



# Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 94 –Spring 2024



Burial place Thomas Addison of Addisons Disease at Lanercost  
Thanks to Chris Craghill for this image

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

We seem to have had a very wet winter and I for one am hoping for a dry spring and nice summer to allow us to enjoy the many outdoor events that are being organised by many of our member groups. It is very important to support your local group and any County wide special interest group which cater for your interests by being a member and paying your subs on time. Turning up and attending the events which they organise is important too. Even if the subject may not be a subject that you specifically interested in, you never know what snippet of information may come your way. A lot of time and effort is put in by the committee running the group and they deserve to see a good attendance at the events they organise. Another way to help is to volunteer to join the committee. You may not think you have anything to bring to your local group but you will be surprised. Your presence on the committee may be just what is needed to drive it forward and even allow it to survive for the future.

The Federation is moving forward, we have run the first of our How To Days on wills and the second on maps is coming. We will be organising other days and if you would like a particular subject covered or feel you have something to say on a subject that you feel will be informative to other members please get in touch. We do intend to repeat the How To Days in different parts of the County. (We do appreciate that Cumbria is a big county and can be difficult to travel easily around) If you would like to attend one of the days but can't, let us know and we will start a waiting list.

This chat has asked a lot of you, but all the member groups and the Federation itself are all run by dedicated bands of volunteers. I know from a personal perspective after a while the ideas can start to dry up and fresh blood is needed to bring new ideas to the group. Therefore I ask you to consider not only what you are getting out of the groups which you are a member of, but what can you give back. Being on a committee usually only involves a few hours of commitment per week.

Graham Brooks

## CLHF Archive Catalogue

I am pleased to announce that 2024 has seen the successful introduction of the on-line CLHF Archive Catalogue which is now live for several groups and enables them to store, show and publicise their holding of local documents and photographs.



Each member group manages securely its own collection of material through the on-line system which is flexible and adaptable, enabling it to be used for small or large collections, and with the

choice of public access or membership access only for each individual item in their archive.

For each member group the system can act both as a searchable catalogue of the things (documents, books, maps, photos etc.) in their archive collection, and also as an on-line repository for digital-only items such as scans of documents, digital photos and sound recordings. Each group can decide if digital-only items can be downloaded by anyone, or just by group members.

The catalogue works as a database with input and viewing screens and of course a search facility. Input fields allow the group to decide whether an item may be viewed, downloaded or printed so full control is with the individual group.

Each group may choose its own domain name for their catalogue and access will be via the CLHF Website and/or the group's own website.

Currently the system is being used by;

Alston Moor Historical Society, Coanwood Featherstone Lambley History Group, Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS, Ravenstonedale Parish History Group and Sedbergh History Society with other groups in the pipeline.

We are in the process of adding links to each group's Archive Catalogue alongside their individual entry on the CLHF Members Group page of our website [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk)

If you wish to know more please contact Nigel Mills on [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

It is thanks to Tim Haldon of Alston Moor, Westmorland Dales and the Heritage Lottery fund that this facility can be offered to CLHF members.

Nigel Mills

CLHF



## Using the CLHF Archive and Catalogue

The Lorton & Derwent Fells archive and catalogue went live in February at <https://derwentfells.org.uk>, using the CLHF Archive Catalogue. Almost all of our material on the system is available to the public without login, and so you will be able to find on it all the society's publications which have accumulated over thirty years. At present there are around 270 records, but the plan is for that to grow greatly in 2024, particularly as we include the society's large collection of digital photographs. At present just one of our photographic collections is available. We have a lot to do.

### **Why we need it.**

The availability of the CLHF Archive Catalogue came just at the right time for our society. After thirty years of collecting and creating we look for new ways in which to develop the membership activities, and we wish to have our historical material more readily available than it has been. Over one hundred of our publications have accumulated on our society website at <http://derwentfells.com> but it lacks a catalogue and a search facility, which

makes it very difficult to find, say, articles about a particular place or topic. Our photo-archive has not been accessible online. The Archive Catalogue gives us the opportunity to separate out the archival material from the current membership activity, and we hope will provide a long-term open-access home for our archives.

### **A wide range of applications.**

The Archive Catalogue was developed by Tim Haldon for Alston Moor Historical Society, as a catalogue primarily of the physical material they hold in their archive, including a large collection of photographs. The users are mostly logged-in society members, but the public have access to much of the material. That system is now being made available to member societies, and is hosted on the CLHF webspace, with each user society having its own domain name for a separate archive which they can compile. This process is managed for CLHF by Nigel Mills and funded in part by Westmorland Dales and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We had thought that the Archive Catalogue might not suit our needs, because we require a digital archive and catalogue and full public access, rather than just members' access to a catalogue of a physical archive. We wish the public to be able to search and download our publications, in an enduring open-access archive. We were very pleased to find that there was sufficient flexibility built into the system to allow a wide range of uses. To match the system to the varied uses of different societies has required some recent development by Tim Haldon, and we express our appreciation for his support and flexibility in providing options in the system that we will need, as will some other societies.

### **Cataloguing, searching and referencing**

For each archive item, digital or physical, a catalogue record has to be created, whether for, say, a publication or a photograph. The content of the catalogue record provides the metadata which is used for searching, and so it is a good idea to include a contents list of publications, plus extra key words where needed. The search options are comprehensive and lead to

the display of a list of relevant catalogue records, which can then be selected and shown in full.

It is also possible to access a catalogue record directly, with a URL or web address, and without going to the website and using the search facility. In our use of the CLHF Archive Catalogue the format of catalogue records is ABCD/1234, for Collection and Number. So that, for example, we can reference an article in our latest quarterly *Wanderer* and can add a link as <https://derwentfells.org.uk/showrecord.php?refe=PBWD/0051> . This will take you to the catalogue record where our most recent publication, *Wanderer no.51*, can be downloaded.

### **In conclusion.**

The new CLHF Archive Catalogue is a very flexible facility which should meet the needs of many societies. It is good that the CLHF is working to provide a common facility that members societies might find difficult to develop individually. If it is taken up by a number of societies, then that will help to support its future availability and development.

Derek Denman,

Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS

## **The CLHF Archive Catalogue**

If you have old images of your street or village, wonder how your village hall was funded and whose idea it was, know or need to find out who lived where and when your house was built, have old programmes showing who the riders were for the Comets in 1970 or any old document of historical interest then you need:

### **An easy to search Online Archive of images and documents.**

As it happens the CLHF can help your group set one up with the minimum of effort and cost.

Interested? Then email Nigel - [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

## Stories from Parish Churches (and a Priory) part 2

The last Bulletin carried stories from 3 Cumbrian churches Wreay, Lamplugh and Addingham all with a woman as the lead character. This issue has stories all with male leads who died in their sixties, 2 good and 1 bad!

If any other readers have interesting facts or stories – however short-please send them for the next issue. Meanwhile I hope you enjoy these from Crosscanonby, Lanercost and Ainstable.

The Editor

John Smith

### Salt Officer at Crosscanonby

The church-yard at Crosscanonby contains a unique memorial to a forgotten local industry – and recalls the lost role of “Salt Officer”.



Photo: Crosscanonby Pans from Swathy Hill : Bill Shannon

The north-west coast, from the Solway to the Mersey, was one of just a few regions of Britain where, from medieval times, salt was derived from sea-water, initially by the process known as 'sleeching' or sand-washing, mainly using local peat as fuel - and later by direct boiling of brine using coal. On the shore at Crosscanonby, below the Roman fortlet of Swarthy Hill, lies the best preserved remains of this industry in the country, a large circular pit, known as a 'kinch', some 17.8m in diameter. The site was constructed c.1635 as a commercial venture, used large iron pans, and coal for fuel. It probably went out of use towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the face of growing competition from cheaper Cheshire salt: but in its hey-day, Crosscanonby Pans, as the site was known, plus a similar site nearby at Bank End, Maryport, known as Netherhall Pans, were highly productive, and profitable.

Always on the look-out for new sources of revenue, in 1693 the Government introduced a Salt Tax, which was levied at the point of production. This involved the appointment of Salt Officers to monitor that production, and levy the relevant amount of tax.



Photo : John Smith's tomb at Crosscanonby Church



One such was John Smith, whose life and work is commemorated in Crosscanonby churchyard, with a vivid carving of a man at work at his desk, apparently wholly unconscious of the angel (of Death?) hovering behind him.



The carving is accompanied by an inscription which tells us all we know of the man – and is possibly the only such memorial to a Salt Officer in the whole country.

‘Here lies the body of John Smith of Birkby who was salt officer at Netherhall and Cross cannonby Pans for 29 years. He was a good Neighbour, faithfull to his Friends & cheerfully relieved y<sup>e</sup> Poor, he departed this Life y<sup>e</sup> 15 day of March Anno Dom 1730 aged 64 years.’

By William D. Shannon

## Thomas Addison MD & the Addison Family of Lanercost



Under an ancient spreading yew tree in a quiet corner of the burial ground of Lanercost Priory in the north east of Cumbria sits the burial tomb of renowned 19<sup>th</sup> century physician Dr Thomas Addison of Guy's Hospital London. On almost any day of the week if you wait long enough you will witness at least one person searching for the spot where this revered doctor is entombed. For not only was Thomas Addison a physician he

was a highly respected scientist, medical pioneer and tutor and today holds a special place in the hearts of all involved at Guy's.

So, why is Thomas Addison buried at Lanercost when on the face of it he had no connection with this region? He was born in 1795 at Long Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne the youngest son of Joseph Addison a grocer and flour dealer and his wife Sarah. But look a little further into the history of this family and it transpires that he was a member of a long-standing yeoman farming family who had lived for many generations within the Banks area on Hadrian's Wall above the old priory and parish church of Lanercost. His father, Joseph Addison, was born here and moved to Tyneside on his marriage to Sarah and during his childhood Thomas may have spent time in the valley with his uncle's family at Banks House, the 18<sup>th</sup> century family home. After schooling in and around Newcastle Thomas studied medicine at Edinburgh university and in 1817 enrolled as a physician pupil at Guy's Hospital Medical School London and in 1839 became a full physician at Guys followed in 1840 as sole lecturer.

Of previous generations of Addisons surviving records show that the earliest mention of the name in this region is found entrenched in the Eden

Valley parishes of Crosby Ravensworth and Morland in the old county of Westmorland. By the late 16<sup>th</sup> century there was some movement out of the area and a branch of the family is found in the Cumberland parish of Aikton on the Solway Plain.

In 1595 a Thomas Addison of Thornby in the parish of Aikton was ordained as a deacon by the Bishop of Carlisle, John May, in the chapel at Rose Castle, the bishop's official residence. This Thomas Addison was the younger son of the late Thomas Addison of Thornby and is mentioned in his father's will. A year later Thomas was ordained as a curate at Rose Castle with his residence still given as Aikton parish. By 1606 Thomas Addison had taken up the position of curate at Lanercost where he remained for several years.

No more is known of this Thomas Addison as the Lanercost parish registers do not survive for this period and there is no evidence of a surviving will but it seems most likely that the Lanercost branch of this family stems from this Thomas Addison. From 1666 two branches of the family start to appear in the parish records and several domestic locations appear within the broader parish. In 1680 a Thomas Addison of Maryholme (the earliest known Addison location in the parish) is listed as a church warden. This Thomas Addison had a large family, one of whom, Thomas Addison junior went to farm at The Wall to the west of Lanercost close to Hadrian's Wall and at least another generation of Addison's was born there.

There is will and parish register evidence that takes the line into farming and from there into the professional and medical branch whilst also moving from the title of yeoman/statesman farmer into the local gentry band and the Addison's of Banks became local benefactors and were well respected.

But what of the chief subject of this article? He became a permanent member of staff at Guy's and rose to become their chief lecturer, much admired by all students. He was also a pioneering medical scientist but as a practicing physician it is recorded that his manner could be a little awkward, and that he had a rather reserved manner with his patients and so his London patient practice was not large.

It is known that he had an attachment to the old family home at Lanercost and in 1847 he married Elizabeth Hauxwell, a widow with two children, at Lanercost Priory Church although their primary abode was in Brighton and

Thomas also had an address in Berkley Square London. He retired slightly earlier than most of the Guy's staff, most probably because depressive episodes were beginning to overtake him and in his last days he had a team of carers at home to tend to him. Despite this he was sadly able to end his life at the age of 64 by deliberately throwing himself down a steep bank at his home and suffered fatal head injuries.

He was brought to Lanercost for interment and his widow had a plaque dedicated to him placed inside St Mary's Church Lanercost, which read:

"In memory of Thomas Addison, M.D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and late President of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of England. He was during 37 years Physician and lecturer at Guy's Hospital, London, the duties of which position he performed in a manner to secure to himself eminence in his profession, and the gratitude of his numerous pupils. To his talents and industry that school is mainly indebted for the celebrity it has attained."



At Guy's Hospital there is a bust of Thomas, a marble tablet memorial to him in the chapel and more recently a ward named after him in a new wing.

History has chosen that Thomas Addison MD is best remembered for his discovery of the degenerative disease of the adrenal glands that was later named Addison's Disease in his honour, but to Guy's Hospital, London, he has always been so much more.

Image: Bust of Thomas Addison

Chris Craghill

## A VICAR OF AINSTABLE IN THE PRESS

*(source: British Newspapers-on-line)*

In 1797, the Reverend William Smith was appointed to the vicarage of Ainstable by Richard Lowthian who was patron of the living. The Rev Smith was to have a troubled time during his time as vicar not only in disputes with parishioners over tithes but he was also involved in two court cases. And after his death in 1833 his estate was pursued by his successor the Reverend J Bird for recovery of damages arising out of the dilapidation of the vicarage and 'exhaustion of land'. Perhaps in preparation for his two appearances in court, in 1810 Smith was a founding member of a Prosecuting Association formed to "prosecute to conviction all those who shall in unlawful manner injure our person, or property, by assault, felony, burglary, embezzlement, larceny, breaking of orchards, trees or fence etc...."

As vicar, the Reverend Smith was entitled to 'tithes of hay, wool, lamb, turnips, potatoes and other green crops, the tithe of agistments and all vicarial small and mixed tithes arising out of the ancient lands and tenements' within the parish. Richard Lowthian as patron was entitled to tithes of grain and corn. The Inclosure Award of 1821 exonerated the tithes due to the vicar, except Easter offerings, mortuaries and surplice fees and compensated the vicar with land enclosed from the commons that amounted to approximately 434 acres. Reverend Smith was also involved in a long lasting dispute with Mrs Bamber of Nunnery as lord of the manor of Ermathwaite (lands once owned by Armathwaite nunnery) and Richard Lowthian Ross over maintenance of the chancel in the parish church.

In 1820 Smith was a prosecution witness when James Pickup was charged with 'putting the Reverend Smith out of his church and assaulting him'. Pickup made a reverse allegation of assault against the vicar. The argument was over a difference of opinion concerning new paving in the chancel and became violent when the vicar remonstrated with Pickup who, the vicar alleged, was not following his wishes. There was a struggle and Pickup pushed the vicar out through the church door. Another man called Morland then became involved. Pickup and Morland entered a counter complaint of assault against Smith. In evidence against Smith the court heard that the

vicar was in dispute with parishioners over the payment of tithes which was affecting their relationship - a very common occurrence in rural communities. Pickup and Morland were found not guilty and the case against Reverend Smith was abandoned.

In the second case at the Cumberland Assize in 1829, Richard Lowthian Ross as Rector took out a case against the vicar over 'great tithes' which he claimed were due to him arising out of one of the plots allocated to the vicar in the Inclosure Award. The argument centred on whether a certain allotment given to the vicar (defendant) under the Inclosure of the Commons 1821 in lieu of tithes was subject to the great tithes of corn and grain due to the Rector of the parish, Richard Lowthian Ross (plaintiff). Ross contended that the tithes were due to him but the vicar claimed the allotment was barren land (had been part of the common wastes) and therefore not subject to any tithes. Evidence was given that the vicar had cropped the land since it was inclosed and other evidence was given that the land had been inclosed 40 years before and cropped. Another witness gave evidence that sometime before 1821 the fences had been removed and the land reverted to part of the common. The verdict was for the plaintiff with £9 deposited for the value of the tithes, the issue as to whether the land was barren or not was left to be decided as a point of law.



Photo: The column and spire tomb stone of William Smith at St Michaels Church, Ainstable. This church replaced the medieval parish church.

The Reverend Smith by then probably a sad man died on 28 May 1832, his wife had died in on 28<sup>th</sup>

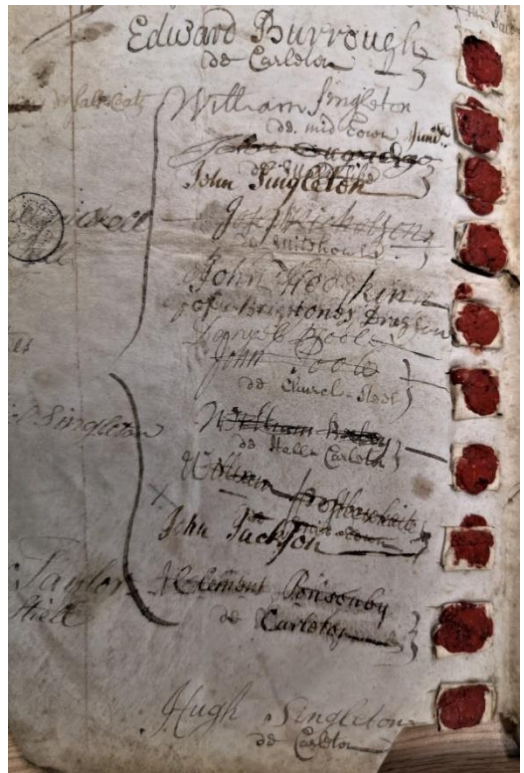
May 1820, his fifth and last son Richard, in March 1824 and his daughter Mary in June 1826.

Harry Hawkins

## Drigg Georgian Grammar School

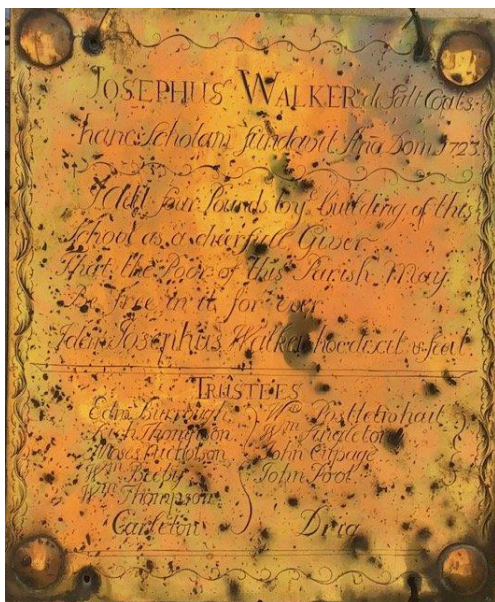
Drigg Grammar school was founded in 1723 by a Joseph Walker of Saltcoats, Carleton as a school for farmer's sons. Joseph was an educated man, and so towards the end of his life he founded the free grammar school. This was to be free to 12 poor families. In 1727 Joseph bequeathed £260, worth approximately £75,000 in today's money, for the school, he also appointed 9 trustees. Their names are recorded on this document:

Edward Burroughs  
William Thompson  
William Singleton  
Richard (John) Thompson  
William Beeby  
John Cuppidge  
Moses Nicholson  
William Postlethwaite  
John Pool



Joseph's stipulations included erecting a brass plaque, see photo, and that there were to be prayers said morning and evening. In 1727, places at the school were opened to children from the principal households.





The purchase of the plaque, along with other day to day expenses, were recorded in the school's cash book which survives to this day.

*October ye 30<sup>th</sup> 1773*

*Received of the Trustees of Drigg School for Iron Work the sums of four shilling and nine pence halfpenny by me William Troughton*

*October ye 30th 1775*

*Received of the Trustees of Drigg School for Seats and other work the sums of fifteen shilling by me Isaac Taylor*

*October ye 30th 1775*

*Received(sic) for the use of James Shepherd (? Sheppard) for glazing the sums of ten shilling and five pence halfpenny by me Isaac Taylor*

*Received two shilling and sixpence old arear (sic) Paid to James Shepherd (? Sheppard) for glazing by me Isaac Taylor*

*Nov ye 1st 1775*

*Received of the Trustees of Drigg School for the use of Jacob Brounngs (? Brownrigg) the sums of 3 shilling and sixpence halfpenny for work done at the said school by me John Hodgson*



*Money Lgd (?laid) out by me Jn Singleton*

	£	s	d
<i>I</i>			
<i>Dressing Clock</i>	7	6	0
<i>for Iron Work</i>	4	9	
<i>½</i>			
<i>for Lime</i>		1	1
<i>0</i>			
<i>for Seating School</i>		15	0
<i>0</i>			
<i>for Glassoning</i>	10	5	
<i>½</i>			
<i>ould arear (sic)</i>	2	6	0
<i>Mason Work</i>	3	6	
<i>½</i>			
<i>Slats</i>		2	0
<i>0</i>			
<i>Books</i>		0	8
<i>0</i>			
	£2	7	6
<i>½</i>			
<i>One pair of tongs for school</i>	0	1	0
<i>stones for grate</i>	0	0	6

*June ye 19th 1782*

*Then Re.d(sic) of John Singleton two Shilling and six pence for work  
and glass at Drigg School by James Sheppard*

*November ye 10th 1782*

*Then Recieved (sic) of the Trustees of Drigg School the sum of 1 shilling and eight pence for one days work at the said School By Jacob Brownrigg*

The school was located on what is now the Saltcoats Road, on the right hand side some ½ mile from the A595. The school declined in repair between 1795 and 1835 amid a controversy about missing money. It closed in the 1880s and was converted to a private dwelling.

Chris Gigg

Secretary Drigg Local History Group

## **Romany at Old Parks Farm Glassonby near Kirkoswald**



Romany was a Methodist minister ( Rev G. Bramwell Evans) serving at Central Hall Carlisle in the 1930's. For his leisure time, he travelled to the farm and stayed with the Potter family there.

It was here that he had the inspiration for his radio broadcasts on BBC Children's Hour and his numerous books on the countryside and abundant wildlife surrounding the farm. His broadcasts reached many children and their parents during the dark

days leading up to the Second World War. He retired after further service

in methodist churches to Wilmslow in Cheshire, where he died in 1943. There was an 'outpouring of grief' with letters to the BBC from thousands of children, who felt a connection with Romany and the countryside he described so eloquently.



Image: Romany's memorial at Old Parks Farm

The Romany Society maintain his memorial at Old Parks farm and a new panel about his life and work is being erected at the farm, with grants from the North Pennines Landscape, the Heritage lottery fund and the Romany Society.

It has been said that his influence extended to many notable conservationists including David Bellamy and his memory is cherished in Cumbria and in lifelong members of the Romany Society.

Sheila Fletcher Lazonby

## Old Photograph

There is no doubt that old photographs are a very helpful, invaluable and evocative source for local historians. Before the days of Photoshop, they appear to be a true account of people and places.

This one appears to be of a play that was staged in Grasmere in the early years of the twentieth century. It is dated on the back 1907. Very fortunately, the people in the picture are named below the date, and are, from left to right, **Lizzie Green, Lily Grass, Mabel Whittam, Tom Borwick, Robert Just, Kathleen Peel, Lottie Whittam and Jane Ellery.**

Another postcard has the title of a play, **A Daughter of the Dales**, but no one is named and the scenery and people are different.

No one who was in the play will be alive now, but someone who knew them or is related to them, may well be around. It would be good to have their comments.



June Hill

## A TOUCHING DONATION



Recently a book was donated to the archives of Alston Moor Historical Society that had been owned by and signed by Ronald Yeaman Tucker, a former pupil of the Samuel King's School in Alston. There is also a handwritten dedication that reads:-

**“This book belonged to:-  
Flight Sergeant Ronald Yeaman Tucker  
R.A.F.**

**Killed in action.**

Presented by his mother to the school on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1948, as a token of my gratitude for all you did in the moulding of his character.”

The book is called ‘Days on the Wing,’ by Major the Chevalier Willy Coppens de Houlthulst, published c.1931. The school disposed of it at some time and it was offered for sale somewhere for the pencilled price of 50 pence. Somehow it ended up at Dunchurch in Warwickshire where it was found on the top of a cupboard by the Parish Clerk, who had the kindness to send it to Alston Moor Schools Federation, who in turn placed it in the care of the Historical Society.

We already knew a lot about Ronald Tucker, he lived with his widowed mother and extended family in the former schoolhouse in the hamlet of Leadgate near Alston.

He was a star pupil at the Samuel King's School, where, on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1938, when he was in Form V, at the annual prize giving he was awarded a prize for reaching Matriculation Standard in the

University of Durham School Certificate Examinations. For his prize Ronald chose 'Aircraft of the British Empire,' by Leonard Bridgeman, and for the Lloyd Maurice Thompson Prize for Science, he chose 'The Mechanics of Flight,' by A.C. Kermode.

Ronnie was obviously fascinated by aeroplanes, on leaving school he joined the R.A.F. He became a 'WOP/AG,' being the acronym for Wireless Operator/Air Gunner. As "Old Student," he wrote an article for the school magazine of 1938 titled "We flew by night," then in 1939 under the pen name "Wop" another article titled "Air Operating." This story was the description of a routine aeroplane fight experienced by the wireless operator.

As R.A.F. Flight Sergeant Ronald Tucker, Ronnie flew with 235 Squadron with Coastal Command based at Bircham Newton in Norfolk, flying Bristol Blenheim light bombers that had a crew of three.

The Battle of Britain began on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 1940, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> five British aircraft were lost, including three Blenheim bombers. When his plane failed to return from "an operational flight," Ronnie Tucker became one of the earliest casualties.

Ronnie was posthumously awarded the 1939-1945 War Medal, the Atlantic Star, and the 1939-1945 Star with Battle of Britain clasp, the rarest clasp, awarded to 2,936 airmen. His medals are in the care of Alston Moor Historical Society.

Flight Sergeant Ronald Yeaman Tucker is remembered with more than 20,000 men and women who were lost during the Second World War, who have no known grave, on the Runnymede Memorial. His name is also on Alston War Memorial and the Roll of Honour in the Samuel King's School. He was eighteen years old.

Alastair Robertson , Alston Moor Historical Society

## Maulds Meaburn Old Houses Group

This month, March, a meeting was held in Maulds Meaburn to set up a working group, to research the building history and past occupants of the houses in the village centre. The aim is to examine all the houses which appeared on the 1859 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ordnance Survey map at 25 inches to the mile.

The results of the work will initially appear as a series of panels which will be displayed in the village institute.

Maulds Meaburn is a village within the parish of Crosby Ravensworth. It has buildings which demonstrate about 600 years of history. They are set around a green of 22 acres, in two rows which face each other.

The River Lyvennet flows from south to north through the centre.

About 25 houses and groups of cottages meet this criterion. The only house from medieval times is Meaburn Hall, but every house is built on an old site. The original building line behind the west side is marked by earthworks (marked as "British Settlement") and there are several instances of infill on the green itself.

The whole village is a remarkable survival of a plan which appears to date from the Norman reorganisation of land, under the feudal system.

Tofts and crofts (house plots with gardens) are surrounded by open fields which still show the ridge and furrow cultivation of pre-enclosure times. When the sun is low in the sky, or the land is covered with snow, the corrugations are clear to see.

Meaburn Hall lies to the north of the village amid its own demesne land. The mill, originally a manorial property, still has its leet, a scheduled monument, although not now supplied with water. The river fed the mill from above the weir, a quarter of a mile away. A gentleman aged 91 came to the recent meeting who worked there when it had become a corn and sawmill. We will be fortunate to have his memories.

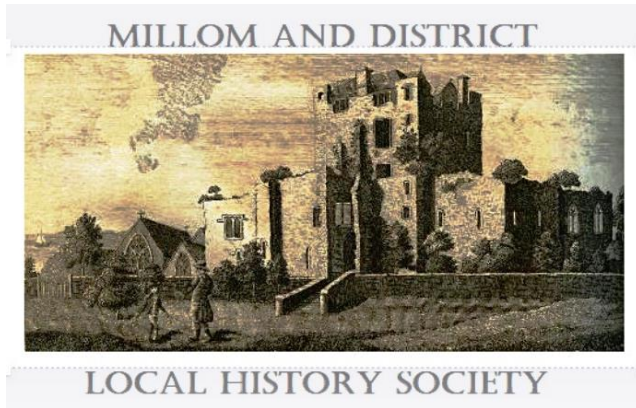


Image: Section of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map at 25 inches to 1 Mile, 1859. showing part of the village green and some houses.

We will also add to the observations made by members of Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, who attended a day's workshop just before Covid brought activities to a sudden halt. Indeed five members of CVBG were present at the meeting.

June Hill





## Millom and District Local History Society Update

We have been awarded £5,000 from Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeology Society to commission a specialist drone survey of fields near Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church where we were unable to complete geophysical surveys last year. The same specialist company will conduct a drone survey of the standing walls of Millom Castle and a 3D image will be produced. We are hoping this will identify any possible reused stones and any damage from the Civil Wars (which we will then need to look at more closely). The drone surveys should take place at the end of February this year.

We have also put in a substantial funding bid to the government's Levelling Up scheme for a Community Archaeology Dig. If successful, twenty volunteers will be trained and, under supervision of an archaeologist, will dig trenches to see if there is any evidence from the various periods of activity (from prehistory to current times). The public will be invited to visit the dig. If the funding bid is successful, the dig will take place during June with a special event to share the findings at the end of August. We will keep the public informed via our website: <https://www.millomhistory.org.uk/> and facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.millomhistory.org.uk>

Latest on *Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil Wars*: Two small grants have been awarded to print the book when it is completed (we are hoping to launch it to coincide with the 380<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the siege of Millom Castle). Further research is being conducted and volunteers have accessed Manorial Records at Carlisle Archives to find the General Fine Assessment Book for the Millom Estate in 1646: fines had to be paid by tenants when Sir Ferdinand Huddleston died and his son, Sir William Huddleston, inherited the Estate. One volunteer took photographs of the relevant fines whilst another has transcribed the information which reveals the majority of families who were tenants back in 1646 still have descendants living in the area.

Jan Bridget

Chair

**COANWOOD FEATHERSTONE LAMBLEY HISTORY GROUP  
INC HARTLEYBURN, TINDALE, PLENMELLER,  
KNARSDALE AND KIRKHAUGH**

**General Update**

We now have 254 paid up members from as far away as ex-pats and descendants in the USA. Anyone with local interest is welcome to join us! This is our facebook page, [Coanwood Featherstone Lambley Hartleyburn Knarsdale Plenmeller Tindale | Facebook](#) where you can see what is going on and post things on relating to any history of our area. On here there is a Just Giving/Crowdfunding link to join our group on or simply donate <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coanwood-featherstone-lambley-history-group> (Just £10 per person or new reduced rate of £15 per couple or £5 per person under 30 years old)

**Online Archives – [CFLHG Archive Catalogue \(cflhistoryarchive.org.uk\)](http://cflhistoryarchive.org.uk)**

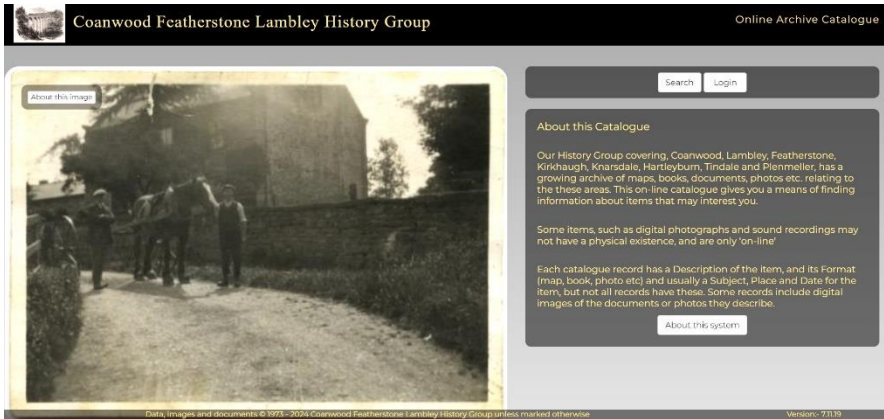


Image: Screenshot from the Coanwood et al Archive pages.

Our Group online archives page is now up and running for people to look up photos/docs etc. Paid up members can also view and print larger photos and documents once they have their private log in details from us. Thanks to Nigel Mills at CLHF and Tim Halden (Alston Historical Society) for sorting it out and Tom Park (Roachburn), Gerry Robson (Talkin), Nic Broomhead (Tindale) for assisting me to input information. Anyone else who has a bit of spare time would be very welcome to help us to input stuff!! See photo of the Archive front page (the picture changes all the time on the front)

### **Greenhead WI,**

We did a greatly appreciated talk to Greenhead WI on 12 Feb 2024 concentrating on their local area (Blenkinsopp/Greenhead/Gilsland) with many old postcards from 1902 to view and some really fascinating history.

### **Hallbankgate WI,**

Following a talk that we did last year to the WI, they have asked us to do a further talk in the Village Hall for anyone in the area to attend and enjoy. This should be around July time so watch out for it!!

## Featherstone Flyers Cornhole Club (“classy” bean bag throwing)



Our History Group partly funded Featherstone Flyers Cornhole which is now up and running, having had 6 events already in Dec/Jan/Feb/March. See photo of young farmers session at Featherstone Village Hall. All are welcome to come and have a go. Our boards and bags are mobile so if anyone fancied setting up a trial evening or afternoon at another village hall /school or relatively large space, (12 yards in length and 3 to 6 yards in width are needed) please consult with me to see if it's feasible. We recently had 20+ people turn up at Gilsland for an enjoyable taster session in their village hall.

That's all for now folks, happy Easter!!

**Richard Macdonald – CFL History Group – Chairman and Treasurer**

**Tel 074848 00632 or 01434 321316 , E Mail macasrich9@gmail.com**

## RENWICK AND KIRKOSWALD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our February talk was about **Bonnie Prince Charlie, 1745 and Penrith. Neil Hannah** gave a lively account to a well attended meeting on the 1745 rebellion which included a stay by Bonnie Prince Charlie at the George Hotel in Penrith. He included fascinating details on the last battle on English soil, at Clifton, and identified the oak tree in the middle of Clifton as the likely site for the burial of the fallen Highlanders.

A Cumbrian, Francis Strickland, was one of the 7 'Men of Moidart', the companions who landed with the Young Pretender at Glenfinnan in 1745. Strickland was a Catholic from an old Westmorland family, the Stricklands of Sizergh Castle who were longstanding Stuart loyalists. He had been involved in the 1715 rising. Strickland was taken ill on the march through Scotland and was left at Carlisle. Following its retaking by the government he died there on 1 January 1746.

The March talk was by **Dr Sue Allan on Cumbria's ballad singers and poets.** Ballad singers made a living mainly at the 19 Cumbria harvest and hiring fairs and cattle markets. Cumbria was popular venue; 'it don't pay you to go into Lancashire or Yorkshire'.

They recited or sang about local or national events with murders, executions and terrible accidents being popular choices. They sometimes played the fiddle or concertina and occasionally had an accomplice who picked pockets while the crowd's attention was distracted. One ballad tells the story of the hard times of 'Daft Watty' from Croglin who travels to a fair and gets comprehensively fleeced. Singers would pin up and sell the ballad sheets, often by the yard, '3 yards a penny', and by the railings at Carlisle County Court. The ballads could be sold because they relied on a small number of well-known tunes, often from Scotland.

They were much distrusted by the authorities and were frequently charged with vagrancy since they often made up their income with a few goods like pins and ribbons but didn't have a licence.

The most famous is Jimmy Dyer whose statue is in the Lanes at Carlisle. It



was a hard life and Jimmy pictured, died in the Carlisle workhouse. He fancied himself as a poet and wrote a memoir. 'Putty Joe' got his name from his periodic work as a glazier and was based in Whitehaven. Ballad singing came to an end with the advent of music halls.

The trade relied on adults having literacy and it was fascinating to hear how high was the reading rate in Cumbria, though as with the national picture this was much higher than writing levels. Penrith was a centre of Cumbria's book printing and made about 40% of Cumbria's books.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30 at Renwick Church when Harry Hawkins will speak on Medieval Parks of Cumbria - traces the history of hunting deer and deer parks to the Normans in England and later. Deer parks have been not only places to hunt (mainly with dogs) but also 'meat larders' and status symbols eventually evolving into romantic landscapes.

No booking needed. Adults 2.50, children free

Details from [dickobrien@hotmail.com](mailto:dickobrien@hotmail.com) or 01768254057

CLHF welcomes a new group, Arnside Archive group, who have written an introduction to themselves and their activities below

## ARNSIDE ARCHIVE GROUP

The Arnside Archive has grown substantially since its creation in 2012 enabling us to become a focal point for information on the history and development of the village and the families who have contributed to its growth.

Part of the Arnside Educational Institute, the archive is comprised of a small, friendly group of volunteers who come together to collate, preserve and maintain the collection. We have members who help with exhibitions, cataloguing and research and who also work on topics of individual interest in relation to the village.

Included in the archives we look after is the substantial collection of photographs and documents bequeathed to the community by the late Dennis Bradbury. Others have now added their own collections as well as artefacts relating to the various aspects of the village. These donations enable the archive to help with local history information as well as family research.

We catalogue all items donated covering schools, transport, religion, shops, local businesses and community groups, as well as tourism, local land deeds and maps.

Our website – <https://arnsidearchive.org.uk> – contains lots of information about Arnside and its history, as well as information about our group. Local history is exciting and enjoyable and we always look forward to hosting our annual exhibitions and sharing our discoveries with others. Our regular workshops on a Wednesday morning are busy and fun and there is always so much more to discover about the amazing place we live in.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the group and would like to come along to one of the workshops contact us on [arnsidearchivegroup@gmail.com](mailto:arnsidearchivegroup@gmail.com)

Sandy Felton



## CHANGE OF CLHF OFFICERS

I took over the role of Chair of the CLHF when Prof Peter Roebuck had to retire due to health reasons. I have enjoyed my time as Chair and I hope I have helped to steer the Federation forward after the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately our treasurer Richard O'Brien had to stand down and I have carried on both roles for the last nine months. At the last Committee meeting there was a discussion on people's role on the committee and it was decided the roles of Chair and Treasurer should be separated. Les Gilpin offered to take over the role as Chair if I continued as Treasurer.

So from the next committee meeting Les will be acting Chair and I will be acting Treasurer and these roles will be put forward at the next AGM for consideration by the membership.

Graham Brooks

### **CLHF Contacts**

To contact the CLHF Committee please see our website

[www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk)

For Bulletin Editor please e-mail [ruthlawley@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthlawley@hotmail.com)

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