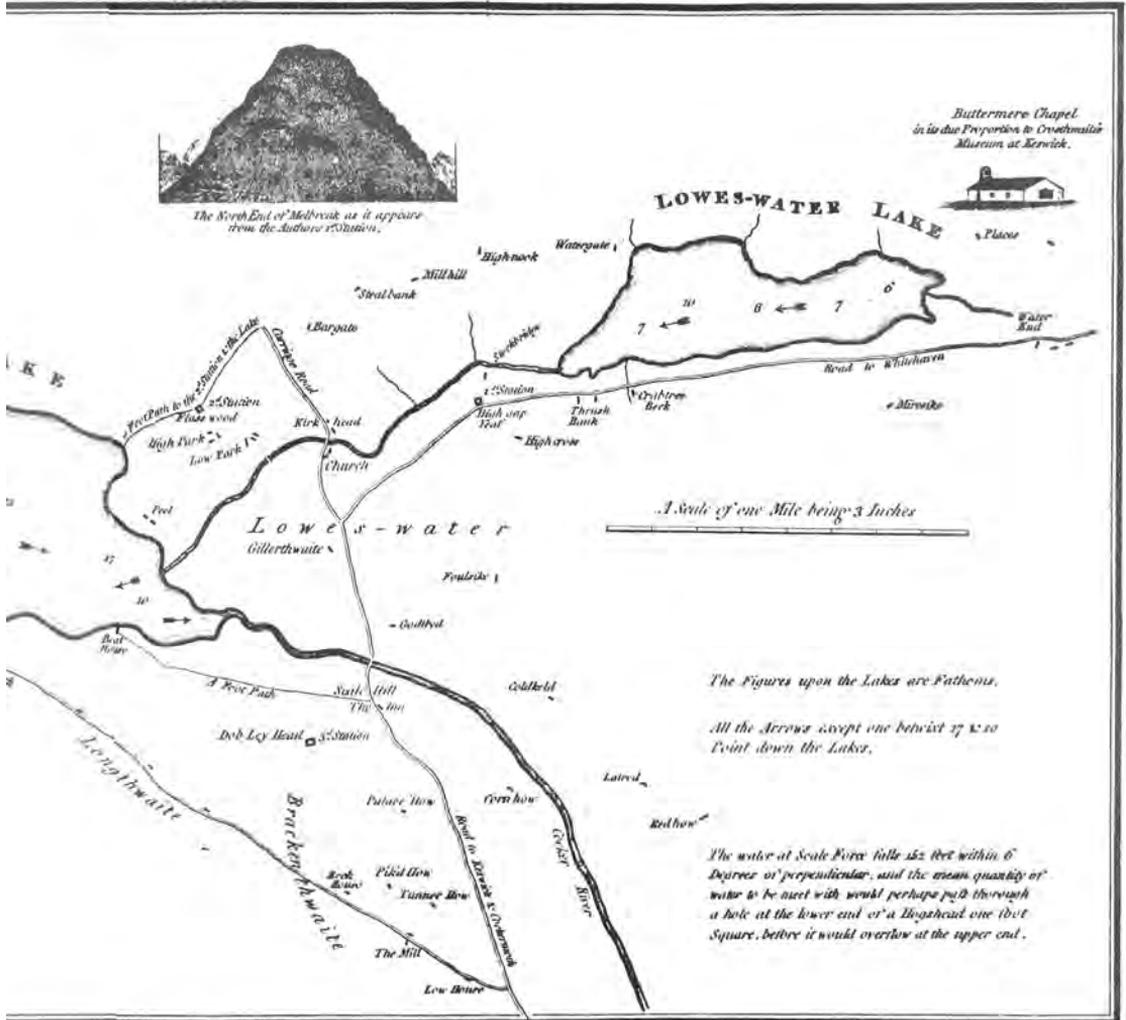


The Journal

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop

www.derwentfells.com



at his Museum Keswick.

York: Simpkins, 1852. Shewell

An ACCURATE MAP of BUTTERMERE, CRUMMOCK & LOWES-WATER LAKES; SCALE FORCE &c;

Taken from the same Scale with my Maps of the other Lakes, being 3 Inches to a Mile, Windermere only excepted, which is 2 to a Mile; I have here also pointed out 6 Stations Commanding fine Prospects; and marked thus \square , beginning near Lowes-water, and numbered to the left. The Company who go from Keswick to Scale Hill (10 Miles) in a Chaise, will be able to Visit the 1st, 2^d, & 3^d Stations; and the Scale Force, (a Water Fall) in one day, by the help of the Chaise and a Boat; provided they can walk 2 Miles of the whole days Tour, at 3 Intervals of time; The 2^d Station was the Favourite one of Dr. Brownrigg, and Dr. Franklin, in this Round. Those who Visit the 3 Lakes, by way of Newlands on Horseback, fall in at the Village of Buttermere, which is the nearest Road being 8½ Miles. And the Company who proceed to Visit those 3 Lakes, by way of Borrowdale 1 Gates-garth on Horseback, will have ¾ of a Mile to walk down hill, in passing the 2 Stupendous Rocks of Honistart on the left, and Yew-crag on the Right. The distance from Keswick to the Village of Buttermere, by Borrowdale and Gates-garth, is 12 Miles. From Keswick to Scale Hill Inn, (bearing W, B, S.) near the N. end of Crummock Lake by way of Whintatter & the head of Lorton Vale, 11 Miles. Chaise road. From Scale Hill Inn to Cockermouth N, N, W, 7 Miles d.

From Crosthwaite's map of Buttermere, Crummock & Lowes-water Lakes, 1794 & 1809

The Journal

Welcome to issue 40 of the Journal, ex Newsletter, and you will notice that this issue has been expanded to twenty pages to include the large number of contributions that have been received. It is good to see new contributors and the increased range of material. The Committee hopes that this will continue.

In particular the contribution by Dr Michael Winstanley is welcomed, in that it gives expert and practical guidance on a source that can easily be used to assist property research in the early C20th. This will be of immediate value to the House History Group which is restarting and welcomes new members who wish to know more about their house, or other houses.

In parallel Michael Baron is hoping that members will wish to be involved in a group which will investigate the remains of the ancient summer habitations at Scale Knott, near Scale Force. This work will have an archaeological content, involving expert assistance and guidance, but needs to be organised by society members. Few people now realise that Scale Force is and always was in Loweswater, and perhaps there is an opportunity for the people of Loweswater now to revive at least their cultural claim on those ancestral pastoral lands which once the yeomen of Loweswater defended at any cost.

Editor

Contents

John Dalton's Summer Vacations	3
The 'New Domesday' of c1909-15	5
A new narrative for the Chapel of Loweswater	9
Three views from the Inn at Ouse-bridge	12
A Note on St Mary's Church at Wreay	16
Lear in Loweswater:- a corrigendum	18
Proposed Survey at Scale Knott	19
The Society's Programme	20

The Committee 2007/8

At the AGM in June the Society was fortunate to have a full committee elected, despite losing two valued members. Mrs Dorothy Graves had been a member for six years and had ably looked after the interests of members in Embleton, Wythop and Setmurthy. Mrs Hetty Baron had been a Committee member almost from the beginning, was Treasurer for a period, but most importantly ran the Three Valleys Oral History Project, which has resulted in over forty transcribed interviews now being available to researchers through the Ambleside Oral History Group. The new members are Mrs Sally Birch, co-opted in 2006, and Mr Alan Airey of Embleton.

President:	Dr Angus Winchester
Chairman:	Mr Michael Baron
Vice-Chair:	Dr. John Hudson (visits)
Secretary:	Mr Ted Petty
Treasurer:	Mr Derek Denman (membership & publications)
Committee:	Mrs Sandra Shaw (talks) Mrs Sally Birch (house history) Mr John Scrivens Mr Alan Airey
Financial Examiner:	Mr Les Polley

Calling all House History Group Members and Wannabees

from Sally Birch

The All Saints Learning Centre in Cockermouth is hoping to run a two-session course on researching the history of your house. The cost will be in the region of £30 overall and the Centre needs an idea of numbers before they can go ahead.

The course will be in September so if anyone is interested in attending please ring on: 01900 828069 and register your interest. This will not be binding one assumes but will help them to secure funding. The next meeting of the House History Group will also be in September - date and venue to be advised.

John Dalton's Summer Vacations

by Dr John Hudson



John Dalton (1766-1844), whose atomic theory of matter has had such a profound influence on modern science, was born in Eaglesfield. He attended the Quaker school at Pardshaw Hall, where his teacher was John Fletcher. He moved to Kendal in 1781, and in 1793 he went to live and work in Manchester, where he remained for the rest of his life. Our locality remained important to him, not just because many friends lived here, but because he loved the countryside and the mountains, and he returned to Lakeland almost every summer for a one or two week vacation. This article is principally concerned with some of his visits to our own immediate area. Unfortunately, the available information is sketchy to say the least, principally because many of Dalton's papers were damaged or destroyed in an air raid in World War II.

On these summer vacations, Dalton climbed Helvellyn over 40 times, as well as ascending Scafell, Scafell Pike, Great Gable, etc. He almost invariably performed scientific observations while out walking. He usually took with him a

barometer (inside his walking stick – it must have been quite heavy!), a thermometer, dew-point apparatus, and sometimes surveying equipment such as a theodolite. On occasions he took bottles with him to obtain samples of air at different altitudes for subsequent analysis.

In the summer of 1794, one year after moving to Manchester, Dalton was at Buttermere. With three companions he ascended Red Pike, and he wrote: “The ascent to the red Pike by way of Scale Force is tolerable; but our Descent by Sour milk Beck was most hideous”. It is worth noting that some of the well-worn paths that walkers use today to reach the summits would not have been in existence 200 years ago, and Dalton frequently hired a local guide for his excursions. He noted that “Upon the red Pike we see at one station 5 of the Lakes, viz. Ennerdale, Loweswater, Crummock, Buttermere & Derwent.” There is indeed one point, a few feet from the summit, where one can rotate on the spot and see portions of all these lakes. Dalton also climbed Grasmoor, commenting “Grasmere [sic] is a very rough Hill to climb, the worst I was ever upon”.

In 1816 he was back in Buttermere again, with the intention of climbing Pillar. One of his companions, Jonathan Otley, recalled: “The morning [July 10th] did not appear very promising; but, however, we resolved to make the attempt. We passed Scale Force, and over Floutern, towards Ennerdale.From the state of the weather, it long appeared doubtful whether we would be able to accomplish our object; and, as we reached the vale of Ennerdale, a shower came on, which caused us to look for shelter, and we made towards a house which proved to be empty...” They were soon joined by some shepherds, one of whom, John Simpson, agreed to act as their guide should they attempt the climb. Otley continued; “Having agreed with Simpson, and the weather beginning to clear up, we started anew, and, calling at Gillerthwaite, we found Mrs Birkett baking oat cakes in the Westmoreland fashion; and although we were not unprovided with refreshments, we partook of her oat-cake and excellent butter and milk with a high relish, as being the produce of that sequestered region. About three o'clock, we, not without some difficulty, crossed the Lisa,

there being no regular stepping stones, and slanted up the mountain to the *Wind Yat*, the gap between Pillar and the adjoining mountain. Here we looked down the branch of Mosedale into Wasdale Head; after this we had to climb a steep ridge; and Mr. Dalton, anxious to reach the summit, was leaving us behind. Simpson, who had more experience, says, "Let him be going, we'll catch him at some turn." About five o'clock we reached the top of Pillar.....During the short time we could remain upon the hill, our chief object was making such observations as might enable us to place the Pillar on its place on the map, which had hitherto been inaccurate". They then descended to Ennerdale Bridge, where they found lodgings for the night.



**Unveiling the plaque on Dalton Cottage, 7th July.
Photo: Prof. Alan Dronsfield.**

The following year, Dalton was pursuing his mineralogical interests. To quote Otley again: "Mr Dalton, having taken the trouble to analyze [chemically] some of the minerals of this district, he naturally felt a curiosity to see the places where some of them were procured; accordingly, in 1817, we undertook an excursion with that view. We looked at the copper mine at Dalehead, in Newlands, and some iron and lead ores near Honister Crag.

For 1819 Otley's record reads: "In order to ascertain what were the portions of the ridge beyond St. John's Vale, that he had been in the habit of seeing from his native place, Eaglesfield, we took the Cockermouth road [from Keswick] to the top of Whinlatter, and then turned up along the ridge, where we could have a view both to the vale of Keswick and

also about Cockermouth and Eaglesfield. And when we reached Grisdale [sic] Pike, we had a splendid view of the north-western parts of Cumberland, and a portion of Scotland, and a romantic view of the glen of Hobcarton and its crags near us".

In 1828 Dalton was accompanied by "two young friends", Samuel and Mary Taylor, who had formerly been his pupils. On the day that they passed through our locality, they had spent the night in Cockermouth. Dalton's account reads: "Next morning being fine we planned to go to Buttermere, round by Greysouthen, Eaglesfield, Loweswater, &c., taking a car to Scale-hill. At Eaglesfield we staid an hour, walking about the village, to which their father when a young man had accompanied me 29 years before. We got to Scale-hill to dine, and having previously ascended a hill to have a fine view down to Lorton, we were prepared to relish our dinner with the prospect of a fine afternoon. Here we left our carriage and got a boat [on Crummock Water] towards Scale Force and after a pleasant sail saw the Force to advantage with sun illuminating the entrance; returning, the boat landed us at Buttermere, where having ordered tea we went to have a view of the upper lake. The evening advancing we had to decide whether to stay all night or walk through Newlands to Keswick.... However we set off between 7 and 8 o'clock, We reached Keswick at half past 10 and nobody complained of fatigue."

At 8 o'clock the following morning the party was on Castle Hill looking towards Skiddaw. They decided on an ascent, setting out at about 11, but on reaching the summit they were enveloped in mist. Dalton records "Finding all expectations of views was over, we collected specimens of plants growing on the summit. ...We got to Keswick about 6 and in half an hour were all dressed for tea as comfortable as could be."

Although one of Dalton's reasons for his visits to this area was to maintain contacts with his friends, it is clear that his outdoor excursions took pride of place. In 1829, on returning to Manchester, he wrote to John Fletcher, commencing his letter with an apology for failing to visit his former teacher: "Dear Friend, I received thy very acceptable

letter on my return from the North. Though I missed reaching my friends near Cockermouth this journey, it was not from a *lapsus memoriae*. When at Keswick (which I may consider as headquarters) my motions are considerably influenced by the weather; if that is fine I am tempted to prefer excursions into aerial regions even before the enjoyment of the agreeable society and kind hospitality of my friends....”

Dalton justified his excursions to Lakeland, and his mountain walks, not simply in terms of the rest, relaxation and enjoyment that they offered, but also in terms of the opportunities they provided for making scientific observations. In 1824 he published a paper based on meteorological observations made in Lakeland. In the introduction he stated: “As I had, for some years, been in the habit of allowing myself a week or two in summer for relaxation from professional engagements, and had generally spent the time in breathing the salubrious air of the mountains and lakes near my native place, in the North of England, it was, therefore, an additional gratification to be enabled to unite instruction with amusement.-I began my observations [on the meteorological issue under discussion]...in 1803, and have continued them almost in every successive year to the present”. This passage gives us an insight into Dalton’s work ethic. He implies that a mountain excursion should not be undertaken solely for pleasure, although one suspects that he was in fact as happy as a sandboy when performing his scientific work.

Unlike most scientists of today, Dalton’s interests were extremely wide-ranging. In the excursions referred to above, Dalton demonstrates his interest in meteorology, chemistry, mineralogy, surveying and botany. He believed it to be his duty to examine all aspects of the natural world in an attempt to reveal the glories of God’s creation. We can only really understand Dalton if we realise he had two laboratories, one indoors in Manchester, and the other outdoors in the open air of the Lake District. Even his atomic speculations arose as a result of his meteorological work which he commenced while living in Lakeland. John Dalton was not simply someone who was born locally and who subsequently achieved great things elsewhere; his roots here and his

continuing association with this area were of vital importance to him and his work.

References

Otley’s accounts are quoted in W.C. Henry, “Memoirs of the Life and Scientific Researches of John Dalton”, Cavendish Society, London, 1854.

Dalton’s own accounts are taken from letters reprinted in S. Ross, “John Dalton’s Lakeland Excursions”, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*, 1999, vol. 53, pp. 79-94.

The ‘New Domesday’ of c1909-15. The only detailed survey of property since the 11th century

by Dr Michael Winstanley

Background

The Finance Act of 1909 introduced a new tax on all land in the UK; an incremental site value tax which was to be levied on the capital appreciation of property. This was to be on increases in the value of the land alone, that is, it was to exclude any increases in value attributable to investment in improvements by the owners in, for example, new buildings.

Prior to implementing the tax the Inland Revenue had to value every piece of land to obtain a base line for estimating future increases (or decreases). As part of this it needed to make detailed valuations of the buildings etc. on that land. The survey was undertaken by newly appointed, and trained, surveyors who visited, described and valued every property or ‘hereditament’ in the country. The head office for this area was in Carlisle. Millions of sites were visited, described and valued in England and Wales alone between c.1911 and 1915 and the collection of documents more than merits its description as the ‘New Domesday’. The quantity of information in this survey is, as you can imagine, both tempting and daunting even before it is cross-referenced to other contemporary data such as trade directories, extant buildings, photographs, maps and, from 2011, census.

The National Archives (TNA) has produced a useful introductory handout although

infuriatingly, this does not appear to have been updated to include recent publications by the historian who has done most to make their availability and uses known, Brian Short. I have added his more recent publications to the list. His books are the only guide to what can be done with this source. As far as I know, no one has yet published anything of significance which has been primarily based on this material.

The Source

The documents were originally compiled by the Inland Revenue's Valuation Office but have only been in the public domain since the 1980s.

For most of the country, there are only three main classes of documents which have been preserved but for much of Cumberland and Westmorland there are additional materials which makes it much easier use.. The order in which you look at the documents will be determined by your research priorities and questions, so do not assume that you have to follow the procedures recommended by TNA documentation which assumes that researchers are concerned with a particular property rather than surveying a number of properties.

1) Valuation Books ('the Domesday Books' –Carlisle Record Office)

These are all located in local record offices (Carlisle, Westmorland and Barrow). The information in them was initially compiled from a combination of the entries in the 1909-10 rate book or from Inland Revenue Returns for Tax Schedule A, an existing tax on profits from property. Additional information, however, was inserted at a later date after the valuers had completed their work.

They contain:

- Assessment (Hereditament) Number
- Poor Rate Number
- Name(s) of Occupier(s)
- Name(s) and Address(es) of Owners
- Description of Property (eg farm, land, shop, house, shop and house...)
- Address of Property
- Estimate Extent (not always given)
- Gross Annual Value (ie gross letting value estimated for rateable purposes)
- Rateable Value (ie estimated net rental value after repairs etc)

Map reference

Gross Valuation of Property

Building Value

Site Value

Extent as determined by Valuer

Miscellaneous information affecting site value eg.

Rights of way over property

Easements/Access over other property

Estimated cost of the enfranchisement of the the copyhold or long leasehold

Additional comments: eg the date that assessment was first issued; whether the owner has put in a counter claim against the valuation.

Clearly, this source has tremendous potential to reconstruct patterns of ownership and occupancy by value, sex and property type; cross-referenced with contemporaneous trade directories the analysis can be taken still further.

2) Maps (TNA IR 133-35) and Carlisle Record Office

These allow assessment numbers within in the valuation books to be given precise locations within a district.

The final copies of these survive for the entire country and were based upon most recent OS surveys, in some cases specifically updated to 1912, mostly at scale 1:2500 (25") but for urban areas 1:1250 (50") or even 1:500 (127") for town centres and some villages (eg Lorton), usually adapted from smaller scale maps. TNA has the final 'permanent' copies but again Cumbria Archives have an excellent collection of working copies making it much easier to use the Valuation Books without having to visit TNA.

They are clearly superior to any other OS maps we have in that properties are given specific assessment numbers which relate to detailed descriptions of them in the valuation books (and field books, see below). The approximate size and layout of the properties are visible. Together the district valuation books and the maps can provide us with a detailed picture of property patterns within an area. But we can go further if we consult the Field Books

3) Field Books (TNA IR 58)

These are held in the TNA. They contain much more detailed information about each property. The information has been collected from a variety of sources:

- the original entries from the 1909 valuation list
- details entered by the owner on Form 4 (also available for much of Cumbria)
- a site visit by the valuer

This information does not always tally exactly with details in the valuation books because of the delays between the compilation of the original valuation books, the completion of Form 4 and the site visits. Unfortunately the precise dates of each of these are not usually given.

The detailed information in these books can shed further light on the nature of properties in an area and the people who owned and occupied them:

- nature of ownership: freehold, copyhold, long leasehold etc
- length of tenancies or leases
- date and price of purchase (if in the previous 20 years)
- level of rent
- liability for rates, repairs and insurance and other outgoings
- estimates of value of timber, fruit trees etc on property and, in the case of many pubs, their precise trade
- details of subletting or multiple occupancy
- detailed descriptions of rooms
- state of repair of the property
- plans of properties
- valuers' miscellaneous opinions – eg good neighbourhood; rent too high etc.
- details of farm fields included with the property valuation purposes

4) Additional Sources for Cumbria

Fortunately, Cumbria Archives chose to retain additional materials which mean that the source is much easier to use than for many parts of the country.

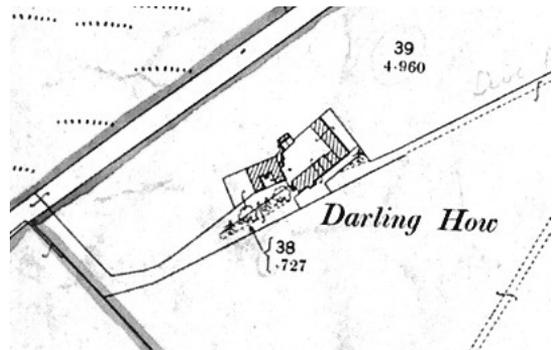
- a) Working maps (see above)
- b) Form 4 – the landowners' returns to the Valuation Offices
- c) Form 37- the provisional valuation sent out by the Valuation Office

Using the Source

The New Domesday is a uniquely valuable for family, house, local and other historians. The TNA's policy of allowing digital photography means that it would not be too difficult to create a virtual collection of all the field books for the area and to reconstruct a vivid picture of what it looked like, who lived here, who owned it and how much it was worth.

Examples of detailed entries from the Field Books for the C19th Darling Howe, Lorton property off the Whinlatter Pass and for the earlier Scawgill roadside property are given below.

DARLING HOWE, Lorton Field Book IR58/19199 (6)



Darling Howe on the working map



Darling Howe 2007, little changed

House and lands (409 acres)

Gross Value £45, Rateable value £40.10s

Occupier A D Tyson

Owner: Florence Dixon, Lorton Hall, Cockermouth (trustee of will) Freehold

Yearly tenancy agreement, Rent £50

Occupier pays taxes and rates, owner pays repairs

There are rights of way over property for adjoining owners and occupiers

Description: Owner F Dixon, Occ. A Tyson, Yearly rent now £48

Buildings: A House (indecipherable abbreviation) Boiling House, Bk Dairy, kitchen, 2 sitting rooms, 3 bedrooms; B Earth Closet, 2 pig hulls in very bad repair

C Stone shed for sheep with dipping place at one end; L Cart Shed; F Byre for 12 lofted, 4 stall stable lofted, cart shed lofted, byre for 12 lofted, barn (5 mews), granary.

The house and buildings are stone built – walls cemented. Slate roof in fair repair. The house and buildings have been unoccupied now for about 10 years and are getting very dilapidated. Good cobbled yard.

The land is all fell grazing with the exception of one meadow and 1 pasture field. Fences chiefly stone walls. About 200 sheep kept on farm. Land worked in conjunction with Scale Farm. Water supply from spring pipe laid to house. PLAN showing location of buildings referred to by letters (above) and OS field numbers – 409.288 acres (409a-1r-6p)

Gross value £1045 (£10 deducted for rights of way over) of which £735 is site value (OS maps showing property boundaries and field numbers in Carlisle Record Office and National Archives.)

SCOGILL or SCAWGILL Lorton (3) IR58/19199

52ac 0r 7p

Gross Value £28 Rateable Value £25

Occupier: Phillip Abbott

Owner: Mary A Renton, Boroughbridge, York Freehold interest of owner

Yearly Tenancy Actual Rent: £28

Outgoings: Land Tax 7/- paid by owner (no tithes etc)



Scaw Gill on the working map



Scaw Gill or The Lamb, all that remains

Rates paid by tenant Taxes, insurance, repairs etc met by owner

Fixed Charges etc 2/4 Lords Rent

No sales etc in previous 20 years

Owner M Renton **Occ** P Abbot. Yearly rent £28.

A House Yt? Parlour, Kitchen, dairy, cellars, Bk (back kitchen); 1st floor 4 rooms (not cealed? in bad repair)

B Byre for 6 lofted; Barn (3 mews), Byre for 6, 3 stall stable, lofted

The house and buildings are stone built in very poor repair.

24 acres of fell land, the rest in pasture of better quality – 2 meadows.

Fences stone walled around fell. Live fences in bottom in moderate repair.

Water supply from trough across road. Timber Larch (young)

Valuation worked out as £24.15 (ie £28 minus lords rent, tax and 10% repairs) x 25 years plus £30 for timber and £6 for sporting
 Deduct market value of site £464
 Value of buildings (difference balance) £190
 consisting of £130 buildings, £30 timber and £30 fences
 Field Numbers and Sizes provided and small **PLAN** of buildings
 Total site acreage 53.0.22
 Total valuation £657 of which site value £464.

Further reading and guidance:

Brian Short, *Land and Society in Edwardian Britain* (Cambridge UP 1997 – new pbk edition 2005)
 The best and fullest guide Copy at Whitehaven Local Studies, Non-circulating 33 SHO
 The National Archives online guide: Valuation Office Records: The Finance (1909-1910) Act Domestic Records Information 46 (but does not listed Short's book!)
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/RdLeaflet.asp?sLeafletID=102>
 W Foot, *Maps for Family History* (PRO Publications, 1994)

Michael Winstanley

History Department
 Lancaster University
 (Based on a talk to Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society, 10 May 2007)

A new narrative for the Chapel of Loweswater- the Parish Church of St Bartholomew?

by Michael Baron

'The trouble with fiction' said John Rivers 'is that it makes too much sense. Reality never makes sense'. Aldous Huxley's opening to his 1955 novel *The Genius and The Goddess*. That the plaque in Loweswater Church listing the clergy starts with John Borranskail in 1601 who is succeeded by Patricius Curwen in 1673 must have made sense to Loweswater church historians once Curwen found the Parochial Register (the 'register booke' decreed for every parish in 1538 by Thomas Cromwell,

Henry VIII's chief minister), for the years prior to 1623 to have been lost, destroyed or incomplete. Many registers begin in 1558, the year of accession of Elizabeth I. Ames in his 'A Short History' of the church cites an earlier vicar, Rowland- "the old register was lost". Bouch in his *Prelates and People of The Lake Counties* (1948) noted 'how many of our ecclesiastical records only date from about the Restoration'.

So Curwen invents as explanation the myth of the forgetful nonagenarian curate of Loweswater. And it also made sense to put on a very local pedestal the image of the priest who served a sizeable parish through the vicissitudes of the post-Reformation church (Borranskail's parents on this reading might have mourned the demise of the 'old religion'), the Stuart succession, the Civil War, a royal execution, the Puritan revolution, and the Restoration. The anonymous contributor, writing on Cumberland and Loweswater in Arthur Mee's *The King's England - The Lake Counties* in 1937 must have visited the church, read the plaque, in order to rhapsodise thus:-

...it is almost certain that old John Borranskail who was laid to rest here in 1674, had been ministering for the great span of 73 years. He would be a boy when the Armada came; he would be preaching here when Queen Elizabeth died, and when Charles died and Cromwell; and he was preaching long after the second Charles came back.

Maybe Curwen well knew who preceded Borranskail, but decided the people needed an example of long service and exemplary conduct. He may not have foreseen that another story was to be quarried from a number of proved wills of Loweswater tenants in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Though the fiction writers might have paused and wondered how old John Borranskail was when he apparently took on the care of his parish at the arbitrary date of 1601. They might have ascertained a man could not be ordained, then as now, until he was 23 years old. So if Borranskail was 23 in 1601, and was still giving the Sunday sermon in 1673, he was 95 years old. Mountains may breed rugged

men but dying at 96 when the life of the average man was around 35 years is more than surprising. It has, as Huxley's John Rivers conceded, sense "maybe from God's point of view... never from ours. Fiction has unity, fiction has style."

Examination of some Loweswater wills, and other evidence will shew the long ministry of John Borranskail as a beautiful fiction. The record needs correction.

But before proposing the corrections, some account of the history of the chapelry prior to 1601 is called for. It is well known that the first reference in the Registers of St Bees is of a chapel in 1125. What has been omitted from histories is that in May 1281 Archbishop Wickrane of York granted a licence to the Bishop of Whithorn (in Galloway) - a sort of sub-contracting of Cumberland episcopal duties - to consecrate the church yard as a burial ground 'at the unanimous request of the Prior and monks and inhabitants ... on account of its distance' from St Bees. Which would mean, not as resident priest, but that when required a monk might journey from Kirkyebugge (St Begas/St Bees) to conduct services. 'Might' since there is uncontroverted evidence that in another century there was neither visiting monk (all gone with the 1546 Dissolution) and no priest. The grant of burial rights - but where are the bones - suggests that besides the Borranskail 'myth' there may be the corpse road 'myth' and traffic post-1281 was one way, St Bees to Loweswater. The grant of burial rights reflects a common complaint about the length and difficulty of taking corpses, shroud wrapped, tied to a horse, over rough tracks in all weathers from remote rural communities to a mother church. Or that Loweswater had a population of sufficient size and status to deserve a right of burial - a 'crucial test of parochial *insignia*'.

One local man who would have known the customs and practice was Loweswater's first known native, 'Thome de Lawswater', named in the Register (op. cit p271) Thome as 'capillanus', a secular clergyman paid by the monks of the Priory to say Latin services at the chapel. In 1388 he was granted, perhaps in lieu of payment land at St Bees of 'half a messuage, 80 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 6 acres of wood, 6 acres of pasture, and 12 acres of turbarry

[the right to cut peat]'. A substantial grant, though Dr John Todd suggests Thomas may only have held the land for another. And in addition Carta 106 records the grant of pasture land at 'Kirkeheved' - Kirkhead. One history of Loweswater questions the siting of the present church as the original site and posits a field near Kirkhead, and beyond the Kirkstyle Inn. In either case our man in Loweswater may not have had to walk far to celebrate Mass, but without today's opportunity of refreshment. Carta 389 records that whilst the Priory will find a chaplain, the inhabitants shall celebrate mass at least once on Sunday as at their own expense, and, moreover shall provide it 'with books, vestments and ornaments, whatever are needed, mend and repair it as often as work is required, and provide all necessary ecclesiastical comestibles such as sacrificial bread, wine and wax'

So if Thomas is the earliest known of Loweswater's clerical visitants and celebrants, we do not hear of any resident curates before the 16th century. In 1548, with the Priory dissolved, the church of St Bees had but six clergy including Loweswater in the Bishop's return of his visitation, and in 1554, there are four listed and Loweswater is excluded. The dearth of clergy in the immediate post-Reformation period is well documented. We may assume Loweswater inhabitants, or rather their natural leaders, conducted services themselves. "They have no servyse but as they provide themselves", (from the return of the 1578 Chester diocesan visitation).

How do the wills fill the gaps? A document of 1506 refers to a "Clerke", Robert Wilkinson. Then in 1509 a Richard Robinson appears and Dr Rosemary Southey suggests he was resident (? at Kirkhead) in 1523 when Henry VIII divorced Katherine of Aragon. This is not the Richard Robinson of Brigham who purchased the Lordship of the Manor from Henry VIII in 1549, since it is thought ('Richard Robinson, clerk, chantry priest of Brigham' CWAAS, 1988.Art IX) took his B.A. at Cambridge in 1523. And assuming he was 23, was ordained, enjoyed various ecclesiastical appointments with revenues, and having made money, acquired property in London as well, where he died in 1549. Not long enough to found, his

biographer suggests, a Loweswer dynasty of landowners. His will is a rare case of a Cumberland will being proved in Canterbury. This Robinson had connections. Once more the church was without a curate, though his financial interests would have made him an absent curate.

Next is William Burnyeat, one of the many Loweswater Burnyeats. He witnesses as 'Clarke' the 1576 will of Elizabeth Harrison of Water Yeat ('Elizabeth Herreson of Lowswater'). She is buried 'within the churche yarde' but there were no gravestones to record her and other inhabitants for the next 120 years. Burnyeat also witnesses the 1594 will of Peter Wilkinson. He must have been skulking during the visitation of 1578 - perhaps he had not got a clean or any surplice to show the Visitor!

It is likely that the curate in 1603 was John Westray, or Westraye, probably the same Westraye who was married on 20 April 1604 in Lorton church to Agnes Mirehouse. He would have been aged then about 25. Ordination then as now has a lower age limit of 23. He might be that literate person on hand as an adviser to the Loweswater tenants in their litigation against the Lord of the Manor, and to have made the church available for meetings. And so the person to have witnessed as he did, on 11th November 1619, the execution of the deed at 'the Mill' as "John Westraye, Clerke" settling the litigation. His name appears in the will of Mathew Wilknson of Waterside (Waterend) 1623 as being owed 7/- and as a witness to the will of Thomas Iredell of Six Acres in 1612, of his widow Jenet in 1618, of John Pearson of Fangs in 1623, and of William Iredell of Peile in 1627.

This sample of evidence should end the curacy of John Borranskail for the first 27 years of the 16th century. The latter as a witness to wills appears in 1637, 1646 and 1662 William Iredell of Hiecrosse acknowledges he owes 'Sir John Borranskail five shillings', and generously gives Elizabeth Borranskail - five shillings. Neither the wills of the Woodalls of Waterend of 1670 and 1672 are witnessed by Borranskail, though this has the defect of negative proof.

So somewhere between 1627 and 1637, Westray dies (no record) and Borranskail succeeds. Assuming that average life expectancy

of 35 years, with men in good health living into their 50's and 60's. Westray, (aged 23 in 1601) might have died in the 1630s, aged 52 to 59.

John Borranskail is no longer the legendary curate who had been around when the Armada beat up the Channel, heard of the Whitehall execution of 31 January 1649, and had a extra tankard of ale to celebrate the return of Charles!! But nonetheless, curate of Loweswater for say 43 years. We don't have curates like that any more.

And with respect, Loweswater's visible record of its clergy might well be rewritten thus:-

Thome de Lawswater	1388
Robert Wilkinson	? 1506 -1509
Richard Robinson	? 1509 -1523
Richard Robinson	? 1549
William Burnyeat	? 1576- 1601
John Westraye	? 1601- 1630
John Borranskail	? 1630 - 1673

History abounds in question marks. Truth is often stranger than fiction. The narrative of St Bartholomew's Church is hostage to both.

Sources and acknowledgments

Wilson (Ed). *The Register of St Bees*. Surtees Society 1915.

Bouch. *Prelates and People of the Lake Counties*. 1948.

Ames & Edwards *A History of Loweswater Church* 1962

Richardson & Evans. *Tales Of A Lakeland Valley - Loweswater*. 1996.

Mee, Arthur (Ed). *The King's England - The Lake Counties*. 1937

Southey, R *As clerkes finden*. The Link, March 1992

Prof. Michael Waller., Dr Rosemary Southey.

The Rev, Canon Ross, Dr John Todd, Mr Edgar Iredale, Mr. Derek Denman.

Three views from the Inn at Ouse-bridge

by Derek Denman

In the preceding Journal issue, Samuel Taylor Coleridge entered the Derwentfells townships after breakfasting at the Inn at Ouse-bridge. On this, his first visit to the Lakes, his notebook captured the poet's November 1799 view of the Bassenthwaite valley:-

From Ouse bridge, from the Inn Window, the whole length of Bassenthwaite, a simple majesty of water and mountains...What an effect of the Shadows on the water! – On the left a conical Shadow, on the right a square of splendid Black, all the area & intermediate a mirror reflecting dark & sunny cloud –but in the distance the black Promontory with a circle of melted silver & a path of silver running from it like a flat Cape in the Lake. The Snowy Borrodale in the far distance...¹

The Inn was not to remain much longer, and in 1819 William Green's guide² advised '... till within a few years past, there was, near Ouse Bridge, at the foot of the lake, a good inn, where those in pursuit of pleasure, or improvement, might either refresh, or take up their abode for the night; now, the only public house conveniently situated for those purposes, is at Bassenthwaite Halls.'

The view now longer available from the inn is still available from the road, which ran in front of the inn and was always a busy route to and from Cockermouth and the coastal towns. Today, if travelling from Cockermouth to Penrith by the miracle of fossil-fuelled conveyance, most would take the A66 down the west side of Bassenthwaite Lake, past Keswick to Penrith. In 1799 the highways through Embleton and Wythop were poor tracks on the common, and they stayed in that condition until

turnpiked in 1825. From Cockermouth to Penrith the new privatised, turnpiked carriage-way of the 1760s passed through the commons of Setmurthy, by Higham Hall, Ouse-bridge, Bassenthwaite and Heskett Newmarket in a straightish line, time-saving on horse or foot; neo-classical turnpikes were the best roads since the Romans. The business-travellers at Ouse-bridge would mingle with the gentry-tourists, for whom the Inn was a fine station from which to view the prospect of Broadwater, to use the old name, or a grand seat for viewing the regattas. Norman Nicholson reports that the 'first attempt to organise an event of this kind was made at Ouse-bridge on Bassenthwaite in 1780, when ducks were chased by water-spaniels and a number of horses were taken out into the middle of the lake in a flat boat fitted with a plug – the plug was pulled, the boat sank, and the first horse to swim ashore was the winner.'³ This was a busy place.

There were two good surveys of the principal Lakes in the late eighteenth century, the first by Peter Crosthwaite of Keswick, starting in 1783,⁴ the second by James Clarke, a surveyor from Penrith, from 1787.⁵ Crosthwaite was a true tourism entrepreneur, with his own Keswick museum from 1780. He became the partner of Joseph Pocklington, staging mock sea battles around Pocklington's theme-parked Vicar's Island on Derwentwater, purchased in 1778. Crosthwaite's maps were the better matched to the needs of the average tourists, and creditably included Loweswater, Buttermere and Crummock – perhaps too distant for Clarke. Helpfully, Crosthwaite's map of Broadwater not only marked the Inn at Ouse-bridge, but also included a sketch of the elevation which faced the lake. The plan opposite reproduces

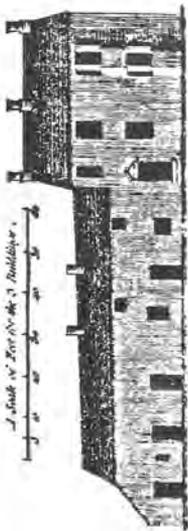
³ Nicholson, Norman. *The Lakers*. Cicerone Press, Milnthorpe, Cumbria 1995 (First 1955) pp. 92-3

⁴ Crosthwaite, Peter. *Seven maps of the Lakes*. Crosthwaite. London [Broadwater from 1785, Pocklington's Island from 1783, Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater from 1794]

⁵ Clarke, James. *A survey of the Lakes of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire: together with an account, historical, topographical, and descriptive, of the adjacent country...* Clarke, London 1787.

¹ Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834. *The notebooks of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. Text / ed. by Kathleen Coburn: Routledge, London 1957. p.537

² Green, William. *The tourist's new guide, containing a description of the lakes, mountains and scenery, in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire*. R. Lough, Kendal, 1819



Outbridge Inn (Sir F.F. Vane's Bar) situate at the N. End of the Lake. The Commands are Excellent Prospect.

A Scale of 100 Yards in 1/4 Mile

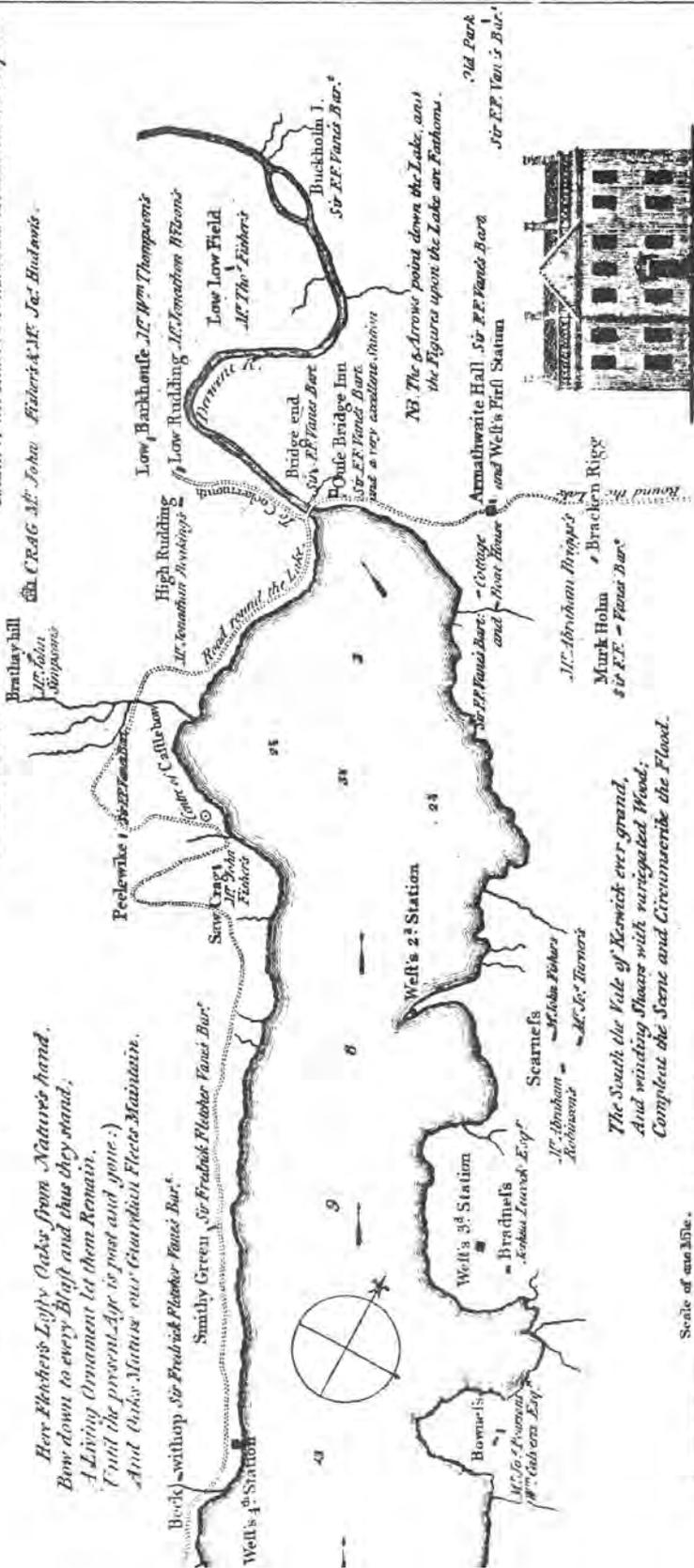


Cattle low (Sir F.F. Vane's Bar) with old Trenches upon it dug out of the Solid Rock. Taken from Balfourwhite Beck foot.

Her Eleventh's Liffy Oaks from Nature's hand,
Bow down to every Blast and thus they stand,
A Living Ornament let them remain,
Till the present Age is past and gone;
And Ours Mature our Grandchild Fleets Maintain.

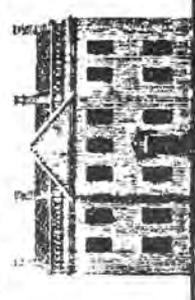
Beck) withony Sir Fraback Flusher Fane's Bar.

THE ROUTENBECK



The South the Vale of Kerwick ever grand,
And winding Shoars with variegated Wood,
Complet the Scene and Circumscribe the Flood.

Scale of one Mile.



Armathwaite Hall Sir F.F. Vane's Bar. I.L.D.

No. The 6 Arrows point down the Lake, and the Figures upon the Lake are Fathoms.

part of that map in its 1809 form, but edited and adjusted for the convenience of the page. Looking at the Inn, the stables were on the left, and the likely viewpoint of Coleridge in 1799 would have been a bay window on the right, 'a very excellent station' according to Crosthwaite. As we all know, most lakes are best viewed from their foot, with the lake-head set in the highest mountains and hopefully with a decent clothing of native woodland to provide the acceptable transition from lake beauty to the sublimity of sheer bare mountains. Loweswater is the exception to the rule, which looks better from the head, but that is only because a design fault caused the outlet to finish at the wrong end, travelling inland. As a station, though, the inn lacked the necessary elevated viewpoint, which West had required for his first station as shown on the map. Crosthwaite was more pragmatic.

Coleridge's winter visit was preceded by that of Captain Joseph Budworth, alias 'A Rambler', who stayed at Ouse-bridge on his second visit, around Christmas time 1797, two years before Coleridge and Wordsworth. Budworth's objective was to revisit Buttermere, to lodge at the sign of the char, which gave the Fish its name, and to note the development of his favourite peasant girl; for it was Budworth who first brought 'Sally of Buttermere' to public notice in the record of his 'Fortnight's Ramble in the Lakes' of 1792.⁶ Budworth was different from previous tour writers in that he travelled on foot, and over hills such as Helm Crag, and so describes the process of travelling, the people he encountered, the stops for refreshment, rather than the series of prospects on the standard picturesque tour. His tour is also notable for including two 'Queens'. The Mounseys of Patterdale Hall, or 'the Palace' which they rebuilt in 1796, were known as the King and Queen of Patterdale, through having no-one above them in their sequestered kingdom. As lord of the manor of Glenridding, Mounsey might see himself treating equally with the adjacent lord of Weathermealock, the Duke of Norfolk. Though Budworth makes no comparison, his account of the ale-house vulgarity of the Queen of

Patterdale contrasts with the simplicity, modesty and innocence that he portrays in the implied Queen of Buttermere, Sally of Buttermere, the 'reigning lily of the valley'. In 1792 Budworth was considering the common people, their place in society, their relationship with property, at a time shortly after the French revolution but before the war, when fear of an English revolution were a major concern to the established order.

Five and a half years later, in 1797/8, at a time when England now started to fear destructive invasion, Budworth rambled again to Buttermere to see the now famous and properly identified nineteen-year-old Mary Robinson, and to take responsibility or credit. But the previous night was spent at the Inn at Ouse-bridge, the focus of this discordant prospect in the Gentleman's Magazine:-

The frost occasioned this part of the road to be uneven and disagreeable. I passed little Crosthwaite, and was redirected to the border of Bassenthwaite-water, at this time seen to greater disadvantage than any other lake, having been so lately overflowed; many trees were torn from their beds, and it was very swampy; I had consequently a most uncomfortable walk to the Inn at Ewes-bridge, near the outlet of the lake, where I closed the day in a good room, over a Christmas goose-pye and by a blazing fire

...

The land here is much better than about Ambleside, or Hawkshead, but not so rich in wood: the hills and the mountains were in such new shapes, and varied clothing, I was gratified; and many houses about the lake must in summer have some sumptuous views, that are now in disorder; and pleasing ones, which are now swamped and defiled with coarse reeds. The dirt on the highway is deep, but the bottom sound. In short, there is nothing to induce us to pay Bassenthwaite-water a second winter-visit.⁷

The third view is from Ann Radcliffe, who toured the lakes in 1794, after touring Germany, publishing two hundred pages of mostly scenic

⁶ A Rambler. *A fortnight's ramble to the Lakes in Westmorland, Lancashire and Cumberland*. Hookham and Carpenter, London, 1792.

⁷ A Rambler. *Revisit to Buttermere*. Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. LXX. p.18 January 1800. Also 3rd Edition, 1810, of 'A fortnight's ramble...' pp. 390-2

description in 1795. Her view was the closest to picturesque tourism, though by an accomplished and famous writer. Mrs Radcliffe, like others, approached the challenge of describing the numerous scenes without becoming repetitive, while avoiding competing superlatives and capturing the distinctive character of each prospect in fresh words. For the Bassenthwiate scene, and only for Bassenthwiate, she used the word ‘amphitheatrical’:-

*From the house at Ouse Bridge the prospect is exquisite up the lake, which now losing the air of a wide river, re-assumes its true character, and even appears to flow into the chasm of rocks, that really inclose Derwentwater. Skiddaw, with all the mountains round Borrowdale, form a magnificent amphitheatrical perspective for this noble sheet of water; the vallies of the two lakes extending to one view, which is, therefore, superior to any exhibited from Derwentwater alone. The prospect terminates in the dark fells of Borrowdale, which by their sublimity enhance the beauty and elegance, united to a surprising degree in the nearer landscape.*⁸

Mrs Radcliffe, the dominant romance writer of the 1790’s, whose Gothic novels, usually set in an imagined Italy, was a dangerous influence in this time of war and revolution. Her works tended to stimulate the imagination and expectations of young ladies. In her tour-year of 1794 she had also published *The mysteries of Udolpho*, in which another amphitheatre helps to describe unseen Tuscany: ‘How vivid the shrubs, that embowered the slopes, with the woods, that stretched amphitheatrically along the mountains!’ This tale of romance and seduction became the target of Jane Austen’s cautionary tale, *Northanger Abbey*, originally written as ‘Susan’ in 1788-9, in which the impressionable young heroine, intoxicated by ‘Udolpho’, is only just saved from an unsuitable liaison by her superior breeding and manners, whilst her slightly lower class co-reader falls, and faces ruin. The romantic inclinations which Mrs Radcliffe irresponsibly

encouraged in young ladies, had to be constrained within the protocol of the social order; conformance may well be rewarded with a husband slightly better than one had a right to expect. Mrs Radcliffe posed a greater threat than say, Mary Wollstonecraft, whose libertine lifestyle and polemic carried its own health warning. Mrs Radcliffe wrote from a respectable personal position, and carefully set her escapist romances in fictitious foreign locations, never in her home town of Bath, where Austen placed the *Northanger Abbey* story.

James Plumtre must have been well aware of the dangers of Mrs Radcliffe when he wrote his comic opera in three acts ‘The Lakers’, of 1798,⁹ set in Keswick and Borrowdale. This opera was never performed but was intended to be read as a satire on the affectation of the picturesque, at a time when difficulties with European travel, caused by pan-European warfare, made the Lakes the first-choice holiday destination. Plumtre created a female anti-heroine, Miss Beccabunga Veronica of Diandria Hall, as a gushingly enthusiastic picturesque traveller and botanist, with viewing glasses for every artist’s style and for every atmospheric effect. Plumtre later apologised to the picturesque theorist William Gilpin for this ridicule of the picturesque, but never to Mrs Radcliffe who was, as Bicknell¹⁰ has noted, a large part of Veronica, and whose tour Plumtre indicated as a target. Sited at the West’s station in Crow Park and before marvelling at ‘the amphitheatrical perspective of the long landscape’ in the blue glass, Veronica advised Sir Charles Portinscale:-

... I have always several works in hand at the same time; and, as I always introduce a great deal of description of scenery in my romances, I keep that in my eye while I am travelling, and write a romance at the same time with my tour. It is only putting Geneva for Windermere, and, though I have never been abroad, I describe the scenery exactly as well as if I had been there. But I think I shall lay the scene of my next

⁸ Radcliffe, Ann. *A journey made in the summer of 1794 through Holland and the Western frontier of Germany, with a return down the Rhine: to which are added observations during a tour of the Lakes of Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland*. Robinson, London. 1795 Vol. II p. 334-5

⁹ Plumtre, James. *The Lakers: a comic opera in three acts*. Clarke, London. 1798

¹⁰ Bicknell, Peter. *The picturesque scenery of the Lake District 1752-1855: a bibliographical study*. St Paul’s Bibliographies, Winchester. 1990 pp. 12-3

*upon Derwent-water, make St. Herbert to have murdered a pilgrim, who shall turn out to be his brother, and I shall call it "The Horrors of the Hermitage." I can introduce a mysterious monk of Borrowdale...*¹¹

Three very different descriptions of the prospect from or about Ouse-bridge have been given from the 1790s. The scene of course changes with the weather and the time of year – Coleridge had the benefit of recent snow for his personal portrait, which was not for publication in the notebook form, but which had everything to do with how the Lakes might figure in his future life and work. The view and experiences recorded in the published accounts of travellers were always mediated by their interests, their politics and the message they wished their readers to receive. The 1790s was a period of revolution and war, when change and reform were bound to come but when any outcome seemed possible. The eyes of the political classes were focussed nervously on the peasantry; would they fight for the country or divide the spoils? The nature of the rustics of England's favourite touring location was part of this discourse. Was Budworth's social ramble intended to convey his views on the place of the common people and did his return to a difficult winter landscape include a warning of an invaded land? Was Mrs Radcliffe in part collecting scenic description for use in setting her Italian romances? Was Plumtre more concerned with the affectation of the picturesque or the role of women in society, and the dangers of Mrs Radcliffe and her kind? In the 1790s everyone who mattered toured the Lakes, and debates about democracy, the place of women and the nature and future survival of 'Englishness' coloured representations of the landscape and its people, though of course we can never know to what extent.

A Note on St Mary's Church at Wreay

by Elizabeth Birkett



St Mary's Church, Wreay

On 12th May members of the Society visited St. Mary's Church in the village of Wreay. Although Pevsner devotes three pages of description to this little church, he also puts it forward in his introduction to "Buildings of England: Cumberland and Westmorland" thus: "Who are the best, or what is best in church architecture during the years of Queen Victoria? The first building to call out, one introduces with hesitation; for it is a crazy building without any doubt, even if it is a most impressive and in some ways amazingly forward-pointing building: the church of Wreay which Miss Sara Losh designed in 1835".

Simon Jenkins in "England's Thousand Best Churches" is equally enthusiastic, awarding Wreay four stars (only Cartmel has a similar number in Cumberland) and ending his account

¹¹ Plumtre 'Lakers' p. 18

by saying: "Sara Losh was an individual genius, an architectural Charlotte Bronte. The Arts and Crafts Movement took half a century to catch up with her".

The whole enterprise and design for the church at Wreay belongs to Sara Losh who conceived it as a memorial to her sister, Katherine. There is also a hint of romance: Major William Thain, local hero and soldier who had fought at Waterloo and who had been killed in Afghanistan, had sent Miss Losh a pine-cone as his last missive. Carvings of pine cones are everywhere in the church.

According to Miss Losh's own notes, in 1840 the old chapel was found to be in a very dilapidated condition. After deciding that it was not worth repair, Miss Losh entered into an agreement that she would supply the land for a new chapel and defray all the expenses of its creation, on condition that she should be left unrestricted as to the mode of its design and construction. Some of her relatives also contributed to the expenses.

I shall not here attempt to comment on the design or decoration of the church at Wreay, for my interest is a more personal one. Miss Losh used local talent for her enterprise. Her gardener did some of the oak carving and the builder was a local waller and mason, William Hindson, whose skill is commended in several guidebooks. His son, also William, is described as a master mason and stone carver and he, it is believed, was sent to Italy by Miss Losh in order to polish his skills before carrying out her designs in the church, These two craftsmen were grandfather and uncle to my late husband's grandmother, Mary Hindson. To continue on a personal note: Mary Hindson's father Peter, was the youngest of William Hindson's nine sons.

Not surprisingly sons James and George (seventh and eighth) emigrated to Canada around 1840 and were later joined by two nephews, William and John Hindson. They all appear to have become successful farmers in and around Ontario but continued to pine for Cumberland as the verses, "The Song of a Cumberland Exile" show. More recently, a branch of the Canadian' Hindsons became interested in their Cumbrian heritage and did some admirable detective work among the archives, before the Internet made this



Interior design

information easier to acquire. In 1988 they were granted permission to erect a plaque at the back of the church. This reads:-

In thankful memory of
WILLIAM HINDSON
 Master stonemason and waller
 of Mellguards
 and his son
WILLIAM HINDSON
 stone carver
 of Hackingbag and Howfield
 and of other local craftsmen who used their
 skills
 building this church in 1840 -1842.
 Erected in 1988 by descendents of
 the Hindsons living in Canada and the United
 States.

The Song of a Cumberland Exile

By Wm. Hindson, Dunville, Ontario, Canada

On Howfield, 1863

There's not a spot on earth so dear
To me as Howfield's bowers;
Here winding Petteril flows through holms
And meadows decked with flowers; -
Of lovely scenes of happiness,
In boyhood's sunny hours!

A.D. 1864

But many years have passed away,
Since I those bowers have seen;
And care has plowed his furrows deep; -
Yet still no other scene
Is half so dear to Memory's heart,
As Howfield's woods so green.

A.D. 1889

And now, when other years have flown,
I roam an exile still;
For naught can satisfy my heart
Like Howfield on the hill;
No holms, no meadows half so sweet,
No stream like Petteril.

I long to see the dear old farm,
To walk through Chapel Dale,
To wander through the pleasant woods,
That beautify the vale;
To lay me down in childhood's home,
When strength and life shall fail.

The wish is vain, I bid farewell
My childhood's home to thee;
Thy woods, thy streams, thy hills, thy vales,
My eyes no more shall see;
But though I tread thy fields no more,
None else so dear to me.



There was an Old Man of Whitehaven, who danced a quadrille with a Raven;
But they said, "It's absurd to encourage this bird!"
So they smashed that Old Man of Whitehaven.

Edward Lear on Whitehaven Lear in Loweswater, 26th September 1836:- a corrigendum.

by Michael Baron



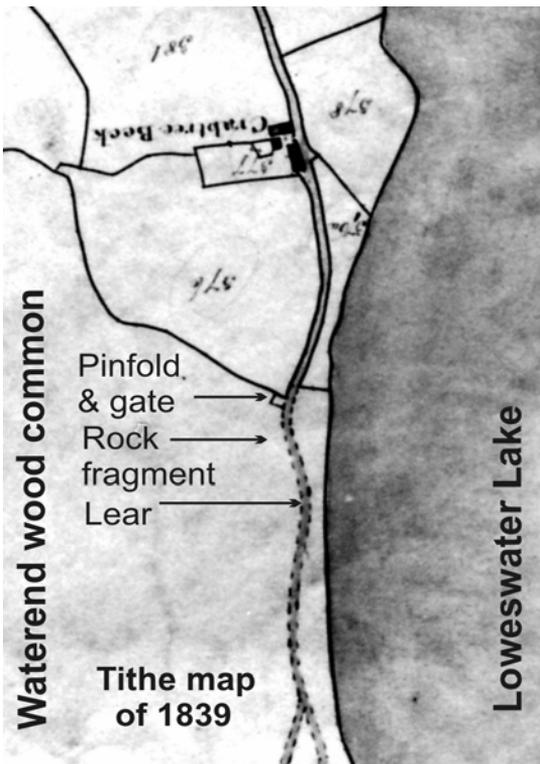
Detail from the sketch
(the Wordsworth Trust)

In 'the Excursion of Edward Lear to Crummock, Buttermere and Loweswater' (The Journal, February 2007) the penultimate paragraph of 'Diaries, Dates, Drawings' has this - "One can not with any certainty fix the spot where Lear sat and sketched the cover drawing now in the possession of the Wordsworth Trust". The huge boulder in the left foreground was a puzzle. No more.

Lear sat some 150 yards from the end wall of the now derelict pinfold, or pound, in which stray or unclaimed cattle or sheep were collected. Sited at the boundary with Waterend Wood Common, a gate, as seen in the 1837 drawing, closed off the South side of the common land. The illustrated section of the Tithe Map of 1839 shows the boundaries and pinfold. The lower mass of the boulder is now hidden in the trees, bordering the road. Two parts of it, which may be its twin 'peaks', lie in the grass on adjoining land. The road has been straightened. This explains the present space for parking a car just off the road. The small beach Lear saw was a public watering place for cattle, now absorbed into the lake side thick with trees and shrubs. With those trees in the full leaf of summer, Melbreak is not visible. So speculation that this 1837 studio drawing was worked up into a visual fiction is happily unfounded.



Part of the rock?



But this leaves open the question of the identity of the man and small girl, and whether they are walking this Monday morning in Loweswater. They might be John Wilkinson of Miresyke with one of his five daughters. Might they be going to the village school then housed in what is now Rose Cottage? Are they too well dressed to be the owner of Miresyke and daughter? Since the boulder is now fact, it is likely these two, whoever they may be, are the actual morning walkers. Though there remains a scintilla of doubt that the figures are added for the completion of this version, of an original sketch.

What we get with Lear is what he saw. I am deeply indebted to the research and intimate local knowledge of William Vickers of Askhill, and his photographs on which I have based mine.

Proposed Survey at Scale Knott

by Michael Baron & Derek Denman

Encouraged by previous suggestions from our President, Dr Angus Winchester, Michael has looked into the possibility of investigation the habitation remains on Scale Knott, near Scale Force. Though situated near Buttermere, the huts (Old Norse 'skali') belonged to Loweswater Manor. As with other places called 'Scales', these huts would have been used in the summer by shepherds and cowherds for shelter, milking and other pastoral purposes. In this case the huts, on what was Loweswater Common, are related to the ancient Buttermere Scale stinted pasture, which lies between Scale Beck and Sour Milk Gill. But whereas most Scales became full farmsteads in the later medieval period, those at Scale Knott did not.

The land and remains at Scale Knott were allotted to William Marshall, Lord of the manor of Loweswater, around 1863 and were attached to his Croft Farm, Buttermere. Croft Farm and Scale Knott now belongs to Mr Brian Stagg, who is interested, as is the Society, to know what form these huts took, when they were first used, and last used.

Michael has discussed the project with North Pennines Archaeology Limited, who would be willing to contract to undertake an English Heritage Level 2 field monument survey, but the Society would need to lead the overall project, obtain additional grant funding and combine the survey with historical and other archaeological investigations as necessary. We are therefore looking for a few interested members to get involved with this fascinating site. If you might like to be involved with this 'hut history group' please contact Michael Baron on 01900 85289 or any of the Committee.



The only known photograph of Scaw Gill, or the Lamb Inn as it became for a while in the C19th. Part has collapsed, dating this after the Land Tax survey on Page 8. In the case of this late medieval farmstead, now gone, the survey is an invaluable source. The Jennings flax mill was, unfortunately, demolished just before the survey.

The next Journal will be published for 1st Feb 2008. Please send contributions to Derek Denman by 7th Jan.

Published by Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society. Beech Cottage, High Lorton, Cockermouth CA13 9UQ

L&DFLHS Events – remainder of 2007

Date	Event
<i>12th July</i>	Talk: by Dr Roz Southey - Eighteenth Century music and musicians in West Cumberland.
<i>15th July</i>	Historical walk in Embleton in support of the Village Hall
<i>12th August</i>	Historical walk around Pardshaw Hall. Places limited. Contact Sandra Shaw for details 01900 829812
<i>8th Sep</i>	Visit to Arkelby House Farm. Talk and tour of C18th buildings and lime kilns. Places limited, please contact Ted Petty 01900 85264
<i>13th Sep</i>	Talk: by Andrew Lowe- Power from the Fells - water powered industries
<i>8th Nov</i>	Talk: by Sue Grant - The story of Newlands Valley
Unless stated otherwise, talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton starting at 7.30pm. Visitors £2 including refreshments.	