

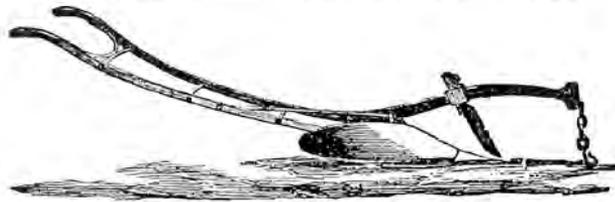
## Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

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*An advertisement for the Robinsong Plough, and a surviving example.*

## The Journal

Welcome to issue 57 of the *Journal*. I was particularly pleased that Sandra Shaw has completed her research on those who fell in World War 1 and are commemorated on the Paddle School Roll of Honour. This is the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme, which took the lives of so many, and therefore an appropriate time to note that battle. Further articles on other townships in or near our area would be welcome for future issues.

Because of a holiday, I was one of those who missed Mark Graham's talk on the findings of the programme to discover the vicus or civilian settlement to the South of the Roman fort at Papcastle. Therefore I was very happy that Roger Asquith agreed to record this work, in which he was much involved, for the benefit of those who missed the presentations, or who wish to have a printed summary.

Back in 1998 the Society's Lorton Roman Roads Group was stimulated to study and seek for Roman roads. This followed a suggestion that a Roman road came over Whinlatter, and a junction in Lorton went two ways, to Derventio at Papcastle but also over Whinfell to the fort at Moresby.<sup>1</sup> We found the branch to Moresby to be entirely speculative and evidence lacking, the enclosure roads over Whinfell being mistakenly given Roman attributes. In seeking physical evidence of Roman roads the group found and excavated an old, unrecorded road ascending from Thornthwaite towards Knott Head, the well-known Bassenthwaite viewpoint on Whinlatter.

This road was consistent with Roman construction and with a route over Whinlatter which included the old causeway recorded long ago near Braithwaite railway station. The suggestion was that our road was Roman and provided the first physical evidence of a road crossing Whinlatter. But with no known fort at Keswick, at that time, with no excavated road on the west side of Whinlatter, and with no proven bridge over the Derwent, our road up to Knott Head could not be claimed as Roman, just old, unexplained by records, and Roman-like. The

findings were recorded in the CWAAS Transactions in 2007, a significant achievement for the Society.<sup>2</sup>

In 2008, within the Bassenthwaite Reflections project, a geophysical search for a fort at Keswick, again led by Mark Graham, found the Roman camp at Castlerigg. The causeway at Braithwaite is in direct alignment with the fort, and in the other direction with Knott Head. Now also a crossing of the Derwent has been found at Papcastle. This suggests that the causeway at Braithwaite and the old road to Knott Head may be part of a Roman road between the forts at Castlerigg and Papcastle, and part of a route from the port at Maryport via Brough over Stainmore, or now the A66.

Perhaps there may be renewed Society interest in finding a road and its route between the Derwent bridge and the old, pre-turnpike and probably Roman road from High Lorton to Keswick via Scales?

*Derek Denman*

Corrigendum: in *Journal* 56, page 23, 'foot of Derwentwater' should be 'head of Derwentwater'.

## L&DFLHS 2015-16

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Allan, *The Roman route across the northern lake district: Brougham to Moresby*, CNWRS, Lancaster University, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Derek Denman, 'An old road to Knott Head from Thornthwaite', *Transactions CWAAS*, 2007, pp. 219-23

## ***Paddle School's Roll of Honour***

*by Sandra Shaw*

This article is an attempt to identify the family origins and military service of the eight men from Eaglesfield, Blindbothel and Mosser parish who gave their lives in the First World War and who are commemorated on the Paddle School Roll of Honour. There are a further 36 men listed who served and returned and who are named here, but whose stories will form the subject of a future article.

The memorial tablet of marble & slate is housed in the school entrance hall and was unveiled on 22nd April 1921. The heading reads ***The Great War 1914 – 1918 / Roll of Honour / Eaglesfield, Blindbothel and Mosser Parish***. There are then two sections – *Men who gave their lives* comprising 8 names – *Men who served and returned* comprising 36 names. On this roll of honour, just the surnames and initials are given and they are not quite in alphabetical order.

The 36 (in alphabetical order) are: G Clague, J Clague, W Clague, J Clark, R Corlett, J Davidson, G Dockeray, H Ferguson, J Glasson, I Glasson, H Hamilton, J D Hamilton, B Harrison, J Harrison, J M Harrison, T Harrison, W Harrison, H Huddart, W Huddart, E H Jackson, A Kitchen, C Mossop, F Mossop, N Mossop, E Park, T Park, H W Sewell, WWR Sewell, H Satterthwaite, G Scott, H Storey, W Tyson, J Walker, H Waugh, F White, F Wilson.

There is also a polished granite war memorial standing outside St Philips Church at Eaglesfield where the full names of the men who gave their lives are given. This reads – Erected / in grateful memory of / the men of this parish / who gave their lives for / freedom right & peace / in the Great War / 1914 – 1918 (east face) Their name liveth [sic] / for evermore (west face) Walter Bartle / John Edward Long / Edward Mossop / Henry Bell Moffat (north face) William Ballantine Porter / William Routeledge / Harry Robinson / Frederick William Storr (south face)

Using data collections (mainly censuses and military records) from a number of commercial websites, I have attempted to identify each of these men and find out what I could about their

military service. I began with the 1911 census, being closest in time to the outbreak of war. If I couldn't find the man there, I searched the previous one. Then, using a number of other on-line sources, I have tried to uncover more about their lives and find out about the part their military unit played in the war. I have been assisted by information and leads received from follow society member Walter Head, for which I am most grateful. There has been a recent project to index local newspapers of the war years which I have consulted and can be found at; [http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online\\_catalogues/greatwar/newsindexes.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online_catalogues/greatwar/newsindexes.asp)

I do not know how it was decided which names should be included and in some cases it has not been possible to find any connection with the local area.

### **Walter Bartle**

Walter was born 12 July 1896 and baptised at Mosser on 13 September the same year. His birth was registered at Cockermouth and in that record and nowhere else, he was given the middle initial A. He was killed in action on 16 August 1917 aged just 21.

He appears in the 1911 census with his parents George and Mary Bartle at Waterloo Lodge, Cockermouth, (the 1901 census says this is at Eaglesfield) a 6 room property. His father was a gamekeeper from Laxton in Nottinghamshire while his mother was a local woman (born Mary Cook) from Deanscales. They had been married 28 years and she had born six children who were all living. Just two were still at home; John aged 19 working as a gamekeeper's assistant and Walter aged 14 with no occupation recorded, presumably still at school. The two boys are said to have been born at Palace How, Blindbothel. Other censuses showed that the six children were George Henry, Fred, Martha, Mary, John and Walter.

Walter enlisted on 6 December 1915 at Cockermouth, giving his address as Waterloo Cottages and his occupation as gamekeeper. He joined the Border Regiment (service number 3410). He served in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalions, and his service number was changed somewhere along the line, later being 241205. He was reported missing in the Cumberland News of 29 September and 6 October 1916. He

was reported wounded the following day and 10 October. He appeared in the daily casualty list (reported wounded) of 25 October 1916. He was then private 4310 with the Border Regiment. He must have recovered as he was later reported to have died of wounds on 16 August 1917 while serving as a private with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment in France / Flanders. There is a note dated 26 September 1918 to the effect that any articles of personal property or any medals due to the soldier should be sent to Mrs Mary Bartle of Waterloo Cottage, Cockermouth. He is commemorated at Cement House Cemetery, Langemarck in Belgium.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment (shown on Walter's enlistment papers) was raised at Carlisle in August 1914 and attached to the East Lancashire Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment (shown on the later military record) went into action in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 and this is probably where Walter received his first wound. In 1917 they were in action in the three battles of the Scarpe during the Arras Offensive and then moved to Flanders. The Battle of Langemarck where Walter lost his life was part of the Battle of Passchendale or Third Battle of Ypres and took place from 16 to 18 September that year.

Walter is also commemorated on the Cockermouth War Memorial and data on the roll-of-honour website confirms much of the above, adding that Mary Bartle was 'of Beech Cottage, Westward, Wigton', which suggests that she moved there later. Walter seems to be commemorated twice, because his place of birth was recorded variously as Cockermouth and Mosser in different documents.

Walter's elder brother George Henry also lost his life in the War. He enlisted at Cockermouth in 1915 and is commemorated on the Cockermouth war memorial. He was Lance Corporal 17553 of C Company, 7th Battalion, Border Regiment. He died of wounds 14 April 1918, aged 36 years. He had left the family home before 1901 and was an assistant gamekeeper, lodging with the family of farmer John Jackson at Rigg House, Brackenthwaite in that census. He married Margaret Jane Reid in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1904 at Cockermouth and in

1911 was a gamekeeper living with Margaret and 3 young daughters at Park Lane, Cockermouth. Their address on the Commonwealth Graves Commission database is Castle Cottages, Cockermouth. George Henry is buried at Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery Extension.

### **John Edward Long**

John Edward Long's, birth was registered at Cockermouth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1889, and in other sources it is shown that he was born at Loweswater. He was killed in action on 18 November 1916 in the Battle of the Somme aged about 27.

He appears in the 1911 census at Deanscales, Cockermouth working as a servant in the home of Richard Clark a farmer. The 1901 census shows him with his widowed father Thomas, a sub-postmaster, living at 7 The Bank, Eaglesfield. His mother was Ann Jane Moore who had been born at Lorton and the total family appears to have comprised Mary A, Francis F, Sarah M, Dora Jane, Matilda, Elizabeth, Josephine, John and Martha. The family was living at The Place, Loweswater in 1891.

Returning to John Edward, he enlisted in the Border Regiment (service number 14375) at Penrith on 16 September 1914 when he gave his occupation as farm servant. Both the 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion and 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion are recorded on this paper. The medal roll index card shows that he first entered France on 7 September 1915. John was killed in action on 18 November 1916, the final day of the Battle of the Somme. By then, he was in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion and had the rank of Lance Sergeant (ie he was a corporal acting in the rank of sergeant). He was buried at Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel. The Cumberland News did not catch up with his fate until some time later, reporting him missing on the 20 January 1917 and 'killed' 6 months later in the edition for 18 July that year. The 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was formed at Carlisle in September 1914 but it was not until 4 September 1915 that it arrived at Le Havre, later in Salonika on 7 November 1915. The 11<sup>th</sup> (Lonsdale) Battalion saw action at The Battle of the Somme in 1916.



The WW1 Roll of Honour at Paddle School -  
photograph Sandra Shaw

#### Edward Mossop

Edward Mossop was born on 11 September 1893 and baptised at Mosser on 22 October the same year. He was killed in action on 20 July 1916.

He was with his family in the 1911 census, living at Low Hall, Blindbothel, a 9 roomed property where his father was a

farmer. His parents were Watson and Rebecca Mossop who had begun their married life at Eaglesfield and raised five children. These were William J, Edward, Clement, Nelson and Mary E who were described as having been born at Blindbothel in one census and at Brigham in another. In 1901 the family was at Green Trees, Blindbothel and Watson's widowed mother Elizabeth was farming

next door at Low Hall with the help of two unmarried daughters (Margaret and Frances). A third sister Alice was an assistant teacher and Alan J. McLean's recent book *Poking around in Paddle's Past* confirms that she started work at Paddle in the 1890s.

Edward Mossop enlisted at Challenor House, Cockermouth on 15 November 1915 and gave his occupation as farmer and his birthplace as Mosser. He was 5' 10 ½" tall and he joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers with the service number 36911. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, which became part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division on 25 November 2015 and was engaged on the Western Front until the end of the war. The division took part in the Battles of the Somme and that is where Private Mossop was killed in action on 20 July 1916, although his name was not included in the daily list until 4 September 1916. He was buried at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

There are three men named Mossop among the men who served and returned. These are C Mossop, N Mossop and F Mossop. It is tempting to think that C and N might be Edward's brothers Clement and Nelson, but this has not been possible to confirm. There will be more about all those who served and returned in a future Journal.

### **Henry Bell Moffat**

Henry Bell Moffat was born on 30 October 1893, registered at Cockermouth. Walter Head discovered that he was a private in the Canadian Infantry (781738) when he was killed on 15 May 1917 aged 23.

Henry was the son of John Moffat, a coal hewer and Jane his wife. They were at Dearham in 1901, but had moved to West End Farm, Gilcrux by 1911 where the family was engaged in farming. There were six children in total; William, Mary Jane, John, Fletcher, Robert and Stanley Taylor. Henry's passage to Canada in May 1913 has been identified. He was listed as a steerage passenger on the SS Teutonic, on its way to Quebec City. Henry was on his own, a single man who claimed to have been farming for six years and to be looking for work as a farmer. He gave his religion as Wesleyan.

Henry enlisted in the 28th battalion, Canadian Infantry, Saskatchewan

Regiment. The date is not known but that record included his date of birth. He named his parents John & Jane Moffat of Springfield Farm, Cockermouth (Greysouthen) as his next of kin. Henry was killed on 15 May 1917 aged 23. The daily casualty list of 4 June 1917 records that he had previously been reported wounded, but was now reported 'died of wounds'. He was buried at Etaples Military Cemetery. The various Saskatchewan battalions were assembled at Valcartier Camp near Quebec City, then embarked for Britain and a few months' further training before joining other Canadian units fighting in the trenches in Flanders. The various battles that the Saskatchewan Regiment was engaged in are listed on a Canadian website and judging by the date of Henry's death, it seems likely that he was killed in the Vimy Ridge battle – described here from the same website 'Canadian troops took over the front line at Vimy Ridge during the winter of 1916. After training and rehearsal, they began heavy bombardment on 20 March 1917. Artillery fire continued for days before the Canadian infantry divisions attacked the ridge on Easter Monday 9 April, gaining control 3 days later.

It is not entirely clear what Henry Moffat's connection was to the Eaglesfield, Blindbothel and Mosser parish that led to his inclusion on the Paddle Roll of Honour.

### **William Ballantine Porter**

William's birth was registered in Cockermouth in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1887 and he was killed in the Battle of the Somme on 18 November 1916. William was found in the 1911 census living in a five roomed property at Eaglesfield with his widowed aunt, Hannah Porter. Hannah was born at Mosser, while William gave his birthplace as Workington and his occupation as farm labourer. In 1901 the Eaglesfield address was more specific. William, his father John, a joiner and John's wife Hannah were at 2, South End, Eaglesfield. Investigation revealed that William's mother had been born Mary Ann Norman. She married John Porter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1878 at Cockermouth and they had two sons, John and William. Mary Ann's death was registered at Cockermouth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1891 and it seems likely that she had been

staying with her parents Thomas and Elizabeth Norman at Eaglesfield with young William as that is where they were in the 1891 census. John and the elder son of the same name were in Workington where Mary Ann's sister Hannah was acting as housekeeper. John and Hannah were married 2 years later, so Hannah was both William's aunt and his step-mother.

It has not proved possible to find out when or where William joined up. He was a private in the Border Regiment (27998), serving in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion and is listed as having been killed in action on 18 November 1916. The Cumberland News reported William as wounded on 30 December 1916, as wounded and missing on 20 January the following year and finally on 2 February 1918 as missing over a year, presumed dead. There is a full article to be read in the issue for 20<sup>th</sup> January 1917. William was buried at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval. His medal roll listing shows that he served with 3/5 Border regiment with the service number 3670 and 11<sup>th</sup> with the number 27998. The register of soldiers' effects showed a balance of £3.0.0 to be sent to Mrs Hannah Porter.

### Harry Robinson

It has not proved possible to conclusively identify this man. A search of censuses did not produce a suitable candidate living locally, so I searched the database of men killed in the war and the most likely is Henry Robinson who enlisted at



**The War Memorial at St. Philip's Church – photograph Derek Denman**

Cockermouth and was killed in action on 18 September 1918. He gave his birthplace as Great Broughton and residence as Brigham. He initially enlisted in the Border Regiment (39604) but was private 51416 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment when he died. He is remembered on the Vis-en-Artois memorial. The 7<sup>th</sup> (service) Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment was formed at Beverley on 16 September 1914 and came

under orders of 50th Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division. It landed at Boulogne on 14 July 1915 and saw service on the Western Front. The date of Henry's death coincides with the battle of Epehy in which the 17<sup>th</sup> Northern Division was engaged.

Returning to censuses, in 1901, there is a Henry Robinson resident at Great Broughton who was born at Greysouthern in 1897. He was living with his parents William and Sarah and two younger brothers Tom and Joseph. The father and an older boarder who is also called William Robinson are both coal miners. Information in this census suggests Henry's birth is that registered at Cocker mouth in Q3 of 1896. Henry's parents and two brothers were still living at Great Broughton in 1911, but Henry cannot be found then. It is not clear why he is included on the Paddle Roll of Honour.

It has been similarly difficult to match him to newspaper reports. There are too many H Robinsons and insufficient additional information to make matches.

### **William Routledge**

It has been impossible to identify this man either in censuses, through military records or in local newspaper indexes. The closest match is a man who was the son of a butcher in Cocker mouth Main Street in 1901 and 1911. If correct, his parents were Joseph and Kate Routledge and he was born about 1880 at Bootle. In both censuses, he was named William G Routledge and the only apparent local connection is that he had a sister Catherine or Katie who was born at Eaglesfield. The only William Routledge in military records is from Upper Denton and was living at Carlisle before his military service.

### **Frederick William Storr**

Frederick William Storr was born at Mosser and his birth was registered at Cocker mouth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1891. In 1911, he was a farm servant at Whinfell Hall, Whinfell, working for William Allason, while his widowed father was farming at Aikbank Mill. Ten years earlier in 1901, the whole family was found together at High Hollins, Brackenthwaite. Frederick's parents were George Martin and Hannah Storr and there were seven children in

total - Martin, Hannah, John, Charles, Fanny, Frederick and Florence. Although the children were all born in Cumberland, the eldest at Graythwaite, the youngest 3 elsewhere in Mosser, their father George was from Castle Howard in Yorkshire and his wife from Lancashire.

Nothing definite can be stated about his military career and there is nothing in newspaper indexes to throw any further light on his service.

There were two promising leads, both of which disappeared into the sand when followed through. Firstly another man called Frederick William Storr is listed on the Canadian Virtual War memorial but the date of birth given is 27 March 1892 which does not match our local man. He is probably the Fred Wm Storr whose passage to Canada, along with other family members has been found. But they can be matched to a family which appears in censuses in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, so are not our local man.

Walter Head found a William Storr who enlisted at Hull age 18yrs 4mths. This man joined the 2nd battalion, the Duke of Wellington, West Riding Regiment, formally East Yorkshire Regiment, number 24397. He was awarded the British War medal and Victory medal and died on 3 May 1917. As our man's father was originally from Yorkshire it seemed feasible that he may have travelled there to join relations and enlisted at Hull. Walter advised me that Skelton Eland from Lorton had served with the Duke of Wellington Regiment. However this is clearly a different man as he gave his birthplace as Hull and an address in Hull and can be traced in the 1901 and 1911 censuses with family in Hull. He remains a mystery.

### **Observations**

It is very difficult to find patterns and common stories among these eight men. Nothing can be said about the military careers of two; Routledge and Storr. Of the remaining six, Moffat emigrated to Canada, served with the Saskatchewan Regiment and was killed at Vimy Ridge. Mossop served with the Royal Welsh Fusilliers and died at an early stage in the battle of the Somme. Robinson began service in the Border Regiment, but was serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment when he was killed at Epehy. Only three

men served throughout with the Border Regiment; Bartle who was wounded in the early part of the Battle of the Somme, but lived on to lose his life at Langemarck, part of the Passchendaele offensive; Long and Porter who were in the same battalion and both died on the last day of the Somme. The names of Bartle, Long, Mossop, Porter and Robinson are all found on the British war medal and victory medal roll.

It was the Battle of the Somme that touched more of these men than any other, so it seems appropriate to say a little more about it. It was the main Allied attack on the Western Front during 1916 and is famous chiefly on account of the loss of 58,000 British troops (one third of them killed) on the first day of the battle, 1 July 1916, which to this day remains a one-day record. The attack was launched on a 30 kilometre front, from north of the river Somme between Arras and Albert, and ran from 1 July until 18 November, at which point it was called off.

The offensive was planned late in 1915 and was intended as a joint French-British attack, predominately French. The main aim was to drain the German forces of reserves, although territorial gain was a secondary aim. In the event, British forces comprised by far the bulk of the offensive forces.

The attack was preceded by an eight-day bombardment of the German lines, beginning on Saturday 24 June. The expectation was that the ferocity of the bombardment would entirely destroy all forward German defences, enabling the attacking British troops to practically walk across No Man's Land and take possession of the German front lines. 1,500 British guns, together with a similar number of French guns, were employed in the bombardment. However the advance artillery bombardment failed to destroy either the German front line barbed wire or their heavily-built concrete bunkers. Much of the munitions used by the British proved to be 'duds' - badly constructed and ineffective. Many charges did not go off and even today farmers of the Western Front unearth many tons of unexploded 'iron harvest' each year.

During the bombardment the German troops sought effective shelter in their bunkers and emerged only when the British artillery bombardment ceased. As a

consequence the British forces made strikingly little progress on 1 July or in the days and weeks that followed. The French forces at the southern end of the line had more success, possibly because their advance bombardment was sprung only hours before the attack, thus ensuring a degree of surprise. The British troops were for the most part forced back into their trenches by the effectiveness of the German machine gun response. Many troops were killed or wounded the moment they stepped out of the front lines into No Man's Land. Many men walked slowly towards the German lines, laden down with supplies, expecting little or no opposition. They made incredibly easy targets for the German machine-gunners.

This battle saw the first use of tanks, with a renewed attack by British forces in the north-east of the region on 15 September. There were 50 in total, sourced from the Machine Gun Corps, but suffered from mechanical and other failures which reduced their numbers to 24. They may have had a measure of surprise when first used against the German opposition, but they proved unwieldy and highly unreliable.

On 13 November the British forces made a final effort on the far east of the salient in the Battle of the Ancre, in which they captured the field fortress of Beaumont Hamel. Despite the slow but steady British advance, poor weather including snow brought a halt to the Somme offensive on 18 November.

During the attack the British and French had gained only 12 kilometres of ground, the taking of which resulted in 420,000 estimated British, plus a further 200,000 French casualties. German casualties were estimated to run at around 500,000. British commander, Sir Douglas Haig's conduct of the battle caused - and still causes - great controversy. Critics argued that his inflexible approach merely repeated flawed tactics; others argue that Haig's hand was forced in that the Somme offensive was necessary in order to relieve the French at Verdun. Either way, it was a dreadful waste of young life

If anyone can help with further information about any of the men named, or correct any errors I might have made, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

***Ploughing with Horses***

*by Walter Head*

Ploughing is the process of turning over the upper layer of earth to bring fresh nutrients to the surface, aerate the soil and to bury the perennial weeds and remains of previous crops.

The gradual introduction during the early 1950s of tractors, especially the little grey Fergie, onto Cumbrian farms spelt the end of the reign of the large Clydesdale horse as the main powerhouse on the farm, but in the 1940s and into the 1950s some ploughing was still carried out using horses. Spring marked the start of the ploughing process which was carried out on dry days.

### **Preparing the Horses**

The day started with the preparation of two horses. The horses were well fed to prepare them for the arduous task ahead. The first task was to put on the braffin or collar over the horses head, next the harness was attached to the sides of the braffin. Following this a leather band approximately 4" wide was put over the middle of their back with long chains attached which reached from the collar to whatever implement was to be used, eg plough. Two swing lines and a threaptree fitted between the horses and the plough.

### **The Plough**

The plough in the advertisement and photograph on the front cover was made by W. Robinson of Cockermouth. At the front of the plough was a cutter which cut a way through the ground, this was followed by the plough point called a plough shoe. The shoes would gradually wear away but could be replaced with a new one. Behind this was the mouthboard or mouldboard which turned over the ground to the right making a furrow approximately nine inches wide and four to five inches deep. Two wheels could be attached to the sides of the plough to enable it to be transported from the farm to the field

### **Preparing the Field**

At this time most farms were relatively small, typically 50 to 100 acres and subsequently the fields were quite small in size. There were two established methods of ploughing the field. The Gathering

pattern was where the ploughing started in the middle of the field and worked out towards the edges of the field. The second method was the Casting pattern where the ploughing started at each edge of the field and worked towards the centre of the field. There was great personal pride in being able to plough a straight furrow, especially if it could be seen from various vantage points. Two methods were in use to make the first furrow, either three or more stakes called sighting poles were put into the ground across the field and these were kept in line during the first plough, or a certain fixed point in the distance was aimed for. A lesson learnt by one novice ploughman during his first attempt when he didn't use stakes and aimed for a cow in the distance, the cow moved.

### **Ploughing Operation**

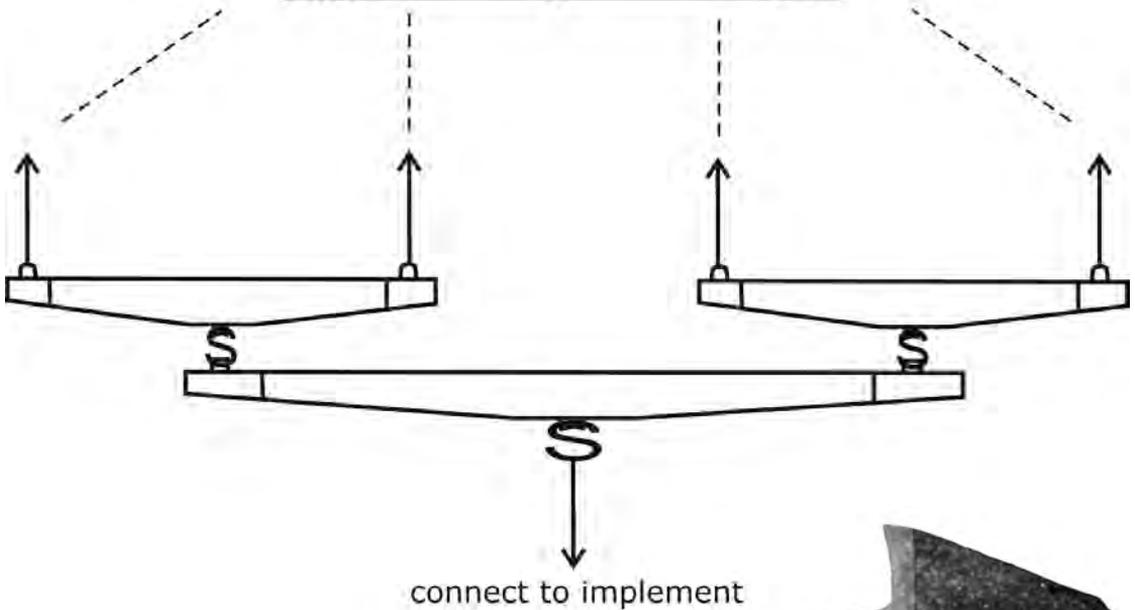
The first furrow was started approximately six feet in from the edge of the field and the plough lifted again approximately six feet from the other edge of the field. This unploughed area was known as the rigging and was to allow the horses room to turn round before making the next furrow in the reverse direction. It was important to keep going at 90 degrees to the far dyke or hedge right to the end of the furrow to prevent a curve at the end of the furrow. One farmer when told that his furrows bent to the right at the end of each furrow said "as long as the two ends don't meet to form a circle I don't care". Once the first furrow was made in each direction then one horse walked in the furrow bottom which had just been made to ensure further furrows were parallel to the first. The ploughman followed behind the horses on foot and steered the plough by holding onto the stilts or handles, he also held two long reins to steer the horses. The ploughman had to be aware that the plough would tend to deviate if the plough struck a large stone and also that the ground varied from soft areas to hard compacted portions. When the field had been ploughed the area called rigging was ploughed to complete the process. There was a break taken at lunchtime when the horses were fed again back at the farm. They were fed again at the end of the day. Approximately half an acre of ground would be ploughed in one day.



Joe Benn with Jewel

### Threathree arrangements

attach to horses



My thanks go to Joe Benn for his help with article. Joe was born at Whinfall Hall, Lorton on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1928 to parents Margaret and Isaac Benn. The family moved to Dean in 1932.



Plough Shoe

## ***Discovering Derwentio: a View of Roman Papcastle.***

*by Roger Asquith*

The Society's November talk, by Mark Graham, provided an interesting and entertaining insight into the recent archaeological discoveries at Papcastle. Mark, a local resident and lead archaeologist with Grampus Heritage, facilitated and directed the investigations, initially as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Bassenthwaite Reflections community archaeology project, and thereafter, from July 2011 to the close of 2015, as the Heritage Lottery funded *Discovering Derwentio* project. The night of the talk was notably wild and wet, limiting the attendance, so in view of the significance of the discoveries from both local history and wider perspectives, a recap is given here.



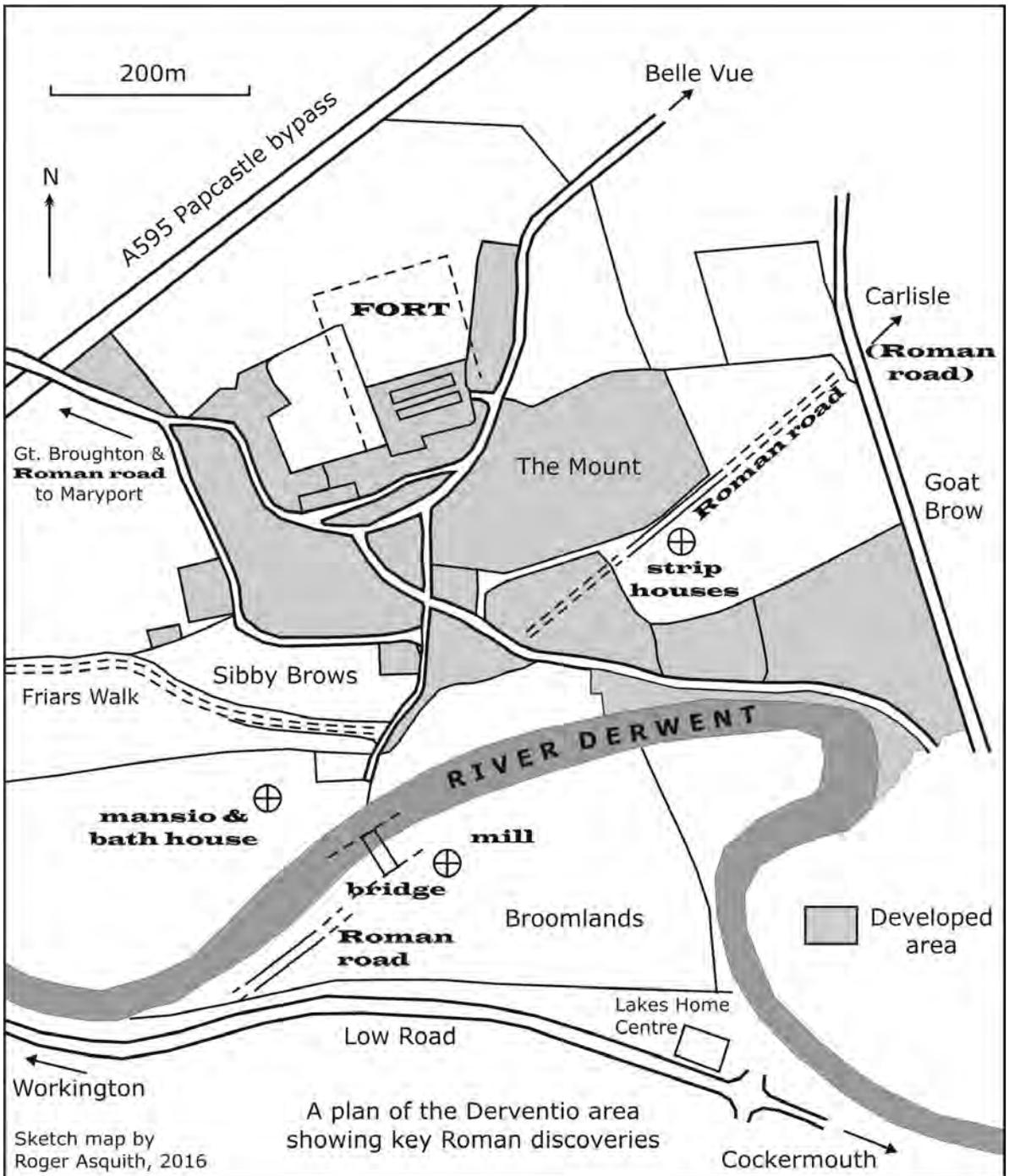
**The mill with timber lined mill race. The wheel would have been undershot, around 2.5m diameter. Photograph Roger Asquith**

Papcastle's Roman fort, somewhat hidden at the highest point of the village, without public access or over view, was occupied from late first century until early fourth century. Past archaeological investigations have been limited such that the layout has been only partly established.<sup>1</sup> Knowledge of the vicus, the extra mural settlement, derived from many chance finds and, in recent years, from small scale archaeological work preceding housing development. Time Team, in 1998, took their customary three days to reveal remains of strip houses in a garden and to conclude that the vicus extended further than previously recorded, at Sibby Brows. The Archaeological Assessment Report of Cockermouth and Papcastle, 2006, observed that 'the nature of the Roman vicus at Papcastle is unknown ... , the extent of the vicus is still uncertain.' Also, incidentally, 'there is no evidence of Roman settlement in Cockermouth'.

The November 2009 floods scoured Broomlands, the area bounded by the river Derwent and Low Road, behind and beyond The Lakes Home Centre, exposing Roman remains and suggesting that the Roman settlement of Derwentio may have extended south of the river, far beyond its known limits. The more sceptical view was that the Romans would not have built on the flood plain, and, even if they had, centuries of river meandering and flood events would have destroyed any archaeology.

The Broomlands investigation, involving a full geophysics survey and targeted excavation, proved particularly revealing. Significant Roman features covered those parts not wiped away by flood water, relating to a period of intensive occupation extending from early second century to late third century, with some level of occupation in the first and fourth centuries.

<sup>1</sup> Hartley, S. 2006 Cumbria County Council and English Heritage. Extensive Urban Survey. *Archaeology Assessment Report: Cockermouth and Papcastle.*



The SW end of Broomlands held a civilian settlement with timber structures, enclosures with domestic/small scale industrial activity. A section of Roman road, some 8.5m wide, was uncovered aligned NE/SW, parallel to the Derwent, opposite the present lane from Papcastle village down to the river bank. The NE end

of the site showed military characteristics, with a large rectangular building, 17m by 8m, the corner of what was probably a temporary marching camp and a large sub-circular feature, circa 50m across, built over a ditch, the fill of which included first Century pottery. The most spectacular discovery was the water mill, with timber-



**How complex can a bath complex get?  
Photograph Roger Asquith.**

lined millrace, one of the most complete examples yet recorded in Britain. Massive stone block walls on clay and cobble foundations characterise the military buildings, including the mill. The lack of occupation layers prevented further interpretation of the rectangular building or the circular feature – an amphitheatre or equestrian training arena?

So far, no river crossing and no cemetery. The geophysics techniques having succeeded beyond expectation at Broomlands the survey area was extended greatly to the north, west and east of Papcastle - along the Roman roads towards Maryport and Carlisle looking for the cemetery, and along the Derwent's north bank looking for the river crossing. Only where landowner permission was not forthcoming did gaps remain – including the area of the fort itself.

Still no river crossing and no cemetery. Any disappointment was offset by the spectacular and substantial civic

buildings, a mansio – the travel lodge of its time for officials/dignitaries - and bath house complex, revealed below the village near the river. Several phases were evident, the early mansio and bath house with underfloor heating being followed by two further substantial buildings with similar function. Preservation was good, some walls standing to 1m, the most spectacular having three complete arches. This was evidently a significant centre from late first century onwards, declining through third century and largely abandoned by the mid-fourth century. A skeleton discovered in the underfloor heating system proved to be that of a local man of the late Roman era, rather than that of an over-worked 21<sup>st</sup> century volunteer!

On the east side of the present village, below The Mount estate, was found a section of Roman road, a continuation of the Carlisle – Papcastle Roman road, clearly heading towards the mansio/bath house complex, a river crossing and on to the coast rather than to the fort east gate.



One miniature oil lamp - bit of a clean and it'll be ready for use.



For cutting down very small trees or a votive offering?



Vinda's tombstone amongst the bridge rubble. She died age 30-something.



Genius Loci (spirit of the place).



The boar was the emblem of the XX Legion who were involved in building Hadrian's Wall 122-5 AD. Does this votive offering indicate a XX Legion connection with Derventio?



Hadrian was here. Can make out 'Hadrianus' on the rim?

Some finds at Derventio - photographs by Roger Asquith

This road looks more like an extension to the coast of the Stanegate, as opposed to simply a link between forts. Finds from several roadside buildings and enclosures again pointed to late first century to early/mid-fourth century occupation.

With Derventio straddling the river there had to be a convenient crossing point; likewise, somewhere, a cemetery. The final phase of the project revisited Broomlands. By a process of deduction, based on known road lines, one abutment and one pier of a bridge were excavated a few metres from the present course of the Derwent, showing there had been a slight shift of the river over the last 1500 years. An abundance of worked stone, re-used as rubble in-fill, showed that the construction was of a later, or even post, Roman period. More likely, perhaps, the bridge was repaired at that time – using two fragments of inscriptions, two fragments of altars, two carved statue heads and the base of a third statue. Interpretation of these provides tantalising links to those early inhabitants: their lives, beliefs and origins. The garrison, at the time of one particular dedication, was a part-mounted cohort of 1000 men. ‘Classis Moesica’ figures in another dedication – what brought men of the Roman Danube/Black Sea fleet to these parts? The sculpture heads of Attis and Cybele suggest a cult temple nearby.

The river gods, however, were obviously not happy with the archaeologists. The water level rose rapidly, flooding the bridge excavation and curtailing the investigation, though not before samples of structural timbers had been taken.

The SW corner of Broomlands, next to the old railway embankment, proved challenging, with little structure but many finds of a ritual/funerary character. Small votive offerings included a deer, a boar and an axe of copper alloy, also miniature oil lamps and libation cups. Perhaps the star find was a stone relief depicting the Genius Loci or ‘spirit of the place’, a figure displaying both classical and Celtic features, holding a cornucopia. Cremation-type deposits (burning, bone, pot shards) proved to be non-human. A temple structure and cemetery would logically

have existed nearby. What, we might wonder, lies (or lay) under the railway embankment and road?

The Romans are renowned for their roads, these were direct (i.e. often steep) to allow rapid communication and deployment of troops. So how were materials and supplies delivered to the fort? It seems most likely that the heavy amphorae of olive oil or wine from southern Spain or Gaul, for example, would have been transported up the Derwent in small barges rather than carried on ox carts. The reputedly Roman earth work at Papcastle, known locally as ‘Friars Walk’, a well-constructed, graded road leading from the riverside towards the fort, fits with this theory. Firm evidence, or another plausible explanation, for the feature is yet to be found. The function and date of a large wooden building (warehouse/granary or Viking hall?!), which showed up, as post holes, on the geophysics survey near the Derwent just west of the Papcastle by-pass, are still to be determined. As to the Friars and where they were going – well that is another question and another era. Also in the wider landscape to the North and West of Papcastle the geophysics survey confirmed a small number of probable round houses. One of these, in a ‘D’ shaped enclosure, was excavated. Pottery found in the enclosure ditch would point to third Century occupation.

It could be said that Discovering Derventio has exceeded expectations, putting Roman Papcastle on a par with Corbridge and Carlisle. Or that, by virtue of the Broomlands discoveries, Cockermonth has now acquired a Roman heritage!

This article is based on Mark Graham’s talk and the Discovering Derventio website, where updates and reports will continue to be added.<sup>2</sup> Due to space limitations little has been said here regarding the large assemblage of finds – coins, pottery, personal effects – which nevertheless provided essential dating and usage information. A selection of items can be viewed in the Discovering Derventio display at Cockermonth Town Hall.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.discoverderventio.co.uk](http://www.discoverderventio.co.uk)

## ***In The News***

by Roz Southey

If places like Loweswater had ever been isolated from the goings-on in the rest of the country, that period was long gone by the first thirty years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Improvements in transport had opened up areas previously difficult to reach – these improvements combined with the increasing wealth and leisure time of the middle classes to promote recreational travel. More people looked to get away from sprawling urban centres with all their attendant difficulties, to places they perceived to be quieter and more problem-free.

As knowledge of the Lake District expanded and travel to it became easier, reports on events within the region increasingly appeared in newspapers as far afield as Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Exeter, as well as in London journals. Newspapers reports have their problems – they are rarely comprehensive, their accounts may be incomplete or biased, or based on second- or even third-hand reporting. It is often difficult to put the events they relate into context and to establish their significance or typicality. But on the other hand, they excel at relating everyday events which are not generally chronicled in more official documents, and for that reason can be unequalled in bringing the minutiae of the past to vivid life.

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Motoring was a relatively new experience at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and still carried a sense of adventure with it, particularly in a mountainous area such as the Lake District. Roads could be rudimentary and were designed for a different type of traffic, provoking letters from irate motorists to bodies such as the Cockermouth Rural District Council complaining about poor surfaces, difficult drainage, and dangerous corners such as Rannerdale Hause on the road from Buttermere to Loweswater. Cars too were still in the process of development and improvement, and their confident owners tended to believe they could do anything and go anywhere, sometimes running into difficulties in the process (as explained in a previous article on Honister Pass).

Moreover, there were still new places to go, roads over which motors had allegedly never travelled. The *Liverpool Echo* on 30 June 1914 printed a rare account (under the heading of *Motoring Adventure amongst the Fells*) of what purports to be the first crossing of such a road, although claims of this sort abounded and were often contradictory. 'Mosser Fell, Cockermouth,' says the paper, 'was for the first time crossed by motor-car. A party travelling from Workington to Loweswater got astray and took the fell route. They completed the passage safely after stopping to allow their red-hot brakes to cool.' The paper then allowed a whiff of Romance to creep into its description of the road.

The road, which is as steep as Kirkstone Pass, is a rough mountain track, mainly used by the Fell shepherds. Cut along the Fell breast, it commands one of the loveliest views in Lakeland, Loweswater Lake lying at the foot of a precipitous slope, some hundreds of feet below.

Even more adventurous outings could be had by those who were prepared to go take risks. It's easy to forget how rapidly technology seemed to be moving at the time, particularly in the field of transport, with the development of the bicycle, motor car and motor bike, and ultimately, the aeroplane – and how daring such things could seem. Three months before the party from Workington had their unexpected and accidental adventure on the Mosser road, an elderly Loweswater resident had travelled south with the deliberate intention of trying something new. As the *Western Times* of 9 March 1914 recounted:

Mr T Robinson of Loweswater, a Cumberland dalesman, has returned home from London with a certificate from Mr Graham White that he has been aloft with him in an aeroplane at Hendon. Mr Robinson is seventy-two years of age, and Mr White informed him that he was the oldest passenger he has yet flown with.

The extent to which this would have been regarded as an amazing exploit by

local residents is attested by the fact that Robinson felt it necessary to bring back a certificate to show that his story was true.

Identifying the particular Mr Robinson who had this adventure, however, demonstrates some of the difficulties of using newspaper records. The 1911 census shows only two Robinsons who might have been the gentleman in question (who should have been 68 or 69 at the time of the census), and neither are satisfactory matches. Neither of them had the initial T – though to make an error in an initial would have been easy enough – and both of them were recorded as being only 62 years old. Moreover, John Jefferson Robinson of Mockerkin identified himself on the census as a ‘manager and director’ and Joseph Henry Robinson of Foulisye merely noted that he had ‘private means’. To describe either of them as a ‘dalesman’ (usually denoting a yeoman farmer) would therefore have been stretching a point, although it is worth noting that both of them would have had sufficient money to undertake what must have been an expensive outing.

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Robinson, and the party crossing the Mosser road in their motor car in 1914, might have regarded their exploits as great fun but it is more doubtful whether another visitor to Loweswater, Mr E. H. Dodgson of Cockermouth, would have agreed with the assessment of the *Edinburgh Evening News* that his experience in August 1906 was a ‘sporting adventure’.

From the middle of the nineteenth century, Loweswater had been described by papers as ‘capital sporting country’. ‘Sport’ had a narrow definition at this period, referring to country pursuits such as hunting, shooting and fishing rather than to activities like athletics, cricket and football. Houses put up for sale frequently targeted gentlemen from outside the area by emphasising the wonderful hunting or shooting available, and many local inhabitants earned their living from catering for sporting visitors, from the women who rented out rooms or cottages, to the fishermen on Crummock Water who operated and hired out boats, or the local farmers and huntsmen who imparted their

local knowledge to newcomers. Guide books like *Jenkinson’s Guide to the English Lakes* of 1876 advised visitors on where to go for such help, listing such things as charges for conveyances, ponies and guides, and commenting on the comfort or otherwise of various local hotels.

Those non-residents who decided to go it alone and rely on their own resources often came to grief, as even knowledgeable individuals such as E. F. Dodgson found. Mr Dodgson was secretary of the Derwent Fishery Board and a lieutenant in the Border Volunteers, and as such must have thought himself a capable man with a sporting gun, but, as the *Edinburgh Evening News* reported, things went very wrong when he decided to celebrate the opening of the hunting season with a lone expedition.

Mr Dodgson ... was grouse shooting by himself on Carling Knot, near Loweswater, when a shot bird fell down a precipitous slope. In following, the sportsman slipped, and the gun falling from him stock first, the heather twigs discharged it, and the contents of one barrel entered his ankle and the other his thigh. The wounded man was not found until half-past nine the same night, when a sheep farmer named Swinburn [one of the three brothers at Oak Bank] heard cries, and found Mr Dodgson waving a white handkerchief, much exhausted through loss of blood. He was first conveyed to Scale Hill Hotel, where he received medical attention, and then home.

Whenever anyone came to grief in the valley, they were apparently always transported first to Scale Hill Hotel, where presumably there were resources for medical treatment, and from where messages could be sent requesting further assistance.

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Mr Dodgson was acting entirely legally, if a trifle rashly, in going out on his own. Some years later an example of decidedly unsporting behaviour took place at the Loweswater and Brackenthwaite Show in an incident that has a startlingly modern

feel. The show was some sixty or so years old in 1929, and was always highly competitive although well-regulated and well-run. The world of hound trailing had been suffering some recent scandals, however, including one occasion on which the favourite in the Cumberland and Westmorland Hound Trails had been allegedly 'nobbled'. This accusation had never been proved but many involved in the sport were uneasily convinced that underhand activity was taking place, and the Loweswater show in September raised allegations of interference with races, possibly coupled with odd betting patterns. Mr J Crowle, Secretary to the Hound Trailing Association, who was officiating at the Show trails, became suspicious of one of the dogs on the starting line. The *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* reported on 14 September that:

Mr Crowle challenged a hound in the line for the start of the trail, as being an unentered hound about to be slipped [started] under the name of one that had been entered. At the finish of the trail the hound that ought to have been slipped, but for which the unknown puppy had been substituted, is reported to have come in with the other competitors. It is alleged that the entered hound had in accordance with a pre-arranged plan, been put on the trail a short distance from home, in ignorance of Mr Crowle's challenge. Both hounds were detained, and an inquiry instituted.

Unhappily, this is one of those occasions on which the papers did not follow up a story, and further research with the relevant bodies would be needed to find what, if anything, became of the incident. Given the amount of money that could be won at such events, it's clear, however, that racing-fixing was not uncommon.

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And finally ...

The very remoteness of some of the fells can encourage crime, as was shown by the spate of thefts of slates from barn roofs in the late twentieth century, when thieves found they could work unobserved

overnight in isolated fields. The proximity of the motorway then enabled the slate thieves to get away from the scenes of their crimes relatively quickly, and their booty, heavy as it was, could be carried away in vans.

The thieves who got away with a substantial haul in July 1921, however, had no such aids, and their strength and tenacity, and determination to carry out their crime, are oddly admirable, or would be if those virtues had been turned to more socially acceptable ends. The thieves' choice of place to carry out the crime could not have been more remote – Floutern Tarn, high in the mountains behind Melbreak – and their illicit gains consisted of a very substantial haul of fish, or so the *Lancashire Evening Post* reported, although it isn't clear how the paper could be so precise.

Floutern Tarn, at the foot of Great Borne, in the Ennerdale Fells, was netted by poachers at the week-end, who succeeded in draughting very thoroughly the waters, which are about 400 yards long and 150 yards broad, and in securing five large bags of trout.

The poachers, from whatever district they came, had a long journey to make to reach the tarn, and, laden with their booty, they must have had a tedious journey home. Floutern Tarn lies in the route of Lake country tourists travelling from Ennerdale to Loweswater, or vice versa.

This is not the first time Floutern Tarn has been netted. It was visited twenty years ago by poachers, and a similarly good haul made then. The tarn is occasionally fished by anglers, and was reputed to hold a goodly stock of trout.

Where the poachers could have disposed of such a large quantity of a highly perishable commodity is difficult to envisage, but, assuming they could have done so – and they no doubt had a market in mind before they went out poaching – the trip could have been extremely profitable.

## ***How Many Sheep were in Loweswater Township in 1839?***

*by Derek Denman*

The answer is 6,324 in Loweswater belonging to thirty different owners, with 737 lambs belonging to Loweswater farms which were wintered outside of the township. It was only in 1801 that there was a count of the people in Loweswater for the first census, and only in 1841 that the census enumerator made records of each household. So why was there an enumeration of sheep and lambs by owner in 1838/9, and how is there a record?

### **Tithes and the need to count sheep**

The answer lies in the tithes. In 1839 the tithes of Loweswater were commuted to a rent charge under the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. Tithes have biblical origin, and represent the one tenth of the increase in living things which were due to maintain the priests for their services. When the medieval English parishes were created, the tithes of the farms within the parish boundaries were the major source of support for the parish priest. Tithes were due and collected in kind, and so from sheep the parish priest would have every tenth fleece and every tenth lamb – which he would take and use, or sell, or exchange. These tithes of wool and lambs were the major element of Loweswater tithes, and the cause of the need to count sheep in Loweswater before 1839.

In rectorial parishes, the rector retained the tithes as a part of the living, but by the 1530s some 40% of parishes, and their greater tithes, had become monastic property. After the dissolution of the monasteries those parishes were returned to the reformed church, but their tithes, like other monastic property, were taken by the crown and were sold to lay owners. Those parishes were vicarial, with the vicar usually having the right to the lesser tithes, but also being supplied with a living from the lay impropiator of the greater tithes. The greater tithes were usually the 'predial' tithes of corn, hay and wood, while lesser tithe generally the 'mixed' tithes from stock, but of course in northern England wool was a very important part of the produce. Loweswater

was part of the parish of St Bees, its tithes the property of the Abbey there. The tithes, including wool and lambs, were taken and sold by the crown. Those for the chapelry of Loweswater came down to the Fletchers of Cockermouth, then to the Fletcher Vanes of Armathwaite Hall. Similarly the tithes of the parish of Brigham, which covered most of the Society's townships, became the property of the Lowthers. Society members will recall that Lord Lowther, having both the advowson (the right of nomination) and the tithes, appointed William Wordsworth's son, John, as vicar of Brigham.

Over the centuries the nature of tithes changed, as it became inconvenient to collect in kind one in ten of the increase of every animal or vegetable farm product, such as sheaves of corn, duck eggs or swarms of bees, for holding in the tithe barn. Often cash payments were agreed in lieu, but practices varied greatly, and the rights to tithes, like other property, were frequent subjects of disputes and litigation, as well as increasing objections on principle. For example by Quakers, who could not accept the validity of tithes as a form of property. Even among people who did accept tithes, there were numerous disputes, such as that in 1763 over tithes of wool and lambs in other chapelries in St Bees Parish, in the Eskdale and Wasdale area, where tithes were owned by the Stanley family. This can be read on David Bradbury's 'Past Presented' website at <http://www.pastpresented.ukart.com/eskdale/tithes2.htm>.

### **The Tithe Commutation in Loweswater, 1839**

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 was passed within a reforming period when a belief in political economy, or economics, was driving policy. All the old practices and agreements were to be swept away, together with the costs of the professionals who exploited the disputes, to be replaced by a tithe rent charge on the land, which would be paid to the tithe owner. In some places this had already been done, often when the commons were enclosed, but otherwise the tithe payers in every tithing place were required to agree a rent charge and to the apportionment of that charge over farms and land. The commutation was made either by agreement where



there was a sufficient consenting majority, or by legal force from the Tithe Commissioners – such as was necessary in Loweswater and in Mosser, where the many Quakers could not participate voluntarily, not recognising tithes.

In 1839 Loweswater received its visit from the Assistant Tithe Commissioner, John Job Rawlinson, Esquire, Barrister at Law, who stayed at Graythwaite, in Mosser, in May 1839. He conducted the business at the Kirkstile, reaching a conclusion in September. He needed to establish the current practice and recent level of the tithes, to determine the amount of rent charge which was now to be apportioned on a different basis. The

tithe owner of both great and small tithes was Sir Francis Fletcher Vane of Armathwaite Hall, but he was neither present nor represented. He had leased the tithes, and their collection, to Jonathan Pearson, yeoman farmer of Low Park in Loweswater. 'I have been lessee of the Loweswater tithes since 1833. I have pd £50 a year rent, clear of all rates. I did not draw the tithes. I let them for the most part for each year. ... I gave notice on the Church door that I was going to look at the different stocks and the sheep of the township. I did accordingly ... go round ... and take account of the different stocks. It took me four days at least ... . It took more time to collect than to value, it took more

than a week to collect [the money]'. In 1839 Jonathan Pearson was also taking on a role as a trustee of the new school in Loweswater.

Over the seven years to 1835, up to the passing of the Act, the gross tithes assessed per annum averaged £73 6s 7¼d. The tithes of wool and lambs was the greatest part of this total, because the predial tithes, of corn, hay and wood, for the whole of the township of Loweswater amounted to a prescription totalling just £2 5s 8¾d. Just this small sum had been levied on the enclosed land in Loweswater, Thackthwaite, Mockerkin and Sosgill. From now on, the major value of the tithes of wool and lambs, and the smaller amount from cattle, would be removed from the owners of the animals and charged on the land of the farms. The grazing rights on the six thousand acres of unenclosed commons, depastured by the sheep, arose from those farm tenements.

From the gross tithes of £73 6s 7¼d, and after poor rates, expenses and bad debts, the lessee of the tithes, Jonathan Pearson was left on average with £64 14s 7¼d. That £64 14s 7d became the new rent charge awarded to Sir Francis Fletcher Vane, considerably more than the £50 that he had received from the lessee. Thus the whole of the monetary benefit of the change that had resulted from the work of the tithe payers and officials came to Sir Francis, who had not needed to lift a finger, except to instruct his agent to write in acceptance.

Fortunately the tithe payers were spared the expense of a survey for a tithe plan, because they agreed to use, with modifications, the plan which John Marshall had commissioned for his manor of Loweswater in 1819. Except that Mockerkin and Sosgill were in the manor of Derwentfells, and so a new and very fine survey and plan was made there.

### **Loweswater's sheep and their owners**

In Loweswater the tithes of wool and lambs were clearly the major element of the value, much more so than those of grain. Those sheep were on the 5871 acres of unenclosed fells in summer, and given the very limited capacity of the enclosed lands of Loweswater, there is little surprise that lambs were overwintered elsewhere, though there may be surprise at the

number of 727 lambs. The table attempts to relate the holdings of sheep with the farm tenements, their owners and farmers. The rights to graze sheep on the common were associated with the ownership of the various farm tenements in Loweswater, and as these were customary rights they could not be detached from the farms and sold (setting aside stinted pastures and old monastic rights). Therefore there should be a numerical link between the sheep counted by Jonathan Pearson and the customary rights or quotas of Loweswater landowners to keep sheep on the common.

In the table, columns 1-3 are taken directly from Jonathan Pearson's records supplied for assessing the tithes of wool and lambs. Columns 4 and 5 are derived from the tithe apportionment, which list all the owners of farm tenements, and the farmers who have leased their farms from the owners. Column 4 gives any Loweswater farm owned by those on Jonathan Pearson's list, which would give direct rights for the sheep. Column 5 gives any Loweswater farm where the person named by Jonathan Pearson had a farm tenancy, which could give the right to have sheep on the common.

In Loweswater in the seventeenth century it was the norm for a landowner to live on the farm, farm the land directly, and keep sheep on the common, as a yeoman farmer. The general rule was that the owner should keep no more sheep on the common in summer than they could overwinter on their enclosed land. In the table, Richard Bell of Latterhead exemplifies that practice, the Bells being the last statesman farmers in Loweswater into the twentieth Century. However, it can be seen that in 1839 this was becoming a rare example, and probably an ineffective method of controlling numbers. There is a large mismatch both in names and sheep numbers between Jonathan Pearson's sheep owners and the owners, tenants and sizes of farms. There are many sheep owners who cannot be linked with farms, or where the quantities look unreasonable, and also many farms, not listed, where neither the owner nor the farm tenant owns sheep.

It must be that the farm tenancies and the rights to keep stock on the common had been managed separately, and had been let to different people. Those

Name	Number of Sheep	Number of lambs wintered out of the township	Farms owned by that name	Farmed for/rights of other owner
Christopher Graham	40			Hill 83a (acres) - Mary Ann Wood
Jonathan Iredale	100		Thackthwaite 34a	Thackthwaite 69a - late John Iredale
Jos Iredale	30		Redhow 81a	Oakbank 50a - Thomas Smith Esq
Peter Burnyeat	250	50	Latterhead 52a	
Richard Bell	40		Latterhead 54a	
Stephen Cowper	60		None	Unknown rights
Jos Bank	50		None	Riggbank & Potter Gill 99a - John Marshall Esq
Jonathan Rolin	700	80	None	Jonathan Rawlings, Godferhead 150a - Agnes Skelton
Edward Nelson	350	50	None	Church Stile 23a - Agnes Skelton
Jonathan Simpson	400	40	None	High Cross & Mill Hill 141a - James Robertson Walker
John Birkett	80		None	Unknown rights
Wm Wilkinson Note: 80 to many	280	30	None	Ask Hill 23a - Mary Wilkinson, and Miresyke & Spout House 39a - John Wilkinson
John Simon	80		None	Watergate 78a - John Cuthbertson
Wm Dixon	4		Bottom (Waterend) 62a	Jenkinson Place 49a - Daniel Jenkinson
Henry Nixon	40		None	Unknown rights
John Fearon	350	40	Sosgill 2 total 131a	Sosgill 4a - Friends MH Pardshaw
Jos Fisher	70		None	Mockerkin 70a - John Fletcher
John Fletcher	40		Mockerkin 4 total 243a (3 farms let)	
Joseph Mitchell	40		None	Mockerkin 49a - Henry Clark, 12a John Stordy, 12a John Sla---
Henry Robinson	150	30	None	Rights probably from John Robinson, Place 20a
John Bushby	50		Mockerkin 57a, Crabtree Beck & Thrushbank 48a	
Isaac Dodgson	140	40	Mockerkin 124a	
Thos Holiday	30		None	Fangs 76a - Glebe of Loweswater and Newlands chapels
Simnion Proday	200	40	Iredale Place 33a, Simeon Prudea	Iredale Place 34a Dinah Hudson
Francis Moore	250	30	None	Unknown rights
Joseph Walker	500	50	None	High Nook 105a - Ruth Ann Skelton
Wm Simon	1300	160	None	Kirkhead 195a - John Hudson, and probably other Hudson holdings
Wm Tyson	130	40	Park 14a	
Jonathan Pearson	550	68	Park 63a	Park 7a - John Steel, Gillerthwaite 29a - John Tyson, Muncaster House 4 -Henry Muncaster
Richard Clark	20	9	None	Probably John Clark 4a and John Jopson 4a, both Buttermere Dubs
<b>Total</b>	<b>6324</b>	<b>727</b>		

**Jonathan Pearson's enumeration of Loweswater sheep for the tithes of wool and lambs, 1838/9, plus an identification of tenement's commons rights**

listed as 'unknown rights', John Birkett, Stephen Cowper, Henry Nixon and Francis Moore, were neither owners of land nor farm tenants, but must have held and used rights to keep sheep from the landowners or by sub-letting from the farm tenants. Francis Moor, who owned 250 sheep in 1839, lived in Thackthwaite with his wife and family in 1841, being listed in the census as an agricultural labourer.

There was clearly also some specialisation among farmers in keeping sheep by leasing a number of additional rights or quota, as exemplified by Jonathan Pearson himself, the lessee of the tithes of wool and lambs. He had 550 sheep himself and 68 lambs wintered out, assuming they are additional, which could not be explained by his holding at Park of 63 acres. He leased land from his neighbours, but clearly leased additional rights to have sheep on the common from more than just the farms identified. This is supported by a number of yeomen or of tenant farmers having no sheep. The ability to overwinter sheep on a farm may have been lost because the land had been let to others, hence a need to over-winter more stock outside of the township. But it would be very difficult for the manor court to control the overall numbers on the fells in those circumstances, and the pasture would degrade.

After the tithe commutation there were no more tithes of wool and lambs to pay, which also encouraged more sheep because the tithe rent charge was fixed no matter how many sheep were grazed. Nor was there a need to count sheep in future. During the Buttermere commutation Robert Jopson of Wood House objected to a rent charge on his land, which derived from sheep numbers, while he had no sheep. This was resolved by John Marshall taking that charge on Gatesgarth Side. But

generally, the new fixed tithe rent charges drove farmers to maximise sheep. Attempts had been made to enclose and divide the commons in 1824 and 1830, with the intention, in part, to stop overgrazing. But it was not until the 1860s that this was accomplished and sheep farmers could no longer exploit the common resource.

### Sources

Township of Loweswater Tithe File, TNA/IR18/694, Tithe Apportionment, TNA/TR29/7/108, Tithe Maps TNA/IR30/7/108

Township of Mosser Tithe File, TNA/IR18/708

Township of Buttermere Tithe File, TNA/IR18/591

The tithe maps and tithe apportionments are well known socio-economic sources and provided information, with the 1841 census, for the Township Maps which the Society has produced. The information on sheep numbers and owners is from the tithe file for Loweswater. The tithe files for every place provide a record of the process of the commutation, rather than the results, and contain records of meetings, information gathered and disputes. While copies of the maps and apportionments are held at county record offices, the tithe files are only at The National Archives. The Society holds copies for its townships.

### The Journal

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### L&DFLHS – Programme for 2016

Date	Event
10 <sup>th</sup> March	'Emergency – life in the Lake District before 999' – Judith Schingler
12 <sup>th</sup> May	'Cumbria's medieval towns' – Professor Angus Winchester
9 <sup>th</sup> June	The Society's AGM. Talk to be announced.
14 <sup>th</sup> July	'Diary of a wood – the life and times of The Holme, Loweswater – Professor John Macfarlane.
8 <sup>th</sup> September	'From Peasant to Estatesman – the Cumbrian Yeoman Farmer' – Chris Craghill
10 <sup>th</sup> November	'Happy Days? Educating the masses – elementary schooling 1818-1918 in Cumbria' – Dr Michael Winstanley.
Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton at 7.30pm. Visitors £3.00 with refreshments.	