

Lorton &

# Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite

Buttermere

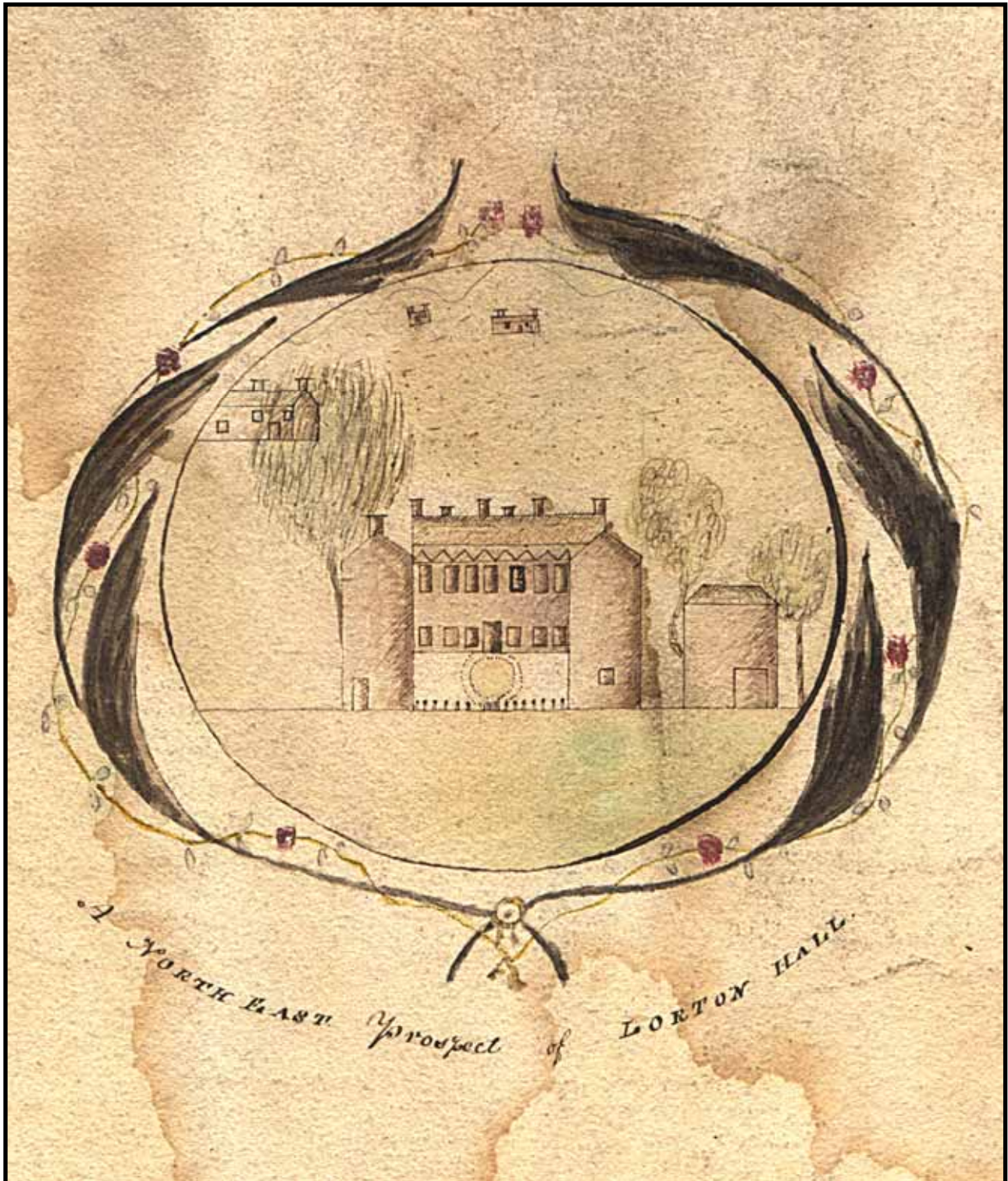
Embleton

Loweswater

Mockerkin

Pardshaw

Wythop



This is a detail of Lorton Hall from an estate plan of 1803 loaned to us for copying by Rev James A Woodhead-Keith-Dixon, former vicar of Lorton. It's a beautiful, detailed, plan by Thomas Donald (of Cumberland map fame).

The plan also contains what may be the first picture we have seen of the old Lorton church, which was completely rebuilt by 1809. See inside!

## Editorial

This is our 10th anniversary year and plans are well advanced for a very special exhibition, or rather set of exhibitions, for September. The main venues are the Loweswater Show and the Yew Tree Hall and for more details, please see below. We're also holding an anniversary talk on 8 May - our President Dr Angus Winchester will tell us about the tour of Cumberland made by Thomas Denton in 1687 and 1688. Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere were included and Angus' book will be published later in the year. One talk not to miss!

Rather more mundane I'm afraid, but necessary, is the AGM on 12 June but afterwards there will be a special illustrated presentation which I'm looking forward to. Again, details below.

A couple of interesting courses at Higham Hall have been pointed out to me - "Anglo Saxon England", 14-19 September, given by James Bond (no, the other one!) and "Tracing the history of a property", 19-21 September, given by Sue Wood. Higham Hall's number is 017687 76276.

You may know that our Society's founder, Ron George, has for many years been writing a history of the valley (strictly the Lorton Chapelry, which excludes Loweswater but includes Buttermere) and he is hoping to publish the book later this year. We are helping him and the Society will have copies for sale; we'll keep you informed of the position as it develops.

### The 2003 AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday, 12 June in the Yew Tree Hall at 7.30pm. There should be an insert in this Newsletter giving the Agenda, the Chairman's Report and the financial statement for 2002. The Agenda makes it clear which Committee members are standing down (according to our Constitution) and I'm very sorry to have to say that Walter Head feels that he cannot stand again due to pressure of work. Walter is keen on local history and actually carries out research, hence the series of articles he has written for the Newsletter over the years. As editor of the Newsletter, I can say that his contributions have been welcomed by me and I know that members have found them interesting! I sincerely hope that his articles will continue. After the AGM, Michael and Hetty Baron will give an illustrated presentation about the dispute that arose between Anthony Patrickson and his tenants in the late 1500s in Loweswater and the resulting Decree that was issued. The evening, of course, will end with refreshments! Please come if you can.

Michael Grieve

### A cautionary tale of a fell walk

This true story was told by Harriet Martineau in "A Year at Ambleside" in 1848 and she repeated it five years later in her ground-breaking (no pun intended!) "Complete Guide to the English Lakes", from which this extract is taken and which starts at the head of Ennerdale Water. Thanks to Michael Baron for the idea.

We had once an adventure in this neighbourhood, the moral of which is, the comfort and security of having a guide. We wanted to cross Blake Fell to Loweswater. The distance to Scale Hill Inn was only six miles; the time summer; and the track well marked on map and mountain. If there ever was a case in which a guide might be thought unnecessary, it was this: but two of the party were young strangers; and the third would not assume the charge of them. The heat was excessive that day; so we lagged behind the guide, on the ascent, though he carried knapsack and baskets. He was a quiet-looking elderly mountaineer, who appeared to walk very slowly; but his progress was great, compared with ours, from the uniformity and continuity of his pace. In the worst part of the walk, we tried the effect of following close behind him, and putting our feet in his tracks; and we were surprised to find with what ease and rapidity we got on. At first we stopped repeatedly, to sit down and drink from the streams that crossed the track, or flowed beside it: and during those halts, we observed that the blackness which had for some time been appearing in the west, now completely shrouded the sea. Next, we remarked that while the wind still blew in our faces - that is, from the north-east - the mass of western clouds was evidently climbing the sky. The guide quietly observed that there would be rain by and by. Next, when we were in the middle of the wide fell, and we saw how puzzling the network of swampy paths must be at all times, we pointed out to one another how the light fleeces of cloud below the black mass swept round in a circle, following each other like straws in an eddy. Soon, the dark mass came driving up at such a rate that it was clear we should not finish our walk in good weather. The dense mist was presently upon us. On looking behind, to watch its rate of advance, we saw a few flashes of lightning burst from it. The thunder had for some time been growling afar, almost incessantly. The moment before the explosion of the storm was as like a dream as a waking state can be. We were walking on wild ground, now ascending, now descending; a deep tarn (Floutern Tarn) on our right hand, our feet treading on slippery rushes, or still more slippery grass; the air was dark, as during an eclipse; and heavy mists drove past from behind, just at the level of our heads, and sinking every moment; while before us, and far far below us - down as in a different world - lay Buttermere and the neighbouring vales sleeping in the

calmest sunshine. The contrast was singular - of that warm picture, with its yellow lights and soft blue shadows, with the turbulence and chill and gloom of the station from which we viewed it. We had but a moment to look at it; for not only did the clouds sink before our eyes, but the wind scudded round to the opposite point of the compass, throwing one after another of us flat as it passed. Within a few minutes, one of us had six falls, from the force of the wind and the treachery of the ground - now in a trice, a medley of small streams. It was impossible to stop the guide, for a moment's breath. In the roar of the blast, and crash of the thunder, and pelt of the hail, one might as well have spoken to the elements: so it was necessary for us all to keep up our pace, that he might not stride away from us entirely. Through stumblings and slidings innumerable, we did this - the lightning playing about our faces the while, like a will-o'-the-wisp on the face of a bog. The hail and rain had drenched us to the skin in three minutes. The first hailstones reached the skin. They were driven in at every opening of our clothes; they cut our necks behind, and filled our shoes. Our hats and bonnets were immediately soaked through, and every body's hair wringing wet. The thunder seemed to roll on our very skulls. In this weather we went plunging on for four miles, through spongy bogs, turbid streams, whose bridges of stones were hidden in the rushing waters; or by narrow pathways, each one of which was converted by the storm into an impetuous brook. When we had descended into a region where we could hear ourselves speak, we congratulated one another on our prudence in having engaged a guide. Without him, how should we have known the path from the brook, or have guessed where we might ford the streams, when the bridges were out of sight? Two horses, we afterwards heard, were killed on the same fell in that storm: and we should never have come down, we were persuaded, if we had been left to wander by ourselves.



Have you noticed this pinfold (a pound for stray cattle etc) on the road by Loweswater lake near the Mosser road? Mention of it has been found in a 17th century manorial document

**“People, Place and Produce” - a reconstruction of the local Lakeland Townships in 1841 in exhibitions celebrating the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Society.**

The exhibitions will include large reconstructed maps of the Townships of Buttermere, Loweswater, Brackenthwaite, Lorton and Embleton, most at the original scale of one inch to four chains\*, showing the buildings, the farm boundaries, the old field names and their use 160 years ago. Also photographs of all inhabited buildings and a list of their occupants, ages and occupations from the first full census of 1841. There will also be exhibits: from a project by the children of Lorton Primary School, from the County Archive Service, of village life through old photographs and of the Three Valleys Oral History Project.

**At the Loweswater Show (Thursday, 18 September)**, the emphasis will be on farming history and landscape heritage, with interpretation of the material and assistance for those who are interested in the historical background to today's farm produce.

**At the Yew Tree Hall (Sat & Sun 20/21 September)**, extra space and facilities will allow further exhibits and will provide an opportunity for limited access to our archive material; please note there are some spare panels, so contact us if you would like to “own” one (eg a local family history or a local rural industry). Old photographs and documents would be welcomed here for copying into the Archive.

For further information on the exhibitions please see our website [www.derwentfells.com](http://www.derwentfells.com)

\* It goes without saying that a chain is 22 yards, so the scale of the maps is 20" to the mile - quite large!

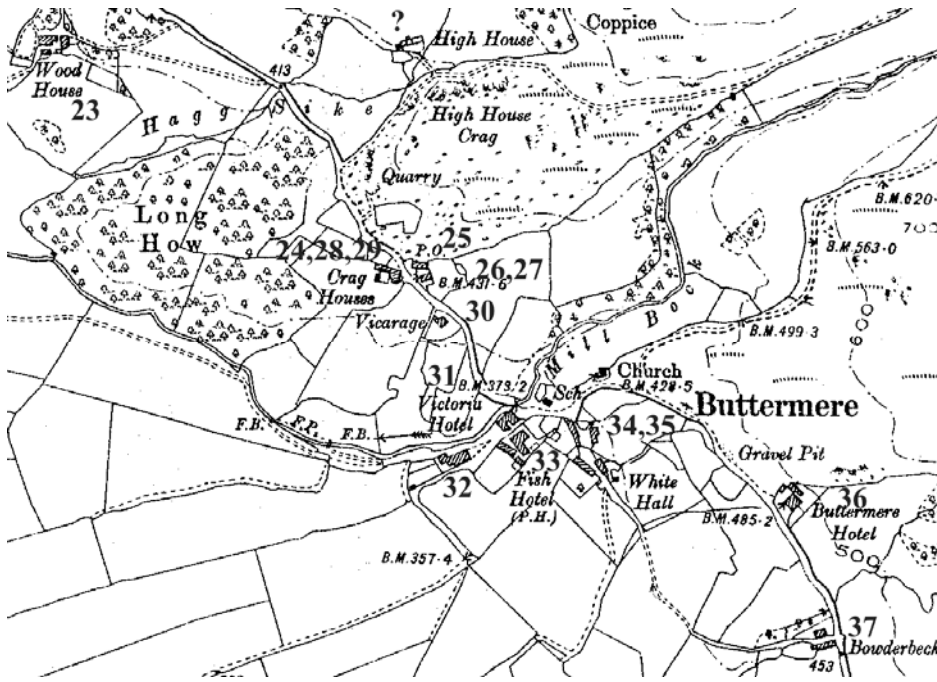
**Cumbria Local History Federation**

The Federation acts as a focal point for societies such as ours throughout Cumbria and publishes a Bulletin and Diary three times a year. Although this Society receives a copy, it is of course not economical to provide copies for all our members. If you would like to receive your own copy of the three issues published each year, it will cost you just **£1** - please contact Michael Grieve on 01900 85259.

Also, the Federation is looking for committee members. The duties are not onerous, involving three meetings a year and helping to organise the AGM. If you are interested, please contact Jill Wishart at the Federation on 01228 561143 or me.

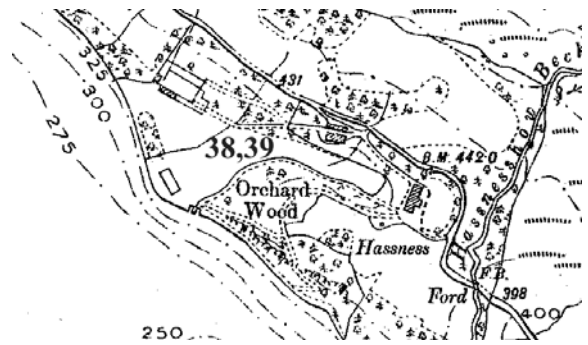
John Scrivens, 01900 85287

The 1901 Census - Who Was in Buttermere? by Derek Denman



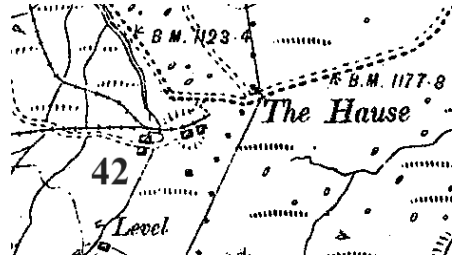
After a long delay, the Public Record Office provided effective Internet access to the 1901 census and it is now safe to recommend using it. But the microfiche records have also been available at the Whitehaven Office from early 2002, providing a second means of access for those without computers or who wish to avoid the costs of the Internet search. Here for illustration is the 1901 Census for Buttermere, transcribed from the microfiche, together with the locations marked on sections of the second series Ordnance Survey 6 inch map surveyed in 1900 (not to scale).

By 1900, Buttermere Civil Parish had swallowed up Brackenthwaite, but given up its ancient detached Swinside area to Lorton. The census part transcribed here is the old Township (except Swinside), stretching from Rannerdale Hause to Honister Hause and including the huts in which the slate-miners slept.



Of the twenty dwellings listed, seventeen were occupied, with a total population of 87 persons, or five per dwelling. High House seems to be omitted; perhaps it was ruinous? Under-sixteens numbered 28 or 32% of the total, though work started at fourteen. At the other extreme, there are only four retired people, ages 65,74,79 and 91.

The census is invaluable for investigating the history of your family or your house, though identification of an actual building is often difficult. The place of birth given, together with the age, can often lead to the birth records of a person.



In the Whitehaven Record Office, you can view the census records from 1841 to 1901, and help is available for new users of this simple process. In our Archive, we have transcriptions of many censuses available. On the Internet, the full 1901 census is available at [www.census.pro.gov.uk](http://www.census.pro.gov.uk). At no charge you may search for a person in a given area, and the site will give you a list of the possible people with their place and age. To go further and display full census records requires payment per item. With your credit or debit card you can buy credit on the site, which is consumed gradually as you use the services during sessions.

	House	Name of Head	Relation	Condition	Age	Profession	Employment	Where Born		
23	Woodhouse	Isaac Reff	husband	married	60	Joiner carp	own acc	Buttermere		
		Margaret Reff	wife	m	32			Souterfell, Mungrisedale		
24	Cragg House	Grace V do	d	single	22	Housemaid dom		Buttermere		
		William Barnes	h	m	35	Farmer	own acc	Lorton		
		Jane Barnes	w	m	31			Lorton		
25	Post Office	Mary W do	d	s	11m			Buttermere		
		Eliz. Dixon	h	s	35	Postmistress	worker	Buttermere		
26	Norman Place	Jane A Clark	gm	widow	91	Own means		Buttermere		
		Wm Rigg	h	w	50	Slate quarryman	worker	Buttermere		
27	Norman Place	Mary A do	d	s	25	Housekeeper	do	Buttermere		
28	Cragg House	John Hodgson	h	s	52	Roadman	do	Crosthwaite		
29	Cragg House	Unoccupied								
30	Vicarage	Braithwaite Rigg	h	m	45	Lab gen	do	Buttermere		
		Mary do	w	m	43			Broughton Cross		
		Isaac do	s	s	23	Lab gen	do	Buttermere		
		James do	s		6	Schoolboy		do		
		Wm Copeland	h	m	34	Clergyman CE		Holme Eden, Cumb		
31	Victoria Hotel	Mary E do	w	w	34			Carlisle		
		Isabel Foster	visitor	s	26			do		
		Janet Stewart	board	s	28	Schoolmistress		Scotland		
		Annie Edmondson	h	w	37	Hotel Keeper pub	own acc	Lorton		
		John do	s		11	Schoolboy		Buttermere		
		Tom do	s		6	do		do		
		Nora do	d		5	do		do		
32	Fish Hotel	May do			1	Baby		do		
		Johannah Young	serv	s	34	Cook dom	worker	Cockermouth		
		Margie Beauthwaite	do	s	20	Housemaid	do	Dearham		
		Lizzie Bethwaite	do	s	15	Nurse	do	do		
		Lizzie Martin	do	s	36	Waitress	do	do		
		John Walker	do	s	33	Waller	do	Lorton		
		James W Edmondson	h	m	37	Hotelkeeper pub	employer	Buttermere		
		Dinah do	w	m	28			Dunnerdale, Lancs		
		Grace do	d		2			Buttermere		
		Braithwaite do	s		6m			do		
33	Croft House	Maggie Pickering	servant	s	18	Gen serv	worker	Flimby		
		Maggie Charlton	do	s	14	Nurse	do	Carlisle		
		John Dawson	do	s	47	Shepherd	do	Cumberland		
		David Vickers	do	s	31	Husbandman	do	Loweswater		
		John C Frindell?	do	s	36	do	do	Buttermere		
		Tom Hutchinson	vis	s	46			Lorton		
		Unoccupied								
		34	Sike House	Robert Jackson	h		36	Farmer	employer	Embleton
				Mary	w		36			Wythop
				John	s		14	Farmer's son	worker	Embleton
				Annie	d		11			do
Sarah J	d				8			do		
Mary	d				5			Buttermere		
Willie	s				3			do		
Tom	s				2m			do		
35	Wilkin Syke	Jane Slater	servant	s	27	Gen serv		Embleton		
		Jonathon James	h	m	31					
		Mary	w	m	32					
		Martha A	d		6					
		Mary E	d		5					
36	Buttermere Hotel	William C	s		3					
		John Nelson	h	w	65	Ret farmer		Loweswater		
		Isaac Edmondson	s	s	32	Hotel Manager		Buttermere		
		Sarah A	d	s	29	Manageress		do		
		Mary J	d	s	27	do		do		
		Maggie A	gd		3			Broughton in F, Lancs		
		Sarah J Fisher	servant	s	28	Gen serv dom	worker	Newlands		
37	Bowderbeck	Sarah J Rigg	do	s	17	Housemaid	do	Buttermere		
		Unoccupied								
38	Hassness	Robert Johnston	h	m	54	Gardener	worker	Ormskirk		
		Joseph do	s	s	21	do	do	Temple Sowerby		
		Isabela do	d		9	Schoolgirl		Brougham		
39	Hassness	John Vickers	h	m	42	Woodman	worker	Embleton		
		Isabella	w	m	43			Whitehaven		
		Harry K	s		8	Schoolboy		Loweswater		
		John I	s		6	do		do		
		Mary	d		3	Schoolgirl		do		
40	Gatesgarth	Edward Nelson	h	m	54	Farmer	employer	do		
		Esther	w	m	49			Lorton		
		Annie	d		13			Buttermere		
		Esther	d		11			do		
		Allan	s		10			do		
		Sarah	d		9			do		
		Wm Robinson	servant	s	22			Embleton		
		John Burnes	do	s	19			Cleator Moor		
41	Gatesgarth Cottage	Allan Pearson	h	m	79	Ret farmer		Lorton		
		Ann do	w	m	74			Thornthwaite		
42	Buttermere Quarries	Matthew Pepper	h	m	40	Slate river	worker	Langdale		
		George Pepper	s	s	16	do	do	Stangend, Lancs		
		Harry Greenhow	lodger	s	21	Quarryman	do	Gawthwaite, Lancs		
		James Gregg	do	s	40	do	do	Grizebeck, Lancs		
		George Casson	do	s	19	do	do	Gawthwaite, Lancs		
		Daniel Stratton	do	w	62	do	do	Gosforth, Cumb		
		William Coward	do	s	39	do	do	Coniston, Lancs		
		Thomas Hartley	do	m	50	do	do	Hawkeshead, Lancs		
		John Gregg	do	m	47	do	do	Kirkby in Furness		

## Lorton Women's Institute during Wartime by Maud Vickers

The first part of Maud's Lorton WI history, covering 1922 to the outbreak of WW2, was in the January 2002 Newsletter and it is hoped (computer permitting!) that a final part will take the history up to the Lorton WI's 75th anniversary celebrations in 1997.

**In September 1939**, Miss Clulow, as Vice President, explained that we would be working like everyone else under difficulties regarding petrol and lighting restrictions but would keep going wherever possible. Meetings would be held in afternoons as no blackout was yet available. A sewing party was formed to meet in the Sunday School from 2 to 4pm, at which garments would be made for evacuees, soldiers, hospitals etc. Members were to bring suitable knitting and sewing material which would be pooled. Tea and biscuits were served, and a collection of 14/5d gathered to start a sewing fund. In October, grey wool was bought from the hospital supply department, as well as khaki wool for socks and scarves and white wool for children's hospital garments. The price of sugar had risen to 10/- per cwt so the order for 4cwt was cancelled. There was an appeal for shoes for the Shatton evacuees. It was reported that 101 new and remade garments had been produced by the sewing class and a large parcel of adult garments was given to Lady Mabel Howard's personal service league. The November meeting was attended by only 15 members as afternoon meetings were proving difficult. An appeal was heard for discarded good clothes for distressed areas. Mrs Irwin showed old and new ways of spinning wool; she then made a 'Sandy McNab' doll from sheep wool in record time and gave 13 dolls to WI funds which found a ready sale at 1/- a time. Meetings returned to evenings in December and began with a silence to remember James Lennox, reported missing while serving in the Navy, and the death of Rev. Wm. Lewis. Sewing circle efforts were wonderful and, within a month, 150 garments had been distributed to Lorton evacuees and 98 sent to the Cocker mouth Depot. The annual meeting showed a successful year and a children's party was organised.

**In 1940**, programmes were no longer able to be printed officially, so paper was given by Miss Burns and Miss Brown produced the programmes by Cyclostyling. Results from the sewing class were excellent so collecting and distributing was continued, with money collected going to the Cocker mouth supply depot. WI headquarters was gathering information on the condition, on arrival, of evacuees, both mothers and children. A sketch performed by the drama club in January appeared to solve the problem of poor attendance! The organisation of waste paper collection began in February, with Miss Moffat providing storage and the older boys doing house to house collections and sorting and packing before Mrs Gamlen and Miss Sutton conveyed it to the central store at Cocker mouth. Two letters were received from men in the forces saying thank you for parcels received at Christmas. Sixteen Loweswater members braved blackout and stormy weather to share the birthday meeting which was as successful as ever. The Cocker mouth supply depot had closed for a while so further work for soldiers was suspended; 146 garments had been sent and knitted squares were still required. Eggs were as usual sent to the Cocker mouth Hospital and the Allonby Sunshine Home and 5/- was sent to headquarters ambulance scheme. Members were urged to grow more vegetables. A mobile canteen was presented to the Red Cross from Cumberland WIs. Mrs Fox (Woodlands) held a garden party to raise funds which were shared between the above and the Cocker mouth YMCA canteen.



The old Lorton church  
please see the front cover

In September, the women of the village were shown how to use the fire hydrant in case of air raids, and PC Huck suggested a village collection to provide a stretcher and first aid equipment. An extraordinary meeting was held in June to discuss a letter from Carlisle headquarters about jam making etc. The Lorton WI was invited to apply, as a body, for extra sugar to preserve surplus garden and wild fruit to be made at a centre in the village and sold at a stall or to a retailer. The centre was arranged, oil burners and pans lent, along with reluctant offers of help, but no one would be responsible for the actual preserving, so the whole scheme was abandoned as unworkable. (However the following year, an open meeting resulted in a successful start to the scheme. A communal kitchen was used to prevent wrongful distribution of sugar, a permit was requested to buy sugar, the jam was inspected and a sale price notified by the Government. There were thanks to Miss Niven for use of Lorton Hall kitchen. 4 cwts of sugar were applied for and a loan was obtained from WI funds to start the operation.)

Classes in wartime cookery and first aid were begun and instruction given in anti-gas and air raid precautions. A stretcher and army blankets were ordered. The sewing class was now making pyjamas for hospitals and knitted garments for the Navy. Members each subscribed towards the West Cumberland Times Spitfire Fund.

**In 1941**, adult evacuees were invited to the birthday meeting and were entertained with slides of Fiji, violin solos and Cumberland readings. During the summer, it was emphasised that all fruit should be either made into jam or sent to a factory so as not to waste anything. An expedition to collect sphagnum moss was organised and was dried in the loft at the Vicarage; then it was sent for use as dressings in field

hospitals. Collections were also organised of paper, metal and bones and members were urged to greater effort at salvage. As a result, Miss Amery agreed to store bones, and children were asked to take paper to school to save too heavy loads on the available barrows. A film show was held in the village in aid of the local comforts fund, and names taken of anyone willing to help feed the Home Guard in the event of an invasion. WI meetings were being held as normal

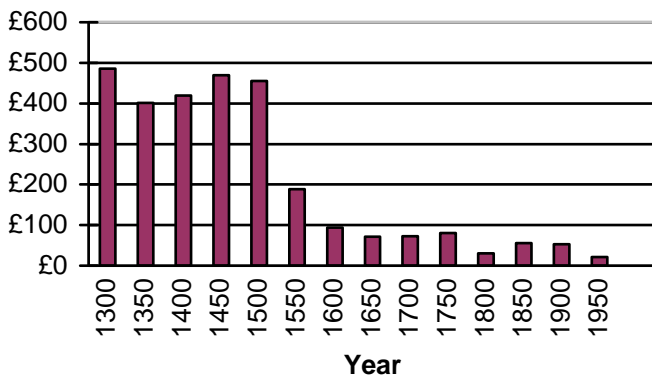
**In 1942**, a demonstration on how to assemble the village stretcher and carry a patient began the year but there was little support for meetings in Cockermouth on pig keeping. Carrs Flour Mills demonstrated home baking in wartime. There was discussion at the Spring Council meeting, which centred on the closing of rural post offices. Because of rationing and transport difficulties, the egg collection for hospitals had to be suspended. Another sphagnum gather was arranged and other herbs were now required, i.e. foxgloves for digitalis and nettles etc and were collected at the school. There was a request for volunteers to help out on farms at harvest time and members were asked for any pieces of fur for the Red Cross Aid to Russia fund. A collection of 6d per member was sent to the Lord Mayor's air raid fund. Another request was for 1 oz of mint or sage from each member. A letter was sent to the bus office asking for a bus to Cockermouth on either Monday or Friday; however, the reply stated they were unable to run an extra bus. A sale of mystery parcels resulted in £2 11d being sent to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

**In 1943**, it was announced that the death had occurred of Lady Mabel Howard, who was responsible for the beginning of Women's Institutes in Cumbria. A demonstration on dress renovation was extremely useful in this time of rationing. A further request was made for members to dry rabbit skins for aid to Russia. The communal jam making scheme was dropped, but Kilner jars for preserving fruit were available. The Maryport Co-op was prepared to supply pies under the Rural Pie Scheme and Miss Amery undertook to retail them. There was an urgent plea for rose hips to make syrup - although the children were on holiday, they had ceased their efforts with disappointing results. On one beautiful moonlit night, 17 members visited the Loweswater WI; some cycled, some hitch-hiked and a fortunate few were transported by car. There was a request for more knitted comforts for the forces. Monthly meetings carried on normally all through the year.

**In 1944**, the WVS appealed for vests for occupied countries, so the knitting party was restarted. WIs in Cumberland carried out a survey of sanitation lighting and water in farm houses as well as in labourer's cottages, for post-war planning purposes. On Wednesday afternoons, a produce stall was started to run alongside the pie scheme. During this time, vegetables weighed in and sold included 93 lb of turnips, 16 lb of leeks, 16 lb of artichokes, 12 lb of greens, 8 lb of beet, 6 lb of rhubarb, bottled blackberries, mustard and cress, pickles and flowers and it was hoped for further support from village gardens. £14 each was given to the Red Cross, the Nursing Association and the Yew Tree Hall from profits from the pie and produce scheme. Again, nettles, elderflowers and foxgloves were collected. Leather patches were available to 'Mend and Make Do'.

**In 1945**, a percussion band was started. There was an appeal for household articles for bombed out areas. The names of girls serving in the forces were requested by WI headquarters to enable them to send welcome home letters. A June fête was held and there was a meeting which ended with a short **victory dance** with music provided by Mrs Marjorie Stagg.

### Equivalent contemporary values of the pound



I have recently received from the Bank of England a listing of today's equivalent values of the pound going back to the year 1270 in decade steps. The figures are based on purchasing power only so, for example, £1 in 1300 would be worth £485 in January 2003. Note the huge debasement of the currency under Henry VIII, which greatly favoured yeoman farmers on low fixed rents (described in Newsletter 28).  
Michael Grieve

### Transport Safety by Walter Head

When you hear on the news of a delivery wagon colliding with and damaging the corner of a building in Kirkgate/Market Place in Cockermouth, or the victim of a road accident, or even of a death caused by the internal combustion engine, then you may comment that things were much safer in the days of pedal power and horse transport - but were they?

On Friday, 6th September 1918, a horse was harnessed to a cart owned by Messrs Hird and James, Grocers and Ironmongers of Market Place, Cockermouth (John Hird lived at 16 Challoner Street where his sisters ran a private school and John James lived at 16 Wordsworth Terrace). The horse and cart, along with the driver, set off on their rounds. While stopped to drink water from a trough at Gilbrea, Lorton, the horse slipped its bridle and bolted. The horse, with cart attached, ran unchecked to Cockermouth even though a wheel detached itself from the cart on the way. On reaching Cockermouth, it turned into Kirkgate where it knocked over and damaged two perambulators, the occupants of which were unhurt. On turning into the Corn Market at Market Place, the horse was checked when it collided with, and damaged, the wall of the premises of Mr J Walker, grocer, seed and corn merchant and bacon curer. The horse fell and was secured.

On Monday evening, 13th May 1918, Private James Fearon, Labour Corps, was cycling from Cockermouth towards Foulisyke near Lorton, where he was employed on farm work. At Round Close Brow, he misjudged the distance between a passing wagonette and the fence with the result that he ran into the bank and was thrown from his machine, breaking his collarbone. He lay on the roadside partly unconscious until he was found by Mr Thomas Strong of Hope Farm, Brackenthwaite at about 11pm at night. Mr Strong went to Cockermouth and Dr Atkinson motored out to the scene, treated Mr Fearon's injury and took him to Foulisyke.

The previous year, Mr William Mackereth, age 52, farmed at Pickett Howe, Brackenthwaite where he had been for four years. On Tuesday, 17th July 1917, Mr Adam Robinson of Papcastle called at the farm with an entire stallion. Mr Mackereth went into the stables to bring out his 6 year old mare while Mr Robinson took his horse round to another part of the building. Hearing a noise in the stable followed by a moan, Mr Robinson looked over the partition and saw Mr Mackereth lying on the ground. He immediately went to his aid but found that he was dead. Dr Graham of Cockermouth attended and an examination revealed that Mr Mackereth had a fractured skull and dislocated neck. The woodwork on the stall and manger were broken which pointed to the mare's having kicked out and struck its owner, inflicting the injuries from which he died. An inquest was held at the farm the following day with Mr E Attear as Coroner and Mr A J Towers of Brackenthwaite as Foreman. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death from a kick by a horse. Mr Mackereth left a widow and ten children whose ages ranged from 4 years to 17 years.

*Source: West Cumberland Times*

Also a request for help from Walter Head (Hopebeck House, Brackenthwaite, Cockermouth) who has very little information on the Lorton Brass Band and would welcome any information or photographs. Thank you.

### House History Group visit to Snittlegarth

The HHG visit to Snittlegarth on 22 March was blessed with a sunny day which helped to make the day a success. Chris Craghill led the day's activities, taking members on a tour of the inside and outside of the house in the morning and spoke about house history sources in the afternoon. Lunch was prepared by the owner Jill Green. This turned out to be a good format with the social parts of the day - coffee, lunch and tea - being animated and enjoyable. The main interest lay in seeing the features of the house itself and making guesses about dates, purpose, sequence of building, etc, rather than in any substantive academic content, but the experience was none the worse for that and everyone said they enjoyed it. We're grateful to Jill, the owner of the house, for making us so welcome.

John Scrivens

### Remaining Talks and Activities for 2003

8 May	<b>Tenth Anniversary talk</b> by Dr Angus Winchester, our President, on "Thomas Denton's Tour of Cumberland in 1687".
17 May	<b>Guided visit</b> to the English Heritage iron works in Furness and the Stott Park Bobbin Mill.
12 June	<b>AGM</b> , followed by a <b>presentation</b> by Michael and Hetty Baron on the dispute between Anthony Patrickson and his tenants from 1596 to 1616 culminating in a case in the Court of Chancery.
10 July	<b>Talk</b> by Ian Tyler on "The German Miners in Cumbria".
August	<b>Historical walks</b> in Lorton and Loweswater.
11 September	<b>Talk</b> by Martin Tweedie on "Steel Bonnets" - the Border Reivers.
18 September	<b>Tenth Anniversary exhibition</b> - a variety of exhibits in our own marquee at the Loweswater Show, many with a local farming interest.
20/21 Sept.	<b>Tenth Anniversary exhibition</b> - a variety of exhibits in the Yew Tree Hall, Lorton.
13 November	<b>Talk</b> by Alan Gane on "Arms and the Man" - heraldry and chivalry in the Middle Ages.
11 December	(Activity to be arranged)

The talks start at 7.30pm, normally in the Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton, but please check in the press, adverts and our website in case of later changes in venue. Updates and details will be available on [www.derwentfells.com](http://www.derwentfells.com)