

# The Journal

## Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite    Buttermere    Embleton    Loweswater    Mockerkin    Pardshaw    Wythop

[www.derwentfells.com](http://www.derwentfells.com)

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*The former Methodist Chapel at Pardshaw, photograph John Macfarlane*



*The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at Embleton, photograph John Macfarlane*

## ***The Journal***

In this issue Sandra Shaw reports on the important and successful work of a group of members who have completed the local Jubilee Digests for the Victoria County History project. It has always been the purpose of the Society, and a continually challenging one, to contribute to knowledge of and the writing of our local history. These Jubilee Digests will remain as brief references for future historians and represent an achievement in which the participants and the Society can and should take some pride. It was not an easy task for any of the participants, and we have all learned in the process. We must thank Sandra for taking on and completing the difficult role of co-ordinator, as well as for making this report on behalf of the group.

Much of the other material illustrates the lives and labour of the ordinary working people, miners, labourers, servants, cottagers and emigrants, whose difficulties are too easily obscured by the wash of a picturesque watercolour.

Derek Denman

### ***L&DFLHS 2012-13***

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Ted Gilbertson      *Talks*  
Dr John Macfarlane      *Outings*  
Roger Cole  
Richard Easton  
Charles Lambrick

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## ***The history of Lorton and the Derwent Fells through objects***

*by John Hudson*

### ***Could you write 500 words about an object of local historical interest?***

Most members will by now have heard about the Society's *Objects* project. Inspired by Neil Macgregor's radio series *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, we are aiming to collect and display a number of objects, each of which illustrates an aspect of the history of our area. The idea is to hold an exhibition of the objects in October 2013 to mark our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Each object will be accompanied by a short piece of text describing the historical theme which the object exemplifies. To commemorate our anniversary, it would be appropriate to assemble 20 objects, but we can easily display a few more if necessary. So that visitors to the exhibition can appreciate all the items on display, we are limiting the descriptive text for each object to a mere 500 words.

We have already had some excellent suggestions for items to be included in the exhibition. Without giving the game away about what the objects are, some of the themes which they exemplify include: the prehistoric inhabitants of the area; medieval iron smelting; the measures yeoman farmers took to protect themselves in troubled times; medical services in earlier times; the introduction of compulsory education; the printing of handbills in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, early climbing and mountaineering, corn milling in local mills, and the pattern of land ownership. In addition to these, we have had several other suggestions. Inevitably the coverage of the history of our area will be patchy, but it will reflect the interests and enthusiasms of the members who participate, and also the availability of suitable objects. We are delighted with the response so far, and it is clear we have the makings of an interesting exhibition, but we still have some way to go before we reach the minimum target of 20 objects. This is therefore an appeal for more volunteers to come forward, and although October is a long way off, it is probably easier to work on a project like this during

the winter months. If you have (or know of) an object on which a historical description could be based, please get in touch with me or another member of the Committee - we can help with the research if necessary. Likewise if there is a theme about which you feel you could write 500 words, we may be able to suggest a suitable object and help to find an example.

To provide an example of what we have in mind, the following piece (500 words) is prompted by a simple oil can used at one time on the railway line which passed through our area at Wythop and Embleton.

**An OIL CAN from the  
Cockermouth Keswick and Penrith  
Railway (CK&PR)**

*Machinery needs lubricating, and this simple oil can was used on the railway which ran through our region. A railway line from Workington to Cockermouth was opened in 1847, but it was not until 1861 that parliamentary approval was given to build a line eastwards from Cockermouth. The line proceeded via stations at Embleton and Bassenthwaite Lake (Wythop), before continuing along the western shore of the lake to Keswick and on to Penrith. There it connected with lines from the south and from the north east of England. The line was opened to goods in October 1864, with the first passengers being carried in January 1865.*

*The line had an immediate impact. At Keswick the sudden influx of day trippers from Carlisle, Penrith, Preston, Workington, etc. alarmed some of the inhabitants, and the Company decided "not to promote such [excursion] Traffic by Special Trains". It did however build a large first class hotel next to the station. The railway certainly brought a superior class of visitor to Wythop, where the woods, moors and lake provided good shooting and fishing.*



**A post-grouping London Midland & Scottish railway oil can, c.1925**

*New employment was created not only by the railway company, but in game-keeping, woodland management, beating, and staff at the Pheasant Inn and Peil Wyke Hotel. The coming of the railway reversed a previous declining trend in the population of Wythop.*

*Although passenger traffic was important, the principal reason for constructing the line had been the carriage of minerals. The blast furnaces of west Cumberland needed coke from the north east, and the north east needed iron ore and pig iron from west Cumberland. But once in operation, the line carried a significant amount of local freight. It handled granite from a quarry at Embleton, lead ore from a mine near Braithwaite, pit props from the woods near Wythop, cattle to and from the market at Cockermouth, and at Kewsick it picked up slate from the Honister quarries.*

*By the end of the nineteenth century, mineral traffic was in decline. West Cumberland had set up its own coking plants. Furthermore, improved technology meant that the iron ore mined in the north east could be used to make steel, and so the higher quality west Cumberland iron ore was no longer needed. Passenger traffic continued to be considerable. A strengthening of track and bridges in the 1930s enabled heavier locomotives to be used, and after WWII the Lakes Express ran between Cockermouth and Euston in 8 hours. But eventually passenger traffic also reduced significantly. Diesel trains were introduced in 1955, but the hoped-for*

**PENRITH, KESWICK, WORKINGTON, and WHITEHAVEN**

Mls from Penrith	Down		Week Days only.							MINS	Up		Week Days only.																		
	mn	rn	mn	rn	aft	aft	aft	aft	mn		rn	mn	rn	aft	aft	aft	aft														
436	London (Euston) dep.	10	55	12	2	S	12	2	E	10	40	1	Bransty Station, Whitehaven dep.	6	9	7	44	9	7	10	55	1	20	4	5	6	40	9	30		
	Penrith dep.	7	25	9	45	..	1	10	..	6	47	1	Parton dep.	6	12	7	47	9	10	10	58	1	24	4	8	5	44	9	33		
3	Blencow A dep.	7	36	9	56	..	1	21	..	6	58	4	Harrington dep.	6	22	7	57	9	20	11	81	1	34	4	18	5	64	9	43		
7	Penriddock A dep.	7	45	10	5	..	1	30	..	7	7	7	Workington, Main arr.	6	28	3	9	26	11	14	1	40	4	24	8	0	9	50			
10	Troutbeck B dep.	7	50	10	10	..	1	35	..	7	12	8	624 dep.	6	45	8	25	9	53	11	50	2	10	4	35	6	4	10	0		
14	Threlkeld dep.	7	59	10	19	..	1	45	..	7	22	8	Workington Bridge dep.	6	48	8	28	9	58	11	53	2	13	4	38	6	7	10	3		
18	Keswick, for Derwentwater f arr. dep.	8	8	10	28	..	1	53	..	7	31	10	Camerton dep.	6	56	8	35	10	5	12	0	2	20	4	45	6	14	10	10		
20	Braithwaite dep.	8	15	10	35	..	1	58	..	7	40	12	Broughton Cross C dep.	..	8	41	10	11	..	2	26	4	5	18	20	10	18	..	..		
25	Bassenthwaite Lake dep.	8	19	10	39	..	1	2	25	49	7	44	Brighau dep.	7	3	8	46	10	16	12	8	2	30	4	56	6	24	10	20		
28	Embleton dep.	8	34	10	54	..	1	24	17	6	5	8	4	Cockermouth D f arr. dep.	7	10	8	52	10	22	12	15	2	37	5	2	8	31	10	27	
30	Cockermouth D f arr. dep.	7	25	8	40	11	0	1	30	23	8	11	8	10	18	Embleton dep.	7	11	..	1	30	12	17	2	38	5	5	32	..	..	
33	Brigham dep.	7	30	8	47	11	7	1	40	2	30	6	20	8	17	26	Braithwaite dep.	7	25	..	1	05	12	20	5	0	5	17	6	55	..
34	Camerton dep.	7	36	8	55	11	15	1	48	2	38	8	26	8	23	21	Bassenthwaite Lake dep.	7	25	..	1	05	12	20	5	0	5	17	6	55	..
38	Workington Bridge dep.	7	43	9	21	22	1	56	2	46	6	33	8	30	36	Troutbeck B dep.	7	53	..	1	54	..	3	24	..	7	19	..	..		
39	Workington, Main f arr. dep.	7	43	9	7	11	27	2	02	50	6	38	8	35	38	Penriddock A dep.	8	7	..	12	9	..	3	38	..	7	38	..	..		
41	Harrington dep.	8	11	11	10	12	22	..	3	5	..	8	40	42	Blencow A dep.	8	12	..	12	14	..	3	43	..	7	38	..	..			
45	Parton dep.	8	21	11	20	12	32	..	8	15	..	8	55	46	Penrith f arr.	8	19	..	12	21	..	3	60	..	7	45	..	..			
46	Whitehaven G 622 arr.	8	28	11	25	12	37	..	3	20	..	9	0	28	1	442 London (Euston) arr.	4	40	..	10	41	..	6	16	..	..	..	..			

**A** Station for Greystoke (2 miles)    **B** Station for Ullswater Lake (5½ miles)    **C** Station for Greysouthen (1 mile)  
**D** Station for Buttermere    **E** Except Sats    **F** Station for Ullswater Lake (Pooley Bridge) (5½ miles)    **G** Bransty  
**K** Sunday night only    **L** Morning time    **M** Night time    **S** Saturdays only.

**OTHER TRAINS** between Cockermouth and Brigham, page 624—Workington and Whitehaven, page 625.

The emergency timetable introduced in September 1939



Bassenthwaite Lake station in the 1950s, images from Robert Western, *The CK&PR*

revival of the line's fortunes did not occur. The Keswick – Workington section was closed in 1966, so after more than 100 years, our locality lost its railway, with the Keswick – Penrith section also disappearing in 1972.

How many motorists realise, as they speed past Embleton, Wythop and Bassenthwaite Lake on the A66, that the road is built on the track bed of the old CK&PR railway?

## ***A Walk through Thackthwaite and Whinfell in the 1950s***

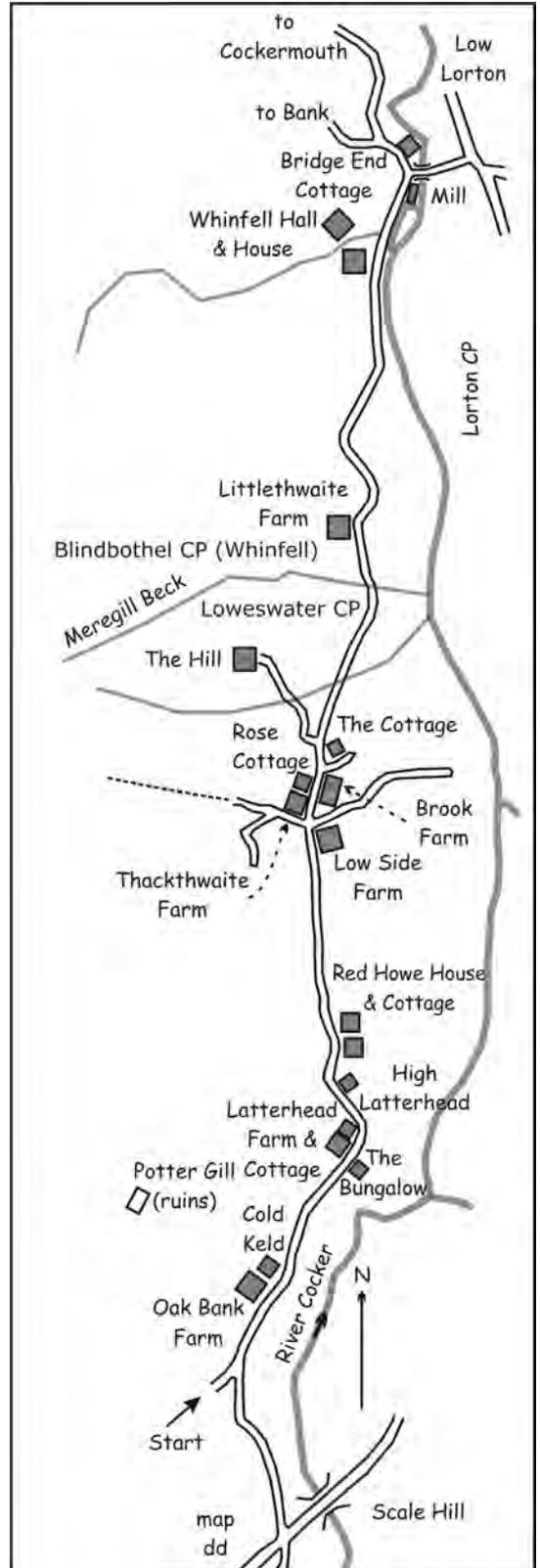
*by Walter Head*

Approaching Thackthwaite from the direction of Loweswater and past the road junction which led to Nether Close, the first property was OAK BANK FARM, owned by Balliol College and farmed by Foster & Ether Hastie. Next on the left was COLD KELD HOUSE, home of Mrs Briggs. Then on the right was THE BUNGALOW owned by Mr & Mrs Bell. Next on the left was LATTERHEAD FARM, farmed by Joseph and Mary Bell and also LATTERHEAD COTTAGE, home of Anne Daymond. Then on the right was HIGH LATTERHEAD FARM, farmed by Ernest & Mary Reed. Further on still on the right was RED HOWE COTTAGE, occupied by Mr & Mrs John Blaylock, and next door RED HOWE HOUSE occupied by Grace Brown.

Next on the right was LOW SIDE FARM, a chicken farm which slaughtered and prepared birds on site, run by Laurence Reed. Further on was BROOK FARM, farmed by Eddie Mawson, then on the left was THACKTHWAITE FARM, farmed by Victoria Statton. After that on the left was ROSE COTTAGE, home of Jane Stoddart and her brother William Ritson, the local road lengthman. The next property on the right was THE COTTAGE, a small sweetshop run by Jane Iredale. Then on the left up a long farm track was THE HILL, farmed by Clem Storr.

Back on the road the next property as LITTLETHWAITE FARM, farmed by Anthony & Masie Hope. Still on the left was WHINFELL HALL, farmed by Bob McClellan and next door at WHINFELL HALL HOUSE lived Josh Hardisty. After this on the right came the deserted LOW LORTON MILL and just past the junction to Low Lorton was BRIDGE END COTTAGE, home of Johnnie & Ida Porter who were followed in 1956 by Mr & Mrs Vickers.

My thanks go to Doris Richardson nee Leck for her help with this article.



## ***Conflict in Arcadia***

by Roz Southey

Reading old newspapers can be an exercise in frustration. Articles give glimpses of stories without beginnings and ends, and sometimes even a search through the archives turns up nothing to flesh out the bare bones. This is one of those stories, reported on 9 March 1935 by two regional papers – the *Hull Daily Mail* (not to be confused with the national newspaper) and the *Western Morning News and Daily Gazette* based in Devon. Oddly enough, I have not been able to find a report in any Cumbrian paper.

In March 1935, *The Western Morning News* ran a front-page story on a court case heard the previous day in Cockermouth, under the headline 'Primeval Instincts in a Cumberland Village'. The *News* had a shaky idea of the geography of the other end of the country, but it knew a good story when it heard it: -

*A feud among farming families in Thackthwaite, a village overlooking Buttermere, in Lakeland, was brought to a head at Cockermouth County Court yesterday, when Judge Allesbrooke said that the charming locality had betrayed a situation bordering on savagery worse than in some central parts of Africa.*

The story also made the front page of the *Hull Daily Mail* – the *Mail* was better informed about Cumberland than its Devonian counterpart and informed its readers that: -

*Thackthwaite consists of no more than a handful of houses clustered together on the fellside above the Vale of Lorton. There is neither church nor chapel in the place, and when anything goes wrong the police constable has to pedal his bicycle over the hills from the village of Pardshaw, several miles away.*

Things had apparently gone very wrong. The court had to deal with a number of charges and counter-charges of *assault and battery* connected with alleged fights amongst farmers and roadmen,

after the heads of two families had gone at each other with sticks.

The cause of the dispute was the local water supply. There was no mains water, or useful wells; all water was obtained from the stream that runs through the middle of the hamlet. This, the *Western Morning News* reported, had been polluted, and all the inhabitants were blaming each other for the incident. The *Daily Mail* was more precise: 'The cause of the trouble was the washing of a household mop in the stream'.

The Judge, Lord Allesbrooke, was relatively new to the bench, having been still a barrister as late as three years earlier. Most of his prior experience was in the Nottingham area and he likened the case to one he had tried there, which he called 'the case of The Battling Gipsies.'

Lord Allesbrooke was inclined to wax lyrical. 'I have tried cases in Cumberland,' he said, 'in which kindness and trustfulness were revealed in such an extent as to lead me to believe that this county was an Arcadian spot.' With regard to this dispute, however, he had been disappointed. 'Some of the aspects of this case are not Arcadian, they are really savage.'

Summing up, he said that 'the deprivation of the prime necessities of life, such as water and food, sometimes made even the most civilised men and women primitive and savage.' He hoped that someone, 'whether a parson, a landlord, or a neighbour of standing, would try to exercise their influence to put a stop to the civil war that was going on in the hamlet' and added: 'I hope that some person of standing or legal authority will see about the provision of a proper water supply for the hamlet.'

As far as I recall, Thackthwaite was still waiting for a mains water supply for at least thirty years after the case – but if anyone has any further information about this story, I would be delighted to hear it.

## **Writing Cumbria's history**

*by Sandra Shaw*

In this article, I shall recap briefly on the Victoria County History and the Cumbria County History Trust which was formed in this county to record its history. I intend to concentrate on what this society's volunteers have achieved by listing the work they have produced in the form of Jubilee Digests, explaining the process by which these were produced including the list of sources to be consulted and describing the lasting legacy on our own website. One of our Jubilee Digests is reproduced here together with an example of one of the sources. Finally I want to appeal to members to join in this great piece of research.

### **The Victoria County History**

The Victoria County History was founded in 1899 and dedicated to Queen Victoria. It has produced histories of numerous English places in the intervening period. These are issued by County, as the name suggests, bound in large red books. 14 county sets have been completed and more than 240 volumes have been published in total. Most counties have at least one volume; Cumberland has two, published in 1901 and 1905. There is now an active drive to complete the task and in 2012 the VCH was rededicated to Queen Elizabeth in honour of her diamond jubilee.

### **The Cumbria County History Trust**

The Cumbria County History Trust is a charity which was launched in May 2010 'to coordinate and gather resources' for the VCH of Cumbria project. The project is under the directorship of Professor Angus Winchester with Dr Sarah Rose acting as volunteer coordinator as much of the work will be undertaken by volunteers. The ultimate aim is to produce histories of the places of modern Cumbria from the earliest written records to the present day. Cumbria has been divided into 15 territories, covering the pre-1974 counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. It is anticipated that each will form a 'big red book'. 311 places have been identified, based on civil parish boundaries around 1900, for which separate articles will be written and initially posted on the CCHT

website. Your society was a founder member and has been actively involved since the beginning. Progress has been reported regularly (Nov 2010, May 2011, May 2012 and Nov 2012). The aim of this article is to summarize what members of this society have achieved.

### **Jubilee Digests**

A small group of members of our society first met in August 2011, but some of those have not found it possible to continue for various reasons. Initially we collected very basic information for townships in our territory on population figures, local industries and institutions and published research. Training was given and to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the VCH Cumbria aimed to have a brief summary of information on each place for which a full article would eventually be written. These are known as Jubilee Digests (JDs) and to date, 244 have been posted on the CCHT website. Our society group comprising Roger Asquith, Derek Denman, Charles Lambrick, Fiona Lambrick, Sandra Shaw and Jean Williams has contributed a total of 21 JDs. Our choice began with our primary territory, expanding to include the area bounded by the River Derwent. An appeal then came out from the CCHT for further assistance and we took on Cockermouth, places in the Ancient Parish of Crosthwaite and the remaining places in the Honour of Cockermouth. This produced - Above Derwent, Blindbothel, Borrowdale, Brackenthwaite, Brigham, Buttermere, Castlerigg St John's & Wythburn, Cockermouth, Dean (parish), Eaglesfield, Embleton, Great Clifton, Greysouthen, Keswick, Little Clifton, Lorton, Loweswater, Setmurthy, Stainburn, Whinfell, Wythop.

All completed contributions can be found on Cumbria's VCH website, [www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk) For those not used to navigating websites, scroll down the home page, and click anywhere on the interactive map, click the button to expand this, click on Allerdale above Derwent ward. This will show a list of places in which those underlined have a completed JD. Click on the one that interests you. You can read it in full and get more information, in some cases, including a schematic map, by clicking the links on the right hand side.

## The sources

In order to complete a Jubilee Digest, very specific sources were specified and these are listed below. Within our society, to compile the JDs for our primary territory, each member of the group transcribed a number of different sources, using a form that Derek designed and was hosted at first on a private part of the society website. It was then accessible to the whole group to tap into when writing the JD. Those sources and maps of the townships and boundaries can now be reached through the public 'VCH' page on our society's website.

Ordnance Survey 6" (1:10,560) County Series maps, First and Second Editions (c.1860 and c.1900)

Census data (1801-2001)

Selected Trade Directories, specifically:

Parson & White's *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland* (1829)

Mannix & Whellan's *Directory of Cumberland* (1847)

*Bulmer's History and Directory of Cumberland* (1901)

*Kelly's Directory of Cumberland & Westmorland* (1938)

1851 Religious Census

Cumbria Archive Service handlist of enclosure awards. Details of surviving common land were obtained from the Common Land in England database at <http://www.common-land.com>

*Thomas Denton: a Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688*, Surtees Society Vol. 207 (2003).

1818 returns of schools

M. Hyde and N. Pevsner, *Cumbria* (Buildings of England series, Yale UP, 2010)

Local sources (published directories and guides, company and community websites, local knowledge) for information on economic activity since 1939.

## The completed Jubilee Digest for Brackenthwaite

Here then is an example of a completed JD, one of those submitted by a member of our society. We each worked separately, transcribing information onto a prescribed form. Space was limited and this caused some problems in deciding what to include and what to leave out. We circulated our drafts round the group, and

when satisfied, submitted them to Sarah Rose who formatted them before forwarding to Angus Winchester for editing. Only then were they posted on the CCHT website. They have a warning that inaccuracies may emerge as the full articles come to be written.

### **BRACKENTHWAITE: township in Brigham parish, in Allerdale Above Derwent ward, Cumberland.**

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Subsumed into Buttermere CP in 1934.

#### **Acreage of administrative unit:**

4395 acres [1779 ha], including 13 acres [5 ha] in detached portions, transferred to Lorton CP in 1883 and 1887. About 3300 acres [1343 hectares] of common land on Brackenthwaite Fell remains enclosed.

#### **Population:**

136 in 1801, decreasing to 116 in 1841, rising to 140 in 1851 and declining to 89 by 1931, the last year for which separate figures are available.

#### **Land ownership:**

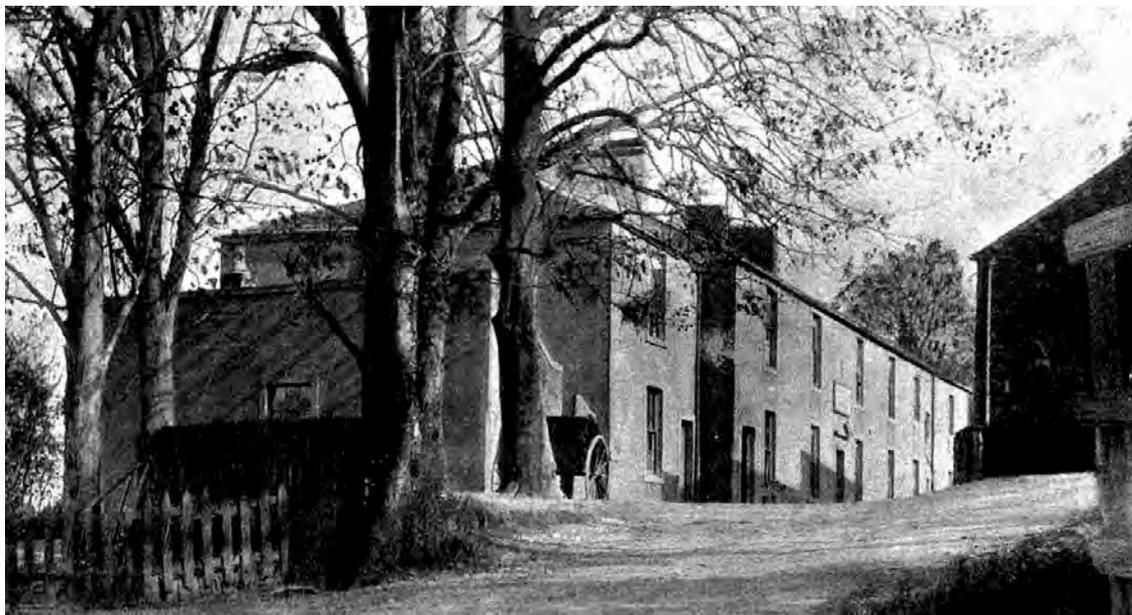
Part of the Honour of Cockermouth. The manor of Brackenthwaite was subinfeudated out of the Forest of Derwent Fells to Waldeve of Moresby in c. 1160, and passed from the Moresbys to the Lucys, then to the Percys and from them to Henry VIII in 1530. It then passed to Lord Grey and Bannister, Robinsons, Thomas Stanley and others, and was bought by the Lawsons of Isel in 1624. In 1814 it was bought by John Marshall. In the 17th century an estate which included many of the properties in Brackenthwaite was acquired by Robert Fisher, and descended from the Fishers to the Berties in 1722 and to John Marshall in 1824. In 1937 the National Trust and Balliol College bought the estate and the lordship of the manor.

#### **Economic activity:**

There was an ale-house at Scale Hill in 1778, by 1829 the Scale Hill Hotel, a posting-house with boats for hire, catering for tourists. A corn mill is shown in 1862-3. An annual sheep fair was being held at Lanthwaite Green in 1816. Lead mines were mentioned in 1829.

#### **Places of worship:**

Chapel of St Mary Magdalene in Brackenthwaite, recorded in 1453 and 1507, does not appear to have survived. The township was part of the parochial



### **The Scale Hill Hotel, Brackenthwaite**

*chapelry of Lorton until in 1883 when the northern part was transferred to the new parish of Lorton; in 1884 the southern part joined the new parish of Buttermere; and in 1886 the western part joined the new parish of Loweswater.*

#### **Institutions:**

*No school known in Brackenthwaite. In 1870 the Loweswater and Brackenthwaite Agricultural Society was founded.*

*Additional sources used:*

*Angus Winchester, Landscape and Society in Medieval Cumbria; C. M. L. Bouch, Prelates and People of the Lake Counties (Kendal, 1948), pp. 160, 163. Derek Denman, Scale Hill in Brackenthwaite, and early tourism in the English Lakes. Journal, L&DFLHS No. 44, July 2009*

**Compiled by:** *Jean Williams, L&DFLHS*

#### **A source – The 1851 Religious Census**

Here is an example of one of the prescribed sources, commonly known as the 1851 religious census. The resulting report was published in 1853 as *the Religious Worship (England and Wales); Report; particular notes of different churches; spiritual provision and destitution, &c.* It is widely known, but not easily accessible. This was a census of places of public worship, carried out at the same time as the 1851 population census. A form was sent to each place of worship, in a slightly different format for different

religious denominations (Anglican, Society of Friends, others) with slightly different questions to be answered. In essence for the Church of England, the enquirers wanted to know where the establishment was and what it was known as, when it had been consecrated or licenced and under what circumstances, if since 1800 how or by whom it had been erected and how they had paid for it. They wanted to know how it was endowed, how much space there was for public worship, the number of people who had attended worship on Sunday 30 March 1851, the number who attended on average. There was then a box for remarks and finally the signed and dated statement that the information was correct, with the name, 'character' and address of the person who completed the form. For non-conformist places of worship they wanted to know if a separate building was used and whether it was used exclusively as a place of worship. In the case of the Society of Friends, rather than ask about sittings and whether they were free, the question asks about floor space in 'superficial feet'. Not all forms were completed and returned, so there are gaps in the knowledge base. I have concentrated here on our primary territory and extracted and summarized the responses rather than giving a direct transcription.

**Buttermere** Parochial Church or Chapel was licenced in 1841. It was erected by the Rev. Vaughan Thomas at a cost of £300 raised by 'private benefaction

or subscription, or from other sources. It was endowed with £56 pa from land and tithe. There were 70 free sittings available. The question about attendance on 30 March was not answered, but there were on average 12 in the general congregation in the morning, 16 in the afternoon and 6 Sunday Scholars both morning and afternoon. 27 March 1851, J M Woodmason, Curate, Cockermouth.

**Embleton** Church or Chapel in the township of Embleton, parish of Brigham was rebuilt in the year 1806. 'as far as I have been able to ascertain'. The cost was defrayed by a Parochial Rate 'the amount I have not been able to make out'. It was endowed by £36-9-0 from land, £6-0-0 from tithe, £21-10-4 from 'other permanent endowment and £1-0-0 from fees. All the space available for public worship was 'free', but no figure was given. There had been a general congregation of 40 at morning service on 30 March and the average during the preceding 12 months had been 50. The remarks box was hard to read, but is believed to state; 'the duty performed is alternately in the morning & afternoon, the numbers vary according to the fairness of the day from 6 to upwards 100 during the last 12 months. There was no congregation for 3 services in consequence of the wetness of the day'. 7 April 1851, Joseph Banks, Churchwarden, Hall Bank, Embleton. [The Victorian Gothic Methodist chapel shown on our cover was built in 1863 – see the Embleton JD]

The Parochial Chapel of **Lorton**, in the parish of Brigham was consecrated or licenced before 1800. It was endowed with £83 from land and £4 from fees. There were 234 free sittings and 12 other sittings available for public worship. 46 persons had attended the morning service and 26 in the afternoon, plus 45 and 40 Sunday scholars respectively on 30 March. The average number of attendants during the preceding 12 months was 100 in the general congregation in the morning and 40 in the afternoon, plus 45 Sunday scholars at both morning and afternoon sessions. William Armitstead, incumbent curate, Lorton, nr Cockermouth.

The Wesleyan Chapel at **Lorton** was erected in 1840. It was a separate and entire building used exclusively as a

place of worship (except for a Sunday school). There were 40 free sittings and 84 other sittings available for public worship. On 30 March there were 34 in the general congregation in the morning and 54 in the evening. There were also 38 Sunday scholars in the morning. The average number of attendants was usually 40 in the general congregation in the morning and 82 in the evening with 30 Sunday scholars in the morning. John Huntington, Steward, High Lorton, Nr Cockermouth.

The Chapel of **Loweswater**, in the township of Loweswater, Parish of St Bees, was rebuilt and consecrated on 25 August 1829, on its being dedicated to Saint Bartholomew by the Bishop of the Diocese of Chester. It was endowed with £45 from land, £12 from other permanent endowment and £1 from fees. There were 42 free sittings and 268 'other sittings' available for public worship. A general congregation of 72 had attended morning service on 30 March. An average of 50 to 60 had attended over the previous 4 months. The remarks were; 'we have full duty both in the morning and at 6 o'clock in the evenings from Easter until the middle of October. The Congregation in the mornings average from 70 to 80 and in the evenings from 30 to 40. The morning service is [illegible] throughout the year.' 31 March 1851. Jeremiah Atkinson, incumbent curate, Loweswater, near Cockermouth.

St Phillip's Church or Chapel **Mosser**, situated in the township of Mosser & Parish of Brigham. The respondent could not say when it had been consecrated or licensed and could not learn under what circumstances. He understood it was erected by subscription raised in the township of Mosser and some from the two adjacent townships of Blindbothel & Whinfell. The endowment came from land and money in the Queen Anne's Bounty, but he did not know the amount, supposing it to be about £55 or £60. The question about space available for public worship was not answered. There were 22 at the afternoon service on 30 March but during the previous 12 months, the average attendance was 40 at both morning and afternoon services, plus 15 Sunday scholars at each session. This was



**Paddle School**, photograph Sandra Shaw

explained in the remarks box. 'The duty at this Chapel is alternately in the morning and afternoon when the numbers vary with the fineness of the day. I have been there when there was [illegible] on a wet day. I have seen above 100 in the Chapel. The congregation is scattered at a distance from the Chapel'. 7 April 1851. Henry Kitchin, officiating curate, Cockermouth.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, **Pardshaw** [see the photograph on our front cover], situated in Dean Parish was erected in 1823. It was a separate and entire building, used exclusively as a place of worship (except for a Sunday school). There were 60 free sittings and 60 other sittings available for public worship. On 30 March, 74 people attended morning service and 31 in the evening. There were 20 Sunday scholars in the morning. The question about average attendants was not answered. Joseph Fearon, Steward, Pardshaw near Cockermouth.

The Quaker meeting house in **Pardshaw** sent in 2 returns, completed by different people; one on the form for the Society of Friends, the other on the general form which does not include any denominations.

The general form stated; The Friends Meeting House at Pardshaw Hall, Dean was erected 'before 1800'. It was a separate and entire building used exclusively as a place of worship (except

for a Sunday school). All the space available for public worship was as 'free sittings', although no number was given. On 30 March there had been 28 people in the general congregation in the morning, and 120 in the afternoon. The number of Sunday scholars was not answered. The average number of attendants during the previous 12 months was 'about 40'. In the remarks box was 'the morning meeting was small owing to a funeral coming from Workington in the afternoon'. 31 day of 3 month 1851. John Jackson, Overseer, Deanscales, Nr Cockermouth.

The Society of Friends' form gave the following different information; the space available for public worship was  $1044 + 552 = 1596$  superficial feet on the floor area and there was no gallery. This allowed an estimated 250 persons to be seated. The remarks were 'On the 30<sup>th</sup> was a funeral at the meeting house in the afternoon, and several who would probably have been at the meeting in the morning were absent and the meeting in the afternoon was officially for the funeral and was much larger on account of the funeral. The average attendance on first day mornings during the last year would be about 40.' Thirty first day of the third month 1851. Thomas Halker, Ullock near Cockermouth.

**Wythop** Chapel was an Ancient Chapel of ease under Brigham. It was consecrated before 1800 and endowed with £41 from land, £15 5s 51/2d from other permanent endowment. There were 80 free

sittings available for public worship. There were no attendants at any service on 30 March. In the previous 6 months, the average attendance had been 3 in the general congregation in the morning. The remarks box explains; 'A misunderstanding having arisen between the Incumbent and his parishioners may account in some measure for the sparse number of his hearers, and, as is usually the case there may be faults' [The word faults is placed outside the box, leading to a suspicion that further words may have been written overleaf which have not been copied]. '1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1851. Daniel Mandale, Chapel Warden, Wythop, Cockermonth'.

*Note: Ron George clearly had access to the original return as he includes the words written on the reverse in A Cumberland Valley. These indicate general neglect on the part of the incumbent, Mr Woodmason who was also Perpetual Curate of Buttermere.*

### **Learning and Moving on**

Producing twenty-one Jubilee Digests between six individuals is without doubt a creditable achievement. Although they are limited, they have involved serious research and writing to a professional standard. They now form a work of reference for others, as does the extracted information on the VCH page of our own website. These will form a basis for future research. We all struggled to some degree with distinguishing between manors and estates and untangling manorial descents, but these are now recorded.

Personally I was interested to discover why Paddle School, still a thriving institution, came to be built in the middle of nowhere, on a crossroads, on what is now a very busy road, with barely a dwelling in sight. It is on the boundary between Eaglesfield and Blindbothel parishes, though actually in Blindbothel and was endowed with 20 acres at the time of the enclosure in 1815. Thus it was intended to serve the children of both parishes. I discovered an observatory at Greysouthen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map at Tarn House, the home of John Wilson Fletcher. Further investigation showed him to be a grandson of Isaac Fletcher the 18<sup>th</sup> Century diarist who lived at Mosser. There could be the seeds of another article here.

So, what now? Some of our group found the task very challenging, including the recording and manipulating of data electronically. Even with the limited number of prescribed sources, there was a lot of information to sort, assimilate, interpret and compress into the available space. For some, their particular interest was in a much smaller geographical area; their village or farmstead, so they felt they were dealing with matters in which they had little personal interest. For most, this task competed with a whole range of other responsibilities, both for this society and in connection with family or other interests. That itself produced stresses. The move to researching a whole 'place' seems very daunting, although plenty of support is offered. I hope there will be some who will decide to take this next step, including anyone who would like to join in now.

### **A request for volunteers**

This request is timely. The Christmas issue of the *BBC History Magazine* includes as 'The Big Story', a brief article in which it is stated that active VCH research is currently being carried out in 20 counties, 340 volunteers have been recruited over recent years, but at least 2,000 more are required, with a large variety of skills. VCH's executive editor Elizabeth Williamson is quoted explaining the range of skills being sought – IT experts, photographers, fund-raisers, organisers, archaeologists, statisticians, surveyors and others. Of the 20 volunteer county groups, Cumbria and Leicestershire are the largest. Angus Winchester is quoted as saying in respect of Cumbria, that we have recruited 90 people who are changing the scale and nature of local historical knowledge in the county. For the first time, we're beginning to reveal the details of 20<sup>th</sup>-century rural transformation in Cumbria. Please consider whether you could be part of this revolution. If so, please contact Sandra.

Sandra Shaw

For further information see;

<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/>

<http://www.derwentfells.com/vch.html>

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/cumberland>

George, Ron, *A Cumberland Valley; A History of the Parish of Lorton*, Bovate Publications, Ontario, Canada, 2003

## ***They wrought in the Buttermere copper mines***

*by Derek Denman*

Although most members will have walked past the hut footings and over the spoil heap on the lakeshore path, many will be surprised that there were copper mines in Buttermere, and that they were last worked in the early nineteenth century. There is no mention in Postlethwaite's *Mines and mining in the English Lake District* and just three lines in Adams' *Mines of the lake district fells*.<sup>1</sup> This article quotes the personal account from 1738 of Francis Allison, age 70, who gave evidence of his own labours and recollections fifty years before, and adds fresh evidence from the newly discovered accounts of brief workings up to 1811. The supposed workings in the 1820s are questioned.

The works of the Elizabethan Company of Mines Royal, operated by the German miners of the late sixteenth century, are usually associated with Keswick. They made Vicar Island their headquarters (later Pocklington's Island and then Derwent Isle), and their water-powered processing was conducted at Brigham on the River Greta. But they were empowered to prospect and mine throughout Cumberland and other counties, where the mineral rights of the lords of the various manors were trumped by the royal rights to the supposed but disputed high precious-metal content of the ore. The German miners started with the pre-existing copper workings of Borrowdale, Stoneycroft, Fornside and Grasmere in 1564-5, and discovered or rediscovered Newlands in 1566 as *Gottesgab* or God's gift. It was not until November and December of 1568 that they spent £28 on workings at Buttermere. Collingwood notes: - '*Buttermere*; found at the end of 1568, but not worked for long or with much profit. The map [a modern geological survey] shows three veins on the hillside north-east of the lake'.<sup>2</sup>

Collingwood did not claim that the Mines Royal workings were to the north

east of Buttermere, and the evidence points to the other side of the lake. The desk research for the National Trust's historic landscape survey of 2008, in which the Society played a large part, recorded that, 'There is limited evidence for copper mining in Buttermere, with the presence of post-medieval trial mines (NTSMR 23036 and 29163) at Burtness Woods and at the Honister pass (NTSMR 24422). One of the trials in Burtness Woods ... was apparently in use in 1569/70, during the Elizabethan period (Adams 1988, 115), and it is likely that the potential of Buttermere as a source of copper had been recognised during the medieval period'. In the post-medieval period 'there are numerous trial mines throughout Buttermere that demonstrate the exploitation of lead, iron, and copper during the post-medieval period. Between 1822 and 1825, the mining of copper resumed in the adits at the western side of Burtness Wood, which had previously been worked in 1569-70'.<sup>3</sup> The seventeenth century and earlier nineteenth century workings were not known of for this survey, and are the main subjects of this article.

The testimony of Francis Allison in 1738 places the Buttermere copper mines, circa 1688, to the west of the lake of Buttermere, but not in the area that would become Burtness Wood, then called Birkness. His testimony was as follows: -

*Francis Allison's Examination  
November 30<sup>th</sup> 1738. Further  
Information about the Copper Mines at  
Gaitesgarth*

*Francis Allison Born in Buttermere  
aged 70 years, Saith He wrought [worked]  
in the Copper Mines at Gaitesgarth about 50  
years ago when those works were carried  
on by some Quakerst. And they got great  
Quantitys of very good Ore which they  
carried to Langdale Forges at about 15 or  
16 Miles distance and there smelted it.  
A great many Mine[r]s were employed at*

*† [Contemporary marginal note],  
Under a farm from old Mr Lamplugh, a  
paper of Ld Lonsdale has it.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Adams, *Mines of the Lake District fells*, Lancaster, Dalesman Books, 1988, pp.115-6

<sup>2</sup> W G Collingwood, *Elizabethan Keswick*, Otley, Smith Settle, 1912, pp.5&12

<sup>3</sup> 'Buttermere, Cumbria, Historic landscape survey report, Vol.1', February 2009, pp.62-3

<sup>4</sup> CACW/DWM11/249/5



one of their chief Works, where they had a Levell from the side of the Mountain which carried on a great way. They had also another Work at Scalebeck, a little further the Mountain, where they had also had also [sic] a Level from an outbreak of the Vein. This last work was but just opened when they began to fail. And Allason positively avers they had here a Vein of good Ore a foot square. To the above two places there is pretty good Roads for Horses – Another Work was in Warnscale near Black Beckhead, as also another at Dale Head near the Haystacks; both these places afforded very good Ore and were very promising Works, but the Ground was very Craggy and difficult to get to.

He believes the Levell in Brockell hows is yet standing, being drove very well, only that it is a little filled up at the mouth of it, which might be easily opened, and a passage made into the Works opened, and a passage made into the Works at an easily expence. He says there was the greatest Discoveries made at the very last, when most of the above mentioned places were in a very promising Condition and the Veins grew better and afforded more plenty of Ore the further they pursued them.

Allason says also that they got Ore in the Queens Forrest of Enderdale which was reckoned very Rich. He has an Estate in Buttermire, and is a very intelligent Man and of good Character. He is the only person left a live that wrought in those mines. If any regard is to be had to what he says it seems as if there was not much difficulty nor a great expence required to open the Entrances of the Levells & so go into the Works, which he verily believes are still standing very firm & that good Quantities of Ore may easily be got at the fore heads of those Works.

There is no pieces of Ore to be found upon the Old Banks, they having been often Rumaged by Plour that have gone there and pickt them up.

[note] 1624 Sir W Lawson purchased Loweswater Manor.

Francis Allason is hard to identify. In 1687, when the young Francis wrought in the copper mines, a Richard Allason, who had Buttermere property, was amerced for 'incroaching upon my Lord's common' and 'incroaching upon Chappel

garth'.<sup>5</sup> Francis Allason is not found in the registers of St Cuthbert's Lorton, except for a probably younger Francis Allason of the 'parish of Lorton' who married Jane Nicholson of Buttermire in 1733. This may be the Francis Allason of Whitehaven, yeoman, who was required to release a tenement called Holm in the manor of Loweswater to the purchaser, John Fletcher of Buttermere, in 1754.<sup>6</sup>

Corroboration for Allison's evidence was provided by a nineteenth century copy of another document, dated 30 November 1738, which provides a more technical 'Account of Gatesgarth Mines'.<sup>7</sup> It was probably the vein workable from the lakeshore at Birkness, which was promoted by six points in its favour: -

1<sup>st</sup> There is one Vein of Copper Ore, which is between 3 & 4 yards wide, of fine soft Caulk & kindly Soyle, so Easy to work that a man may drive near half a yard in a shift

2<sup>dly</sup> The said Vein appears upon the surface for above 150 Fathoms in Height & in Length above a Mile –

3<sup>dly</sup> No place can be better accommodated with a Levell, for the vein appears at the foot of a Mountain, Even [level] with the Surface of a large Lake ...

4<sup>thly</sup> The Oar is a green Liver Colloured Oar, and appears on the Sunside of the Vein, as also in the Body of it, to the Grass [Scales stinted pasture?]. In tracing the vein up the side of the Mountain some pieces of Oar are found, as also amongst the Deads [spoil], where there has been old Works ...

5<sup>thly</sup> The ... Vein points directly upon an Old Work at 5 or 600 yards distance from the highest part where the said vein is discoverable at the Grass, which said Old Work is Easily to be opened again, there being a Levell, which is a little filled up with Rubbish at the Mouth of it, and within it there are Shafts, Stumps, Stoups & which with the quantitys of Deads shews it to have been Wrought for some time ...

6<sup>thly</sup> The said Work is within 10 or 12 Miles of a good Harbour ...

These documents of the 1730s are clearly intended to establish the value of the mineral copper in the area of Birkness and

<sup>5</sup> CACW/DLec/85, Court Leet un-numbered bundle verdicts

<sup>6</sup> CACC/DLAW/2/27/1

<sup>7</sup> CACW/DWM11/249/5

Warnscale, but it is unclear for whom they were prepared. The land described in these documents was in the ancient manor of Loweswater, and the mineral rights would normally belong to the lord of the manor, the Lawsons of Isel from 1624 to 1807, unless someone else could provide proof of a grant or purchase. Birkness and Warnscale made up the whole of the whole of the manor south of Sour Milk Gill, and was an ancient freehold estate, partly enclosed by the mid eighteenth century. In 1750 this estate was sold by Sir James Lowther to James Spedding of Armthwaite. In 1796 the estate was purchased by the duke of Norfolk, Charles Howard (1746-1815), whose Cumberland seat was at Greystoke. He also purchased the part of the ancient Gatesgarth estate which lay in the manor of Braithwaite and Coledale, east of Warnscale Beck.<sup>8</sup> The first plan which survives of this estate was made in 1812, for a case at the Carlisle Assizes in which the mineral rights were disputed between the then lord of the manor of Loweswater and the lessee of the freehold estate.<sup>9</sup>

It seems that there was no copper mining on this estate in the eighteenth century, but that the freeholder, James Spedding, worked a green slate mine, which is marked on the plan, without challenge from the lord of the manor. By doing this he provided evidence that the mineral rights, including the copper, were owned by the freeholder. Depositions made for the plaintiff by old Buttermere people for the 1812 case give names of the green slate miners. John Clark recalled that he wrought in the Spedding slate quarry some 37 years ago with five or six others, under Richard Birbeck of Whitehaven as steward. Matthias Vickers of Gatesgarth remembered that Joseph Norman and Robert Bank worked there nearly 60 years ago under Moses Bell. Spedding was said to have lost £200 by 1772 and had advertised the quarry to let in 1775, without success.

The revival of both slate and copper workings in Birkness and

Warnscale, and the legal action of 1812, resulted from the exploits of Joshua Lucock Bragg (1772-1809), a man 'of famous memory' according to the plaintiff's case. Joshua Lucock moved into Lorton Hall in 1800, and in 1805 became Joshua Lucock Bragg, to enable him to inherit and spend his late uncle's fortune. In 1807 he bid £14,100 at auction for Loweswater manor with the freehold of the lake, the Holme, and Rigg Bank. This was a part of the estate of the late Sir Wilfred Lawson. Bragg took possession in May 1808, becoming, at a high price, the lord of the manor of Loweswater, with all its promise of profit through the mineral rights.<sup>10</sup> In 1808 he raised £1500 by stripping the customary tenements of all their timber.<sup>11</sup> In 1808 or 1809 he set about exploiting the mineral rights in his manor of Loweswater, specifically in the freehold estate of Birkness and Warnscale, belonging to the duke of Norfolk, where both the extent of Loweswater manor and the ownership of the mineral rights were disputed. The duke of Norfolk had been improving the prospects of Buttermere, with four acres of new ornamental plantations across the head of the lake, and does not seem to have been interested in mining or quarrying there himself.<sup>12</sup> Bragg, however, asserted and exploited his presumed rights both in working Spedding's quarry, known as the Green Bragg Slate Quarry to distinguish it from Honister, and in widespread prospecting and lake-shore mining for copper ore.

After Bragg's death in 1809 his trustees continued the quarrying and mining into 1811, ceasing operations in Birkness and Warnscale only when faced with legal action from the duke of Norfolk, through Peter Grave his tenant farmer at Gatesgarth. The defendants, who were the managing trustee, Matthew Smith of Cockermouth, and three miners, William Tyson, Wilson Tyson and William Gibson, were charged with trespass and damage to the extent of £500. They had 'broken and entered divers to wit 3000 acres of Land' and in the first count had 'with feet in

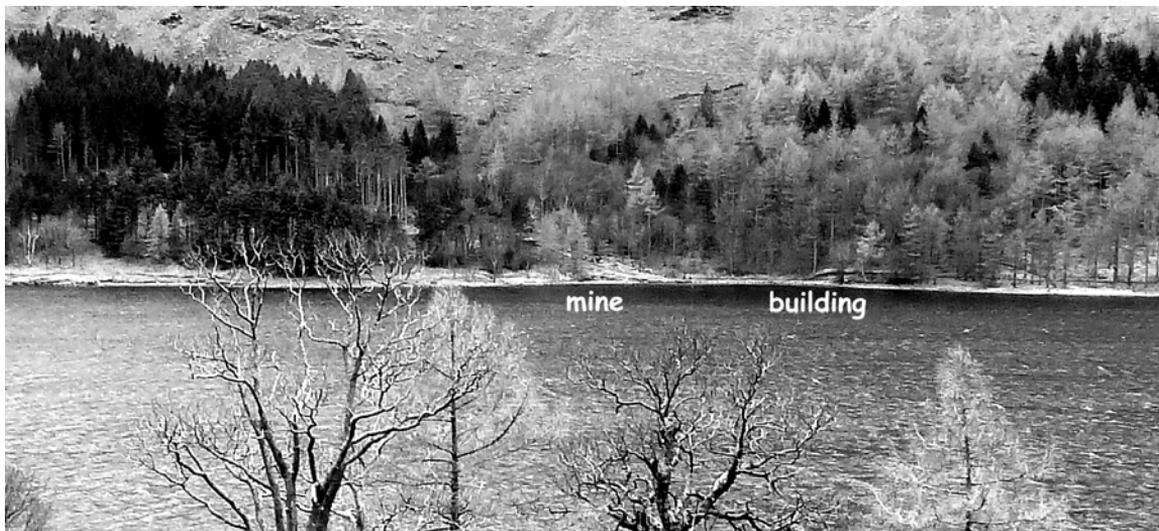
<sup>8</sup> CACC/DNT26, recites these purchases

<sup>9</sup> CACW/DWM11/408, a plan of the Duke of Norfolk's ancient freehold estate at Gatesgarth in Buttermere; DWM11/402 papers of a case of trespass, *Grave v Smith & others*, Carlisle Assizes 1812

<sup>10</sup> CACC/DLAW1/246/1-2, lease and release

<sup>11</sup> CACW/DWM11/249/17, sales particulars 1813

<sup>12</sup> CACW/DWM11/302. Epitome of title to the Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater Estate, 1934, Gathesgarth estate



**Bragg's copper mine workings, seen from the east**, photograph Derek Denman

Walking and with feet of Cattle to wit, Horses, Mares and Geldings, trod down and trampled upon, consumed and spoiled the Grass and Herbage ... value £100, ... with the wheels of Carts, Wagons and of Carriages, and with Spades, Mattocks and other Instruments turned up and cut up subverted and spoiled the Earth and Soil to wit 500 perches, 50 holes and 50 pits'. The seven counts covered mining and quarrying over what appears to be the whole of the enclosed and unenclosed estate, including the removal of slate worth £100. The plaintiff's case took care to cover the possibility of the estate being either in the parish of Brigham or St. Bees, and either the manor of Braithwaite and Coledale or Loweswater, and it is probably through this legal process that it became finally established that Birkness and Warnscale were in the manor of Loweswater, the parish of Brigham and the township of Buttermere.

While the legal case says nothing about Bragg's copper mining, only the fact that he was prospecting, we do have a copy of the mining accounts which gives much detail of his operations. After Bragg died in 1809, Matthew Smith kept detailed accounts of Bragg's estate. The originals are now lost but were transcribed for the 1838 case of *Bragg v Wilkinson* in the Court of Chancery, by George Lucock Bragg (1806-1847), the new squire of

Lorton and builder of the folly tower.<sup>13</sup> In the fourth schedule, the estate expenses, the three pages relating to the copper mines show that mining was in progress from before September 1809, and continued under the trustees until 14 February 1811, the last day for which the miners were paid at the copper mines. The team of miners was then moved to open or reopen the lead mines at Nether Close, where the mineral rights were not disputed. Between 24 June and 17 August 1811 one of the miners, Joseph Hopper, was employed to make a trial in the copper mines for black lead, and then a second trial from 24 August and 26 October, for which he was paid £21 12s. In October 1811 the copper mine was advertised for letting, but there seems to have been no result. From February 1812 Hopper took on the payment of the miners in the lead mines, until the cessation of lead mining, by November 1812.

The usual practice of a landed gentleman would be to lease the mineral rights of the manor to experienced mining adventurers. A modest rent would allow them to prospect, and the lease would then give the landowner a fraction of any ore found, say one eighth to one fifth, depending on the known and anticipated deposits. The accounts show that Bragg did not lease out the mineral rights, or perhaps he could not interest a mining company, and he decided to work the slate quarry and copper mines directly, paying the

<sup>13</sup> The National Archives (TNA)/PRO/C101/5337;

miners and selling the ore for a profit, or a loss.

The expenses of the copper mines over the two year period to February 1811 amounted to £468 13s. The greater part was the wages of the miners at 4s 6d per day, totalling £378 4s 6d, with additional costs of extraction totalling £57 16s 6d, for candles, gunpowder, sundries and services supplied. This resulted in 272 tons of copper ore being produced, if George Lucock Bragg transcribed it correctly. £8 15s 11d was spent on bagging, carrying and shipping the ore to somewhere on the Brig Pomona, to be smelted.<sup>14</sup> After the cessation of the working, the trials for black lead and advertising cost £23 16s 1d. What was the income and profit from this £468 13s of mining expenses? In the third schedule, giving estate income, there is a single entry for July 8<sup>th</sup> 1811 recording the receipt of £12 7s 6d from Michael Hughes for copper ore. The accounts are meticulous, and in all other respects, where checked, they give factual, accurate and complete information, but this seems very little for 272 tons of copper ore, if it contained any copper worth smelting. If we believe the plaintiff in the 1812 action for trespass, he charitably claimed only nominal damages of £500 because 'it is understood the Mr Bragg and his trustees have expended upwards of £1000 in searching for mines'.<sup>15</sup>

Bragg's mining adventure was clearly a failure, except for the well-paid and probably short-lived miners. To the name of Francis Allison in the 1680s, we can add the names of others who wrought in Bragg's copper mines at Buttermere between 1809 and 1811, and then in the lead mines of Loweswater from 1811 to 1812. The miners were Wilson Tyson, William Gibson, Thomas Packer, George Willmotts, John Rigg, Thomas Robinson, William Gibson, Joseph Hopper, Robert Lancaster, William Tyson, and Henry Turnall, though a maximum of seven

names appears in each six-week payment period. Some of those names were local and some not. From St Cuthbert's registers, William Tyson was born in Buttermere in 1780, died in Thackthwaite in 1854 and was buried in Lorton. Wilson Tyson was younger, being 41 when he died in Newlands, and he was buried in Lorton in 1830. Joseph Hopper, who seems to have had some expertise in minerals and mines, appears to have been a transient inhabitant.

In 1813 the trustees put the Loweswater manor and estate up for sale, noting in the particulars only that 'the mines, minerals, quarries ... are the lord's'.<sup>16</sup> In 1814, when John Marshall (1765-1845) of Leeds and Watermillock purchased the Loweswater manor and estate from Bragg's trustees for £10,500, Marshall's valuer noted that there were 'minerals of little or very uncertain value'.<sup>17</sup>

In late 1815, now of Leeds and Hallsteads, Marshall purchased the estate at Gatesgarth from the duke of Norfolk for £9,000, shortly before the duke died.<sup>18</sup> Charles Howard owned Gowbarrow Park, had built Lyulph's Tower within it, and had sold the adjacent land at Skelly Nab for Marshall's mansion called Hallsteads. Politically they were closely aligned as radical Whigs. Howard, as earl of Surrey, had been MP for Carlisle from 1780 to 1786, when his elevation to the Lords as duke of Norfolk caused him to propose Rowland Stephenson in the 'mushroom' elections. An opponent of the Lowther interest, Howard had converted from a Catholic family and was 'a strenuous advocate of Reform' in Parliament, opposed the American and French wars and supported the abolition of slavery.<sup>19</sup>

From 1815 Marshall had complete ownership and freedom of action within Birkness and Warnscale south of Sour Milk Gill in the manor of Loweswater, containing the copper mines. Marshall was spending his pocket money on these estates and

<sup>14</sup> By mid 1812 the Brig Pomona, built in Chester and now with two guns, was fighting the French at Quebec. It was captured, was copper-bottomed and fitted with six guns by the French and used against the British. Presumably Bragg's copper ore was not involved, though it would explain the lack of income.

<sup>15</sup> CACW/DWM11/402, p.14

<sup>16</sup> CACW/DWM11/249/17, sales particulars 1813

<sup>17</sup> CACW/DWM11/249/2, John Norman to John Marshall

<sup>18</sup> See *Journal* 48, pp.12-16 for an account of Marshall's purchases

<sup>19</sup> Richard Saul Ferguson, *Cumberland and Westmorland MPs: from the restoration to the reform bill of 1867*, Carlisle, Thurnam, 1871, pp.386-7

indulging his passion for natural scenery and planting, as evidenced by his three days spent with Wordsworth at Scale Hill in 1816, planning his intended plantings around the three lakes.<sup>20</sup> Marshall considered that planting should be productive as well as ornamental, choosing the larch, which Wordsworth detested, for much of the content of the early eastern part of Burtness Wood, and for the new Holme Wood beside Loweswater Lake. But the western part of Burtness Wood, the site of nineteenth century copper mine workings, was not planted until after 1844.<sup>21</sup>

Adams is clear that the Buttermere mine was 'a copper mine very close to the western shore of Buttermere (NY 180157), ... worked ... by Messrs Knott and Taylor from 1822 to 1825'.<sup>22</sup> Adams gives no sources and the statement must be questioned on a number of counts. Firstly, of course, the proven works of Bragg above can account for the nineteenth century workings and spoil, and Adams did not know of that. Secondly, the failure of Bragg's adventure, though now long forgotten, must have been well known in 1819 and discouraging to others. But also, the partnership between Knott and Taylor, of London, known as the Egremont and Lonsdale Mining Company, was not formed until 1825, and could not have worked the mine in 1822.<sup>23</sup> In 1819 Michael Knott, of Waterhead House, Monk Coniston, gained the agreement of Lord Egremont for Knott and his then partner 'James Adam (of Castle Head near Grange-over-Sands) to search for various minerals, including lead, in the manors of Kinniside and Netherwasdale, and on Dent'.<sup>24</sup> Most of the township of Buttermere, including the two lakes, was in Lord Egremont's manor of Braithwaite and Coledale. However, the copper mine on the western shore was in the manor of Loweswater, the mineral

rights indisputably belonged to John Marshall, and there are no records of Loweswater mineral leases to Knott, Adam or Taylor before the 1830s.

Marshall did lease the mineral rights for copper and lead in his manor, taking one eighth of the ore, but it seems odd that he would have allowed workings on a shore which he was planting both for ornament and production. That view is supported by the lease Marshall granted on 1 January 1819 to Joseph Skelton of Foulisike and Skelton Wood, gentleman, of Godfried (both in Loweswater) to work and open lead and copper mines in the manor of Loweswater for fourteen years.<sup>25</sup> That lease was still in force in 1829 when Marshall agreed that Joseph Skelton could assign his interest to John Fisher of Cold Keld (also in Loweswater). The significant fact is that this lease allowed Skelton and Wood to prospect on customary lands, principally Nether Close, and on the commons and wastes in the manor of Loweswater. But freehold land was not included, except for Marshall's Rigg Bank estate. The tourist's prospects of Marshall's lakeshore freeholds of the Holme and Warnscale/Birkness, the settings of two lakes, were protected from the effects of mining, and it is most improbable that the copper mines were worked in the 1820s.

This article has provided a comprehensive history of the working of the Buttermere copper mines in Loweswater manor over four centuries, the Mines Royal from 1568, the Quaker operators around the 1680s, the review of the old workings in 1738 and the workings of Joshua Lucock Bragg and his trustees from 1808 or 1809 until 1811. It is most unlikely that there were any later workings. Also the names of the people involved, particularly one miner from the 1680s and all from the later Bragg workings, have been established. Perhaps family historians might identify the Quaker operators of the seventeenth century, and the families of the miners of the early nineteenth century. Given the testimony of Allison and the map of 1812, perhaps a field survey would identify the various workings and might place them more securely in the time frame.

<sup>20</sup> Sara Hutchinson, *The letters of Sara Hutchinson from 1800 to 1835*, Ed. Kathleen Coburn, Sara Hutchinson to Mr Monkhouse 1 Nov 1816, p.93

<sup>21</sup> TNA/PRP/IR/30/7/35 & IR/29/7/35, the tithe map and apportionment for Buttermere show this usage

<sup>22</sup> Adams, *Mines*, p.115

<sup>23</sup> T M Banks, C Nichol and D G Bridge, 'Lead mines in the manor of Kinniside', *Transactions, CWAAS, CW2*, 1994, pp.215-47, p.220

<sup>24</sup> Banks et al, 'Kinniside', p.219

<sup>25</sup> CACW/DWM11/392

## ***A snapshot of life, 1905-20***

*by Walter Head*

Margaret Reay was born on the 26th August 1902 at Hopebeck; she was the fifth child of John Reay and his wife Sarah Ann (nee Head). Soon after this the family moved to a smallholding at Rowrah Hall and Margaret's mother, Sarah Ann, died there in January 1903 age 37 when Margaret was five months old. Her father remarried in 1904. He was not a good provider for his family and in approximately 1910 or 1911 he left for Canada in search of a better life. He left behind his second wife, their two children and the five children from his first marriage. Very seldom did he send back any money and the family lived at Arlecdon on Parish relief. It was not until 1917 when he joined the Canadian Forces Forestry Division and served in France that he sent back any regular payments to his family. He returned after the war and in 1920 the family all emigrated to Canada. The following are extracts from the unpublished memoirs of Margaret Reay: -

*My stepmother's sister worked in a well to do family home and she used to send us pails of dripping (beef fat) and we had it on our bread and we had porridge with treacle on and blown (skimmed) milk.*

*Every summer my late mother's brother Skelton Head and his wife Lizzie would take us children for a month. They farmed at Gilbrea, Lorton, we enjoyed it there and cried when we had to go home. They milked a bunch of cows and us children would hold the cows tails while they were milked so they wouldn't swish*

*them into the mens eyes. The milk was strained and poured into baths with a tap at the bottom, in 12 hours the milk was run off and the cream put into a container for the men to churn into butter once a week, it took two men to run the churn. There was a separate cool room for the cream and making butter. Aunt Lizzie had a print on each pound of butter when she went to market each Monday with eggs, butter and rabbits. Us children washed the eggs to go to market. She drove a pony and trap to market and she always brought us back a treat.*

*When I was 14 I went to work for Sir Joseph and lady Hutchinson at Lorton Hall. I worked under a step aunt (an old maid) she had me crying every day, she was strict and cranky but she gave me a good training. My legs ached so much I could hardly sleep. She would wake me in the morning and I had to take tea to her and two girls in their beds, then she got up and took tea to Lady Hutchinsons bedroom.*

*When I was at Sir Joseph and Lady Hutchinsons at Lorton Hall a lady came to visit, she had been on the Titanic when it hit an iceberg. She was travelling first class so she was first to get into a lifeboat, she lost everything including her fur coat.*

## ***The Journal***

Journal 52 will be published for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. Please send contributions by 7<sup>th</sup> July.

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### ***L&DFLHS – Programme for 2013 (others to be arranged)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Cumbrian holy wells, by Dr Eileen Palmer & Dr Tim Sowton
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Land and community in Thackthwaite 1700-1900, by Prof Steve Baskerville
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Cumbria from early 19 <sup>th</sup> century prints: the life and work of Thomas Allom (1804-72), by Dr Michael Winstanley
13 <sup>th</sup> June	AGM and talk to be announced
11 <sup>th</sup> July	West Cumberland shipping through the ages, by David Ramshaw
12 <sup>th</sup> September	The bobbin mills at Force-Satterthwaite 1826-1923, by Dr Suzanne Tiplady
October	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition – Lorton and the Derwent Fells through objects
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Cumbrian ice-houses and the international trade in ice, by Dr Rob David

Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton s at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 with refreshments.