

Department of History, Lancaster University

Victoria County History: Cumbria Project

'Jubilee Digests'

Briefing Note

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Queen has decided to re-dedicate the VCH. To mark this occasion, we aim to have produced a set of historical data for every community in Cumbria by the end of 2012. These summaries, which we are calling 'Jubilee Digests', will be posted on the Cumbria County History Trust's website where they will form an important resource as a quick reference guide for all interested in the county's history. We hope that all VCH volunteers will wish to get involved and to contribute to this.

What we need volunteers to do is gather a set of historical facts for each of the places for which separate VCH articles will eventually be written: that's around 315 parishes/townships in Cumberland and Westmorland, a further 30 in Furness and Cartmel, together with three more for Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent. The data included in the digests, which will be essential to writing future VCH parish/township articles, will be gathered from a limited set of specified sources. In this way, the Digests will build on the substantial progress volunteers have already made during 2011 in gathering specific information about institutions in parishes and townships throughout Cumberland and Westmorland. As with all VCH work, high standards of accuracy and systematic research are vital.

Each 'Jubilee Digest' will contain the following and will cover a community's history from the earliest times to the present day:

Name of place: status (i.e. whether ancient parish, township or chapelry); parish, ward and historic county in which it lay; modern local government boundary changes

Acreage of administrative unit and extent of common moor or fell, with date of enclosure

Population: overview of number of inhabitants from 1801 to 2001

Landownership: summary of manorial descent (if known); other major estates (if known)

Economic activity other than farming (i.e. mines, quarries, manufacturing, markets etc)

Places of worship both Established Church and nonconformist

Schools and other institutions, such as libraries, almshouses, village halls

Sources to be consulted

So that the information is standardised, we ask you to use the same set of sources for all digests. Most of these sources are available electronically, but collecting the material will also involve at least one visit to an Archive Centre and/or a Local Studies Library.

1. Ordnance Survey 6" maps (1:10,560) County Series maps, First and Second Editions: available in Cumbria Archive Centres. You might first like to check them online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/map.aspx?pubid=270>
2. Census data: as a result of our work last year, this is now available on the CCHT website.
3. Trade Directories: please restrict yourselves to the following, all of which should be consulted:
 - Parson & White's *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland* (1829)
 - Mannix & Whellan's *Directory of Cumberland* (1847) OR Mannex & Co's *Directory of Westmorland with Lonsdale and Amounderness* (1851);
 - *Bulmer's History and Directory of Cumberland* (1901) OR *Directory of Westmorland* (1906)
 - *Kelly's Directory of Cumberland & Westmorland* (1938)Available in record offices, local studies collections in public libraries; most are also available online at <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>
4. 1851 Religious Census: available as digital microfilm from the TNA website [<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/other.asp>] or from Sarah Rose in hard copy. **NB: Returns do not exist for every township/parish in Cumbria.**
5. Handlist of enclosure awards: typescripts available in Cumbria Archive Centres are posted on the members-only pages of the Cumbria County History Trust website.
6. *Thomas Denton: a Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688*, Surtees Society Vol. 207 (2003). Includes brief accounts of places in Westmorland. Available at Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith, Whitehaven and Workington libraries.
7. 1818 returns of schools: available to subscribers on Parliamentary Papers Online – [<http://parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk/home.do>], or from Sarah Rose in hard copy.
8. M. Hyde and N. Pevsner, *Cumbria* (Buildings of England series, Yale UP, 2010): available at Ambleside, Appleby, Barrow, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Grange, Kendal, Keswick, Kirkby Stephen, Penrith, Ulverston, Whitehaven, Windermere and Workington libraries.
9. Local directories, guides etc for information on economic activity since 1939. These will vary according to locality. Company websites and local knowledge may yield the necessary data.

The grid below indicates which sources should yield information for each section of the Digest.

	Status	Acreage	Population	Waste enclosure	Economic activity	Places of worship	Schools & other institutions
Census	X		X		X		
OS maps		X			X	X	X
Trade Dirs	X				X	X	X
1851 Rel Census						X	
Enclosure handlists				X			
T. Denton			X		X		
1818 return of schools							X
Hyde & Pevsner						X	X

Two important glosses: you'll notice that we haven't indicated which sources are likely to provide information about manors and estates; nor the sources to bring the story up to date across the 20th century. For these aspects, please follow the guidelines below:

TIPS:

1. Before You Start

Please don't embark on collecting data for a Jubilee Digest until you have agreed with Sarah Rose on the place(s) for which you will be contributing information! Once you have been allocated one or more parishes or townships, make sure that you are clear how each place you are working on is defined for VCH purposes. Go to the project website and consult the list of places for which VCH articles will be written. Click on either 'Cumberland' or 'Westmorland' in the 'Townships and Parishes' paragraph at <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/victoria-county-history-project>. Column D of the spreadsheet gives you the historical definition of the area to be covered by each article. This is nearly always either an ancient parish, a township or a chapelry.

2. Organising Your Research

We have found that it is most time-efficient to work on a handful of places at once – not too many; perhaps four or five. One can then abstract the required information from each source for several places at one sitting – particularly where the source requires a visit to a record office or library.

We strongly suggest that you consult most of the prescribed sources before starting to draft the digest – that should make it easier to distil the information into the very brief summary that is required.

When making notes, use a separate sheet of paper for each source for each place!

3. Using Ordnance Survey Maps

Start by consulting the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch map, which marks parish and township boundaries as they were before the local government changes of the later 19th century. This will enable you to be clear about the exact area each digest should cover. While you have the 1st edition map in front of you, note the following:

- The date the map was surveyed!
- Acreage of the parish or township (note the exact figure, but round it up or down to the nearest acre when you draft the digest)
- Places of worship
- Schools and other institutions (e.g. libraries, reading rooms, almshouses)
- Economic activity other than farming, i.e. mills, inns, quarries, mines, factories etc

Move on to consult the 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch map, noting:

- Date the map was revised
- Any boundary changes and consequent changes in acreage of the civil administrative unit since the 1st edition (this will only be the case for a minority of places)
- Changes in places of worship, schools etc and economic activity since the 1st edition (e.g. new places of worship; quarries which have fallen into disuse)

A note on acreage: We need figures in both acres and hectares. To convert acres into hectares, multiply the number of acres by 0.4047.

4. Population

Consult the population tables on the project website (click on the relevant Ward under 'Census for Cumberland & Westmorland 1801-2001' at <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/resources-progress-vch-cumbria-project>). Only a thumbnail sketch of population change over the past two centuries is required for the digest, along the lines of 'Population rose from c.250 in the early 19th century to a peak of 478 in 1911 before falling to 216 in 2001'. Boundary changes are noted on the population tables; be sure to check for these and make a detailed note of them.

5. Using Trade Directories

Now consult the trade directories – please consult all of, but no more than, those listed in the instructions. Use the headings in the template for the Digests to abstract relevant information, such as:

- Places of worship: dates of building/rebuilding; nonconformist places of worship

- Schools and other institutions: dates of foundation/building; nature of endowment. By 'other institutions' we are thinking of libraries, reading rooms, mechanics' institutes, almshouses, etc.
- Economic activity: no need to list or count shopkeepers, artisans (shoemakers, tailors) etc but do note any particular crafts (basket weaving, for example) and all industries.

6. Landownership

For the land ownership section, restrict yourself to the following details:

- Manorial lordship: the descent of each manor from the medieval period, if possible, down to the 19th century.
- Date the manorial tenants were enfranchised (only if it is apparent from the sources you are consulting)
- Any other substantial estates (several hundred acres or more), if you have information on them. These might include modern accumulations of property by bodies such as the National Trust and the Forestry Commission.

Only a very brief summary is required (see the examples at the end of this document)

Sources for the Landownership Section. For the landownership section you will almost certainly need to consult a wider array of sources and these will vary from place to place. Restrict yourself to the following:

- A scholarly article on the history of the manor in *Trans CWAAS* or another reputable secondary source, if there is one.

Failing that, try:

- The prescribed sources, discussed above. Trade directories usually include some historical information (often derived from earlier antiquaries) and give information on contemporary landownership. You might also consult William Whellan, *History and Topography of Cumberland & Westmorland* (1860).
- Antiquarian accounts and collections. In addition to Nicolson and Burn, *History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland* (1777), you might consult the following, as appropriate:
 - **Allerdale Above Derwent:** Samuel Jefferson, *History and Antiquities of Allerdale Ward Above Derwent* (1842) [excludes the north-eastern part of the ward, which had been transferred to the new 'Derwent' division of the county by then]
 - **Leath:** Samuel Jefferson, *History and Antiquities of Leath Ward* (1840)
 - **Kendal and Lonsdale wards:** William Farrer, *Records Relating to the Barony of Kendale* (1923-4) [Available on British History Online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=400> and <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=401>]

- **Westmorland East and West wards:** John F Curwen, *Later Records relating to North Westmorland* (1932) [available on British History Online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=310>]
- **Allerdale Below Derwent, Cumberland and Eskdale wards:** for places in these wards you may have to rely on sources such as *John Denton's History of Cumberland* and Nicolson and Burn.
- **Furness and Cartmel:** manorial descents are given in *VCH Lancs.*, Vol 8 (1914), which is fully searchable online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

NB: Because the sources used for landownership will differ from place to place, you must make sure that you provide details of the source(s) you have used when you submit your material (use the box labelled 'Other Sources Used' on the form).

7. The Twentieth Century

The VCH aims to cover the history of a place from the earliest record to the time of writing. We are therefore keen to bring the information included in the Digests up to the present time, particularly for the following topics:

- Population: this is readily done for most places, as the census data up to 2001 has already been tabulated as part of the VCH project
- Economic activity: can you chart the decline of older industries, the arrival of new factories and businesses; the growth of service industries and tourism?
- Places of worship: is it possible to date the closure of churches and chapels? Are there new denominations (or, indeed, non-Christian places of worship)?
- Schools and other institutions: again, schools and reading rooms may have closed; a new village hall may have been built. Can you chart these changes?

Identifying a single source for the later 20th century is difficult. We therefore suggest that you start with local knowledge: the communal memory should be able to cover most of the period since the latest of the trade directories in the prescribed list of sources (Kelly's Directory of 1938). Then try to substantiate local memory by consulting a range of sources, such as local directories and guides, modern Ordnance Survey maps and the websites of local businesses and organisations.

Again, please provide details of the source(s) you have used when you submit your material.

8. Potential Problems/Questions

Any historical research will throw up questions over which you may need to scratch your head! From our experience of drafting Digests ourselves, the following issues may confront you. No doubt others will emerge as the research goes on: please keep in touch with Sarah Rose and draw her attention to any problems you encounter, so that we can alert other volunteers if necessary.

Dealing with contradictory evidence. You may well find that one source contradicts another. We suggest that you use the grid relating sources to topics (above) as a guide – use the source noted as the key one for a particular section in preference to information on the same topic in another source (e.g. use the Enclosure Handlists for data on enclosure of commons and the OS 1st edition maps for parish/township acreages, rather than other sources, such as directories, which also give this information). ***Please remember that these Digests are conceived as a quick county-wide survey: they are NOT comprehensive histories and will be superseded in due course by full VCH parish or township histories.*** For now, you are relying on a limited range of sources; future, more thorough research may well identify errors in the evidence from which you are drawing. A note to this effect will be included on the ‘entrance’ page to the Digests when they are posted online.

Establishing whether an institution mentioned in one source is the same as one referred to in a later source. This is a particular challenge when it comes to schools (and some places of worship). Careful perusal of successive editions of the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch maps should solve most problems. Hyde and Pevsner, *Cumbria*, will provide some answers.

Dealing with ‘Detached Portions’. Until they were tidied up by the Divided Parishes Act of 1882, the local administrative divisions of most counties produced a pattern in which ‘detached portions’ of one parish or township were found surrounded by land in another administrative unit. These anomalies are historically important (they often preserve the memory of medieval patterns of landholding) but most involve comparatively insignificant acreages of land. You should note the existence and acreage of any Detached Portions recorded on the 1st edition OS map. However, it will be most sensible to treat them as part of the township/parish into which they were absorbed from 1883 for most other sections of the Digest.

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please enter this information on Form 3, using a separate form for each place. Please also complete the checklist of sources which follows the form.

Please return completed forms by email to Sarah Rose: s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

Form 3 can be downloaded from the Resources page of the CCHT website:

<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/resources-progress-vch-cumbria-project>

Photographs

To add to the attractiveness and interest of these digests, we would like to add a photograph (of high quality) for each place, to post on the website next to the text. If you are able to supply images, please contact Sarah Rose.

Thank you!

Angus Winchester (Director, VCH Cumbria Project)

Sarah Rose (Volunteer Coordinator, VCH Cumbria Project)

14 February 2012

Examples of Digest Entries

MOSSER: a township in Brigham parish, in Allerdale above Derwent ward, Cumberland. Combined with Blindbothel and Whinfell to form the modern civil parish of Blindbothel, 1934.

Acreage: 1490 acres [603 ha], including 464 acres [188 ha] of common fell, enclosed 1867.

Population: 101 in 1801, falling to 56 in 1931 (last census year for which separate figures available).

Landownership: granted to Adam de Mosser c.1203; manor had passed to Salkeld family by 1418. Tenants enfranchised by Thomas Salkeld of Corby, 1623.

Economic activity: small-scale lead mining, late 18th/early 19th century; tile-making at Aikbank (recorded 1840; disused by 1867); handloom weaving (early 19th century); fish smoking (late 20th century).

Places of worship: chapel of ease, recorded 1546, originated as a pre-Reformation chantry. Fell into decay in 17th century; rebuilt 1773; replaced by new church at Eaglesfield, 1891, but continued in occasional use.

Schools and other institutions: school taught in chapel, recorded 1653. Small school in township, recorded 1818.

Other Sources Used: see draft article on website

THRELKELD: chapelry and township in Greystoke parish, in Leath ward, Cumberland.

Acreage: 5957 acres [2411 ha]. 11 acres [4 ha] of townfield enclosed in 1842

Population: 260 in 1801, rising to 614 in 1931 and falling to 454 in 2001

Landownership: held by the Threlkelds in the 14th century; passed by marriage to the Pickerings c.1512; sold to the Lowther family before 1632. Tenants enfranchised in 1635.

Economic activity: granite quarrying in 19th and 20th centuries; lead and zinc mining in 19th & 20th centuries.

Places of worship: St Mary's Church founded before 1341; re-built in 1776. Mission room built in 1885. A Wesleyan chapel was built at Scales in 1842.

Schools and other institutions: One school recorded in 1818; new school built in 1849 and enlarged in 1879. The Granite Quarry School opened in 1897, supported by the Threlkeld Granite Company.

Other Sources Used: S. Jefferson, *The History and Antiquities of Leath Ward* (1840); Nicolson and Burn, *History and Antiquities...*, (1777)

Victoria County History (Cumbria) Project

Form 3 (Jubilee Digest)

Name of Place:				
Status <i>[delete as appropriate]</i>	Anc. parish	Chapelry	Township	Other(specify)
Parish: <i>[only needed if the place was a township or chapelry]</i>				
Ward: <i>[or Hundred or Wapentake]</i>				
Historic County: <i>[delete as appropriate]</i>	Cumberland	Westmorland	Lancashire	Yorks (WR)
Survey date of 1st edition OS Map & revision date of 2nd edition				
Modern local government boundary change				
Acreage <i>[acres and hectares]</i>				
Extent of common land and date of enclosure				
Population <i>[brief summary, 1801-2001]</i>				
Landownership <i>[summary manorial descent (if known); other major estates (if known)]</i> (Please limit to 5 lines maximum)				
Economic Activity <i>[excluding agriculture; i.e. mines, quarries, manufacturing, markets etc]</i> (Please limit to 5 lines maximum)				
Places of Worship <i>[date of foundation and denomination]</i> (please limit to 5 lines maximum)				
Schools and Other Institutions (Please limit to 5 lines maximum)				
Other Sources Used for Landownership and 20th-century history				
Compiled by <i>[name in full]</i>				

JUBILEE DIGEST: SOURCES CHECKLIST

Please tick if checked:

Source	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4	Place 5	Place 6	Place 7
OS 6" 1 st edn							
OS 6" 2 nd edn							
Census data							
Parson & White Directory 1829							
Mannix & Whellan 1847 [Cumb] OR Mannex 1851 [Westd, Furness]							
Bulmer's Directory 1901 [Cumb] OR 1906 [Westd]							
Kelly's Directory 1938							
1851 Religious Census							
1818 Returns of Schools							
Enclosure award handlist							
Thomas Denton's <i>Perambulation</i>							
Hyde & Pevsner, <i>Cumbria</i>							

I confirm that I have used all the sources ticked above in my research for the Jubilee Digests.

Signed (type name if submitting by mail):

Please complete and return this checklist with Form 3 to Sarah Rose:

s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk