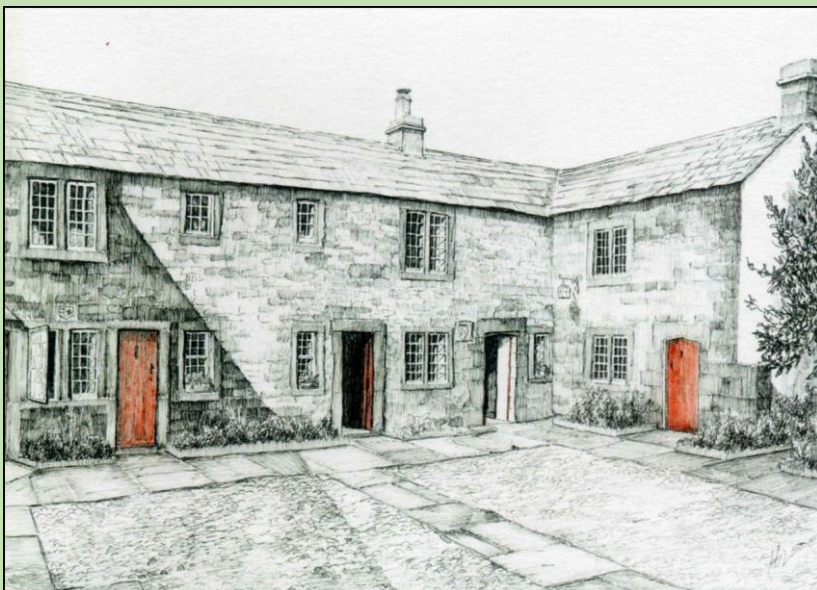




# Cumbria Local History Federation

*Bulletin 85 –Spring 2021*



Courtyard of St Anne's Hospital, Appleby An original picture by courtesy of Mark Hilsden, Castle Fine Art. See page 3.

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## Chairman's Chat.

Well, hopefully, by the time you read this we will have started the road to the end of the Covid restrictions and we will be looking forward to some form of normality returning.

I would like to thank you all that have made a donation this year instead of the normal subscriptions. For some unknown reason the membership year and the Federation's financial year have been out of sync. We now intend to bring them in line from July 2022.

We, like the majority of societies, had to cancel our convention and AGM in October 2020. We did however carry our booking forward to this year and we will hopefully be able to hold the conference this year. The date for your diary is 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Melmerby village hall on the subject of transport. Further details will be in the August Bulletin. We would like to make the convention available online for those who are for any reason unable to attend. If anyone has experience of broadcasting such an event we would like to hear from them.

Before Covid we were about to start on what was probably our most ambitious project to deliver a series of meetings to look at societies archives. This was to be funded by a HLF grant. At the outbreak of Covid the HLF put all their grant applications on hold and have since then cancelled them. New guidance has been issued, but we feel that our project will no longer qualify for a grant. We feel that this project is too important to let it fail and we are looking at new funding streams and different providers. If you have any thoughts on the subject please let us know.

Do you have experience of using a Wordpress website? We are looking for a volunteer to help run our website and also to increase our presence on social media. If you are interested please contact Liz Kerry [lizkerry@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerry@gmail.com). Finally the Federation now has a Zoom account which is available for any member society to use.

Hope the relaxation of Covid restrictions goes to plan and we are all free to start living a more normal life.

Graham Brooks, Acting Chairman.

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

### Local History Talk gathers National Interest – Val Fermer

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG) continued its series of short talks based on the history of the pubs in the Village. ZOOM continued to be the medium to bring the audience to the meeting, including attendees from Cumbria and across the UK, welcoming participants from Wiltshire, Somerset, Surrey, London and very welcome guests from Kirkby Stephen Upper Eden History Society and the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership.

January's talk divided into two sections. Firstly a chronological history spanning from late 1700s to the present day of The Fat Lamb Inn, situated just outside Ravenstonedale village on the main road linking Kirkby Stephen and Sedbergh. The earliest records that identify what is today called the Fat Lamb Inn, is a rental return dated 1779, referring to



Cross Bank. Further evidence was taken from a research document published by Keith Lovet Watson (*The Hewetson Families of Ravenstonedale*, 1991) and electoral returns which identified the owner and tenant in 1832.

Unlike the Kings Head and Black Swan, the other two pubs in Ravenstonedale, The Fat Lamb had not always been a pub, as records confirm it was a farm (at least three times – 1856, 1911 and 1948), a café and grill and a petrol station. From being a farm in 1856, the property reverted to an Inn in 1862. The families who ran the Inn were traced from the late 1800s to the 1960's (Moore, Dickinson and Lisle). Participants in the ZOOM meeting recalled the Lisle family, as the proprietors of the petrol station.

Hewetson as a family owned the property from 1856 to 1958. An anecdote, collected as an oral history by RPHG, reported the events in the winter of 1963, when 23 people were trapped in the pub by impassable snow drifts for 3 days, including the postman! The current owner, Paul Bonsall, bought the property in 1978. At the time it was the

Cross Bank Café. Paul has since achieved his vision of creating a Hotel, Restaurant and Pub which is very popular with visitors to the area and notably classic car owners clubs.

The second section of the talk, presented what is known about the lost pubs of Ravenstonedale parish. Drawn from oral histories, recollection and where possible substantiated by documented archive, the location and brief history of the Pig and Whistle (Newbiggin-on-Lune, also known as The Commercial), Rigg End (name of pub unknown – but proven by discovering a document from 1747), the Scotch Ale House at Smardale Bridge, The Pack Horse, Ravenstonedale and an ale house, name unknown at Cold Keld.

Rigg End and Smardale Bridge would have been essential resting places (and refreshment opportunities) for pack horse hauliers, as both pubs were on the old road that crossed the fell, before the turnpike road was built and the old pack horse route fell into limited use. Today the route forms part of the Coast to Coast long distance footpath.

The Pack Horse is largely recorded in anecdotal references, including the often cited Revd Nicholls publication from 1877 and its likely location was confirmed by piecing together circumstantial evidence taken from a sale prospectus source (a unique item in the RPHG local archive collection), a trade directory (1858) and various legal documents available on the Ravenstonedale Community web-site.

The ale house at Cold Keld was proven by an artefact discovered and restored by the owners of the property. The artefact is an ancient sign for an Ale and Porter House, with the inscription 'BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES', on closer inspection, the sign is damaged and would have said 'Ale and Porter, TO be drunk on the premises'!

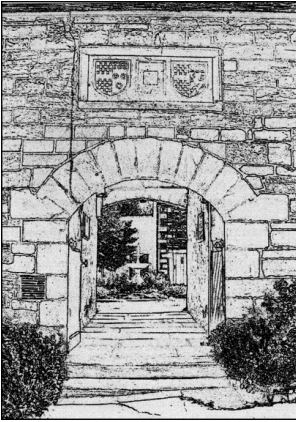
Zoom talks will continue to be presented by RPHG,, details from [www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk](http://www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk) Or call Val Fermer on 07798 688057

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## St Anne's Hospital Past and Present –Valerie Kendall

St Anne's Hospital (aka Lady Anne's Almshouses) is a group of small cottages and a chapel set round a cobbled courtyard accessed by a covered way at the top of Boroughgate in Appleby-in-Westmorland.

First occupied in 1653, their existence and history are inextricably linked with that of Lady Anne Clifford, Dowager Duchess of Dorset and of Pembroke and Montgomery, who had them built.



Born in 1590, Lady Anne was the daughter of George, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cumberland. After her two young brothers died she was next in line to inherit her father's estate, which included five castles, but he entailed them instead to his brother and his brother's heirs. After her father died, Lady Anne fought this decision, arguing with both James I and Charles I, who both repudiated her claim. Eventually, on the death of her cousin without heirs she inherited everything, but did not come north to claim her inheritance until 1649 after the end of the

Civil War. She set out to restore churches and help the poor, particularly widows of which she was one, both her husbands the Earls of Dorset and Pembroke & Montgomery having died. She bought an acre of land in Appleby to build almshouses for *'thirteen women of the neighbourhood too old and infirm to work anymore.'*



The sisters lived rent-free, being given a small allowance of £6 a year, with £8 for the Mother, who was the equivalent of a live-in warden and paid on quarter days, plus a strip of land each to the rear of the cottages on which to grow their own produce. Life was lived according to a set of strict rules.

Over the years the layout of St Anne's has remained essentially the same, though the function of some of its buildings has changed. Initially built as single chambers, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the cottages were heightened to provide upstairs bedrooms, with further improvements in

the 1950s and 1960s. What was, I understand, a communal room is now the recycling area and the previous two-seat privy is now the laundry. The age profile has changed too; when I came here nine years ago, being now the longest but not the oldest resident, there were three near-90

year-olds and no-one went out to work. Now there is no-one even approaching 90 and until recently five residents either had jobs or fairly full-time volunteer work. Individual strips in the rear garden are no more and an annual fund-raising garden fete is held on the large rear lawn, which now boasts a summer-house for which the residents raised the money. Each resident has their own flower-bed outside their cottage and enthusiastic gardeners among them also look after the communal areas, which in recent years have won awards.

The Chapel, together with the rest of the site, is currently closed to both worshippers and visitors. In happier times I enjoy telling people about St Anne's past and present. It is hoped that we can soon reopen again to show the outside world one of Appleby's hidden treasures.

**Note:** This is a summary of a longer fully illustrated version on this subject. If you are interested in answers to questions such as

- Why did Lady Anne's father disinherit her?
- What did residents say in the 1950s when offered electricity for their cottages?
- Why until recently did local people not want to live at St Anne's?

Contact [vkendall@live.co.uk](mailto:vkendall@live.co.uk) or 017683 53159 to be sent a copy.

*Answers to the three questions will be in the next Bulletin but can you wait that long? If not please contact Valerie as above. Editor.*

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## Cockermouth Heritage Group



### Unwanted Legal Documents - Gloria Edwards

Like the Cumbria Family History Society, the Cockermouth Heritage Group last year acquired a large number of unwanted legal documents relating to people and property in the Cockermouth area (and some further afield) going back over one hundred years. We have been sorting through those documents, setting some aside for deposition with local Record Offices, and labelling others according to name or property. The idea is to create a searchable database which can be accessed for queries

from local/family historians. People would also be able to purchase documents they were interested in for a small charge.

At present we probably have in excess of 300 sets of documents, including Conveyances, Wills, Indentures, Property Sales and various miscellaneous items, excluding those documents that will be deposited with Record Offices. The latter include many interesting items, not least a document with seals dating from the '10<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Charles I' (which by my estimation makes it 1635). This document is very difficult to read but names of several of the signatories are clear: Joseph Hechstetter, another Hechstetter, John Williamson, W Brownrigg and a Parsivoll Tyler(?). An attached Schedule mentions Newlandes, Snabb and Rogerside. It seems likely that Joseph is the son of Emanuel Hechstetter, and grandson of Daniel Hechstetter senior). Daniel was a mining engineer who came over from Augsburg in the reign of Elizabeth I and was involved, along with many other German miners, in mining activities in the Borrowdale area. Elizabeth's Charter of the Mines Royal in 1564 embodied the right to prospect and survey for minerals. We are hoping that someone will be able to transcribe the document and cast more light on its significance.

Other interesting documents include a Deed of Partnership between members of the Mitchell family of auctioneers in Cockermouth. A photograph shows four members of that family: from left to right, Robinson Mitchell senior (founder of Mitchell's Auction Company), his nephew Robinson, John Gladstone Mitchell, and John Ritson Mitchell.



Also papers of the Ballantyne Dykes family regarding lease of coal and fireclay mines at Birkby (1914), a Bothel School Charity (1858), papers relating to the Harris family of Cockermouth, an Abstract of Title of the Thornthwaite Mines Ltd., a large plan for the proposed Keswick Golf Club at Threlkeld, papers relating to the Dalzell family of Clifton Hall, Workington.

## Creating a Website- Bruce Bennison

Dipping a toe into internet waters .....Why did I do it?

Well, whether we like it or not many people have been forced to recognise the fact that much of life has been digitised. through the impact of COVID. Whether it is Zoom calls with family, watching online talks or just shopping, these changes are here to stay and we need to take advantage of that opportunity. People are now used to going online for information and services.

Let me say from the outset that I make no claim to be an expert at this - I will describe my experience of a process creating a personal website. Some of you may well be far more experienced at this or have different needs to mine. Having said that I hope reading of my experience doing this will provide a degree of comfort - it is entirely possible, is not particularly difficult and does not cost a lot of money.

From the outset you need to know what you are trying to achieve – what do you want to say, who is your audience and how much effort do you want to put in? Keeping a site fresh with regular updates is important, but be realistic about what the frequency can be. For myself I wanted to experiment with a web ‘presence’ – primarily to provide interesting and readable ‘posts’ on local history.

I chose to use [www.wordpress.com](https://www.wordpress.com) as the basis of my website. They offer a variety of ways of getting online, both free and through chargeable Plans. WordPress is basically a ‘blog’ provider, designed for those who want to add posts on a regular basis. I chose a free Theme from their range for a design and tweaked it to my needs.

I also wanted to have a recognisable ‘domain name’ and this is the first challenge – finding a name that is both available and describes what your site is about. You don’t need a domain name and you could use their free service but it results in a cumbersome web name i.e.

*example.wordpress.com* and you have to put up with advertising and banners on your site.

You will quickly find out that many names are already taken, but I was lucky and I registered the name [www.ancienteden.com](https://www.ancienteden.com) through Wordpress for a small sum (around £1 for the first year and c£15 a year thereafter). I also subscribed to their Personal Plan (£36 per year) which



allows me to use the domain name, removes all advertising, has email support for their 'happiness'(!) engineers and allows audio file uploads, (ultimately I want to be able to upload audio 'podcasts' to the site - another steep learning curve!). They also have their excellent Support pages online, I'd advise against using other sites for support information, it will only confuse you.

You need to be aware of your privacy online – I wouldn't recommend putting a phone number or email address up front, use the Contact form facility for people to contact you.

Finally, don't expect there to be a sudden flood of visitors to your site! This takes time and requires promotion amongst friends and contacts as well as using social media.

This is very much work in progress and I make no excuses for what currently exists, if you want to see what I've been up to please visit [www.ancienteden.com](http://www.ancienteden.com) .

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## ***"The Daily Challenge"* - How the Cumbrian Railways Association has helped occupy members and keep spirits up during the pandemic**

"What shall I do?" A question we must all have asked ourselves during the past year. For many CRA members, as with many people in the UK, the lockdown curtailed hobbies and interests and the isolation frequently created empty hours. To help keep CRA members going (or amused!) during the lockdown period the *"Daily Challenge"* was borne. A small and dedicated group pulled together a selection of photographs and captions from the extensive CRA collection, which were then posted daily, one by one, onto the CRA Chatline and Facebook page. As you can see below, each photograph was given a humorous or cryptic title for members to comment on and suggest the what, where, how and when. Answers were

given out the following day. The response was fantastic from day one and whilst some photos were identified easily, others proved to be a real challenge. Some of the exchanges of information went on for some time with lengthy message trails building up!



Daily Challenge No. 61: “Three bright sparks and one skulking.

Not only did the *Daily Challenge* keep members amused, it soon became apparent that the CRA membership has an even greater wealth of untapped knowledge and information than previously thought. This not only kept everyone interested, but also provided more information on the photographs and their circumstances to enhance the data held in our archives. Such is the value of this information that all the responses have been collated and made available on our website in a series of documents that can be accessed by all.

There have now been well over 130 *Daily Challenges* and whilst the frequency of has been reduced to two “*Challenges*” a week, the interest remains extremely high – especially given the lockdown at the start of this new year. Not only has this project benefitted existing members, but it has also spread awareness of the CRA and its activities to an even broader audience.

# Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group



## Report for CLHF Bulletin February 2021 – June Hill

With little prospect of our returning to a programme of live events before the summer, we are attempting to run the 2020 schedule, which ground to a halt last March. The workshop for March, was to have been a day-long event on the subject “What Inventories can reveal about houses”. This took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March and covered the nature of inventories, their whereabouts and content over the period c1550 to c1750 as well as a short introduction to the secretary hand that was generally used in the documents.

The last year has seen two publications from CVBG, the latest being on **Barns of Cumbria**. *Please see an offer for the purchase of the first three occasional papers later in this Bulletin.*

All our **newsletters**, from our foundation in 2013 up to the end of 2018, are now available on the website, [www.cvbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbg.co.uk) As for the programme, we shall respond to legislation as it unfolds in the coming months.

We are preparing to publish a book, '**Along the Lines**', intended as a field guide to the traditional buildings of Cumbria. It relates standing structures to the geology of Cumbria, along two lines, north/south and west/east. Members have been taking photographs and describing buildings on sections of the lines and have contributed to particular topics with background information.

Also, an exhibition based on a workshop held in the village of **Maulds Meaburn**, is in preparation. **Twenty old houses** will be described, ranging from fifteenth century Hall, or manor house to the Forge and including several seventeenth and eighteenth century farmhouses. It is hoped to show the exhibition in the village as and when the community can once again meet in the village institute, after which it will be made available to local history groups to borrow.

# The Richard III Society

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

## The Richard III Tower at Carlisle Castle

Sue

Scott-Buccleuch

I have recently become a volunteer with English Heritage, based at Carlisle Castle. This means I have been allowed to go inside the Richard III Tower, which has been closed to the public for many years due to its deteriorating condition. I am very grateful to the castle manager, John Bonner, for allowing me this access and making sure I emerged safely!

The Richard III or Tile Tower has been constructed within the surviving stretch of the city walls, adjoining the castle. The entrance is from inside the city wall but the tower itself projects beyond the wall towards the west.

The front of the tower looks asymmetrical with 2 adjacent doorways and 3 windows. The reason for this is that one door gives access to the upper floor and the other to the lower floor. The upper floor is reached by a short but steep stone stair, leading to a surprisingly large room with a barrel vaulted ceiling. On the north wall is a fireplace and a shallow alcove. On the south wall is a recess with a narrow window which gives a line of sight along the outside of the city wall towards the western or Irish Gate. There is also a short passage which may have functioned as a garderobe.

The west wall is blank but contains three shallow alcoves; two resemble



blocked windows but the central one reaches to the floor. The brickwork at the back of this central alcove is comparatively recent, and an engraving depicting the castle in 1745 shows a window at this point. The east wall has the three windows which look out

towards the castle gateway. The central and largest one is in the main room, but is flanked on either side by small antechambers entered through archways. These antechambers have smaller windows and raised floors. One has another of the shallow alcoves.

All of this floor is constructed of the narrow bricks known as tiles, which give the tower its alternative name. The place is in a very bad state, with vegetation growing around the window and mould on the floor. There were actually stalactites and stalagmites forming! In one corner is a jumble of worked stone, some with carving, but it is not clear where this originated.

The second door gives onto a flight of steps leading down to another chamber, constructed of stone. Each wall has a deep embrasure with a narrow window, but the one facing south towards the Irish Gate has been enlarged, possibly to take a cannon. Conversely the west-facing window has been partially bricked up.

The roof of the tower forms a gun platform. This is only accessible from the top of the city wall and there is no way up to it from the lower part of the tower. It seems to be generally agreed that the tower was built, or at least substantially modified, by Richard of Gloucester during his tenure as Warden of the West March. There is a carving of his boar badge on the south wall, immediately above the window. This could still be made out within living memory, but has now almost completely eroded.

It is less clear why Richard built the tower. The lower part seems to be mainly for defensive purposes, with the arrow slits allowing enfilade fire in both directions along the western wall. The stonework is similar to that of the adjoining city wall, and my guess is that the original tower was contemporary with the wall. A Carlisle map of 1560 shows several towers around the walls, and one survives to the north of Richard's Tower, though that is built into the castle curtain wall. At some stage the tower became ruinous, and Richard repaired it using brick, not stone. The defences were adapted to accommodate more modern weapons. The upper story was given its own entrance and has distinctive features. The idea persists in Carlisle that Richard used the tower as a hunting lodge.

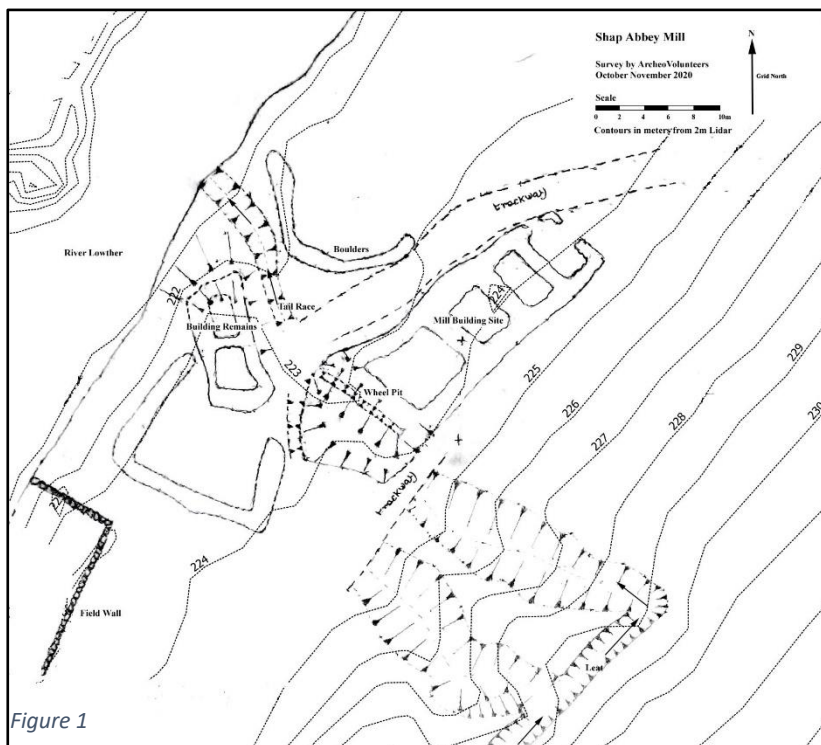
The tower is badly in need of attention before it deteriorates further. The Chairman of the Richard III Society has written to English Heritage asking them to take action.

*This article previously appeared in the Ricardian Bulletin.*

## The Mills at Shap Abbey - Kevin Grice and Jeremy Rowan-Robinson

In 2019 and 2020, members of the Archaeology Volunteer Network of the Lake District National Park undertook an archaeological and historical survey of the precincts of Shap Abbey. The project continues but this note sets out the findings made to date in respect of the abbey mill.

The Schedule of Ancient Monuments describes an ‘Abbey Mill’ on the east bank of the river Lowther, about 350 metres south of the abbey itself. The ruins include the footings of buildings, a wheel pit, a head race, a tail race and a bypass. The head race is fed by a leat which took water from the River Lowther and survives as a well *defined earth work* contouring along the hillside for about 800 metres from near to the hamlet of Keld. Fig 1 shows a survey plan of the ‘Abbey Mill’ prepared by the Network in 2020



Comparison with old maps suggests that this mill may only have been a two-bay structure and that after it ceased operations in the 1830's, a later structure was built immediately to the north-east, probably using stone from the derelict building. It is not known when an abbey mill was first built; the foundation charter of 1199 AD makes no mention of a mill, unlike that for its predecessor at Preston Patrick. A mill was however in existence by the time of dissolution in 1540.

A 1536 valuation of Shap Abbey and the subsequent dissolution accounts both mention a mill. Indeed, both refer to mills in the plural. No locations are given save that they were 'below the site of the former monastery' or 'within the site'. Hawkins' assertion that one was the site described above on the east bank of the river Lowther ('the east mill') therefore seems likely, as there are very few places along this stretch of the river where water could have been taken off to power a mill.

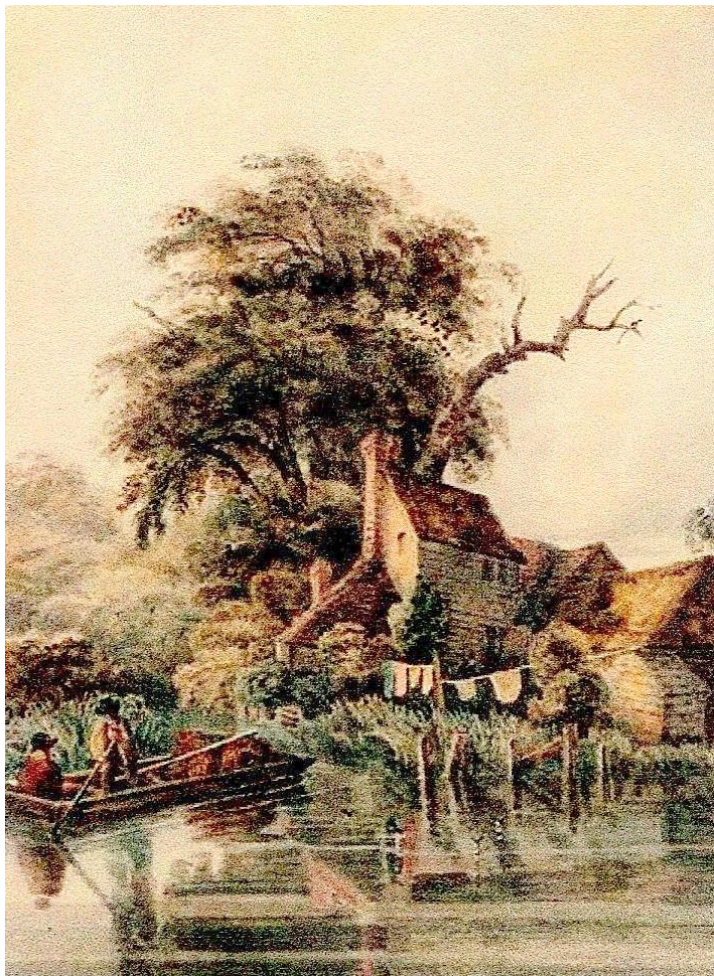
So where was the other mill? The more distant mills in which the abbey had an interest (such as that at Reagill) can seemingly be discounted in the light of the descriptions quoted. A search in Carlisle Archives, however, revealed a survey and plan prepared by Thomas Bland in 1837. A mill and part of a mill race are depicted a short distance to the south of the abbey on the west side of, and close to, the river ('the west mill'). The levels here are indeed such that a lengthy mill race could have been constructed from a point more or less opposite the east mill. A mill on this site would have been conveniently situated for the monks next door; indeed, if such existed, it seems likely that this would have been the first 'Abbey Mill' to be constructed. Bland's plan, however, appears to show the layout of the abbey before it became a ruin and therefore requires a degree of circumspection in interpretation. Some support for this location is, nonetheless, to be found in a 1768/9 survey of Shap Abbey thought to have been prepared by John Flintoff for the then owner Sir James Lowther. This also shows a building on the site. Could any trace of this now be found? A site inspection in 2020 revealed the remains of footings in what is now a livestock enclosure overlapping with the site on which Flintoff and Bland had shown the structure in question..

When were these mills operational? The last reference to two mills we could find was in a document of 1625. Thereafter, all references are to a single 'Abbey Mill' and these continue right up until the 1830's. Flintoff's plan of 1768 shows a mill race to the east mill but none to the building on



the site of the west mill, which may indicate that the latter had already closed down. It is possible that it had been converted or extended to some other use, such as a dwelling.

A painting attributed to Peter de Wint (1784-1849) lends some limited weight to this suggestion. It purports to show 'The Old Mill Shap Abbey,



Westmorland' and was probably painted in about 1805 when the artist is known to have been in the area. The structure and the surrounding landscape do not correspond with the east mill; nonetheless, the painting is likely to be of some accuracy if De Wint's contemporaneous painting of



Dunham Massey Mill in Cheshire is any indication; it is a reasonably accurate depiction of that mill which still stands today. The painting of the Mill at Shap Abbey appears to show a domestic function and use of the adjective 'Old' in the title may suggest a former, but no longer working, mill.

In summary, therefore, we can be satisfied that there were for a while two mills at Shap Abbey and it seems probable that the second mill was located on the site shown on Bland's plan of 1837. There is some limited evidence to suggest that the west mill closed down first, sometime after 1625, and that it may have been converted to a domestic use before becoming ruinous. If that is correct, it would have been the east mill which continued in operation into the 1830's. This accords with a record of a visit to the site of the Abbey by the Reverend G.F. Weston and W.H. St John Hope in 1886 and 1888. They state that the east mill was "within the memory of many now living still in use". The extensive remains of the water management system for the east mill also suggest that it continued to operate into the late post-medieval period. This surviving mill then became known as 'the Abbey Mill' over time.

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## Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

### Recent projects and initiatives of the L&DF LHS

Thanks in large part to the help given by CLHF in publicising available speakers we have been able to arrange a full programme of talks for this year. Our topics include early settlement sites in the Loweswater and Buttermere valleys, The Border Reivers, a social history of extra-marital sexual relations in West Cumbria, a study of Cumbria's part in the Pilgrimage of Grace and a history of the Cumbrian dialect in the Victorian period. The context might be different but the programme itself has not suffered in the least, we feel.

## Reaching out to members and a wider audience.

We are also able to call on our quarterly newsletter, *The Wanderer* brilliantly edited by Dr Derek Denman, to maintain the interest of members in local history and to provide a focus for debate and discussion.

As we were pleased to note in the last Bulletin, the lockdown seems to have stimulated research and writing by our members. The current edition has articles on the changing role of the Hassness estate in Buttermere, the discovery of coins and objects in precious metals in the local area, a biographical piece on Joseph Hardisty a Lorton joiner, on Robert Eaglesfield and the foundation of the Hall of Queen's Scholars and on the Robinsons, a notable Victorian family from Cockermouth's second ranking stately home, South Lodge.

Perhaps the following brief but fascinating example of the kind of work being done will be of interest – certainly, anyone who has walked anti-clockwise round Crummock water will have noticed, soon after they have passed the water station, an imposing mound to their right, occupied these days by tranquil Herdwicks.



Hugh Thomson has researched its story: *Correcting the record. Peel, the name of a farmhouse in the parish of Loweswater, misled even the Scheduled Monuments Records to refer to 'a historically documented pele tower' associated with 'a putative moated complex' (NTSMR 20464) at the southern end of Crummock Water, where a low grassy mound, protected on the north and east by marshland, projects into the lake.*

*Investigations conducted for the National Trust by Oxford Archaeology North in 2009 identified the 'medieval moated complex' as the remains of a prehistoric system of banks and ditches, but failed to turn up any evidence of a stone tower. Nevertheless, the name of the farmhouse still resonates in local mythology.*

*Identification of the location of Peel with Sleningholme, a mysterious 'island of sloping meadow' in Crummock Water, suggests that the farmhouse's name has been misinterpreted. Sleningholme, mentioned in three 14th century documents in the Lucy Cartulary, was leased by Thomas Lucy, lord of Loweswater in 1307, to Sir Thomas de Irebie, for an annual rent of 2 shillings. When Thomas Ireby died, in 1312, the lease was cancelled, but in 1323 Thomas Lucy's heir, Anthony, leased Sleningholme 'for 100 years and 1 day' to Sir Hugh de Moriceby, his co-conspirator in the overthrow of Andrew Harclay, Earl of Carlisle.*

*The Chronicle of Lanercost confirms that, in the 14th century, 'peil' was the English word for a palisade; only later, in the 16th century, did the terms 'peel-house' and 'peel-tower' come into general use. During the period of Scottish incursions, Sleningholme, by virtue of its location and a palisade, served as a refuge for people and cattle; the lease to Hugh Moresby even provided that his refugees could keep themselves warm by using his 'dead wood by view of the forester.'*

The Society maintains a core archive of records appropriate to its various townships and manors, to support members and others in their studies. Rather by good fortune, it was in February last year that we compiled a digital resource of the material in the 'New Domesday' survey covering our parishes. This source has excellent coverage of Cumbria, and gives a good pre-WWI starting point for property history, perhaps more accessible than the tithe commutation material from the 1840s.

Our archived Wanderers and the earlier Journals are freely available at <http://derwentfells.com/journal.html>

<http://derwentfells.com/wanderer.html>

Our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety](http://www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety) is still active and prompting interest. We are hoping that it will carry on bringing people to our talks. Apart from the general interest which it has

prompted, several members of the public have been prompted to join us at our Talks, some of them taking up membership.

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## The Journals of Kenneth Rigby Burgess – Stan Aspinall

Kenneth Rigby Burgess, resident of South London was listed as “incapacitated” in the emergency census of 1939. Aged 45 he had served in the First Great War with distinction as a driver in the Royal Artillery Regiment but when the London Blitz began he found it impossible to stay as bombs fell close to his home. In 1941 he packed his bags, loaded them into his car and evacuated his wife and daughter, first to his sister’s home in Whaley Bridge and then to a rented house in Seathwaite in the upper Duddon Valley, a remote part of Lancashire. That 160 mile journey from Whaley Bridge to Seathwaite, through wartime Britain, is recorded in the first of Kenneth’s many journals. It’s a special record of the journey but also describes his later visits to Ulverston, Broughton and elsewhere in the Lake District.



From then until 1946 Kenneth Burgess wrote seventeen journals about the natural history of the Duddon and Lickle valleys. Then for a further ten years he wrote weekly “Nature Notes” for the Westmorland Gazette. His writing recreates a world which existed here eighty years ago and gives an insight into a way of life which has long disappeared.

- On a drive over Birker Fell in 1942 he writes, “The heather becomes almost unbearable in its beauty, it is not just the exquisite shades but also the vast tracts which it covers with here and there great vivid splashes of green bracken and smaller

splashes of yellow gorse. One feels the urge to stop indefinitely because to grasp the beauty and majesty of it all would take weeks indeed."

- He describes the Hiring Fair in Ulverston, where farmers take on men and men go to find work; a fascinating glimpse into a long gone practice. "Employment is offered and accepted all by word of mouth and nothing at all appears in writing. The man is usually given a shilling as a token the deal is done."
- Kenneth visits one of the swill basket works in Broughton. "The various processes of the trade were most interesting to watch. A boy of about seventeen who was making swills one day when we were there told me he made one an hour, the price today is 5/- and there are orders for far more than can be made partly on account of the revival in agriculture and partly because of the demand from bombed areas where they are used for carrying away rubble."
- Above all he writes about the plants, the animals and the birds of the Duddon and Lickle valleys. Red squirrels abound, there are birds nesting and there is even a tawny owl which roosts each year in his garden, in the same tree, on the same branch and the same place on the branch.....for five consecutive years!

Kenneth's journals have been transcribed by a group of volunteers and are now available in digital format. We are discussing what to do next as we also look through the diaries he wrote from 1946 into the 1950s. It's a developing story.

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## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

### Labour of Love puts Parish on the Map

This headline above an article and photograph in the Herald in August 2001 was inspired by the launch of the Ravenstonedale Parish Millennium Map and its Companion Book. The map also inspired February's Zoom meeting of the Ravenstonedale Parish History Group. Once again, Zoom opened the attendance to members, guests and friends from locations across Cumbria and for the first time, guests from Scotland, the USA and New Zealand.

Jackie Wedd presented her talk, *“Ravenstonedale with Newbiggin-on-Lune, The Parish Millennium Map, an offcomers appreciation”* encompassing an overview of the research she has compiled documenting the story of the development and publication of the map. The talk is a preview for a much anticipated “live” talk, which will be a more detailed presentation exploring some of the local oral histories, historical events and myths recorded on the Map which is a montage of line drawings with captions and snippets of information. Her second talk will also highlight the four Millennium Parish Embroideries, produced by 22 volunteers over two years.

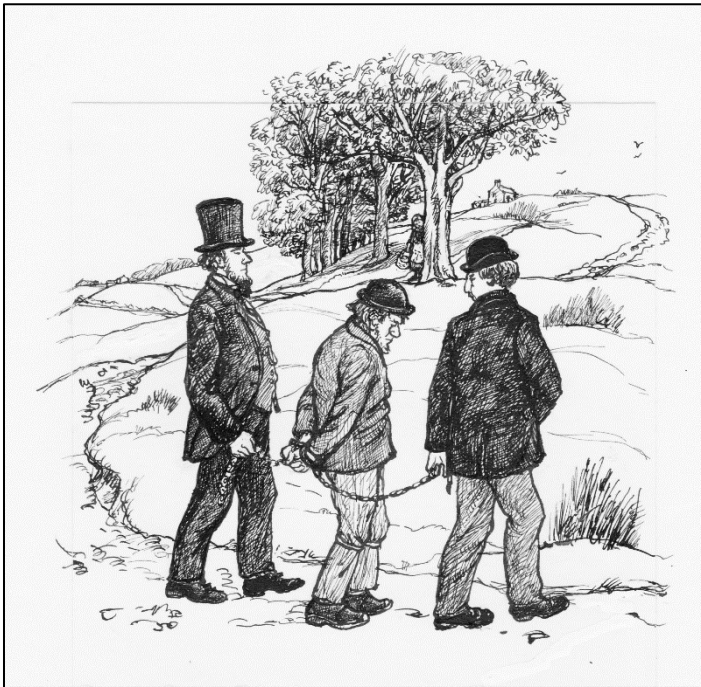
Jackie’s interest in the Map project began when she and her husband saw the framed copies of the Map in the Black Swan in Ravenstonedale when first visiting the village in 2009. The map inspired them to return to the village the following year to visit some of the points of interest depicted. These included the oldest inhabited house, the old packhorse bridge with the beck disappearing beneath it and Bowberhead Farm, now confirmed in 2020 as the latest Cumbria Wildlife Trust Reserve which will protect and enhance the traditional hay meadows there.

The sites and stories to be illustrated on the map were identified by collecting ideas and recollections from the residents of the parish during 1998-99. Financial support was obtained from the National Lottery Millennium Festival Awards for All and other national and local sources. The project was co-ordinated by Richard Metcalfe-Gibson, and questionnaire packs were designed by Barbara Godden, the then headmistress at Ravenstonedale School, and sent out to every house in the parish.

The late Chris Irwin and his wife Mary, proprietors of The Book House in Ravenstonedale, a local publisher of history books and an antiquarian book dealership, were recruited to design and publish the Companion Book to the Map which contains every contribution from the local residents. Meanwhile the team of three local professional artists, Caroline Metcalfe-Gibson, her husband David Morris and their good friend the late Tom Oldham began the lengthy process of designing and producing all the drawings for the two-sided Map, and Tom’s exquisite calligraphy related the information on it.

This development process is wonderfully illustrated in an exhibition of photographs of the drawings and lettering, as well as in the original questionnaires used in making the Map from March 2000 until it was finally sent off to the printers in 2001. The three artists contributed over 1000 hours of work between them. The record of the work involved is now held in the RPHG archives and will be exhibited again, as it was at the 2001 launch of the Map and Companion Book, when circumstances allow and hopefully to accompany Jackie's second talk.

Historical scenes depicted include the detention prior to transportation of the accused sheep-stealer Mr Wharton, an event witnessed by a former resident of the Parish in around 1870 when she was a little girl.



She told the story many years later in the 1930s to the late Helga Frankland who contributed it to the Map. The sentence of transportation for such crimes was within the remit of the Four-and-Twenty, the Grand Jury who presided over both trivial and capital offences locally and who used to meet in the old Church before the gatherings were deemed to be too rowdy and they had to relocate to the nearby King's Head.

More recent events depicted include the maiden flight of the British Airways Concorde hot air balloon in 1984 (a local man had won a ticket for this flight in a raffle in aid of Newbiggin Public Hall funds) and the regular freezing over of Greenside Tarn in winters up to the 1980s, allowing games such as ice hockey to be played – although in a photograph from the Parish Archives dating from the early 1960s that Jackie was able to show the skaters looked much less confident! It was good to learn the name of one of two skaters in the photograph that the History Group have been unable to identify, contributed during the Zoom discussion after the talk by a member and former Ravenstonedale resident who now lives in Appleby.

Local flora and wildlife are celebrated on the map, including species very precious to the area such as Lapwings, Curlews and of course Red Squirrels. Other snippets included the recollections of the former railway line, the course of which is now partly followed by the A685, often mistaken for a Roman road there as it is so straight, although the regular bumps suggest the sleepers from the railway may still form part of the road's foundations!

The Ravenstonedale village pig house on the green is illustrated, where the parish pig was kept and fed by everyone who then took their share when it was slaughtered. The stone house, an ancient hillside structure on Ashfell, has a stone plaque inside with the names Milner and Knewstubb engraved on it. The Milner family commemorated there are the forebears of the New Zealander invited to the Zoom meeting, who by a strange coincidence now lives not far from the descendants of the Knewstubb man who carved the plaque. The mystery of the short-lived mansion with the odd name of Hwith, demolished a mere 60 years after it was built, will be revealed in Part 2 of the talk.

The Map proved a rich source of inspiration for local walks when Jackie and her husband Dave made repeated holiday visits to Ravenstonedale, which culminated in their move to the village as “offcomers”, hence the title of the talk. As noted, there will be an expanded “live” talk in the future, hopefully answering many of the questions that the Map inspires.



For information on future History Group events, please visit the website [www.ravenstonedalehistory.org](http://www.ravenstonedalehistory.org)

For more information on the Millennium Map please visit the Ravenstonedale Community website [www.ravenstonedale.org](http://www.ravenstonedale.org) where you will find an interactive version.

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## Drigg Local History Society

### The Gaitskell Family of Bell Hill 1557/8\* & 1761 – Alan Bell

(\*From the notebook of William Thompson Justice of the Peace at Thornflatt)

The first reference to Thornflatt, in the Parish of Muncaster, is in 1632 when William Thomson is mentioned in a marriage settlement. In 1556



William Thomson was one of the 24 Justices of the Peace for Cumberland during the Commonwealth era. His notebook was found in 1912, still in the family of a descendant William Thomson who resided at Mite House. Mr P. H. Fox, M.A had them transcribed and a record is in Volume 14 of CWAAS Transactions. It has

details of Marriages, Warrants, Recognisances and the rulings of the Quarter Sessions along with other records.

The first page of his notebook is of the forms for use under the Marriage



Act of 1653. The notebook has particulars of 90 marriages. A 12d fee was prescribed by the Act.

The present Thornflatt is not very old, the lawn shown was a vegetable garden 20 years ago. The then owner dug up this coin and brought it to me as I had been on one archaeological dig! The photographs were

taken with a magnifying glass and camera, the silver shilling was probably minted in Chester in 1642. It could it have been dropped by an unhappy

couple whose marriage was delayed through lack of funds or payment of a fine, or for a travel pass to London?

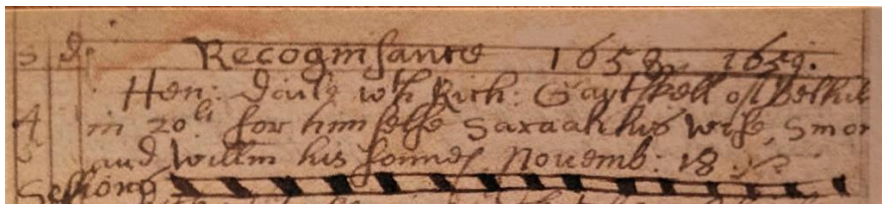
Mr Gaitskell prospered and in less than 2 years moved about a mile up the road to Bellhill, still in the parish of Muncaster, but with his second wife Sarah and two sons Simon and William. If a man was widowed, as often happened because of childbirth, he had to marry quickly. He needed a wife to look after him and the children while he worked 10 hours a day. Richard Gaitskell married Annas Hunter both of Drigg Parish at Saltcoats 29 June 1657.



### Recognisances.

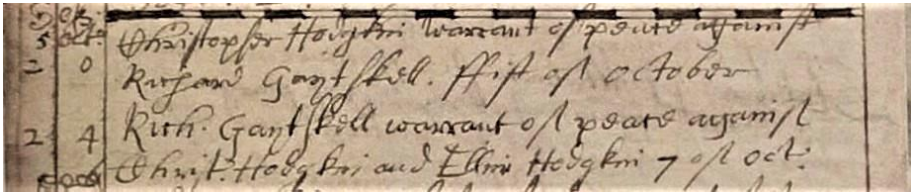
These were a summons to attend the Quarter Sessions or forfeit a fee in this case 20li (20libra) £20.

The cost writing the Recognisances for Henry Dale was 4 shillings and 5 shillings for Richard Gaitskell of Bellhill his wife Sarah, & Simon and William his family. Richard appears in several more recognisances.



### Warrants.

These were issued for assaults and lesser disturbances of the peace which could be dealt with by the Justice of the Peace and instant fines imposed without recourse to the Quarter Sessions. Christopher Hodgkin warrant of peace against Richard Gaytskell Fift of October & Richard was fined 2shillings. Yet two days later he obtained a warrant of peace against Christ: Hodgkin who was then fined 2s 4d *d = old pennies*



These were puritanical times and prosecutions for breaking the law often lead to fines for swearing, carding, drinking and tippling (at their cups) being drunk, operating a fulling mill on the Lords Day or playing a musical instrument out of their house on the Sabbath. Church services were sometimes disturbed by “going to speak to the preacher” a Quaker euphemism, even wearing a hat in church landed one resident £5 fine.



Descendants of the Gaitskell Family were still living at Bell Hill when Isaac and Dorothy built a new house to replace their long single story property. (Farm plan was drawn up between 1723-1760)

When the Ravenglass fair was held the chief Bailiff of the Lordship of Egremont, attended by the Borough Sergeant, and Borough Bailiffs of the Borough of Egremont, and others, proceeded from Egremont with Halberts to a place called Bell Hill, being part of the common at Drigg. They were met by His Lordships’ tenants of the Manor or Forests of Kennyside, Netherwasdale, Eskdale, Mitredale, and Wasdale-head, who were obliged by ancient custom to perform that service.

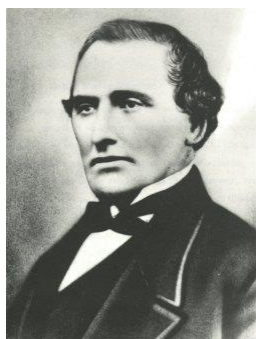
It was probably the three day ‘St James Fair’ held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, cattle came from afar such as Ireland and Isle of Man. The fortunes of Ravenglass port declined as Whitehaven grew so by 1785 it was much smaller and often called the ‘White Apron Fair’. Much later it as known as the ‘St Jams Fair’ where horse races occurred but all ceased in 1905. There are still stepping stones at the Ravenglass ford but you need to cross at suitable low tides. It is said that Bell Hill got its name from a bell that was rung when the procession should depart for the ford at Ravenglass.

## The Mormons in Alston Moor - Jill Morgan

Missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ('Mormons' or LDS) first arrived in Britain from America in July 1837. Among them was Alston born **Isaac Russell**, whose family had emigrated to Canada in 1817 when he was ten years old. Russell and his wife Mary (also an Alston native whose family had emigrated) had been introduced to the LDS church by Isaac's sister Isabella in 1836. She was among the first LDS converts in the Toronto area.



Isaac immediately joined the local missionary effort, and the following year, when missionaries were first sent across the Atlantic, he was among them. Many missionaries were assigned to areas where they had family, and for that reason Isaac went to Alston. However this did not entirely smooth his path, as he met with considerable opposition – from family members as much as from local ministers. He was nevertheless able to baptise some sixty converts to the Church in the area before he returned home to Canada in April 1838.



According to family lore, one of the first local converts was Jackson Wanlass, husband to Isaac's sister Mary, although she had died by then.

Another local family of early converts were **Peter Maughan** and his wife Ruth, parents of six young children and he a lead miner from Farlam.

The local LDS congregation was referred to as Alston Moor, and typically meetings were held in local members' houses. The records of that early branch have not survived, but minutes of a conference held in Manchester in July 1840 show a congregation of 36 in Alston. The *Millennial Star* of January 1841 reported,

*A letter from brother Jacob Peart... informs us that the church at Alston is growing at present far beyond anything that we before witnessed... for which we feel thankful to God.*

A conference in April 1841 reported a membership of 163 between Alston, Brampton and Carlisle branches. And Elder Reuben Hedlock, a missionary to Britain from 1839 to 1841, reported:

*After the conference I went to **Alston** in Northumberland. Here we found a small branch of the church of about 40 members which had been raised up by the labours of Elder Russell in 1837... Notwithstanding the many persecutions that the saints had endured in this part we found them rejoicing in the lord. I stayed and preached in **Alston** and Brampton about four weeks. There were some added to the church by baptism in both places during my stay with them. There is much opposition in this part of the country... If any should venture to come and hear for themselves... they are soon hissed at by those who pretend to be their friends, and some are turned out of their employment for believing.*

By June 1850 Alston was reported as having just 20 members. This may have been due to a waning of interest, but emigration also accounted for the diminished congregation – no doubt fuelled by the opposition as much as encouragement from LDS church leaders to join the main body of the church in America.

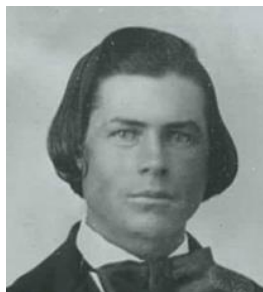
Peter Maughan – by then widowed - emigrated with his children in 1841, to join the main group of church members in Kirtland, Ohio. He moved with them on to Illinois, where the city of Nauvoo was built on the banks of the Mississippi, subsequently re-married, and arrived in Salt Lake City in 1850. Six years later, his family formed part of the group which went north to settle Cache Valley and established Maughan's Fort (now Wellsville). A plaque was erected in nearby Logan, where he died, to commemorate his contributions to Cache Valley, where he was the first Probate Judge, and known as an *Indian Mediator and Friend* because of his efforts to engage with local native Americans and maintain peaceful relations.



John and **Phebe Thompson** were also Alston natives and early converts. By 1841 they were also in Nauvoo, where John died. Their daughter Mary and son Robert emigrated with them. Phebe re-married in Nauvoo – to Jacob Peart, who she must have known in Cumbria as he was born in Garrigill. They went West with the surviving children of John's first marriage (he

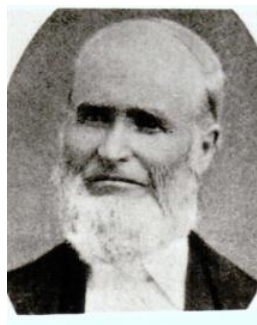
had lost 4 children in Nauvoo, as well as his wife) and a child of this second marriage. They settled in Salt Lake City.

The only son of Jacob's first marriage who appears to have survived into adulthood was **Jacob Peart** junior who had emigrated with his parents and also settled in Salt Lake City.



Alston born John Sanders who served as a clerk to the Alston Moor branch, emigrated with his wife Margaret (nee Bentley), but sadly died in Nauvoo in 1844. Margaret subsequently settled in Salt Lake City.

Mary and Jackson Wanlass' son, **William Wanlass**, seen here in later life, emigrated in 1850. His brother Jackson would emigrate with his wife and young family in 1856. They both settled in Lehi, Utah Territory.



John Slack and his wife Elizabeth (nee Shield) were also baptized in Alston and emigrated in 1868. Five of their six children are known to have also moved to the U.S.

**Margaret Thompson**, seen here in later life, was born in Alston, along with three of her siblings, although their parents Ralph and Ann were natives of Co. Durham. By 1842 the family were in Nauvoo where a fifth child was born.



Margaret crossed the plains to Salt Lake City in 1852 with her then widowed father and sisters Annie and Eleanor Jane. There she married Yorkshireman Frederick Mitchell and raised a family of eleven children in Salt Lake City.

These are just some of those local to Alston who are known to have converted to the LDS church.

For a small village Alston certainly made a significant contribution to the membership of that church in the nineteenth century western United States.

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## Can You Help Please?

### Graham Brooks writes; CLHF Goes International

Like most organisations the CLHF have a number of email addresses attached to their website, one of which is for the chairman. Since taking over the post from Peter there has been a steady flow of emails advertising a wide range of courses all aspects of managing a charity, but little else of interest. Then on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 there was, titled 'Inquiry from Arizona', immediate thought this is probably some scam as usual, although the email address did seem real. On opening the email I was surprised. It was from a John Parsons of Rimrock, Arizona with a plea for help.

John is keen on camping and often visits the area of the Roosevelt Dam in Central Arizona. The cemetery near the mill contains a grave to William Dillon who had died on March 18<sup>th</sup> 1909. (see photo) He was working on the highest point of the dam when one of his work colleagues shouted "Look Out", he turned suddenly and lost his balance plunging into the water below.

So an interesting story but you may ask, what is the link to Cumbria? William Dillon according to his gravestone was born in Cleator in Cumberland and was aged 35 years. John wished to prepare and deliver a eulogy when he was next at the site on Christmas Day and would like further details of William and possibly to contact any of his descendants.



Well not a great time line to work on, but I sent the enquiry to Liz Kerry who put it out round the email list of members she holds and the membership didn't fail.

We received an email from a member with some details of William's life. William was born in 1877 to Lawrence and Cathryn, who were both Irish and had married in Whitehaven in 1877. The 1881 census has the family living at 50 Leconfield St, Cleator. Lawrence is listed as an iron ore miner and a second child has been born, Bridget, in 1880. By 1891 the family had increased with another son, John, born about 1882. They were living with Cathryn's mother Bridget Fitzpatrick at Comberford, Leconfield St. The 1901 census adds a few more details to the family, Cathryn states her husband is in America (a Lawrence Dillon was living in Illinois in 1893 as a naturalised American.) and William is listed as stone mason.



In 1901 William married Julie Ann Cowan. In the 1911 census Julie Ann lists herself as a widow and a grocer at Cleator with 2 children Charles born in 1902 and John in 1905. She remarried in 1911.

The above information was quickly forwarded to John and he carried out his eulogy at the grave on Christmas Day. This can be listened to at

<http://soundcloud.com/user-57609523/wmdillon-mp3>

Since the New Year two other members have forwarded further references about William including details of his emigration to the USA in 1906. He travelled on the SS Majestic from Liverpool, sailing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1906. He described himself on the manifesto as a 28 year old married mason. His nationality is British and his race is described as Irish. He appears to have been travelling with at least two other men from the area. William Wilson from Cleator and Frank Thompson from Egremont. Both are listed as single men and miners. All three were travelling to Bisbee, Arizona. Bisbee was a copper, gold and silver mining town which



underwent a growth in the early 1900s. They appear to be travelling to meet Frank's brother Richard who was already in the town. Did he invite them over to make their fortunes? Or had William heard about jobs for masons at the dam which is 380 Km to the north of Brisbee?

We do have details of his sister and brother's family in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and if anyone thinks they could be or know a living relative of William then John would like to hear from them.

Anyone who can possibly answer these questions or would like some of the other information we hold please contact me.

If you would like to be included directly on the CLHF email list please send your details to [lizkerry@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerry@gmail.com)

Graham Brooks [solwaypast@yahoo.com](mailto:solwaypast@yahoo.com)

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## Andrew Musgrave of Cartmel Peninsula LHS writes;

I am eight-tenths of the way through completing my book about *The Lucks of Cumbria*. In it, I have written about Henry VI's escape from the Battle of Hexham to Muncaster Castle, and Mary Queen of Scots on her escape from prison fleeing to Workington. (Both left a present for their hosts which are now the Lucks of Muncaster & Workington.)

Both monarchs had to travel incognito for fear of being recognized. Liz, who is proofreading each chapter for me as I complete them, has posed this question:

*I can't help wondering how, in days before newspapers – photographs – television, did people in Muncaster Castle, Bolton Hall and Waddington Hall know that this guy in disguise (and his sole companion) was King Henry VI (and his aide). How would shepherds trust that the man they found slumped against a tree was the King of England? What proof did they carry?*

Do you have any ideas? Did they carry a token of office that was nationally recognized? If so please email [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

## Graham Brooks writes; When WAS the last wolf killed in Cumbria?

In CLHF Bulletin 84, winter 2020 there was an article on who killed England's last wolf which looked at the legends around the killing of a wolf during the medieval period. However, we need to travel forward in time a considerable time to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for when the last wolf was killed in Cumbria.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1904 the Hexham Courant carried a story about a wolf causing losses in livestock between Hexham and Allendale. The animal was thought to be an escapee from the Private Zoo owned by Captain Bain of Shotley Bridge, although the Captain's described his wolf as a small young animal which couldn't be responsible.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December a grey wolf had committed a 'great slaughter' on a flock of sheep and was tracked for a great distance but lost. Numerous hunting parties went out but to no avail. Then on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1904 platelayers found the carcase of an



animal that had been cut in two by a passing train near Cumwhinton Station. They originally buried the animal but after talking to the station master the animal was dug up and 'expertly joined together'. The body was identified as a grey wolf but Captain Bain denied it was the one which had escaped from his Zoo. Not really surprising considering the potential claims for lost livestock. However, the losses of livestock stopped and the Allendale wolf, as it became known, was never heard of again.

Was this the last wolf killed in the wild in Cumbria? Or does anybody know different?

## New Post Graduate Certificate in Regional and Local History



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The RHC is pleased to announce the return of our much-loved **Post Graduate Certificate in Regional and Local History**. This **new** online programme offers an exciting opportunity for those interested in regional and local history to gain an award from a top UK university renowned for its expertise in this field and experienced in delivering high-quality distance learning programmes. The programme consists of three modules focused on the history of the North of England, ranging from the Viking Age to the Victorian industrial era. However, the skills and contextual knowledge developed through this course are applicable to regional and local studies more widely. The final module is a substantial independent research project with individual support and supervision from your tutor.

You will access a range of fascinating online learning materials and study at a time and place to suit you. You will be able to discuss the different elements of the programme with other students via text-based discussion through the online learning platform, which includes guidance for each week, links to online reading lists, and a wide range of other resources such as videos. You will be in frequent online contact with your course tutors and you will receive one-to-one supervision for your independent project.

The flexibility of this programme is ideal for people who want to pursue their historical interests around family or work commitments, and is suitable for learners accessing the programme from different parts of the world. But if you're new to online courses, there's no need to worry - we provide full guidance on accessing the materials and using the platform, and technical support is available for anyone who is new to this way of learning. Of course, our RHC Study Days make a useful and informative additional resource, but they are not a core part of the course, so you will not be disadvantaged if you are unable to participate. Want to find out more? [Click here.](#) Or contact

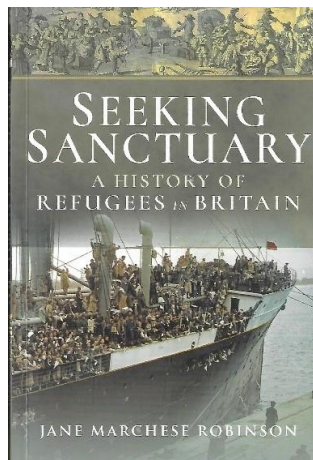
Anne-Marie Michel RHC Lancaster University

## LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

### Seeking Sanctuary, A History of Refugees in Britain by Jane Marchese Robinson

Throughout the ages, people have fled their homeland, nation or country in the face of danger, threat to themselves and their families and latterly for purely economic reasons. War and persecutions are powerful motivators, impelling people to seek safety and sanctuary, some in their own country, some crossing borders and others facing treacherous crossing of seas.

The term refugee was enshrined in the 'Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees' published by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1951, written following the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, itself developed in the wake of the Second World War which witnessed the greatest movement of people in world history. Article 14 of the declaration recognised the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries and it is the centrepiece of international refugee protection today.

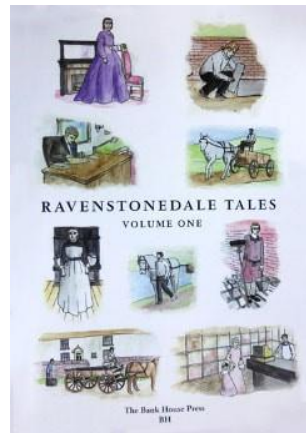


This book seeks to provide an introduction to the history of those seeking refuge, it is important to remember that the terms 'refugee' and 'immigrant', though sometimes used interchangeably, and often confused, are not the same. Refugees are people who are compelled to seek sanctuary whereas people who migrate seek a better life. Chapters cover the first Protestant Refugees, the Huguenots, the poor Palatines, the French revolution, the first and second World Wars, the Basques, the Nazi persecution of the Jews, the Hungarian, Ugandan, Chilean and Vietnamese uprisings, the Balkan wars and the Syrian crises. An altogether thorough and captivating set of stories of dire circumstances including the author's detailed and remarkable research into her grandmother's origins in the discovery of 250,000 Belgians who fled the Germans to Great Britain in 1914 as they rolled across their homeland.

Jane Marchese Robinson spent some 30 years as an advocate for marginalised groups including the homeless, people with disabilities and mental health problems and latterly refugees. Uncovering her grandmother's history meant learning about the fascinating story of those thousands who sought sanctuary here in the First World War and subsequent catastrophic events. Very much to be recommended and another valuable publication from Pen & Sword, the book can be ordered using this Society's introduction to be found below. ISBN no. 978 1526739615 – priced at £14.99 – Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS – [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).  
Ian White, Cumbria FHS

## Ravenstonedale Tales Volume 1 by Val Fermer

The attractively illustrated cover of this book sets the tone for the first volume of stories about the people of Ravenstonedale. Experienced genealogist, Val Fermer, uses her expertise and the local archives to investigate and describe the stories of three families with local connections. The reader is taken on journeys that involve Industrial Manchester, the complexities of 18<sup>th</sup> century wills and 19<sup>th</sup> century legal systems and the world of furniture in Victorian Tottenham Court Road but also include the Black Swan and the Golf course at Ravenstonedale. In doing so some of the built character of Ravenstonedale is explained.



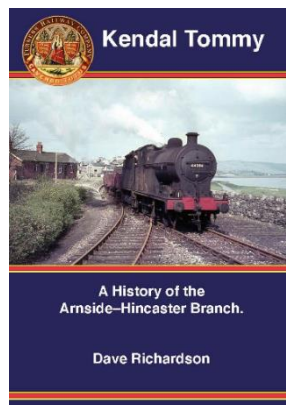
The text is interjected with explanations of the path the researcher took investigating the stories and where appropriate the story is contextualised with the aid of multiple illustrations. Some of the images are photographs but also a local artist, Stuart Wells has provided drawings which give the book a unique character appropriate to the local history tales told. Altogether a fascinating example of Local History, written, illustrated, published and printed locally.

This book is published by Bank House Press and is available from Kirkby Stephen Bookshop, The Tourist Information Centre, Kirkby Stephen, The Scar Gallery and The Black Swan, Ravenstonedale as well as from the author [valfermer@gmail.com](mailto:valfermer@gmail.com) at £18. I look forward to the next volume which is due out shortly.

Ruth Lawley CLHF

## “Kendal Tommy” a History of the Arnside-Hincaster Branch

This new book, written by CRA member Dave Richardson, tells the origins and history of the line between Arnside on the Furness Railway and Hincaster Junction on the London & North Western Railway (LNWR). As well as having all the characteristics of a typical rural branch, the line was regularly used as a shortcut for excursion and special passenger trains as well as by coke trains running between the north east and the iron works of the Furness area. Within its 98 pages, the



book provides extensive coverage of the services on the line, as well as the stations, sidings and signalling. Additionally, there is a dedicated chapter covering the quarry and lime works at Sandside. Profusely illustrated with photographs, maps and scale drawings of some of the structures. This book is another great addition to the list of highly regarded CRA publications and a MUST for enthusiasts of the railways of Cumbria. The book is priced £14.00. To check for availability and to order (post free in UK only), go to the Cumbrian Railways Association website at: <https://www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk>.

## Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, *Barns of Cumbria* (CVBG Publications, No 3, December 2020)

Since 2013, June Hill has brought together an impressive team of scholarly enthusiasts researching Cumbria vernacular buildings in the tradition of the late R. S. Brunskill and drawing inspiration from the work of Blake Tyson. The approach is to hold regular workshops and site visits, pooling expertise, so that a shared group methodology has gradually

evolved, producing a series of fine occasional papers: Peter Messenger, *Yanwath Hall*; CVBG, *The Vernacular /Polite Interface in Cumbria's Historic Buildings*; and CVBG, *Barns of Cumbria*.

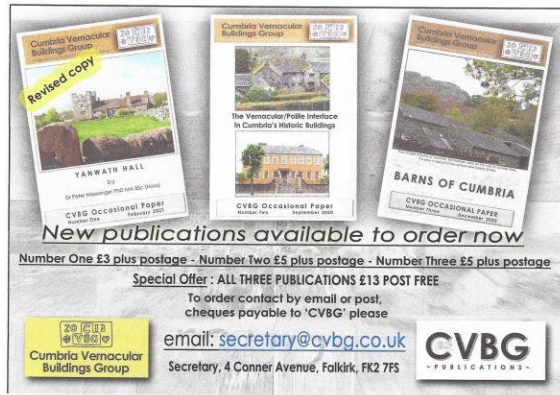
The barn might be said to be an archetype of vernacular architecture, practical, unprepossessing, distinctive to its

landscape and its use of local material, possessing at the most artless beauty. On the cusp of CVBG's ongoing concern with the dividing line between 'polite' (i.e. posh) and vernacular (i.e. demotic) building, it surely belongs on the vernacular side of the equation - even though some of the creations are those of the clique of reforming gentry landlords - J. C. Curwen, Humphrey Senhouse, Wilfrid Lawson, James Graham, William Blamire, Philip Henry Howard and various Lowthers - who together brought agricultural improvement into Cumberland in the 19th century.

As for the distinctiveness of that labour-saving device, the bank barn, each one cleverly hewn into a fellside, with livestock on the ground and hay for their fodder on the first, a 'farmstead under one roof' (Pete Messenger), it is both special to Cumberland and generic to much of western Europe - 'international vernacular', exported to the US as the Pennsylvania barn, either directly by German immigrants or perhaps indirectly by secondary transmission via Cumberland.

Photo-filled *Barns of Cumbria* can now be purchased, with its two predecessors, at the bargain price of £13 for the three (cheque, postfree) from the Secretary, 3 Conner Avenue, Falkirk, FK2 7FS or [secretary@cvbg.co.uk](mailto:secretary@cvbg.co.uk) - perfect for taking out on post-covid expeditions.

Michael A. Mullett, University of Lancaster





## A Myth Exposed or Shiver Me Timbers – Chris Craghill

As a local history speaker with a strong interest in the traditional buildings of Cumbria, especially those of our farming communities, several of my talks are based on these subjects and there is a topic that often arises in post talk chat, which is the belief that many of the old timbers in traditional



farmhouses are former ships' timbers. While this is quite a plausible and even romantic notion and may in some few coastal locations be the case, it is definitely not so with inland and upland locations, particularly where there was formerly an abundance of hardwood timber in the landscape, albeit controlled by the local manor court. This view is often a hard pill to swallow for the occupiers of such buildings and one has to be careful explaining a contrary view.

It's easy to see how this mis-apprehension has come about, particularly where curved or cruck frames have been re-used, sometimes more than once. Cruck frames, particularly where they are still in situ and there is more than one pair, give the appearance of an upturned boat hull giving rise to the 'ships timbers' myth but it is not the only reason as many ceiling joists and other timbers have indications of former use and location but it is nigh impossible that they were formerly part of a ship's construction.

Personally, I find the notion that what is clearly a reused piece of cruck, or timber formerly part of an inglenook hearth or other household use but is now a door lintel or has been used as part of a later roof truss or integrated into a new hearth, much more exciting, as it indicates the transitions of the building with the possibility that an even older, possibly single-story dwelling, once stood on or near the site of the present day building.

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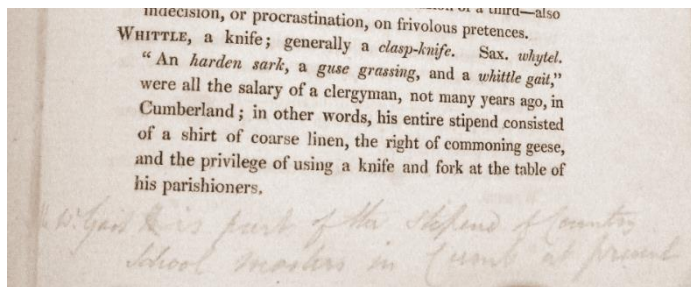
## Of glosses – or appreciating annotations in published text

Adrian Allan

Medieval historians are accustomed to studying the marginal and interlinear annotations (“glosses”) which may be found in manuscript texts, revealing their authors’ commentary, interpretation or additional quotation, besides the record they may reveal of the successive ownership of the text. Less attention has been given to the annotations which may be found in published texts, particularly of those dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

I was recently shown a copy of *A Glossary of North Country Words, in Use, from an Original Manuscript in the library of John George Lambton, Esq., M.P. with considerable additions* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1825) by

John Trotter Brockett, FSA, which a previous owner had rebound to include extra sheets on which he had



noted a large number of north country words which Brockett had not recorded and which were evidently still in use in Cumbria.

Some of the words which our anonymous author carefully noted are those later to be found in Joseph Wright’s magnum opus, *The English Dialect Dictionary* (6 vols., 1898 – 1905) but with no Cumbrian connections. So Gline ‘a sly look W[estmorland] & C[umberland]’ may be found as ‘Glean’ in Wright, as ‘to look askance, to sneer, jeer’, and Goke, Gowk, ‘an ignorant clownish fellow. W.&C’ is recorded as Gockie, ‘a stupid person, a gawkie’ by Wright, in neither case with any Cumbrian connections known to him. Our author’s definition of ‘Nacky a Child’s arse (Penrith)’ is more politely recognised by Wright as ‘Nacky A nursery term for a child’s fundament’, a term he found in Cumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire.

It might be deduced that our author had a residential or other connection with the Penrith area. He (or she ?) records an entry for ‘Pyat [magpies] :

in an old acct. Book of the Churchwardens of Penrith is the following item of disbursement "Paid for two Pyattes 4d" In Shap districts payments are still made out of the Church rates for the heads of foxes. In Martindale it is 5/ (sic) each which is drunk by the hunters at the nearest alehouse in the Evening.' He records that 'The "Nowt Fair" is a well known piece of Ground (or rather was within present memory) above the Town of Penrith, it is now inclosed and a piece of ground on the upper side of the Korwald (sic) road set out and used as the Fair stead.' 'Hause in the lake district of Cumbd. is the pass from one dale to another. John o'l'Hause is the Common name for John Jackson whose dwelling is in the Hause leading into Martindale.' While 'As old as Knock Cross is a common saying in Cumberland. Knock Cross is an upright stone yet standing (1780) amid the ruins of the Picts Wall.' The site of the Knockcross Roman temporary camp is at Bowness on Solway; as Dr Bill Shannon has noted, the general adoption of the term Hadrian's Wall occurred only in the 1920s.

Our author was clearly not a 'Waffler, a loose idle fellow C. & W.', carefully recording the words he heard spoken and the customs still practised: 'The Wt. Gail is part of the stipend of Country School Masters in Cumberland at present' and 'Lobskouse at Green row school applied to the remains of the Tatie pot stewed up for next days dinner.' 'Wood Mail in several manors is an annual payment by each Tenant to the Lord [of the Ma]nor in lieu of the Wood upon the Tenement which, except so much as was necessary to repair the buildings, Carts plows (sic) etc. was the property of the Lord.' He was clearly widely read, citing Chaucer, [John] Gower, Shakespeare, Dryden and Samuel Johnson in their use of particular words.

The volume bears the bookplate of Augusta Jane Parkin, displaying her coat of arms on a lozenge, probably dating it to the period after the death of her first husband, James Parkin (1797 – 1860), whom , from a home in London, she had married in 1847. James Parkin bought the Laithes estate, Skelton, in 1840, when he was of Greenways, Penrith; his father, Hugh (1753 – 1838) had acquired the Skirsgill estate, Penrith, on his return from India. Given the long standing links of the Parkin family with the Penrith area, doubts might be expressed as to the likelihood that Augusta, rather than James Parkin, was the author of the annotations. Born in 1824, the elder daughter of E Butler Thornton of Skerton, Lancashire, Augusta Jane Parkin otherwise Gabbett , latterly of Orsett

Terrace, Hyde Park, London, died in 1896, two years after her marriage to Daniel Fitzgerald Gabbett (1841 – 98), formerly MP for Limerick.

Adrian Allan

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**Barry McKay** has informed me that The Historic Area Assessment for Appleby is now available on the Historic England website. It is Report no. 33/2019 or if you are reading this on line through this link:

<https://research.historicengland.org.uk> I find these and similar reports are a great introduction to a town or conservation area as a lot of research has already been done and documented! *Editor*

**Liz Kerrey, Membership Secretary** writes: Hello all. Please don't forget that CLHF subscriptions / donations are now due! Membership forms (and Gift Aid forms for individual members) can be downloaded from the About Us page on our website: <https://www.clhf.org.uk/> - payment instructions are at the bottom of the sheet. Most member groups and many individual members have renewed payments for 2021 so please, if you haven't yet reached for that membership form, do so if you possibly can, and help to keep the Federation working on your behalf! Keep well and keep safe, and we hope to see you again soon!

**John Poland CLHF Treasurer** writes: On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank all the Societies and individual Members, who have supported us with their donations and subscriptions for 2021. In these challenging times we wanted to strike a balance between asking for money unnecessarily and ensuring the Federation remains viable. I welcome the number of Gift Aid declarations from individual Members, which are further boosting our income. In receiving this income we now have a basis to explore how we can work even closer with our members on various projects

**Nigel Mills, Bulletin Editor** writes: Thank you to all the contributors in this edition of the CLHF Bulletin, my 20<sup>th</sup> as Editor! Please remember I am always looking for an image for the front page, one which will grab the reader's attention. Perhaps you have a village feature such as a pump, horse trough, statue, even a strange looking wall,

yes they do exist, or something unusual. All I need is a simple image and a sentence or two to go with it. I would particularly like pieces about transport in Cumbria to whet our appetite for our 2021 Convention, fingers crossed, more on this in the next issue. The deadline for contributions is the end of June 2021 for the Summer Bulletin. This Bulletin and all past issues may be viewed on or downloaded from our website [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk) by clicking the CLHF Resources tab.

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## GRAHAM DALTON (1944-2021)

The Sedbergh & District History Society is very sad to report the death of its chairman Graham Dalton.

Graham had been a member of the society for over thirty-five years and was in his second term as chairman. He was a driving force for many of the activities of the society. He practised as a solicitor in Sedbergh and had many interests including music and acting in local dramatics. He took an active role as clerk to various local charities and Dent Parish Council. He was appointed by the government to be a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Although his wife, Elizabeth, predeceased him he leaves four children and seven grandchildren.



### CLHF Contacts

To contact the CLHF Committee please see our website [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk)

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For membership and events listing please e-mail [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)