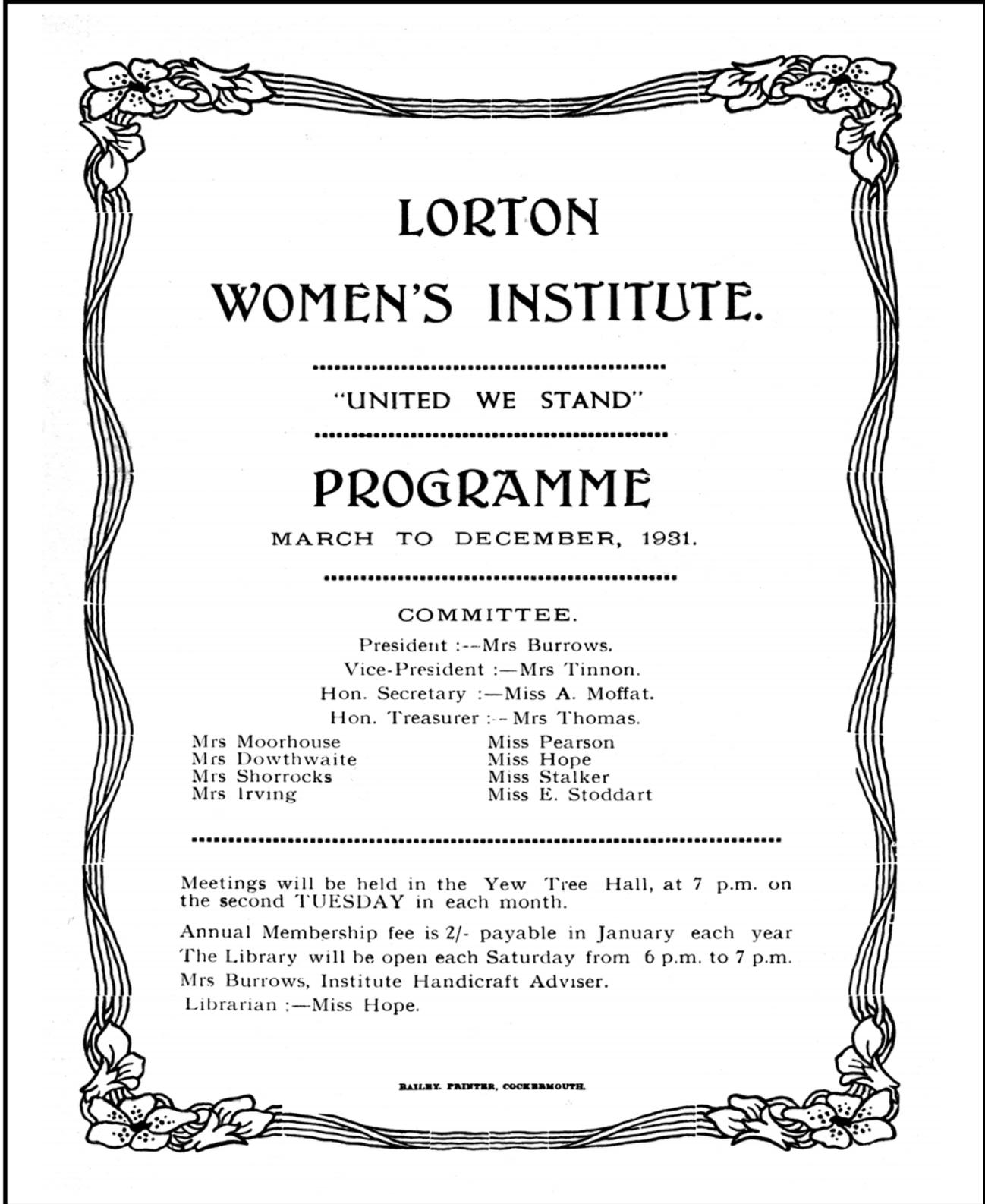


Lorton &

Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop



This is the front of a 1931 programme for the Lorton WI and there's an early history of this important village organisation on page 2

Secretary's letter

Some time ago, the society's committee decided to arrange activities in those months when there were no talks and last year we had a complete set. These were varied and included indoor events (a members' evening, a local trees presentation after the AGM, a panel question and answer evening and an old maps evening) and visits (Honister Mine and walks around Danny Leck's farm and High Lorton). These were well attended and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks are due to all those who found time to help put these activities on. So the committee is hoping to organise more for 2002 and early details are given with the list of talks on the back page. There's a loose page in this newsletter and this has two invitations to you for the activities in February and, hopefully, April.

Also on the back page are the talks for 2002 and they get off to a really good start on 10 January with an illustrated talk by the historian, geographer, author and traveller Paul Hindle who wrote "Roads and Tracks of the Lake District", now in its 2nd edition. It will be on his special subject of turnpikes and tourists in the Lake District.

Just a reminder that the 1901 Census returns are available from 2 January 2002 - they may contain just the information you've been searching for! The returns will be available on-line from the Public Record Office on www.census.pro.gov.uk from 9am on that date. The PRO's general website is www.pro.gov.uk

Ron George, the society's founder and first chairman, has been offered, by the committee, honorary membership of the society for his "exceptional contribution to the work of the society" and we're pleased that he has accepted. I well remember that first meeting in Ron's dining room in 1993, but of course Ron had been working on the history of the Lorton valley for many years before that and had built up an invaluable archive which he generously left to the society when he and Stella emigrated to Canada. At least we won't have the problem of working out what £8 is in Canadian \$ each year! (Sorry Ron, I didn't mean it).

Which, not very neatly, leads me to this: each year we always have a problem collecting subscriptions mainly because they are only collected at our talks. This year we are trying a two-pronged approach by requesting that anyone who hasn't paid by now could send or deliver the sub directly to me at Clouds Hill in High Lorton. So I should be able to finalise the membership list much earlier which will also help our Treasurer, Hetty. This is the third item on the loose page in this newsletter!

Michael Grieve

A brief history of the Lorton Women's Institute up to WW2 by Maud Vickers

THE BEGINNING

The idea of a Women's Institute was born at a meeting in Stoney Creek, Canada in 1897, but the first group was not formed until 1911, after which it spread in Canada. In 1915, Mrs Madge Robertson Watt, representing the Canadian WI, set up the first Rural Institute in Wales. The aim was to improve conditions for women in rural life. In 1919, at Queen Mary's request, an institute was set up on the Sandringham estate and the Royal connections have carried on until today.

Lorton Women's Institute was formed in 1922, only two years after Cumberland Federation began - so Lorton is one of the oldest in the County. A public meeting was held on March 23rd where it was decided to have an Institute in Lorton, and the first meeting was on April 12th. Twelve members were nominated and formed a committee, President was Mrs Burrows of Lorton Park, Vice President Mrs Stanley Dodgson of Armaside, Treasurer Mrs Mitchell of Oakhill, Secretary Miss Moffat of Corner House. Committee members were Miss Hope, Mrs Scoular, Mrs Stalker, Mrs Needham, Mrs Gill and Misses Dobie, Jackson and Pearson. 40 members joined. In these early days, some members came from Loweswater and Buttermere by cycle and later by Miss Burns' car. This arrangement lasted until 1937 when an Institute was formed at Loweswater.

At the first meeting, there was a co-operative tea and 1d each paid for cup of tea, but at the next one the 1d was cancelled. Despite the stormy evening, there was a good attendance and Miss Anson had come along to explain how meetings were carried on - begin with business, then enrolment of members, a lecture, tea, demonstration and a social half hour along with a competition. A letter of thanks would be sent to the Yew Tree Hall Board of Management for the reasonable terms of £2 2s per year. In May, Mrs Mitton of Bowness on Solway gave a demonstration of slipper making and there was an invitation to a Garden Fete at Crofton Hall. 31 articles were presented for the competition for an article made from material costing not more than a shilling. First prize went to Mrs John Pearson who had made a camisole and 2nd to Mrs John Tinnion for a child's pinafore. These articles were kept for sale at a later date. In June, Mrs John Pearson gave a demonstration on pastry making and four members gave a sketch "A very lame dog".

Other demonstrations during the first year included supper dishes, sick nursing, basket making, fruit bottling, a lantern lecture on China given by Mr Billington and Mr Birkett followed by songs by Miss Dodsworth, Miss Bell and Mr Huddart; friends were invited and nearly 80 were present. Another lecture that

year was refooting cashmere stockings, also spinning and darning. A rummage sale was held for funds and, at Christmas, there was a tree for the children and then a whist and social evening for members and friends and 130 attended.

In January, 1923, spinning and darning were demonstrated by Mrs Irwin from Buttermere. Mrs Irwin was the wife of the vicar at Buttermere and she and her daughter always collected sheep's wool from the hedgerows, then spun it and used it for either knitting or weaving and they dressed in homespun all their lives. There was an open lecture in February by Miss Hassell on "3000 miles through sunny Alberta" for which George Scott manipulated the lantern and a collection was taken to help pay for the village lantern which was in need of repairs. At the birthday meeting in March, Mr Reed of Loweswater spoke on hatching and rearing chickens. This was followed by a little music - a duet by Mesdames Pearson and Hardisty, a song by Miss Scoular, glees by some other members and a sketch by Misses Burns Hope and Moffat. Cake and wine were given by Mrs Burrows. In May an address was given by Newton Rigg; this was an open meeting, but it was regretted that so few men were present. However, there was a good attendance in June to see summer salads and drinks along with an exhibition of curios. Members were invited to garden parties at Armathwaite Hall and Woodend and Thornthwaite. Attendance in September was poor as next day was the Loweswater Show. The year ended with the annual social, but as membership was now 80 it was necessary to limit invitations to one per member instead of two. Dancing was to Cartlidges band.

1924 seems to have been a memorable year.

Membership had increased to 80. Owing to an outbreak of smallpox, a County meeting, due to be held in Cockermouth, was transferred to Carlisle. Mrs Stanley Dodgson had framed the certificate won by the Choir at Carlisle to be hung in the Yew Tree Hall. In June a pageant was held at Greystoke Castle where Lorton entered a competition dressed as North American Indians and had won second prize. They received a copper tea urn which was used for many years in the Yew Tree Hall. In September Nurse Lawson gave a demonstration on bandaging and Ernest Conkey proved a good patient. There were ten entries for white bread and fourteen for brown, and a 5/- first prize for home made butter. In October Miss Walker showed mattress making and, in December, how to cure rabbit skins.



Lorton WI, as North American Indians, winning 2nd prize at Greystoke Castle in 1924 in the competition to represent a foreign country.

THE EARLY YEARS

1925 - Mr G. Scott was asked for a price for a bus for a children's trip to Allonby - adult fare 3/- and children 1/6d - and tea would be arranged at Allonby. An American tea was held towards the cost of the outing and made £9 14s 8d. A subscription towards a testimonial for Miss A. Moffat, who was giving up being secretary, brought in £5 3s 6d which bought her an easy chair.

1926 - in April, the yearly contribution of eggs was sent to the Cottage Hospital, this year 114 were sent. In 1932 there were 156, and 1933 a total of 200. The earliest existing WI programme is for 1926 which was printed by the "Times" Printing Works, Cockermouth, but in 1931 the printing was done by Bailey and Sons, Cockermouth. Demonstrations in this first half year were:

January - a caravan tour in Northern Manitoba on lantern slides, given by Miss Eva Hassell of Dacre Lodge.

February - Mrs Burrows demonstrated eiderdown making, and there were 16 entries for Madeira cake.

March - the birthday meeting began with recitals by Miss Grantham, followed by a bulb show competition, with 13 hyacinths, 10 tulips and 4 daffodils being on show; there was also a competition for a camisole not costing more than 1/-. This was followed at 6.30 with tea then a whist drive.

April - Mr Robertson of Newton Rigg talked about poultry keeping and then judged white and brown eggs which went to the Hospital.

May - Mrs Nichols from Grasmere demonstrated soft toy making, and the competition was 'something new from something old'.

June - Camerton and Brigham WI members were guests and Lady Mabel Howard came along to address the meeting. Ample food had been provided for a sumptuous tea and entertainment was provided by Mrs Scott, Misses Pollock, Hope, Tinnion and Pearson, Mr Bainbridge and Mr Dobie.

July - the Lorton WI were invited to join the Portinscale WI at Fawe Park.

Monthly meetings were held on the second Wednesday at 7pm and the membership fee was 2/-. Doctor Selby held Ambulance classes and the library was open each Saturday from 6 to 7pm.

1927 - First reports on WI meetings appeared in the West Cumberland Times. In August, a garden fete was held at Lorton Park, with farmers' stalls, pound rummage and girl guide stalls; there was also living whist, folk dancing, roulette, maypole dancing, hoopla and a treasure hunt.

1929 - the Women's Institute held a Sacred concert after Sunday service in church to help provide funds towards having a District Nurse in the village.

1930 - in June, a field day was held in Broom Field including a bran tub, hidden treasure, clock golf, cork bobbing, folk dancing etc. This was in aid of funds for a children's trip or Christmas party and it raised £32 0s 7d.

January 1931 was crisis month with the WI in danger of lapsing as no one was prepared to be president; however, Mrs Burrows saved the day by offering to try but saying that due to her deafness it was a trying position and asked for special support from members. This was fine until October when she had to retire owing to ill health and Mrs Mitchell carried on till the annual meeting. During the year, in March the Grasmere WI arrived for a visit to the bulb show and whist drive after which they entertained with a play they had entered in a competition. In

April, Mr J J Lennox gave an instructive lecture on paper hanging followed by folk dancing led by Miss Clulow, then in May, a talk on theatrical make up was given. In August some joined a trip to Edinburgh. The further education committee regretted the inability to sanction any classes due to their grave financial crisis. At the year end, a whist drive and dance was held in place of a social, proceeds going towards the Lorton and district Nursing association. Decorations were borrowed from the Farmer's Ball committee and a very successful evening made a profit of £15 16s 6d.

1932 - It was resolved that the attention of the Yew Tree Hall Board of Management be drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the premises and ask them to give it their urgent attention. The WI was represented by Mrs Mitchell at an exhibition of undyed rabbit skins at Warwick Hall.

1933 - This year began the weekly voluntary contribution scheme for Cockermouth Cottage Hospital. Seven collectors were appointed to cover various areas of the village.

1934 - There were talks on: nutrition in childhood, herdwick wool products by Miss Sherwen of Eskdale and Winter egg production by Newton Rigg.

1935 - There was a walk to Buttermere and picnic and older members could go by bus.

1937 - A competition was held for the best cottage garden in the Lorton district. For a Whist Drive and Dance, Bowman's band of 3 players from 10pm to 2am charged £2; admission charges were: whist 1/-, supper & dance 2/6. Congratulations and very good wishes were sent to the newly formed Loweswater WI.

1938 - Joined Cockermouth trades people on their outing to the Glasgow Exhibition. In July, Lorton and Loweswater members were invited to Oakhill by the President Mrs Mitchell but due to inclement weather retired to the Yew Tree Hall.

1939 - In May, the egg collection amounted to 213, and they were divided between the Cottage Hospital and Allonby Children's Home. Incidentally, gifts were sent annually to the children's home until it ceased in the mid nineteen nineties.



Founder members at the 1972 Jubilee
L to R: Miss Wise, Mrs Pape, Hilda Swinburn,
Mrs Taylor and Miss Hope

Mottoes used on WI programmes in the thirties:

A fault mender is better than a fault finder.
When men speak ill of thee, live so nobody may believe it.
Don't preach cream and live skimmed milk.
Nothing succeeds like success.
Exercise your good habits if you wish to retain them.
We learn wisdom from failure more than from success.

Who remembers this?



This is a photo from our archive which will be familiar to a number of our members - it is Lorton's first bus that belonged in the village. The bus was named "Happy Days" and the photo is dated 1925. It belonged to George Scott whose "Lorton Garage" was in High Lorton where the Midtown Holiday Cottages are today.

We have another photo in the archive of the garage as it was in the 50s or 60s (I'm not sure when) with the four Shell petrol pumps (with ICA!) Michael Grieve

“Found Dead” - by Walter Head

Towards the end of February 1900, William Edmondson of Godferhead Farm at Loweswater tried to protect himself from the cold winds as he walked over the snow-covered ground of Mellbreak and Buttermere Scales, checking on his stock.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

IMPORTANT TO TOURISTS.

THE VICTORIA HOTEL,
BUTTERMERE.

G. EDMONDSON, Proprietress.

The above Hotel has been recently enlarged, and contains large and commodious Coffee Room, spacious Sitting Rooms, Smoking Rooms, and well-ventilated Bed Rooms, &c., and being fitted up and replete with every modern improvement appertaining to a first-class Hotel, enables the Proprietress to offer to Tourists and Visitors to the Lake District every comfort, combined with moderate charges.

The VICTORIA HOTEL is situated amongst the most charming Scenery and pure air, and its proximity to the Lakes of Crummock and Buttermere, makes it a most desirable residence for parties fond of Angling, which may be enjoyed to repletion, the Lakes and Streams abounding with Trout and Char. Fishing Parties may confidently rely upon meeting with every attention, the promotion of whose comfort will ever be the study of the Proprietress.

*Luncheon ready every day from One till Four o'clock.
Dinners at any hour.*

Special arrangements made with Parties for Board and Residence by Week or Month.

Neat Conveyances, Post Horses, Mountain Ponies, Guides, and Boats Supplied.

This 1879 advert names Grace Edmondson as the Proprietress - the mother of Annie in this article?

found no trace of him.

The body had been found approximately ¼ mile away from the fell road over Buttermere Scales to Ennerdale. His father said that his son sometimes returned home by this route and knew the road well.

William Coward, quarryman of Buttermere, told the inquest that he lived in the huts at Honister Quarry and that Robert McCreadie had lived in the same hut. They had been paid on 2 February and had slept in the huts that night. They were not at work the next day and left the quarry about noon to go to the Buttermere Hotel for a drink. They then moved to the Victoria Hotel where they had something to eat and a glass or two of drink, staying there until about 9pm. It was a very windy night and Coward and a man called James decided that the weather was too rough to return to the huts at Honister and they stayed in Buttermere. McCreadie however said “You can please yourself Sandy but I shall go to the huts” and they parted about 9.20pm. The Coroner asked if McCreadie was sober, to which Coward replied “Well, I cannot say he was solid sober but he was not drunk”. Was he capable of taking care of himself the Coroner asked, “Yes” replied Coward “he was the fittest of the three to take care of himself, I can say that”. Questioned as to when he went back to the huts, Coward gave evasive answers saying that it had nothing to do with the case, but finally admitted that he didn’t go back the next day. It was a week afterwards that he learnt that McCreadie was missing.

Annie Edmondson, landlady of the Victoria Hotel, had known Robert McCreadie for two to three years and confirmed what Coward had said about their visit to the Victoria. She had heard McCreadie say that he was going to the huts and she had said that it was a long way to go on a night like that, but that she believed he was quite fit to go and he had done that late at night before. She said that she had not known him to be ill but thought that he looked pale that day.

It is thought that McCreadie changed his mind about returning to

On Wednesday, 7 March 1900, the snow was receding and he was again out amongst his sheep on Buttermere Scales when he came across the body of a man lying on its back in the snow in a little gully. The face was discoloured and, realising that the man was dead, he contacted the police. Police Sergeant Mavir of Cockermouth arrived at the scene and carried out a search of the area. The body was fully clothed but his trousers were round his ankles and he had no belt or braces. In his pockets were 7/6d (37½p) in silver, 1/2d (6p) in copper, a receipt for groceries purchased from John Walker, Grocer of Rosthwaite, dated 2 February and some other small articles. There were no marks of violence and he arranged for the body to be removed. It was taken to the Victoria Hotel, Buttermere for the inquest which was held the next day, Thursday, 8 March before Mr Simpson, Deputy Coroner and a jury of which Rev W Copeland was foreman.

At the inquest, Mr John McCreadie deposed that he was a miner and lived at Kirkland and that the body just viewed by the jury was that of his son Robert, who was 28 years of age and for the past two months had been working at Honister Quarry. He had last seen him alive on 9 January at his home when he was in his usual health. His son went missing on 3 February, following which he made enquiries and instigated a search. That had been a fortnight earlier, there was snow on the ground and he was unable to find any trace of his whereabouts. After a letter of enquiry from the man’s father, police and dalesmen had carried out a search of Honister for McCreadie who, by then, had been missing for three weeks but they



The Loweswater churchyard headstone

the huts and instead decided to walk home over the fells to Kirkland. This was in the opposite direction to Honister. It's being a very cold and windy night, it appears that he missed his road and perished in the snow.

The Coroner summed up and the jury returned a verdict "Found dead".

The following day, Friday, 9 March 1900, Robert McCreadie was laid to rest in Loweswater churchyard. The headstone erected by his family tells the tragic story:

IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT MCCREADIE
WHO WAS LOST ON BUTTERMERE SCALE
FEBRUARY 3RD 1900.
HE WAS FOUND MARCH 7TH
AND INTERRED MARCH 9TH 1900
AGED 28 YEARS

Village People, No.1: The Woodhouses of Low Lorton by Derek Denman

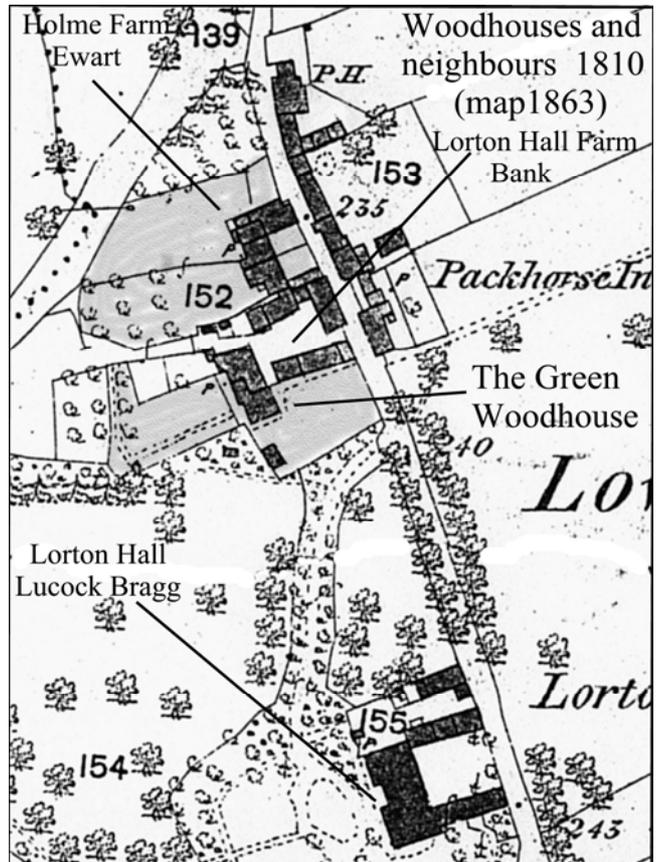
Joseph Woodhouse

There are many family names that have long associations with our area, whose name appears on records and gravestones or house names, and whose family trees are researched by visiting or local descendants. But also there are transitory families who appear almost from nowhere, who figure briefly in the records and then disappear without trace. One such is the Woodhouse family of Low Lorton. Isabella Fletcher was twenty-eight and living in Lorton when she was married to Joseph Woodhouse, a merchant of London aged twenty-five, at St Cuthbert's Chapel, Lorton in June 1801. She was probably local, but not baptised in Lorton Church and perhaps living with Fletcher relatives in Lorton. They set up home at a house called 'The Green' which was on a plot now containing Lorton Hall Lodge, but set back further from the road. Nothing now remains of the house, demolished by the Dixons around 1880, but the property line is retained in one of the current boundaries.

Joseph and Isabella had three boys baptised at St Cuthbert's Chapel, Fletcher in 1804, Joseph in 1806 and John in 1808. We have no further records of them. Children were rather more numerous in Low Lorton in those days. At Lorton Hall next door the young Squire, Joshua Lucock Bragg, and his wife Rebecca had six by 1806, and two doors north at Holme farm the fecund Sally Ewart was busily producing her 'six yards o lads and eighteen yards o lasses' as easily as shelling peas from a pod – and claiming to be 'a hundred pund better every barn yit'. Probably the Woodhouses, who were gentlefolk, were pleased to be separated from the Ewarts by an elderly John Bank, who tenanted Lorton Hall Farm, Head o' Church Stile, also demolished and now under the Allison's kitchen garden.

The Woodhouses were very serious church people. Joseph's signature comes from the petition to rebuild Lorton Chapel in 1806. He became treasurer and secretary of the Sunday School established in 1813, probably held in the chapel before the Sunday School building was built. He must have had a considerable influence on its creation and plan (1), which we still have, and which commences 'Bringing up of children in the fear and admonition of the Lord being of such serious importance,.....' The strict regime, which tried to occupy the village children in instruction or services from 9am to 5pm every Sunday, would have been of obvious benefit to those Ewart children, keeping them out of the way on the Lord's day.

We know a little about Isabella Woodhouse from John Bolton's 1891 lecture (2). 'They were gentlefolks and Mrs Woodhouse was a terribly fine lady. She was the leading singer at the church.... . When none of the Ewarts or the Pearsons were there the Clerk (Old Tom Crossthwaite from High Lorton) and Mrs



Woodhouse made a duet of it.' Joseph Woodhouse died in 1831, aged fifty-five, and was buried at St Cuthbert's. Isabella lived at Lorton for some time; she is listed as owner and occupier in 1841 though not in the census. She was buried at St Cuthbert's in 1855, aged eighty-two, but had been living in Whitehaven. So that is probably the place to look for her children. I cannot find a Woodhouse gravestone in the churchyard, but perhaps someone else has seen it. The property was, from an estate map, still owned by the family in 1870, but after the last Lucock Bragg died in Lorton Hall the Dixons of Rheda purchased that property and others, and made parkland of it. No Woodhouse appears in Lorton records after 1841. Perhaps someone knows what became of the three boys?

Ref 1. The Plan of the Lorton Sunday School. Instituted AD1813 (L&DFLHS Archive)

Ref 2. Lecture on Lorton as it was eighty years ago. By John Bolton, 1891. (L&DFLHS Archive)

Report from the House History Group

After some thought, we have planned the House History Group programme on the basis of a series of individual histories, prepared by members who have kindly volunteered to do some research and then allow the group to visit their houses and see what they have found.

The project was off to a flying start with a visit to Winder Hall on 4 December, when Derek gave a short presentation about the history of the Hall, its inhabitants and changing fortunes during different periods. Derek has produced a most comprehensive summary of his research, which contains a considerable quantity of substantive material which will be of use to others in their own projects and which provides a useful template for the way to go about a house history and a pointer to the sources available, although of course not every house will have such a detailed or well-documented past. Thanks are due to Derek and Mary Denman for their hospitality. Many thanks for this start to our programme.

We have four other volunteer house owners. The meetings at their houses will take place during 2002, giving the owners time to carry out their investigations. The first stage will be for the owner to start his or her research with - if needed - a starter pack which Derek Denman and I will be happy to put together from the archives. If at a later stage an owner needs further help, we will be pleased to do what we can by way of research, assembling slides, putting together a presentation or similar. The Society and its archive may be able to help, too.

Owners may like at some stage to enlist the help of a house history expert. You will remember Christine Craghill, who has given talks to the Society and to the House History Group. Christine runs courses at The History Studio in Uldale and has kindly said that she will be happy to visit individual houses to give guidance, conduct research or devise day courses for the group as a whole if required, and prepare a very brief report for the owner.

In due course, the owner will be prepared to have a meeting of the group at the house, and will set out what he or she has discovered about its history. All four members have interesting houses, and I am sure others will enjoy the visits to see them - thanks very much indeed to the brave four! We are all doing this for fun and interest: we are not academic professional historians, and I know they will have an appreciative and sympathetic set of visitors.

Here is the provisional timetable:

Sally Birch, Wayside Cottage, High Lorton	Friday, 15 March 2002, at 7.30 pm
Alan Norris, Southward Cottage, Pardshaw	Friday, 7 June 2002, at 7.30 pm
John Mawson, Miresyke, Loweswater	Friday, 16 August 2002, at 7.30 pm
Brian Herd, Shatton Hall, Embleton	Friday, 25 October 2002, at 7.30 pm

These are provisional dates and times, and they may change. If anyone is interested in joining the group, or would like to attend one of these sessions, please contact me on 01900 85287 or via email at jbsgis@ic24.net. Available space may limit the numbers who can attend.

This seems to be a more appropriate approach, given the individual nature of house history research and the time members can or wish to spend on their own houses, than, say, a regular meeting to discuss everyone's progress. This does not mean that the four researchers and the rest of us will all be thinking hard about our houses in isolation - it is planned to have occasional meetings or visits to maintain the social element of the group.

I am grateful to Walter Head and Derek Denman for their guidance. Walter has many commitments at present, and I will be happy to co-ordinate the meeting programme.

John Scrivens

**Where did they live, the tenants of Loweswater and Thackthwaite in 1637?
by Hetty and Michael Baron**

In June 1637, the tenants of holdings in Loweswater and Thackthwaite confirmed by deed, the rent that they paid for their land to the then Lord of the Manor Anthony Patrickson. It is possible to identify the landholdings of some, but not all of them. Can anyone help to identify the 'lost' farms or smallholdings? I have divided the names into four groups as follows:

1. Identifiable holdings which exist today

John Pearson	Fangs
Walter Iredell	Waterend
Thomas Harrison	Watergate
Thomas Robinson	High Iredell
Thomas Robinson	Park
Peter Burnyeat	Crab Tree Beck
William Burnyeat	Thrush Bank
Thomas Burnyeat	Thrush Bank
William Jackson	Godferhead

2. Holdings shewn on maps but now merged with other farms

John Wilkinson	Steal Bank
William Burnyeat	Mill Hill

3. A holding not shewn on the earliest (1770) map

Peter Burnyeat	Potter Gill
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4. Names that lack any reference to land

John Jenkinson
John Woodall
John Dixon
Henry Fisher
John Wilkinson
John Mirehouse (Miresyke?)
Gilbert Mirehouse
Thomas Jackson
William Pearson
Thomas Pearson (Watergate?)
Peter Walker
Thomas Hudson (Hudsons Place?)
Thomas Wood

The size of the holdings is apparent from the rents charged - from Potter Gill at 4s 2d to £1 10s 6d for Park (presumably what is now both High and Low Park).

All the above named held their land and customary tenancy by virtue of Indentures dated either June 1619 or June 1637. In the title deeds and manorial admittances (on a change of tenant through sale or death) to properties in Loweswater and Thackthwaite, one or other of these dates is usually cited. The same dates are also relevant to the petition of certain 'poor tenants' of the manors of Loweswater and Thackthwaite, concerning the Holme (now Holme Wood) and the Mill (for grinding their corn and grain) files in Chancery at the High Court in London against the Lord of the Manor and which was decided by a decree of the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England (the Lord Chancellor) on 25th April 1597. These extraordinary and fascinating legal proceedings will be the subject of a second article.

It would a worthwhile local history project to try and identify, on a 21st century map, the farms and holdings of 1597, 1619 and 1637 - including the site of the Mill. Some of these buildings may be no more than a pile of stones or an isolated farm building, such as Steal Bank, Mill Hill or Potter Gill. We know also that there were two other Loweswater farms now vanished - Peel, on the shore of Crummock Water and Bargate, to the north of Kirkhead. This means searching through old title deeds to other properties (which may or may not be at the Record Office in Whitehaven, or in the possession of landowners or solicitors) to find references to any of the men mentioned in item 4 above. **HELP!**

Talks and Activities for 2002

10 January	Talk by Paul Hindle, historian, traveller and author, on "Turnpikes and Tourism".
14 February	Visit to Blackwell, the Arts and Craft House, Bowness.
14 March	Talk by Jeff Wilson on "West Cumbria at War".
11 April	(Provisional) Visit to Robert Owen's New Lanark Village
9 May	Talk by Angus Winchester, our President, on "Lorton and Derwent Fells in the Middle Ages".
13 June	AGM Followed by a talk on a member's project
11 July	Talk by Hugh Turner on "Fletcher Christian, Mutineer".
8 August	Historical walk in Lorton.
15 August	Historical walk in Loweswater.
12 September	Talk by Andrew Lowe, Buildings Conservation Officer in the Lake District National Park Authority on "Lakeland Old Crafts and Industries".
10 October	Activity to be announced
14 November	Talk by John Todd on "Medieval Churches in Cumbria".
12 December	Activity to be announced

The talks start at 7.30pm, normally in the Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton, but please check in the next newsletter (May) and the talks' adverts in case of later changes in venue.