetonn and Richard Holland.

*I am informed by gentlemen of credit that about Tuesday was a sevensnight\* there was a pinnace anenst the creek of Ravenglass in Cumberland. Some fishermen being abroad with their coble boats, the pinnace coming near them called one of the fishermen into their pinnace, and made him drink very good beer, as he doth report. They were men very well apparelled, and to the number above the hatches 30; as he thought, there were as many under: asking him what he called the coast, which he told them, and then they did ask him of Mr. Pennington and some others in the country, and so let him go to his boat again: and they made towards the Isle of Man, or Ireland, as it seemed to him. And that there was also a great vessel seen about, some two miles from the said pinnace, "vavering" up and downe, which I doubt be some man of war to do some harm to such as shall pass from Chester into Ireland, or, otherwise, to come and sound the coasts of the North, for the which I would gladly hear what you think best to be done, and, as you think convenient, to make Mr. Sheriff and the rest of the Commissioners acauainted with the same. -Lancaster. this 17th of October 1601.*

\* 'was a sevensnight' = one week ago, i.e. on 10 October 1601

The year 1601 occurred during troubled times for England. The Anglo Spanish War, an intermittent, undeclared war, was yet to be ended by the Treaty of London in 1604, and The Nine Years War, a war of Irish chieftains against English rule, had been in progress for eight years. It was not ended until the end of the successful English siege of Kinsale, 2 October – 24 December 1601 (Julian Calendar).

In September 1601, a Spanish fleet arrived in Kinsale in Ireland to support the Irish chieftains and spite the English. As a result, an English army besieged Kinsale, and a squadron of ten English warships was sent to cut Kinsale off from the sea. When an Irish relief army approached Kinsale, it was defeated by the English, who were then able to completely surround the town. Recognising their position as hopeless, the Spaniards surrendered and were allowed to go home under honourable terms. It is possible that the fisherman who was 'forced to drink very good beer' on 10 October 1601 had met officers from an English ship sent from the siege of Kinsale to scour the Irish Sea for Spanish vessels, or/and carry out a security check of the English coast opposite Ireland.





*Could this be the creek referred to at Ravenglass?*

From their knowledge of the local gentry, at least one of them may have been a Cumbrian, and the ship “Vavering” up and downe’ may have been an English Man o’ War. Alternatively, the officers could have been well-informed Spaniards from Kinsale!

Alan Clegg

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The Richard III Society

Promoting research into the life and times of Richard III since 1924

An Introduction to a new CLHF Member:

The mission statement of the Richard III Society is: *In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote, in every possible way, research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a reassessment of the material relating to this period, and of the role of this monarch in English history.*



Richard, as Duke of Gloucester, was Warden of the English West March. This was an area along the Scottish border, roughly covering the northern part of today’s county of Cumbria. This is the ‘patch’ of the Penrith & North Lakes Group of the Society, though we also welcome members

from further south and even from the Scottish West March. The group was founded in 1984 and, although never very large, is still going strong.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month (with a winter break) and generally take place in Penrith. We have presentations (often based on the research of one of our members) which generate a lively discussion. In the summer we organise visits to local places of interest.

Our members are particularly interested in Richard's links with Cumbria, and his activities along the northern frontier, including the 1482 invasion of Scotland. Next year marks 550 years since Richard was granted the lordship of Penrith, and was able to take up his duties as West March Warden. We are working with English Heritage to celebrate this anniversary, though plans are on hold at present due to the lockdown.

Sue Scott-Buccleuch

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## **Cockermouth Heritage Group**



### **The Sunday School Collapse of 1832 at Back Lane, Cockermouth**

John Richardson was born at Castle Sowerby parish, near Sedbergham, Cumberland, around 1780. It is unknown how he came to move to Cockermouth, nor when he married his wife Ann. John became well known in Cockermouth for his brewery business, but his name would later become associated with a more tragic occurrence.

In 1814 an advert was placed in the Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser, stating that John Richardson and Co. wished to inform Innkeepers that they were commencing business as common brewers at the established 'Old Cockermouth Brewery', where they hoped to brew good quality beer for sale to such licensees. The owner of the premises was a John Russell, who died in 1827, and a notice was

placed in the local papers whereby the premises were to be sold by private contract. It had been running as a business of John Richardson & Co. for the last 14 years.

It comprised a dwelling house and garden, a brew-house, milk-house, cellars and office, with dwelling houses above the same. There were also two good malt kilns of dimensions 60 feet by 19, and 45 feet by 16, granaries, rooms for storing malt, stables, cow-house, hayloft, and every convenience for a brewing and malting business. The premises were in good repair and it was for possession in September that year. Whether John came to purchase the premises himself is unclear, but he continued in the business until 1839 when it was dissolved under the current name and recommenced under John Richardson & Son Co. This business continued until John's retirement in 1850, and his son, of the same name as his father, carried on the brewery business.

John senior was a benevolent man and in 1831 he was involved in the collection of funds for the construction of a Sunday School in Back Lane (now South Street), Cockermouth; he was the School Superintendent. At that time it had around 400 scholars since its first establishment almost 20 years previously, and was for their religious education. Sir William Lawson, of Brayton Hall, and William Wybergh and Miss Wybergh of Isel Hall are known to have been benefactors.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1832 the spacious premises were opened in the morning for the reception of the scholars and, after tuition, everyone left to attend divine service. This was its first day of opening. They returned in the afternoon, numbering around 400, and went to the upper floor. After the duties of the day and the singing of a hymn by the children, they crowded towards the door to leave. Suddenly, one of the beams supporting the floor collapsed and the children were precipitated to the floor below, along with a brick partition. The screams were terrible to hear, and two boys were tragically killed on the spot. There were a number also seriously injured, one lost his sight and over twenty had broken limbs.

The inquest was held the next day, and the room dimensions of 14 yards long and 9 yards wide were then given. It was also stated that the building was meant for 400 to 500 scholars, although these numbers would normally have been split between the two floors. On this occasion, however, they were all on the upper floor. The floor was not adequately supported, and the builders and Superintendent. (Mr. Richardson) came in for great criticism. The verdict was that the two boys, Joseph Banks, believed to be 7 years old, and James Smith, believed to be 10 years old, had died as a result of an accident, but with the previous critical comments added.

It was clarified in the Carlisle Patriot a week later that every assurance had been given by the contractors that the floor was safe, and Mr. Richardson himself had attended with his family, who themselves also fell down with the floor collapse. Whilst repairs were



under way, the Court Room (see image) doubled up as the Sunday School. This was itself repaired and completed by April, supported now by six substantial iron pillars, as opposed to the original design specification of three. John himself died at The Retreat, Cockermouth on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1856.

Raymond Greenhow

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Cartmel Fell LHS

Victorian Grange over Sands and Polystichum Setiferum

I live in one of a pair of old cottages in Grange, both having belonged to the Greenwood family of Cartmel Fell, Witherslack, Walney Island and Grange. I had traced the Greenwoods of Cartmel Fell back to the eighteenth century and found that they moved about the farms that they

owned there and in Witherslack. Most of their properties were bequeathed to daughters or nieces as females predominated and I eventually found a Mary Greenwood (who had owned my house) in the 1861 census.

Mary's mother, Susannah Greenwood of Cartmel Fell had married another Greenwood, William from Walney in 1822. Mary, a spinster, was still living with her parents on Walney Island in 1861, aged 36, but listed as a landed Proprietor even then. By the next census of 1871 she was living in Rose Cottage, Grange, with her cousin Elizabeth Kinnish as a companion. This was part of her inherited property, together with its attached dwelling, Fern Cottage. She also owned farms on Cartmel Fell, Grange and Walney Island. At North Scale on Walney, there is a house called Turner Hill, named for Mary's father Robert Greenwood's farm in Witherslack. Mary Greenwood never married and died in Grange on June 6th 1904, leaving her many properties to her niece, Alice Carr, a story in itself.

Alice was the wife of Benjamin Carr, then the curate of Newlands and her daughter Lucie was the little girl who encountered Mrs Tiggywinkle in Beatrix Potter's tale of the same. Lucie's mother Alice used to come and stay with her aunt Mary at Rose Cottage, as I found in the censuses, and eventually her daughter Lucie inherited all her great aunt's properties. Lucie died in 2001 aged 102 leaving her considerable fortune mostly to animal charities.

Fern cottage is older than its conjoined neighbour and has two rather antiquated ferns on either side of its gate. I know very little about ferns and can recognise only a handful, but had not seen anything similar to the two gatekeepers next door. These had grown to become a toppling pillar and were harbouring bindweed and aquilegias among their spongy trunks.



They are quite feathery in appearance and sprout from sections which have broken off the main trunk. By chance, I had a conversation with an

old friend who had a rare fern identified and now named for the farm where it originated. She put me in touch with the expert who identified the fern, but he already knew about the ones next door to me and kindly sent me its name, *Polystichum setiferum* “divisilobum”. (see image)

In Victorian times there was a craze for fern collecting, christened by Charles Kingsley as “Pteridomania”. This craze extended to indoor collections and those in the garden. Albums contained pressed ferns, glass cases like mini greenhouses were constructed for the indoor specimens but enthusiasts ranged the British Isles for ferns to grow in their gardens, bringing some species close to extermination. This was a seemingly blameless hobby which attracted ladies and one they could combine with outdoor exercise.

The fashion extended to all manner of interior design, fabrics, cast iron furniture, wallpaper, pottery and tiles. Artists such as Helen Allingham painted pictures of ladies gathering ferns. The impress of ferns even appeared on biscuits as decoration and a vestige can be seen on today’s custard creams.

Apparently Grange was renowned for its extensive collections and I think this is probably was when Fern Cottage was named. In the 1871 census, Rose Cottage is named as such, but Fern cottage registers just a double dash as the next-door house with no name.

After the railway came to Grange in 1857, it very quickly became a genteel destination both for industrialist’s holiday homes and also for the discerning visitor to the new hotels. Developers built substantial villas and the little fishing village by the shore became a thriving Victorian town, which grew like a mushroom spreading right up the steep hill.

Maybe, some of the new occupants in the nineteenth century planted as yet unidentified ferns, or maybe the even newer occupants have just turfed them into their green bins as weeds.

Jennifer Forsyth

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## Can you help please?

### ***Can you help Barry McKay trace a Musgrave manuscript?***

Some years ago the antiquarian bookseller John Mattley of Penrith sold a Musgrave manuscript of circa 1712-13 which discussed charges for cattle crossing a ford at Langwathby. Does anyone know of its present whereabouts? Please contact me on [mailto:barrymckay@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:barrymckay@gmail.com)

### ***Can you help Sandra Pendlington of the Richard III Society with her research into the Huddleston family of Millom Castle?***

I have been using my time in lockdown to research A.J. Pollard's story about Lady Joan (Jane) Huddleston, the wife of Sir John Huddleston of Millom Castle. Her maiden name was Stapylton (Stapleton) and my husband is descended from that family. When she married Sir John she was a widow having first married Sir Christopher Harcourt.

Joan died at Hailes Abbey in Gloucestershire in 1519 where she had retired after Sir John's death. Her will has the usual features – burial arrangements and bequests to religious houses but it also has comments about her husband and son that are unusual.

Her son, Sir John Huddleston, is given a gift of silver, partially gilt was told to be 'content' with it. The will also states that '*all my lands within Yorkshire except Baynton go to the right heirs of the Harcourts after my decease*'. She then says Sir John Huddleston '*did no wrong in his life like as he testified, and also thereof had remorse at his departing*'. She states that her son Sir John Huddleston, appropriated some of her lands in Yorkshire. Pollard says that she signed a feoffment concerning her manors of Cotherstone and Hunderthwaite in North Yorkshire. She could not read it because it was written in Latin and was not told what she was signing. Therefore the Harcourt lands were taken without her consent. She insisted that she wanted it returned to her Harcourt heirs and demanded that her executors deal with the matter.

Joan took her husband and perhaps her son 'to court' 1477 and 1478 and her complaint investigated by William Burgh, which was presumably where her husband made the testimony mentioned in her will. I have not discovered the result of that investigation but the lands were never

recovered. Bulmer's 1890 Directory (Note 1) says that Cotherstone came into the possession of the FitzAlans of Ravensworth soon after the Conquest and then passed through marriage to the Huddlestons of Millom. It says that Hunderthwaite also belonged to the FitzAlans, lords of Bedale. It then adds the additional information that it *'then passed through marriage to the Stapletons and that after four descents, it was conveyed, by the marriage of an heiress to Sir John Huddleston, and it remained in the possession of this family 400 years'*. The story is essentially true and the heiress is Joan Harcourt, nee Stapleton, Sir John Huddleston's second wife. However one thing about this story is probably not true – the Huddleston's did not inherit Cotherstone and Hunderwaite by marriage. They obtained them illegally. Pollard says that It was a 'deliberate fraud' and that Sir John tricked Joan into signing them away.

My research continues. There are problems identifying precisely which Sir John was her husband and the genealogical websites are muddled. If any member has information about the family, I would be grateful to hear from them at [katpickersgill@gmail.com](mailto:katpickersgill@gmail.com)

### ***Can you help Alan Cleaver find Cumbrian postman's paths and huts?***

I've researched over the last few years various ancient lonnings, trods, corpse roads and other paths but I'm now trying to record paths from our more recent paths: Postman's paths.

I had not even noticed postman's paths were "a thing" until chatting with author Tony Vaux of Caldbeck and District Local History Society. He mentioned the unusual stile over the drystone wall near his farm, saying this was part of a postman's path connecting the farms encircling the village. The postman saved time by cutting across the fields between farms rather than walk back up to the main road. These paths eventually became official footpaths with new steps added into drystone walls to aid the postman on his way. There is also one other piece of postal history in connection with Postman's Paths that I think we should seek to preserve: The Postman's Hut.

These were usually corrugated iron huts with a pot-bellied stove where the postman could rest after making his early morning deliveries. Once



rested, he would return by the same route in the afternoon to collect post from the same villagers.

I don't know of any surviving in Cumbria but have found a photograph of the one that existed at Loweswater (it was later moved to Lorton and used as a shed).

If you can help with postman's paths or huts, please email [alanjcleaver@gmail.com](mailto:alanjcleaver@gmail.com) - or you can write a 'real' letter and wander down your Postman's Path to put it in a postbox! My address is 57 Church Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7EX.

**Can You Help Sheila Fletcher of Lazonby identify the purpose of water troughs and other stonework found near at Ruckcroft nr Ainstable.** (See cover image) Similar troughs, some with covers are at Newbiggin and Blindcrake and not necessarily near a well. Please email [sheila@merciful.plus.com](mailto:sheila@merciful.plus.com)

**Can you help Maggie Dickinson find plague stones in Cumbria.** See her article in this Bulletin. Contact her on [maggiebeedickinson@gmail.com](mailto:maggiebeedickinson@gmail.com)

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Lockdown Activities

From Cartmel Peninsula LHS:- Pat Rowland of CPLHS is opening this 20 question quiz on the Cartmel Peninsula to CLHF Members. Many of you will have travelled to the south of our county, though probably not recently, so let's see how much you picked up about its history. Please send your answers to Pat by the end of August. No prizes but winners will be announced in the next Bulletin. Pat's e-mail is patrowlanduk@gmail.com

Cartmel Peninsula History Quiz 2020. *A historical quiz about the area loved by Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society.*

Many of the questions were extracted from or based on Dr Richard Charles Lowther's book of lists. Dr Lowther (1884-1950) was a much respected doctor who lived in Grange-over-Sands all of his life.

1. Give the name of the railway line and the date when the first train travelled through the Cartmel Peninsula.
2. What building formerly stood on the Square at Flookburgh?
3. Who connects Cartmel Priory and Magna Carta?
4. Who wrote the Annals of Cartmel and when was it published?
5. When did building work start on the model Aero Village and what is it known as today?
6. Who built Hampsfell Hospice?
7. Who made the suggestion that Grange should be renamed Grange-over-Sands?
8. Near to which village is a hill that was known as Atterpile Castle?
9. Which village has a Royal Charter and Regalia?
10. What type of miner used to visit Humphrey Head mineral spring?
11. What is the obelisk in Lindale made from and whom does it commemorate?
12. The building of a cotton mill in about 1785 changed which village from a rural idyll to a pre industrial mill town?
13. When was the 25th Guide over Kent Sands appointed and what was his name?
14. Name the Hotel that was burned down in Grange but was subsequently rebuilt
15. Which Hotel in Grange-over-Sands advertised an aeroplane service in 1920?

16. What, according to legend, lived on Humphrey Head?
17. In what year was Allithwaite Church consecrated and who was its benefactor?
18. When was the Augustinian Priory established?
19. Where on the Peninsula is the Temple of Vespa?
20. Who made the final decision for appointing The Guides over Kent and Leven Sands until 2012?

From Alston Moor History Society:- Up here on Alston Moor our society is moth-balled – no talks and the archives aren’t open. Holding a virtual meeting was suggested to me only yesterday, but as I’m the most regular speaker I feel that I need a ‘live’ audience to react with and that a talk on a screen would be rather lifeless. What I’m doing to keep the interest in local history going, and perhaps even to expand and encourage it, is to pose local history questions (with an illustration – and that’s important to attract initial attention) on three of our local facebook pages. I ask a question, then give the answer two days later and pose another question. The venture is meeting with a good response, and, surprisingly, mostly from people who are not Society members. We’re up to question No.23 now. I hope when this is over that this virtual interest can be converted into a real interest. Alistair Robertson.

From Friends of Keswick Museum:- It’s ironic that soon after reopening in February, after a major internal reorganization of displays and layout, the Museum had to close because of the pandemic. Immensely frustrating for staff, friends and visitors alike, but of course we are not alone. We hope to reopen later in the summer, when Keswick comes to life again.

So what changes will you find when you visit? The old Victorian gallery space has been rearranged and updated to tell the story of Keswick and its environment; geology, industries, landscape, natural history, early tourism etc. The famous musical stones are still in their usual position, but the equally famous 700 year old cat is not so easy to find; it has

moved from its ancient chest and gone to ground, so to speak (to avoid the virus?), so visitors will need to search a little.

The old Art Gallery space is now arranged in four sections, currently reflecting the special strengths of the Museum's collection: the painting collection, the Keswick School of Industrial Art, the poet Robert Southey and friends, and Canon H.D. Rawnsley, one of the founders of the National Trust. The Mountain Heritage Trust continues to run rolling displays at the museum as well.

When the Museum reopens our popular cafe downstairs is a great place to relax. In good weather you can sit outside on the patio to enjoy the splendid views across the cricket field to the fells beyond, with an excellent children's playground close by. We also have a meeting room (seating up to 40) available for hire when the Museum is open again.

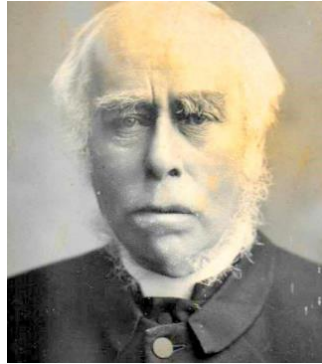
As you know, small local museums are finding it increasingly difficult to survive so please make sure you visit us soon, bring your friends and tell everyone about us. For news about reopening check the updates available on our social media @keswickmuseum or our website www.keswickmuseum.org.uk.

Patricia Howell

From Ambleside Oral History Group:- Although members have been unable to record any interviews for the past three months, the 'Stay at Home' rule provided a unique opportunity to do some essential maintenance on the transcript archive. This time-consuming work involves listening to the recordings of 481 interviewees over the past 45 years and checking the accuracy of each written transcript against the sound. The aim is to put things right, adding anything omitted, or correcting words misheard or misspelt by transcribers as they grappled to understand such a wide range of broad local accents and dialect. Not surprisingly, the work is revealing simple mistakes and examples of faulty transcribing which might prevent researchers on the website from tracing specific names or topics. Hearing again and re-reading the archive in such detail is bringing its own special rewards, as individual memories and experiences blend together to create a vibrant and colourful portrait of all aspects of life throughout the past century. With many recordings still

to check, there is little chance of us running out of work before Coronavirus becomes history itself.

We were also pleased to contribute to BBC Radio 4's recent documentary series "Pandemic" about the Spanish Flu outbreak a century ago, using first-hand accounts we recorded some years ago. The programme producers in Manchester were unaware that such a sound archive existed in Cumbria and the broadcast itself sparked further interest in our work, including BBC TV in Newcastle.



To access the transcript archive online, go to www.aohg.org.uk and click on 'search the archive'. The website also holds the transcripts of other archives deposited by Windermere Oral History Society; Freshwater Biological Clearwaters Project; Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society; and Talking Tales – History of Theatre in Keswick, 1952-2014.

Jane Renouf

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## Legh Richmond Ayre, 1827-1905

One of the advantages of being a member of the Duddon Valley Local History Group is the sharing of information. One of our members recently bought an old photo for its frame rather than the photo it contained but realised it may be of interest to our group. She passed the photo on to me hoping I could find out more about the stern looking man depicted and so begins an interesting history trail.

He wasn't so difficult to identify because inscribed in the bottom right hand corner of the photo there was a just legible name, L.R. Ayre. With the help of census records and other documents (plus guidance from Colin Robertshaw and Debs Candy) we can follow Legh's life story for the first time in more than one hundred years.

Legh Richmond Ayre was born in Islington and christened there on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1827. There is no doubt he was a gifted youngster and progressed

through school to Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1845, gaining a B.A. in 1848 and an M.A. in 1850. Shortly after his graduation he was ordained as a priest in Hereford, moving on to the position of deacon of Worcester in 1853. At some point he met his future wife Priscilla, five years younger than him, and they were married in Bridgenorth, July 1858. No children but they would stay together for the rest of their lives. The electoral register of Sedbergh suggests Legh has a living in in Rusland in the late 1850s but by 1861 he is listed as a clergyman in Ulverston. An interesting entry in Mannex's directory for 1882 says;

"The stipend, worth £180 net, is derived from fees and pew-rents, and the living is the same patronage as St. Mary's. The benefice is styled a vicarage, and is now held by the Rev. L.R.Ayre, M.A. Cantab." Legh died in 1905 and is buried at Holy Trinity, Ulverston. Probate records show he left £2,000 to his wife (equivalent to £245k today). Priscilla moved to 15, Gordon Terrace, Ulverston and the 1911 census captures her living there with a cook and housemaid. She died in January, 1917.

Stan Aspinall

*A great story. Although I do wonder what painting now occupies the Rev. Ayre's picture frame! Editor*

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Plague Stones in Cumbria

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought into sharp focus the far more serious tsunamis of actual plagues that affected our ancestors. The absence of early records hampers researchers, although there is mention of a plague in AD 695. The most devastating of all was the Black Death of 1347, which is thought to have started in Asia. It swept across Africa and Europe along trade routes, and is said to have killed 200 million souls over four years. This deadly bubonic pandemic was transmitted by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* through fleas, hosted by rats, and it returned intermittently over the next twenty years. Further plagues led ultimately to the Great Plague of London during 1665-1666. It became the last serious scourge in the UK, wiping out 100,000 – a quarter of the capital's population – other than the less dangerous Asian 'flu which I contracted in 1957.

There are strong comparisons between the handling of plagues and the methods we have used to deal with Coronavirus. This followed global incursions of fire, flood, famine, war and pestilence that many would describe as biblical, since it harks back to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in the Book of Revelation. Other suggestions include sabotage, laboratory leaks, and the Malthusian theory of population.

Nourishment for the victims was taken to plague stones. Probably the handiest to utilise were boulders used as boundary markers that were already in situ outside villages. Holes were drilled on the tops and filled with vinegar in which the afflicted dropped their pennies in exchange for the food. In addition, medieval bases, whose crosses had been destroyed after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, were commandeered for the purpose, already having a suitable recess on top for the vinegar.

Cumberland and Westmorland, especially their market towns on the droving routes of the Eden Valley, were badly affected by plagues. Edenhall, devastated by the 1597-1598 pandemic, has a plague stone on the lane leading to St Cuthbert's church. This now accommodates a 19th century cross.

In Penrith, which boasts decent records, a third or more of its population succumbed to this plague, which lasted 15 months. Unsurprisingly a famine had swept through the area prior to the outbreak. There is still a 'Plague Lonnin' and plague stones are to be found at Bridge Street and Bluebell Street Car Park. St Andrew's church burial register for that year shows a huge increase in death. Mass graves were necessary and residents were buried on the fells too. A plaque in the church has ambitious figures but probably includes the dead from the rural deaneries as well as Penrith, Carlisle, Richmond and Kendal. So far I have logged a dozen definite or potential stones, including one that's built into the end of Devil's Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale, on the Casterton side. Dacre escaped the plague but Greystoke residents were stricken. Spiller's Stone



on a footpath near the church, is believed to have served the community. If you can help please contact maggiebeedickinson@gmail.com

Maggie Dickinson

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## CLHF Lockdown Quiz

There were sixteen submissions, most of them from individuals and some from couples. The spread of representation from our groups was very wide. To judge from messages received, participants found it challenging, informative and enjoyable. The winners were:

1. Jackie & Dave Wedd, Ravenstonedale Parish History Group, with 78 points.
2. Kevin Grice, CWAAS Kendal & Individual Member, with 74 points.
3. Margaret Martindale, Cumbria Industrial History Society, with 73 points.

Thanks to all participants, to those who submitted questions, and to Adrian Allan, who joined me in the adjudication.

Peter Roebuck, Chairman CLHF

*Just in case readers of the Bulletin did not have access to the Quiz questions earlier I thought it worth repeating them here, this time with answers, but you will find the answers on a later page so as not to make it too easy for you! Editor*

Quiz Questions.

1. Around 400 years ago, according to legend, Herdwick sheep were brought into Cumbria: from which country?
2. Brougham Castle is partly built on which Roman fort?
3. Identify the following places in Cumbria, named as follows in archives:
  - a. Abbey Lander coast, Aldeneby, Aylnfoote
  - b. Bello Monte, Brackmeer, Burgo iuxta Sablones
  - c. Byrkscauwe, Chirchebrid, Christkeld
  - d. Henriby, Kirkeby, Le Chastel de Hehed
  - e. Petrelwra, Trepenna, Ullesby



4. Identify a. the city to which the following text relates and b. any of those mentioned. 'At the ninth hour they were looking at the city wall and the well formerly built in a wonderful manner by the Romans, as Waga, the reeve of the city explained'.
5. What do the following places in Cumbria have in common: Aspatria, Askerton, Caldbeck, Irthington and Crosthwaite, near Keswick?
6. Why is there no entry for the whole of Cumberland and a large part of Westmorland in *Domesday Book*?
7. Where can you find at least one church in Cumbria currently dedicated to St. Thomas Becket?
8. Who was the founder of Cartmel Priory?
9. Temple Sowerby takes its name from which order of knighthood?
10. Which English king created the Diocese of Carlisle?
11. To which religious order did Shap Abbey belong?
12. Which Scottish monarch died in Carlisle Castle?
13. Identify the Cumbrian bishop who crowned Elizabeth I.
14. Which Cumbrian town saw the greatest loss of life in the Plague of 1598?
15. Name the wandering poet (1588-1673) born in Kendal.
16. Which Oxbridge College was most frequented by Cumbrians during the early modern period?
17. Which Westmorland family included in the space of six generations a Warden of a March, an ally of Mary Tudor, an aristocrat who supported the Puritans, and a 'wayward genius' who disrobed at his own wedding?
18. Name the founder of the Appleby alms houses.
19. Name a. Sir Daniel Fleming's father, and b. where the family lived?
20. When a. was the first turnpike road in Cumbria built and b. which places did it connect?
21. After whom is Maryport named?
22. In which year in Cumbria (and the rest of Britain and Ireland) was 2 September followed by 14 September?
23. What natural phenomenon was described by Nicolson & Burn in their *History of Cumberland & Westmorland* in 1777 as 'a rolling

cloud sometimes 3-4 days together, hovers over the mountain tops, the sky being clear in other parts....a violent roaring hurricane comes tumbling down the mountains, ready to tear up all before it, then, on a sudden comes a profound calm’?

24. In which year did Appleby Fair begin?
25. Identify the location in Cumbria of one of the supply depots established by the government during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.
26. The Hoad Monument commemorates which Ulverston born citizen?
27. Which Cumbrian hamlet was the early home of the Countess Mary Oassalinsky?
28. A new factory building was opened in Carlisle in 1838, the year of Queen Victoria’s Coronation, and is still called the Coronation Building: name a. its owner and b. its location.
29. Which Cumbrian character lies buried in Caldbeck churchyard?
30. Which was the first public railway line in Cumberland?
31. In a. which year did the railway reach Windermere, and b. which poet opposed it?
32. Who was the architect of the railway stations built at Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston (built 1864 and 1873 respectively)?
33. Who or what is Moses Trod?
34. Where would you find Cumbria’s Whitehall?
35. To which lake in Cumbria was Tennyson referring in these lines:  
‘He stepping down by zigzag paths and juts of pointed rock, /  
Came on the shining levels of the lake’?
36. Identify the Cumbrian artist who was particularly associated with the Pre-Raphaelites.
37. Which Emperor visited Cumbria in 1895 and 1902?
38. Which radical member of the nobility with both Cumbrian and Yorkshire connections was Bertrand Russell’s aunt?
39. Which British politician and minister lived at Netherby Hall?
40. Who a. was dubbed the ‘Father of Lakeland Geology’ and b. where did he live and die?
41. In which Cumbrian village will you find the Mayburgh Henge?

42. Can you a. name the Cumbrian-born father and son who uniquely shared a Nobel prize, b. for what, and c. in which year?
43. Lance Sergeant Tom Mayson VC came from which Cumbrian village?
44. Can you identify those with Cumbrian connections who have served as a. Lord Chancellor, and b. as Speaker of the House of Commons?
45. In the 'Spanish flu' epidemic after the Great War was the mortality rate in Carlisle greater or less than the rate nationally?
46. Rev. A.A. Symonds was one of the founders of which Cumbrian environmental group?
47. The author and poet Dorothy Una Phillips was a former owner of which Cumbrian house?
48. Who lived at 14, St. George's Terrace, Millom?
49. Which British politician was born in Warcop?
50. Can you identify varieties of apple that originated in or have particular associations with Cumbria? (1 mark per variety)
51. Identify the farm animals described in dialect terms as: a. stot, why, & tip; and b. gimmer, hogg & twinter.
52. Identify the trees described in dialect terms as: aik, birk, eller, hollin and burtree.
53. Identify the wildlife described in dialect terms as: brock, mowdiwarp & paddock.
54. To the nearest 1000, what was the population of Cumbria in 2016?

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Cumbria Archive Service

Coronavirus in Cumbria: documenting the pandemic in our county

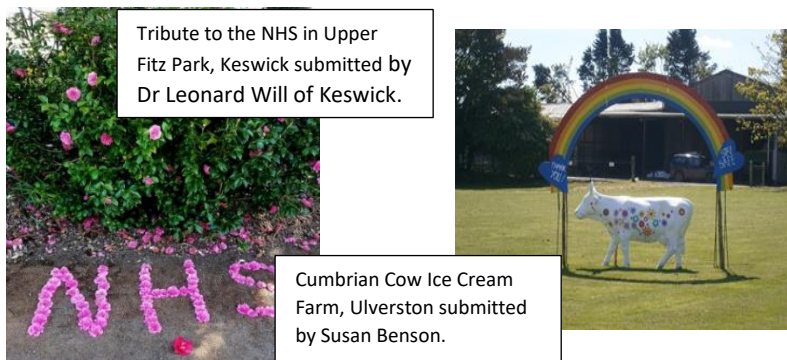
The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted on all aspects of life and is likely to have far reaching consequences for individuals, communities and the economy. Cumbria Archive Service is seeking your help to assist us

in recording the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Cumbria for future generations.

You can help us create a community archive of Cumbrian pandemic related records, which will be catalogued, preserved and made available for research by doing the following:

- Write about your experience of the pandemic: this may be about single memory or event; in the form a diary over several days or weeks, or a creative piece (story or poem)
- Take a photograph which shows how the pandemic has affected you or your community in Cumbria*
- Produce an audio or video recording about your experiences
- Collect leaflets/flyers/posters or similar digital content from local government, schools, local businesses, local voluntary or community organisations which provide information about closures, changes in operation, social distancing and efforts to help vulnerable people

*Please note that when taking photographs that you have the consent of any person in the image or that they cannot be identified.



We ask that material for deposit with Cumbria Archive Service should be written, printed, or digital. All material should wholly or mostly relate to Cumbria for us to accept it.

You can deposit your material with us as follows:

Email digital files and content to barrow.archives@cumbria.gov.uk (our Barrow office will collect all this material for all the county during the lockdown period).

Post written and printed material to one of our Archive Centres, or hand these over to us when our Archive Centres have re-opened.

For more information see

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/default.asp>

Susan Benson, Archivist CAS

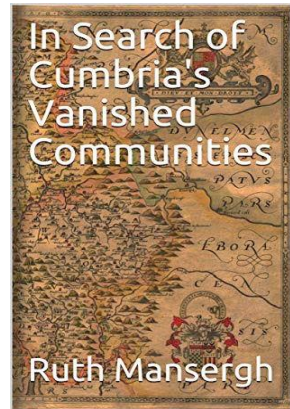
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## Local History Publications

### In Search of Cumbria's Vanished Communities

A few lost communities in Cumbria are well-known to historians, such as the village of Wythburn (Thirlmere), the valley of Mardale (Haweswater), Snittlegarth, and “Danish city” Barnscar near Ravenglass.

Examples of those little known are: The Roman fort and vicus, or civilian settlement, of Camboglanna, north of Carlisle, were drastically levelled in 1791. Caravernick and Cumcathithe are lost settlements, and Millom is often suggested as the exact location of Hougoun from the Domesday Book. The settlement of Fordebodele, the market town of Skinburness and houses at Salthouse were destroyed by the sea, a great part of Aldingham “got washed away”, and shifting sands and severe storms saw many houses in the hamlet of Beckfoot, three miles south of Silloth, destroyed.



The village of Sellergarth was illegally destroyed in 1516 by the abbot of Furness, and the village of Wharton was demolished when Wharton Park was enclosed. At its peak, Garrigill, Alston Moor was home to 1,600 people; it is now home to less than 200 people. Oldside, Workington is a lost community.

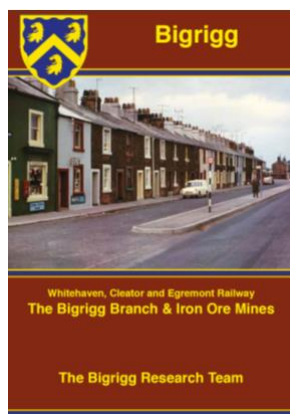
This is a book, with railway nostalgia, that map lovers will be delighted to own. It is self-published and available on Amazon as a paperback (£10) and an e-book (£4). (A Kindle isn't necessary in order to download an e-copy).

Ruth Mansergh.

## Cumbria Railways Association Bigrigg

This new book tells the history of the **Bigrigg Branch and Iron Ore Mines**, which was part of the Whitehaven, Cleator & Egremont Railway (WCER) in West Cumbria (*see map attached*), and provides a further addition to the range of authoritative railway history books already published by the Association.

Extensively researched and written by the Bigrigg Research Team – a group of knowledgeable CRA members – this forty six page extensively illustrated book tells the fascinating story of this piece of West Cumbrian railway over the period from origins and construction in the late 1860's until the last rails were taken up in the 1950's. The book also tells the story of the forty or so iron ore mines that existed – all within an area of little more than one square mile. With little physical evidence now left on the ground, this volume has numerous current and original photographs and maps to bring to life for the reader, this little-known branch line and the pits it served.



CRA Chairman, Philip Tuer, says: “The publication of this new book shows the continued active commitment of the Association and its members to researching and promoting, for all, greater understanding of the railway and its history in and around Cumbria.”

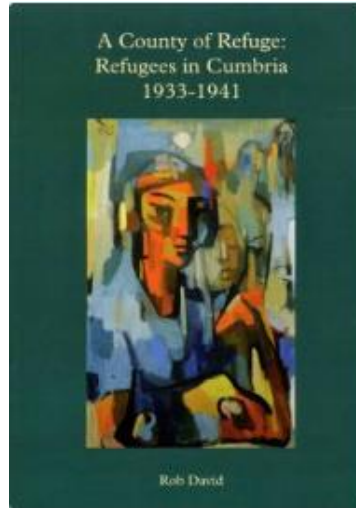
The book is priced **£7.50** and can be purchased from: CRA Book Sales  
50 Tattershall, Toothill, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8BX  
e-mail: [sales@cumbrianrailways.org.uk](mailto:sales@cumbrianrailways.org.uk)

## A County of Refuge:

### Refugees in Cumbria 1933-1941 - Rob David

*Published by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and  
Archaeological Society*

According to the United Nations there are now more refugees worldwide than there have ever been, and Cumbria has welcomed some, particularly from Syria. During the 1930s events in Europe led to another significant movement of refugees and at that time Cumbria played a significant role in hosting groups from Spain, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. The role of individuals and voluntary organisations in helping people escape their homelands and in inspiring our communities to welcome these people meant that on the whole Cumbria proved to be a welcoming environment. There is a wealth of documentary evidence in both the county archives and in national archives as well as oral testimony on which to draw.



This new book examines the political context of the 1930s that created the refugee crisis, and introduces the reader to a number of refugees and the stories of their arrival in Cumbria. The earliest of the refugee groups to arrive were the 100 or so refugee children from the Basque region of Spain who fled Franco and arrived in the county in 1937. Central to their story was the Roberts family from the Brampton area, but communities throughout the county contributed to these children's wellbeing through supporting their musical and dancing performances given to raise funds for their maintenance. Shortly afterwards a number of determined women lead Cumbria's response to the arrival of central European refugees. Foremost amongst these is Catherine Marshall who moved

from suffragist activity to internationalism and refugee issues during the 1930s. She became involved with refugees fleeing from the German occupation of the Sudetenland, and opened her house near Keswick as a hostel. Others, with less familiar names, also played a part. Mary Crewdson from Kendal was central to the welfare of Czech refugees in the Windermere and Patterdale areas; Clara Boyle, a Jewess from the German-Polish border rescued family and friends from Germany, some of whom came to Ambleside. Much was also achieved by voluntary organisations such as the refugee committees established in many towns and religious groups such as the Quakers who provided educational opportunities for young refugees in Wigton and elsewhere. Consequently many Cumbrians became involved with meeting the needs of refugees.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 Austrian and German refugees were considered to be 'enemy aliens'. This group, of which there were large numbers in the county, were required to attend a tribunal to establish their loyalty to Britain. Tribunals were held at Penrith, Kendal, Ulverston, Barrow and Whitehaven. That held at Whitehaven is especially well documented as Catherine Marshall was the Liaison Officer representing the interests of the refugees at the hearings. Her records of the event form part of her archive at Carlisle Archive Centre, and when placed alongside further archives in London, information on the 37 Jewish refugees living on the west coast of Cumbria is especially rich. The documents identify the one refugee who was considered a possible threat to this country, and established that the remainder were 'Refugees from Nazi Oppression'. The surviving records have allowed a detailed examination of the refugee experience in west Cumbria.

Across the county refugees established businesses, made significant contributions to the arts, and contributed to community life during the Second World War and afterwards. The history of the refugees in Cumbria in the 1930s and 1940s is very much a good news story to be celebrated, and this examination of how they were welcomed into, and contributed towards, our communities provides pointers for those working with refugees today.



'This is a finely written book which is an important contribution, not just to our knowledge of the past, but also to our understanding of the present. It reminds us of the important, indeed vital, contribution made by voluntary groups and determined individuals to the welfare of refugees'. *Dr Elizabeth Roberts, Emeritus, Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University*

The book costs £17 (£15 for members of CWAAS). Please send a cheque payable to CWAAS along with your name and address to Ian Caruana, 10 Peter St, Carlisle, CA3 8QP (01228 544120; [elizabethhallnutt@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabethhallnutt@btinternet.com)). Payment by BACS available on request.

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CLHF Lockdown Quiz Answers

1. According to the legend, Herdwicks came from Spain which is, therefore, the correct answer. However, the modern understanding is that they originated in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden or Finland).
2. Brocavum
- 3a. Lanercost, Alston, Ellenfoot (Maryport)
 - b. Beaumont, Thirlmere, Burgh by Sands
 - c. Brisco, Kirkbride, Skirsgill
 - d. Harraby, St. Bees, Highhead Castle
 - e. Wreay, Torpenhow, Ousby
4. a. Carlisle b. St. Cuthbert & the Queen of Northumbria AD 685
5. Churches dedicated to St. Kentigern
6. Because they lay on the Scottish side of the border. It was not until 1092 that William II, son of the Conqueror, marched north to Carlisle with a large army and brought the north-west of England within the Norman sphere of influence for a number of years.
7. Farlam
8. William (the) Marshal

9. The Knights Templar, or Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, or Order of Solomon's Temple
10. Henry I
11. Premonstratensians
12. David I, King of the Scots, in 1153
13. Owen Oglethorpe, Bishop of Carlisle 1557-59
14. According to the plaque in St. Andrew's Church, Penrith, the answer is Kendal with 2,500 deaths, followed by Penrith with 2,250 and Carlisle with 1,196.
15. Richard Braithwaite
16. Queen's College, Oxford
17. Wharton family (1540-1729)
18. Lady Anne Clifford
19. a. William b. Coniston/Rydal
20. a 1739 b The Whitehaven Harbour Act joined St. Bees & Whitehaven
21. Mary (d.1790), wife of Humphrey Senhouse of Netherhall (d. 1770) who founded Maryport. The Act to improve the harbour of Ellenfoot, and so lay the foundations of the new town, dates from 1749.
22. 1752
23. A Helm Wind
24. 1775
25. Whitehaven
26. Sir John Barrow, founder member of the Royal Geographical Society and Permanent Secretary of the Admiralty.
27. Armboth
28. a. Metal Box b. James Street

29. John Peel OR Mary, the Maid of Buttermere
30. Newcastle/Carlisle, 1838
31. a. 1847 b. William Wordsworth
32. Edward Paley of Paley & Austin
33. A high-level path that skirts the base of the north face of Great Gable. (Named after a quarryman, Moses Rigg).
34. At Mealsgate near Wigton. The Whitehall estate was bought in 1858 by George Moore (1806-76), the great philanthropist, who made a fortune from the lace industry. It was in memory of his first wife that Moore erected the gilt-decorated memorial fountain in Wigton market place in 1872-73.
35. Bassenthwaite
36. George Howard, 9th Earl of Carlisle (1843-1911)
37. Wilhelm II
38. Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle (1845-1921), wife of George, 9th Earl of Carlisle
39. Sir James Robert George Graham
40. a. Jonathan Otley b. Keswick
41. Eamont Bridge
42. a. Sir William & Sir Lawrence Bragg b. Nobel prize for Physics (for X-ray Crystallography) c. 1915.
43. Silecroft
44. a. William Fitz Gilbert 1141-42, became William de Lancaster, Silvester de Everdon, 1244-46, Sir Robert Parning 1341-43, Richard Neville 5th Earl of Salisbury, 1454-55, George Neville, Archbishop of York 1460-67, Henry Peter Brougham, 1st Lord Brougham & Vaux 1830-34, Farrer Herschell, 1st Lord Herschell, 1886, 1892-95 b. Sir James Pickering, 1378 – 1383, William Gully, later 1st Viscount Selby, 1895-1905, James Lowther, later Viscount Ullswater 1905-21

- 45. Less, In Carlisle the rate was 13%, and in England & Wales above 30%.
- 46. Friends of the Lake District
- 47. Acorn Bank
- 48. Norman Nicholson
- 49. Edward Short, later Lord Glenamara
- 50. 22 varieties - Autumn Harvest; Bradley's Beauty; Carlisle Codlin; Cockermouth Codlin; Cumberland Favourite/Greenup's Pippin/Green Rolland/Red Hawthornden/Yorkshire Beauty; Cumberland Lemon Pippin; Duke of Devonshire; Egremont Russet; Fallbarrow Favourite; Forty Shilling; Harvest Lemon; Irish Reinette; Keswick Codlin; Lancashire Pippin; Lemon Square; Longstart; Lorton Vale; Margil; Nelson's Favourite; Rank Thorn; Taylor's Favourite; Wheaten Loaves.
- 51. a. bullock, heifer, ram b. young female sheep, sheep in its first winter, sheep in its second winter
- 52. oak, birch, alder, holly, elder
- 53. badger, mole, toad
- 54. 498,000

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