



May 2021

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Society News

Message from the Chair

This is another 'bumper' edition of the Wanderer, and it's gratifying that over the past year a good number of Members and others have put pen to paper and produced a very interesting variety of articles. This is all the more pleasing given the limitations that have otherwise curtailed the usual pattern of the Society's activities. Judging by comments received, Members have appreciated the expanded Wanderer. I should perhaps remind readers that Derek Denman has not only been one of those who has written articles for the recent editions, but behind the scenes has also been

responsible, as editor, for the production of the Wanderer. And he has combined these and various other tasks with acting as Secretary of the Society.

Readers will find on page 2 in this edition a Note by Derek in which he announces that at the Society's AGM in June he will be relinquishing the role of Secretary, albeit intending to continue to look after many other aspects of the Society's functions. Along with fellow committee members I fully understand Derek's desire to reduce his commitments and, very grateful to him as we are for having fulfilled the secretarial role over the last three years, the committee looks forward to attracting a new colleague to join them as Secretary. Because a lot of the tasks that help to keep the Society running smoothly are spread among committee members the Secretary's role, although crucial and central for the Society, is a straightforward one. It has an important 'social' aspect in keeping in touch with and attuned with the ideas and wishes of Members, so is not a purely administrative role.

The programme of future Talks in 2021 has been put in place by Tim Stanley-Clamp, and you will find on page 3 a Note by him about this. The committee plans to revive later in the year activities which had to be abandoned in 2020 - subject of course to the pandemic emergency restrictions having been lifted. It is hoped to offer Members the opportunity of an outing to Allonby and of Silloth for a historic tour in each place, and a guided walk in Coledale led by Mark Hatton as a follow-up to the Talk he gave in March last year about the German miners in that area. In addition, following his Talk in February, Peter Style has offered a guided walk at Scales ...p2

Our programme for 2021

Because of the current emergency, events before July will take place by Zoom and we expect to arrange other events. Please see the Message from the Chair in this issue. Talks normally start at 7.30 pm.

13 May 21 By Zoom	'The corpse roads of Cumbria'	Alan Cleaver
10 Jun 21 By Zoom	The Society's AGM followed by 'Saints and Vikings'	Dr Fiona Edmonds
8 Jul 21	'Bastardy in Cumbria before 1834'	Dr Alan Crosby
9 Sep 21	'The pilgrimage of Grace'	Dick O'Brien
11 Nov 21	'Cumbrian dialect in the nineteenth century'	Professor Matthew Townend

Officers and Committee 2020/21

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Charles Lambrick <i>Chairman</i>	Tim Stanley-Clamp <i>Vice-chair & talks</i>
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The next *Wanderer* will be published on 1 August 2021. Please send items to Derek Denman, by 30 June.

Published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cockermouth CA13 0GU. Distributed by Pip Wise. The intellectual property in the contributions belongs to the contributors.

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and elsewhere near Crummock Water. Details about these plans will be communicated to Members as soon as they have been developed.

Our Society needs a new Secretary

In 2018, when Sandra Shaw stood down after a long and productive time as Secretary, I offered to re-join the committee to fulfil that role for a time, but

also to help re-invigorate the active local history dimension, which has always been a key feature of the Society. During lockdown, the interest in researching and writing local history has pleasingly increased, evident from the welcome contributions to the new style *Wanderer*, which has grown in size through the lockdown.

However, it is not really practical to combine that activity with continuing to be Secretary and consequently I will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM,

and standing for election as a committee member.

The Secretary provides a focus for organisation, for communications with the membership and others, and has a key social role in matching the society or 'club' with the interests and wishes of its members. The Secretary does not need local history expertise, where we have strength on the Committee, but should share the general historical interest of members. There is no long list of other jobs attached, in that members are already responsible for talks, visits, membership, publicity, social media, membership database, and distribution. I am happy to retain responsibility for the *Wanderer*, website, archive, and the local history support to members and general enquirers, which have increased during lockdown.

Restarting our membership programme after the lockdown provides an opportunity to review what we do and how we do it, and it would be timely for a new Secretary with a fresh approach to play a part in that from June. Full support will be given, as wished. The Society retains an engaged and effective Chair and committee, and the Society is in a good position. Would you like to join the committee as Secretary, or as a committee member, or do you know someone who would be good but needs to be asked? In either case, please contact Charles or me or a committee member.

Derek Denman

Future talks in 2021

by Tim Stanley-Clamp

The talks for the rest of the year will, we hope, match those planned for us by Charles Lambrick since 2018. Charles' policy, like that of Richard Easton before him, was to cover the widest range of periods and historical interests possible, and members of the society will want me to put on record our gratitude to him for implementing it so successfully.

A taster of the year's remaining talks is below, published here so that members can be assured that the work of the society is forging ahead. It seems very unlikely that we will be back to a pre-pandemic normal before the Autumn at the earliest, but we will be able to carry on delivering our talks through Zoom, either with or without the use of our traditional venue in the Yew Tree Hall.

13 May

Alan Cleaver

'The Corpse Roads of Cumbria'

On May 13th Alan Cleaver, a well-known local author who with his wife Lesley Park has written and published widely on the topic, will give an illustrated talk on the corpse roads of Cumbria – the ancient paths that were used in medieval times to carry the dead from remote parishes to the 'mother' church. Around 30 corpse roads still survive as public footpaths in the county, including one possible corpse road leading to Lorton church. Alan will explain what is known about their routes, their purpose and the legends that have grown up around them.

10 June (after the AGM)

Dr

Fiona Edmonds

'Saints and Vikings: the Cumbrian coast and the Irish Sea region in the early medieval period'

Dr Fiona Edmonds is Reader in Regional History at Lancaster University, the Director of the Regional Heritage Centre, and Director of the Victoria County History of Cumbria. We are fortunate that she will be delivering a talk to the Society for the first time **on June 10th**.

The Viking Age was a time of seafaring, exploration and widespread connections. The Cumbrian coast became closely linked with the Gaelic-Scandinavian communities around the Irish Sea, but it is less well known that the Cumbrian coast already had links across the Irish Sea in the pre-

Viking period. Those connections were forged especially by major churches, such as the community of St Cuthbert, and also by the Northumbrian kings. In her talk Fiona Edmonds will examine Cumbria's Irish Sea outlook in both the pre-Viking period and the Viking Age, and consider aspects of continuity and discontinuity.

8 July

Dr Alan Crosby

'Bastardy in Cumbria before 1834: explorations in social and economic history'

Dr Crosby is one of Britain's best-known local historians and since 2001 he has been editor of *The Local Historian*. He has given us several talks, all of them very well received. On **July 8th** he will deal with the fascinating contrast between conventional attitudes to illegitimacy and the actual behaviour of people, especially as it was revealed in this part of the world in the past.

9 September

Dick O'Brien

'The Pilgrimage of Grace' in Cumbria and the North West'

Dick O'Brien, who lives in Renwick, near Penrith, is chair of the Renwick and Kirkoswald Local History Group. His talk will be on the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536-7 which was made up of a series of uprisings in parts of England. The causes were complex but bore mostly on Henry the Eighth's religious reforms which in many places had created anger and division provoking large armed gatherings. The uprisings in Cumberland and Westmorland have received relatively little attention and his talk will highlight the causes, the key events and the outcomes of the Pilgrimage.

11 November
Townend

Professor Matthew

'Cumbrian Dialect in the Nineteenth Century'

Professor Matthew Townend works in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. His research interests are in Old Norse language and literature (especially poetry); the history and culture of Viking Age England; and medievalism and philology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His work on the great nineteenth century Cumbrian, W G Collingwood, was published in 2009 and he has written extensively on the history and culture of Viking Age England. The book he is currently writing, about the Victorians and the study of dialect, will inform his talk to us on nineteenth century Cumbrian dialect.

Meeting Reports

'From Roundhouse to Shieling: archaeological settlement surveys in the Loweswater and Buttermere valleys', by Peter Style

a report by Sandra Shaw

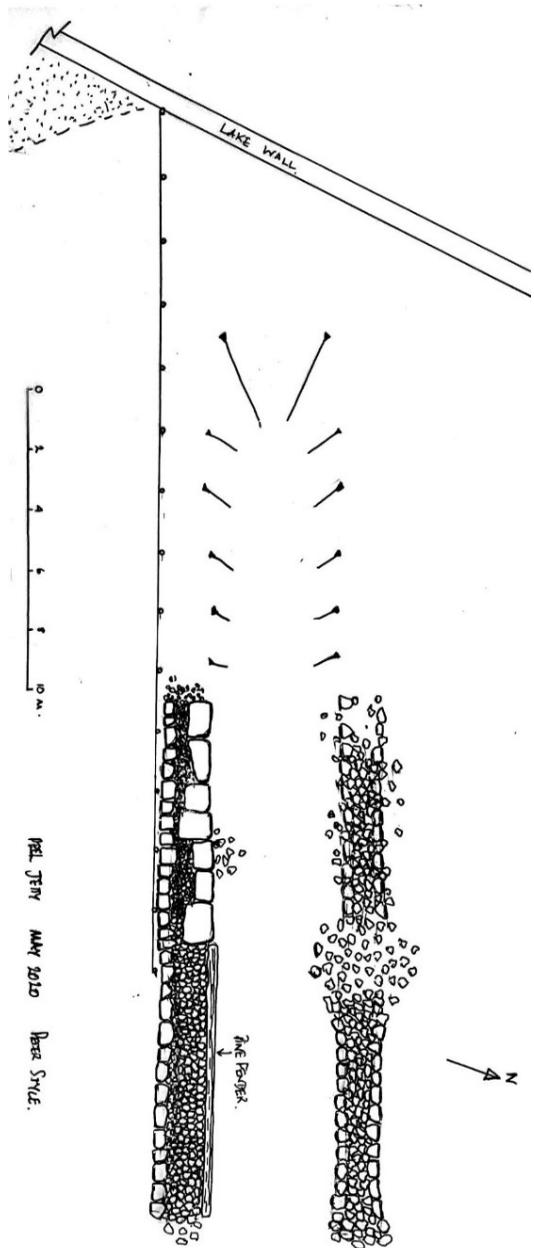
On Thursday 25 February the above titled talk was delivered by Peter Style of the School of Forensics and Investigative Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire. He has been a member of this Society for several years and we are grateful to him for delivering this talk.

Peter's talk was based on archaeological surveys undertaken in the Loweswater and Buttermere Valleys in past years. Longer-standing members will recall that this Society was heavily involved in the original survey undertaken by the National Trust and Oxford Archaeology in 2008. That survey only covered land which had previously been in NT ownership and on which it had reserved covenants. The reports are available in the Society's archive. Four further seasons of surveying were undertaken from 2014 by the Archaeology Network, set up by the Lake District

National Park to carry out archaeological surveying and conservation work. For these, Peter was appointed supervisor and trainer.

Peter began by outlining what the natural environment tells us about the area in times past. This information is usually gleaned from analysis of sediment cores removed from lake beds. Layers of sediment reveal erosion which has washed into the lake, while pollen analysis from these layers, can show the types of plants growing in the vicinity. In Mesolithic times, about 10,000 years ago, there was heavy forestation with oak, elm and alder, thinning to birch up to 700m. There was very little clearance locally in the Neolithic period, but by the Bronze Age (c 5,000 years ago), there was more agriculture, less tree-cover and greater erosion. This erosion continued in the Iron Age and had stabilised by the early Roman period. The period after the Roman occupation saw economic collapse and a fall in the demand for agricultural products, leading to a return to subsistence farming. By 900AD, there was a dramatic increase in erosion as the area became more heavily occupied, possibly by Norse settlers, as evidenced by place names.

Prehistoric evidence locally comprises a few cup-marked stones, just a handful of 'finds' (a flint flake, an arrowhead and a couple of stone axes) and various humps and bumps in the ground. These can be identified by various surveying techniques, including visual inspection early in the year, before growth of bracken, aerial photography and Lidar (light detection and ranging) surveying. These remains in the ground can take several forms; rings or banks of stones and levelled platforms among others. As dwellings were often temporary and built of organic materials, any remains are ephemeral; possibly a hearth or stone foundations resulting in a stone ring, known as a hut-circle. Linear banks can indicate enclosures, either surrounding a



whole settlement or a smaller stock-holding area.

Peter examined a number of sites in the valleys (Scales Beck, Lambing Knott at

Gatesgarth, Rannerdale, Lanthwaite Green, Baryeat at Loweswater and Ryegarth at High Nook) and described the various features revealed through non-invasive surveying. In general, these sites are complex and multi-period with features overlying or inter-cutting other features. Overall, interpretation is not straightforward.

Scales Beck is a complex, multi-period site, part of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There is a well-known cairn field. Cairns are piles of stones, sometimes constructed to remove stones from an area to improve it for agriculture, sometimes to mark a burial. A cairn field is a collection of piles of stones often of uncertain purpose. There are hut circles, remnants of walls, banks, platforms (possibly for dwellings) and a cup-marked slab. An enclosed settlement suggests a Bronze Age date. More recent investigations have revealed a shieling-type settlement.

Lambing Knott is an enclosed settlement with two or three platforms, possibly a little later (c1800BC to Roman). What looks like a round house in the area is in fact a later sheepfold. Just one clearance cairn suggests the area was not cultivated and possibly just used in the summer.

The Rannerdale site has a settlement surrounded by banks, comprising enclosures for stock, a platform for a roundhouse and a sunken feature. The oldest of these is thought to be Iron Age, with later additions including a well-constructed potash kiln, at risk of erosion by the beck, dating to about 1,000 years later than the settlement. The site is cut through by later tracks. There was a chapel here at some point, and some of the structures may relate to this. Derek Denman has written separately about this. Lanthwaite Green has another enclosed settlement with a cairn field, stock enclosures, round houses and flattened cairns. There is a rectangular, somewhat later structure, possibly Romano-British, which might succeed an earlier settlement.

Baryeat, Loweswater is a Romano British site, truncated by the wall along one side of a track.

Rye Garth, High Nook, Loweswater has a sub-circular enclosure also truncated by the later construction of a wall and track.

During his talk, Peter mentioned that during 2020 and the restrictions on activities, the Crummock Lake levels were particularly low, and while walking there, he had been able to make out a pier stretching into the lake, between the pump house and the felled logs adjacent to the pine trees. He also found quantities of processed iron ore and slag on the beach nearby. Since recent editions of the Wanderer (August and November 2020) have included some explorations of the history of Peel or 'Sleningholme' Island, I asked Peter for a little more about this feature and he sent me the sketch included here and the following additional information. It is just possible to make out the flags of the landing stage underwater on the most recent (2018) Google Earth imaging. The date is uncertain, but Peter notes that it must have been constructed before the weir, of (probably) about 1895. Now it looks like an odd spot for a jetty, next to the marsh, but it must have been well drained when the water level was lower, as the clapper bridge to Peel Farm crossed by the current footpath. Much to muse on! Does this stimulate any thoughts?

I have been asked to report on the experience of joining a Zoom meeting. This was the first time I had done so, and it really was very straightforward. I simply followed the instructions sent by email in advance and everything worked. You have to make the usual agreement to terms and conditions and perform a test to demonstrate that you are not a robot, and then enter the passcode given in the email and that's it. It was clear that different members had their devices set up in different ways so that in some cases their name alone appeared, while in others, the camera was engaged and transmitted whatever it was picking up; either

participants' faces or their ceiling if the device was a tablet and had been placed on a flat surface. James Lusher had control of the meeting and was able to mute and unmute members, either as a block or individually, to facilitate conduct of business. We are most grateful to him for taking on this role. While Peter was delivering his talk, his face was displayed in a box at the side of the various images he was showing and he was able to use his pointer to draw attention to particular details. Special thanks are due to Peter for being willing to be a guinea pig for delivering talks to the Society by Zoom.

The number of linked devices was displayed on the screen and the highest number I saw was 42, suggesting that there were at least 50 people in attendance.

The border reivers: romance or reality?

a report by Mark Elliott

Maks Loth-Hill treated the Society to an excellent virtual evening on Thursday 15 April, with his clear and fascinating talk on the Border Reivers. He began with a brief summary of the earlier history of the Scottish-English border, not properly settled in roughly its present location until the Treaty of York in 1237. Edward I campaigned against revolutionary uprisings by William Wallace and Robert Bruce, staying at Lanercost in 1306, but it was his successor Edward II who fought and lost the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 which led to an abortive Scottish siege of Carlisle in the following year.

The sixteenth century was the main period of reiver activity. The region was sparsely populated,

even more so on the Scottish side, and poor. The law requiring inheritance to be divided among all male heirs intensified the impoverishment, and the resultant neglect of proper cultivation of the land and reliance instead on 'reiving' or robbery. This obtained on both sides of the border, where there was little respect for either the English or Scottish crown or authorities generally. It extended across all levels of society, from landowners to farm-hands, and was concentrated mostly on cattle theft. Raiding bands were generally between 12 and 50 strong, but the Armstrongs were said to be able to mobilise up to 3000 men. One account of a raid by a band of 79 riders from the Elliots in the 1580s spoke of enormous booty, including 3000 cattle and upwards of £1000. The display in Tullie House in Carlisle, which has a pavement with the incised names of all the main reiver families, includes the 'cursing stone' quoting the comprehensive and violent anathema against all reivers pronounced by the Bishop of Glasgow in 1525.

Counter-measures were taken. A system of wardens, rather like sheriffs, each controlling one of three 'marches' on

each side of the border, policed the application of laws valid on both sides and reported to the Privy Council. Patrols known as 'the hot trod' and identified by a lighted turf on the end of a spear - 'horn, hound, and hue & cry' - were sent out to recapture stolen goods. There were 'days of truce' for the settlement of grievances. But this did not always work. The famous tale of Kinmont Willie, taken illegally by the English side and subsequently rescued from Carlisle Castle by one Walter Scott, was developed into a romance by Walter Scott's more famous descendant of the same name, but based on fact.



Individuals fortified their homes, some in the form of pele towers still to be seen. Life went on, with farming in the summer months (winter was the reiving season), horse-racing enjoyed by all social levels, a violent form of football like uppies-&-downies. And the population was not only male; border women were described as 'fair, comely and pleasing' but also 'bold, in control of their households, and not distinguished for chastity'.

The accession of James I (VI of Scotland) in 1603 saw a resolution of the reiving problem within seven years, though there were isolated incidents thereafter. After 200 years the reivers had become figures of an idealised medieval past in the novels of Walter Scott. But the romance was based on reality.

Articles

The Medieval Chapel at Rannerdale

by Derek Denman

The recent and valuable talk to the Society by Peter Style, on the archaeological sites in the Crummock/Buttermere valley, covered many sites, among which was the deserted settlement at Rannerdale, formerly in Brackenthwaite. Peter mentioned the limited historical evidence for a chapel there, and a rectangular feature which might have been the footings of a chapel. Though the historical evidence for the chapel has been mentioned in publications by Angus Winchester and CML Bouch, it has not been set out in full.¹ Consequently, there is a danger that the chapel, which is historical fact, may be grouped with the features of the popular fantasy history of

Rannerdale. The purpose of this article is to set out the known historical facts and to offer some analysis of its role.

Historical records

There are three historical records relevant to the chapel. The first, and most recent, is the name Chapel Field for a close at Rannerdale, recorded in the Tithe Commutation of Brackenthwaite in 1844 and illustrated here with an extract from our township map of Brackenthwaite.² The map shows the small delta of good arable land deposited by Rannerdale Beck, which was the basis of the small medieval hamlet. In 1844 Chapel Field was a name which had outlasted the chapel by over 250 years, but which suggests that the chapel was near to the beck. Chapel field, and most of Rannerdale, was the property of Abigail Fisher and Faith Cass, deriving from the Sumptons and Fishers of Corn Howe. Rannerdale was uninhabited.

Going back in time, the next reference comes from the capital court of the manor of Derwentfells 9 May 1508. In translation from the Latin: 'They present ... the wife of Robert Jenkynson for a rescue on the guardians of the Chapel of Blessed Mary Magdalen at Rannerdall contrary to custom'.³ The wife was fined 12d, probably for recovering her animal which had been impounded by the chapel wardens, or guardians, for grazing in the wrong place or committing some other offence. Other records show that Rannerdale had at least one farmstead at this same time, occupied by the notorious Newcom family.⁴

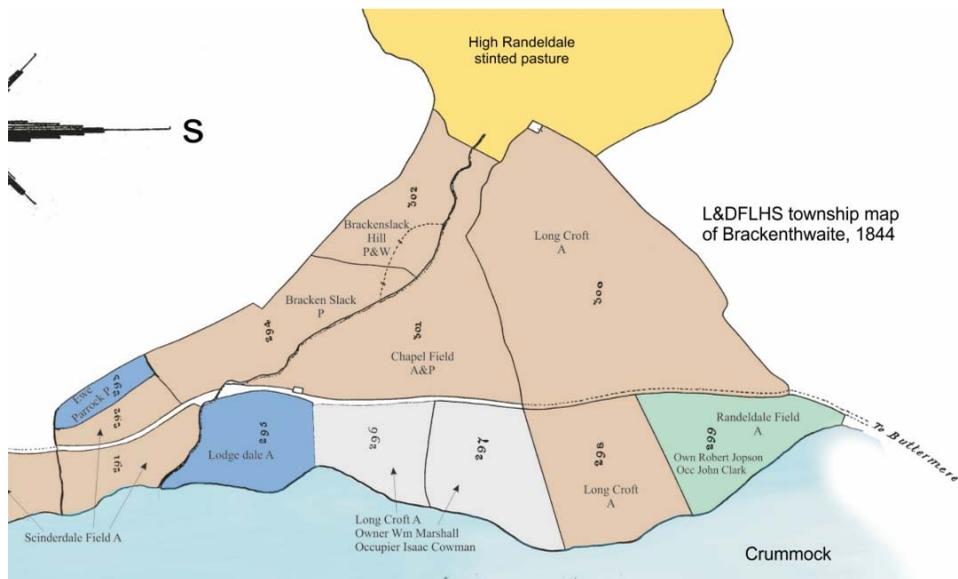
The final and earliest record comes from 1453, from the accounts for the manor of Loweswater. I am grateful to Angus Winchester for this transcription, the records at Cumbria Archives and Cockermouth Castle being currently

¹ Angus Winchester Ed., *Cumbria: an historical gazetteer*, 2016, p.63 or: <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/brackenthwaite>; Angus Winchester, *The language of the landscape*, 2019, p.189; CML Bouch, *Prelates and people of the Lake Counties*, 1948, pp.160&163.

² TNA/IR18/577 and IR30/7/27, Tithe Apportionment and Tithe Map for Brackenthwaite 1844.

³ CASW/D/Lec./299T, folio 194, Capital Court of Derwentfells, 9 May 23HenVII.

⁴ Angus Winchester *The language of the landscape*, 2019, p.189



inaccessible: *'super reparacione Capelle beate marie magdalene in Brakanthwayte ut in le bemefillyng (xxd.) infra dictam capellam cum selibracione unius missa ibidem (iiid.) in [...]. dicti marie magdalene hoc anno.*⁵ The manor of Loweswater had incurred costs in repairing the Chapel of the Blessed Mary Magdalene in Brackenthwaite, including 20d in filling the [wall-top spaces between the] beams within the said chapel, and 4d was contributed for a single mass there on the day or feast of Mary Magdalene.⁶

Curiously, this last item was included in the Loweswater accounts, rather than the Brackenthwaite accounts, for reasons unknown but unimportant. The manor itself had no responsibility to maintain a chapel. This would be the responsibility of the inhabitants and the owner of the advowson of the parish and its tithes. Brigham parish was monastic property and held by the College of St Mary's at Staindrop, leaving the Earl of

Northumberland with no formal responsibility.

Purpose and usage.

From the above, the chapel at Rannerdale, in Brackenthwaite, dedicated to Mary Magdalene was in use before 1453 and had been repaired at that date. It was in use in 1508, having chapel wardens. Its approximate location is confirmed by Chapel Field. Whom did it serve? It will have been a medieval chapel of ease within the parish of Brigham, and within the parochial chapelry of Lorton. St Cuthbert's Lorton, and its graveyard, also served Wythop, Brackenthwaite, Buttermere, and the eastern part of Whinfell, as far back in time as we know.

The immediate assumption would be that the chapel at Rannerdale served Brackenthwaite but went out of use when the hamlet at Rannerdale became deserted. That was by 1547.⁷ However, Rannerdale would make no sense for a location to serve just Brackenthwaite,

⁵ CASW/D/Lec./29/4, Minister's accounts 1453, Loweswater manor expenses.

⁶ I thank Hugh Thompson for help with the definition of beam filling.

⁷ Winchester *LOTL* p.189.

because it is at the extreme south and most thinly populated part of that manor or township. Chapels were placed to serve the population and were in the centre of gravity of the population at the time. Brackenthwaite manor was granted in the twelfth century, with boundaries at Rannerdale Hause and at the cultivated land of Lorton, or the Birketts closes, making the manor a strip of about six kilometres. A chapel for Brackenthwaite might have been more sensibly placed near Turner Howe.

A chapel at Rannerdale might have also served Buttermere, allowing the population in Brigham parish, south of Lorton, to choose between Lorton and Rannerdale. Bouch suggests an identity between Rannerdale and Buttermere, but it may be that a chapel at Buttermere, dedicated to St James, replaced the chapel at Rannerdale after the reformation.⁸ That

would correspond in time with the desertion of Rannerdale as a settlement, the land to be farmed from a distance. Both Buttermere and Wythop are only known as post-reformation chapels, in 1594 and 1606 respectively, served by readers.⁹ The generous sprinkling of Catholic chaplains in the records of pre-reformation Derwentfells does not seem to have translated into Protestant clergy.¹⁰

In 1884 Rannerdale and much else in Brackenthwaite was transferred from the ecclesiastical parish of Lorton to the new parish of Buttermere, except for the burials. The township and civil parish of Brackenthwaite lasted longer, until being engrossed in Buttermere in 1934.

Surveying a possible settlement sites at Rannerdale – photo Peter Style



⁸ Bouch, *Prelates and people*, pp.160&163.

⁹ Winchester *LOTL* p.257, Ron George, *A Cumberland Valley*, p.91.

¹⁰ CASW/D/Lec299T, has appearances by many chaplains in a secular context in our area, Ed IV to Hen VIII.

A house and its people; High Moor, Cockermouth

by Gloria Edwards

A house may be just bricks and mortar, but it is the people who live in it who create its history. I live in a house that has been home to many interesting characters, and it has been a source of great pleasure to research some of them over many years.

High Moor started life as Derwent View in the early 1860s. It appears on the 1863 O.S. map and was built in the Moor area of Cockermouth by Jonathan MITCHELL, brother of the founder of the Cockermouth Auction Co., Robinson Mitchell. The house stands on Hill Street which, until at least the 1990s, had no street sign to identify it. Back then I was told by an elderly neighbour that it was always known as Mary Hill, probably after Jonathan's wife Mary. Jonathan had a grocery and bacon-curing business on Main Street in the mid-19th century (our cellar still has meat hooks in the ceiling, presumably for the curing of bacon joints), and in those early days Robinson was living with Jonathan on Main Street over the shop. He was establishing his auction business, with sales of old furniture, timber and farming stock. Those early stock sales took place on the Main Street and in the yard round the back of Jonathan's shop. Robinson's growing business moved to the Fair Field in 1860, and in 1865 the Agricultural Hall was opened. Bernard Bradbury refers to it as probably the first such auction mart in Cumberland. Jonathan, meanwhile, had obviously been doing sufficiently well in business to be able to afford to have his own house built on the Moor.

Jonathan had started working life as a shoemaker in Embleton, but then moved into Cockermouth to trade as a provisions merchant and later as a seed merchant. He was regarded as kind-hearted and generous, and his obituary of 1877 notes:

He was no orator, but he had at his command a rare fund of common-sense and mother wit, to which he could give expression in his plain, vigorous, homely language, and the consequence was that his rising to speak at a public meeting of his fellow townsmen was always hailed with loud and hearty cheering.

He took an active part in town affairs, and was part of the committee that set about raising money for the erection of the statue on Main Street to commemorate the Earl of Mayo, a former M.P. for Cockermouth, and Viceroy and Governor-General of India, assassinated in February 1872 in the Andaman Islands. The statue was unveiled on 19 August 1875. Jonathan was also a founding member of the local Board of Health, was involved in the formation of the Cockermouth Tweed Mill Company, and served as one of the Guardians of the Poor. After the old All Saints Church was destroyed by fire in 1850, it was Jonathan who laid the first stone of the new building, which was consecrated in 1854. A memorial plaque to Jonathan can be found inside the Church:

To the glory of God and in memory of Jonathan Mitchell and other members of his family. This tablet is erected by his daughter.

Ann Jenkinson 1903

During Jonathan's lifetime, ships sailed to many parts of the world from Cumberland, and Jonathan held shares in nine vessels, including the 'Dovenby', built at Harrington by Richard Williamson for Peter Iredale, and launched on 20 January 1871. Jonathan's Will of 1877 shows that he also owned premises at Wigton, and Dubbs Meadow at Eaglesfield. Amongst his prized possessions was a large portrait of John Steel, M.P for Cockermouth from 1854 to 1868, which was painted by John Lewthwaite of the Cockermouth School of Painting. This portrait is now held by the Cockermouth Heritage Group.



High Moor in the time of Annie Aitken

After Jonathan's death in 1877, the house, by now known as The Knowe, was advertised for sale in the West Cumberland Times on 9 November 1878:

The Knowe, Cockermouth, a capital Residence, in perfect repair, agreeably secluded by Ornamental Shrubbery, and pleasantly situated within five minutes' walk of Railway Station, comprising Dining, Drawing and Breakfast Rooms, four good Bedrooms, Servant's Bedroom, Store Room, Bathroom, Kitchen, Cellars, Laundry detached and containing three Rooms, Two-stalled Stable, Coach-house, Harness Room and large and productive Orchard and Kitchen Garden. Possession Whitsuntide next. Apply for further particulars and permission to view to Mr Isaac Mitchell, Cockermouth.

For whatever reason the house was not sold but rented out for several years. The 1881 census shows Horace Robert WYNDHAM (widower), born in the East Indies, living at the house with daughters Zoe and Felicie, together with his widowed French mother, Marguerite Zoe du Vauthrin Wyndham. Four sons

(Charles, Horace, Percy and Henry) were away at Giggleswick School in Yorkshire. Horace was related to the Wyndham family of Cockermouth Castle and played an active role in Cockermouth life. Before moving to The Knowe he was living in Castle Street and owned the Castle Brewery – a year later it was bought by the Jennings family. Horace also owned Derwent Cottage (now demolished), which nestled at the foot of Cockermouth Castle, and in 1871 this was sold to Josiah Studholme. The ladies of the Studholme household were responsible for dealing with the Castle laundry, and most of the pictures of this cottage feature a long line of washing!

Horace served on the Board of Health in Cockermouth (along with Jonathan Mitchell), and on the School Board. He was Captain of the Fire Brigade, and instrumental in the development of the New Road (Station Street). Several buildings on Main Street had to be demolished to cut a way through for the creation of the new Station Street and Station Road, with the coming of the passenger railway service in 1865. When Horace died in 1883, at the Hotel Kirsh Mustapha Superieur in Algiers, his children came under the



Derwent Cottage

guardianship of a Sir Toby Playfair of London. All of them went to live in the USA. Both girls married Americans – Zoe married Walter Launt Palmer, a renowned American Impressionist artist, famous for his snow scenes.

Zoe Wyndham



Zoe's brother Percy studied at Queen's College, Oxford, which had been founded by Robert of Eaglesfield back in the 14th century, and in Percy's Will he left property at Moorland Close, Eaglesfield, to the College, the proceeds from which were to be used to establish two scholarships to be known as the Wyndham Scholarships. He recognised the benefit he himself had received from scholarships received during his time at Queen's College. Percy also remembered his old school and established two scholarships at Giggleswick School. Percy had worked as a Commissioner in the Indian Civil Service, and besides property in India, he also left estates in what was then known as Tanganyika, East Africa. Sister Felicie came back to Cockermouth in later years from America and died at 'Latterhead', Loweswater, in 1947.

The next person of note to rent the house was a redoubtable lady called Annie AITKEN. My first interest in the house had been stirred after reading a newspaper article back in the 1980s about a Cumbrian lady who had arranged for the shipping of an Inca mummy from South America. It suddenly dawned on me that the article was about a woman who had lived in our house. The Knowe



Annie Aitken

had been bought in 1912 by Annie's son, Claude Aitken, but it was his mother who lived there whilst he continued working in South America. Mrs Aitken had returned from South America where, for many years, she had lived as part of the British community in Lima, Peru.

Mrs Aitken's two sons, Claude and Harold, were born there but sent away to Europe to be educated. The latter part of this education was at a Jesuit college in Melle, Belgium. Mrs Aitken had wanted to show her appreciation to the College for their efforts with her sons' education and arranged for the shipment of a mummy, on the ship 'Corcovado' under the care of Captain Foxe (who would become her second husband). The mummy, intriguingly called Pocahontas II, according to the little booklet acquired from Melle Library, was destined for the College's small museum. Sadly, the box containing the mummy was intercepted by railway staff in London, police were called to investigate a 'body' that had

been found in a packing-case, and the story became headline news in both the British and European press. By the time the mummy had arrived in Belgium it had started to decompose and had to be buried rather quickly in the local cemetery – all except for one withered hand that was duly delivered to the College and placed on display in the museum. Mrs Aitken sued the railway company for damage to her 'property', and in the ensuing court case legal arguments centred around whether a mummy could be owned – was it a body or was it a piece of property? If it was the latter, when did it cease to be a body? Mrs Aitken won her case and was awarded £75.

Her son Claude (christened Claudio Cuthbert Rubio Aitken) came back from South America, where he had been Manager of a nitrates company, the Compañia de Salitres y Ferrocarril de Agna Santa, a company also involved in the building of the Antofagasta Railway between Chile and Bolivia. There is a picture of Claude being presented to the then Prince of Wales in 1931 during the Prince's tour of South America. During WWII Claude was Chief Billeting Officer for Cockermouth and it was his responsibility to find homes for the many evacuees who arrived here. In July 1940 300 children arrived from South Shields at Cockermouth Railway Station. On other occasions Mr Aitken would find people on his doorstep, needing to be housed. Not everyone was keen to house evacuees, as some of the many letters sent to Mr Aitken show, including one lady who protested that her maid wasn't used to dealing with children and had too much other work to do!

The Knowe also had two evacuees of its own for the duration of the war: Michael Potts and John McGivern, who came from Gateshead. The small cottage in the garden of The Knowe was used as a Toc H headquarters, and Claude held meetings there in his role as ARP Warden for the Moor area. Claude's sister-in-law Edith also shared the house during the war

years, after the death of husband Harold, and she was Matron Warden at 'Strathearn' on Castlegate, looking after evacuees who were ill or who had nowhere else to live. Harold Aitken, her husband, had lived and worked in South Africa. He was an outstanding sportsman who played at Wimbledon one year in the Gentlemen's Singles (beaten by an American in the second round). He also played for South Africa in the Davis Cup, and held the tennis championship of Cumberland (West Cumberland Times, 28.6.1919). An interesting discovery was that Claude and Harold were second cousins to Lord Beaverbrook (William Maxwell Aitken). Claude died in the Cottage Hospital in 1945 and was buried in Cockermouth Cemetery.

The house again started a new chapter and also acquired a new name, now known as High Moor. Captain T W MACDONALD and his family were the new owners, and had moved from Bridekirk Hall (now demolished) into Cockermouth. Capt. Macdonald had married Molly Jefferson, of Hundith Hill before going off to fight in WWI. He served in the Border Regiment with great distinction, was wounded in 1915, and was awarded the D.S.O. in 1918, as well as receiving three mentions in despatches. Sadly, his wife Molly fell victim to the flu pandemic of 1918. He later married Mary and served his community in many different ways, finally becoming Deputy Lieutenant for Cumberland just before his death in 1948.

Mary remained at High Moor for several years, joined by other relatives. One of these was William Dawson Dickson, well known in Cockermouth for his service with the Boys' Brigade for many years. What is perhaps not so well



Captain T W Macdonald

known is his connection with Lawrence of Arabia, for whom Dawson was a driver during WWI in the Middle East. During the Macdonald family's time at High Moor the house was often the location for fund-raising garden parties, supporting All Saints Church and the Cottage Hospital. We have a charming piece of cine film passed on to us of such an event.

We also have a gravestone, now removed from the garden and placed in the greenhouse. This was, hopefully, erected in memory of a four-legged friend rather than the two-legged variety:

IN MEMORY OF POOR OLD TINKER, DIED
OCTOBER 8TH, 1892

High Moor has been an amazing place to live, warts and all, and its history goes on. I will always be mindful that, living in an older house, makes one a custodian as much as an owner.

**More about Joseph William
Hardisty, joiner of Low
Lorton, 1875-1966.**

In the February Wanderer we published a short article about Joseph Hardisty of Low Lorton, joiner and cartwright. Three people responded with more information, which is included below.

From Kendall Wood Bruce.

My name is Kendall Wood Bruce from Lamplugh and I was most interested to read your article on J W Hardisty, Joiner. "Uncle Jos" as my late mother used to call him!

He was married to my Grandfather's sister. He was also a shoemaker and called Joseph, a prominent figure in Lamplugh. My mother was also called Mary Isabel, obviously after his daughter who died. We have traced the Woods back to the 16th century in Lamplugh.

I well remember his daughter Gladys Irene. I struggled at first because everybody knew her as 'Renee'. Also she

**The child's rocking chair made by J W
Hardisty in oak about 1944 – photos
Kendall Wood Bruce**



**Kendall Wood Bruce in the chair,
aged two.**

married again after the death of her first husband. Her first husband was Wilson Pharaoh and they owned The Wasdale Head hotel until his illness and death. I have a postcard of the Hotel sent to my mother when I was born in 1944 congratulating her on the birth of a son and saying 'no idea where Wilson is, I think somewhere in France'.

J W Hardisty was responsible for building the Dance Hall on the Tip pub in Lamplugh for the Wood family. The woodwork inside and especially the king-post roof were marvellous as befits a Master Craftsman.

I also have in my possession a miniature Rocking Chair made by Joe when I was a baby. I have a photo of me in it and we have taken photos of our two grandchildren!

I was born in Brook House as was my sister. Our two 2 children were also born there!

From Lena Stanley-Clamp

I enjoyed reading about J W Hardisty of Low Lorton. I had a quick look in the newspapers and found the following from the West Cumberland Times, Saturday 1 February 1908:

MARRIAGE OF MISS M. A. WOOD, LAMPLUGH.

Considerable local interest was manifested in a wedding which took place at Lamplugh Church on Wednesday, the contracting parties being Miss M. A. Wood, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonth. Wood, of Brook House, and Mr. J. W. Hardisty, of Lorton. Miss Wood is well known to the local music circle, and, in addition to being a member of the Lamplugh Church Choir, has made many successful appearances on concert platforms. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. S. S. Craig. There was a large congregation. The bride looked charming in a costume of navy blue, with hat to match. She carried a lovely shower bouquet, and wore a gold bangle set with diamonds and rubies, the gifts of the bridegroom. Her sister, Miss H. Wood, bridesmaid, was becomingly attired in a costume of brown, with hat to match. The bridegroom's gift to the bridesmaid was a diamond and ruby ring. As the bride entered the church, the choir sang, 'The voice that breathed o'er Eden'. The bridegroom was attended by his cousin, Mr. H. E. Hardisty (Maryport) and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Henry Wood. Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played by Mr. Craig as the bridal party left the church. The reception and breakfast were held at Brook House.

From Adam Baker

Having recently moved to Woodlands, we were clearing out an old cupboard and came across a small piece of wood. The wood was inscribed in pencil with 'J W Hardisty Whinfell Hall May 8th 1933'. We did not know who JWH was but subsequently gave the piece to Whinfell Hall - we understood that he may have lived there at some point. We imagined that JWH must have carried out some work at Woodlands and for some reason decided to leave his name and date. While renovating parts of Woodlands, I do exactly the same thing, sign and date something that will never be seen unless it's undergoing some major redevelopment; hopefully in 100 years or so! A sort of time capsule if you like. So it was then a real pleasure to read the article on J W Hardisty in the last edition of the *Wanderer* and discover that he was the local joiner. Whatever he was doing in May 1933, he obviously felt proud enough or compelled to leave his details one Monday to be found in decades to come. Or maybe he was just excited that less than a week earlier, for the first time, a 'strange spectacle' had been spotted in Loch Ness!

**The signed piece of scrap wood found by Adam Baker at Woodlands, Rogerscale. In 1933 J W Hardisty lived at Whinfell Hall.
Photo Adam Baker.**



The Spencer-Bells of Fawe Park on Derwentwater

by Lena Stanley-Clamp

The country houses of Cumbria have many stories to tell about local history and their owners. This article continues the history of Mary Ann Bell, who in 1865 inherited the South Lodge estate in Cockermouth on the death of her father Jeremiah Spencer.¹ After inheriting the Spencer fortune, James Bell (1818–1872) and his wife Mary Ann (1831–1891) adopted the name Spencer-Bell.

From Hundith Hill to Westminster

The Bell family farm at Hundith Hill near Embleton was said to have been in their hands since the time of Henry VIII. The Bells were among the first Cumberland Quakers. John Bell (1625 – 1670) became a Quaker in c.1653 when George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, preached in Cumberland.² Jonathan Bell (1654–1721), who inherited the farm from his father John, married Rebecca Hall (1654 – 1732) of Little Broughton in 1679. Jonathan became the Governor (steward) of Cockermouth Castle around 1700. He was devoted to his employer the Duke of Somerset and remained in this post for the rest of his life. Jonathan and Rebecca had ten children. Rebecca was 'a religious woman and very careful of the morals of her children'.³

Three generations later we find descendants of the family established in London. John Bell (1774 – 1849) founded the prestigious John Bell & Croyden pharmacy in Oxford Street, which trades in central London to this day, where the staff were given time for recreation, religious observance and study.⁴ John Bell and his elder son Jacob (1810-59) were



Ordnance Survey map of Fawe Park, 1898

pioneering pharmaceutical chemists, who played a key role in establishing pharmacy as a profession. Together with his father, Jacob was a founder of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1841 and served as its President. He was also the founding editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and

¹ See 'From Antigua to Cockermouth: The Story of South Lodge and its Residents', Wanderer, August 2020.

² The sources for vital data and residence include England & Wales Quaker BMD Registers, Civil Registration BMD Indexes and England censuses.

³ A handwritten account of the Bell family by Jacob Bell, 1787. From a transcript by Samuel Gurney, January 1908, L&DFLHS archive.

⁴ <https://johnbellcroyden.co.uk/blogs/about-us/our-history-through-the-ages>.

something of a workaholic. From 1850 to 1852 he served as a Whig Member of Parliament for St Albans. Jacob was a close friend and patron of prominent Victorian artists, such as Edwin Landseer and William Powell Firth, commissioning many of their works. Landseer relied on Jacob for moral support and the management of his affairs. Jacob Bell's home, frequented by Thackeray and Dickens among others, was reputed to look like an art gallery. He bequeathed sixteen paintings from his collection to the nation.⁵ The day of Jacob Bell's funeral, all the London pharmacies closed as a sign of respect.⁶



Fawe Park, photo by Angela Irving

The Spencer-Bells in London and on Derwentwater

Jacob's younger brother, James Bell, was a Liberal Party politician who served as a Member of Parliament for Guilford from 1852 until 1857.⁷ The following year James married Mary Ann Spencer of South Lodge at the Quaker Meeting House in Cockermouth. James trained as an architect, but did not practise long in his profession. In 1850 he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and its honorary secretary.⁸ Over the years he contributed several papers on architecture, which were read at RIBA's general meetings. He also contributed to RIBA's programme of lectures. James was 'much travelled and indefatigable with his

pen', and active in a number of benevolent associations. He was an Elder of the Westminster and Keswick Meetings of the Society of Friends.⁹

The Spencer-Bells lived at One Devonshire Place, Marylebone, in a fashionable London street, and at Fawe Park on Derwentwater, a large Victorian country house designed by the renowned architect Alfred Waterhouse. The later addition of a nursery wing was designed by James himself. Fawe Park was built for James Bell in 1856-8 on the land previously owned by Sir John Woodford. The grounds overlooked the lake and were adjacent to woodland and pastures.

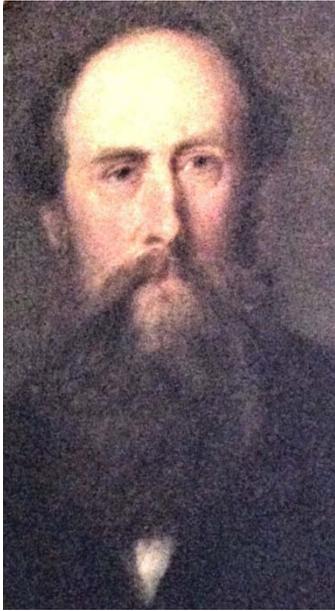
⁵ The Tate Gallery catalogue.

⁶ *Pharmaceutical Journal*, Vol. 279, 22 December 2007.

⁷ hansard.millbanksystems.com/people/mr-james-bell and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Spencer-Bell.

⁸ *Directory of British Architects 1834-1914*, vol. 2.

⁹ Obituary of James Spencer-Bell delivered in the 1872 Presidential address, *RIBA Proceedings 1872/3*, vol. 2. and *Annual Monitor of the Society of Friends*, 1873.



James Spencer-Bell, c.1870, artist unknown

The 1861 census provides an insight into their London household. James, the head of the family, was then aged 42, and described as a landed proprietor and architect, not practising. His wife Mary Ann was 29; their first child, Adelaide Eliza (1859-1922), was one-year-old. The servants included a butler, a cook, a nurse, an under-nurse, a housemaid and a coachman. The couple had four more children: James Frederick (1863-86), Helen Joanna (1865-1927), Juliet (1866-1967) and Hubert John (1869-88).

James's many interests included the arts and museums. His maiden speech in the House of Commons concerned objections to the proposed relocation of the National Gallery to Kensington. In 1854 he spoke in the House of Commons on the building of the new Houses of Parliament and on the collections policy of the British Museum. James and Mary Ann



Mary Ann Spencer-Bell, c.1870, artist unknown

were patrons of Victorian artists. After the death of his brother Jacob, it was James who helped Edwin Landseer manage his financial affairs. The London papers reported in 1867 that James Spencer-Bell lent several paintings by William Hunt and W.R. Frith to the South Kensington Museum for the public to enjoy during the Christmas holidays.¹⁰

James Spencer-Bell's role in public life comes to light again in relation to the 1870 Elementary Education Act (known at the time as the Forster Act after its sponsor), the first legislation to deal specifically with the provision of education in Britain. The Act allowed voluntary schools to remain unchanged, but established a system of school boards to build and manage schools where they were needed. The boards were locally elected and funded from local rates.

¹⁰ *London Evening Standard*, 26 December 1867.

Religious teaching in the board schools was to be non-denominational.¹¹

In May 1870, James was a member of the deputation from the Society of Friends to William Gladstone and William E. Forster in Downing Street. A document representing the views of the Society on the proposed legislation was handed to the prime minister. The Society considered it essential that public funding should not be applied in support of sectarian teaching. It stated that 'the teaching of any denominational catechism, or of the peculiar religious doctrines of any Church or sect, should be absolutely prohibited, it being our deliberate conviction that the public support of such teaching involves and would be felt to be a direct infringement of religious liberty'.¹²

James's health declined in his last years. He died on 22 February 1872, aged 53, at his London home.¹³ The probate of his will granted on 8 April 1872 recorded that his effects were valued at under £30,000. He left most of his estate to Mary Ann in trust for their children and their issue. The estate at Fawe Park was left to her for use during her life and on her death to be inherited by the eldest son James Frederick. James made a special provision for the care of their younger son Hubert, who was mentally disabled. He also bequeathed £3,000 to charitable institutions to be distributed at the discretion of his executors.¹⁴ Mary Ann, aged 41, became the head of the family with five young children. As a widow, she had the legal right to own and manage her property. It should be noted that the Married Women's Property Act of 1870 had by then secured some improvements in the rights of married women. The



Adelaide Fox with her grandson, Desmond Pemberton-Pigott, c. 1920

subsequent Act of 1882 gave married women full control over their property and income.

Mary Ann and her children continued to live in London and at Fawe Park. The diary of the eldest daughter, Adelaide, for 1872-3 when she was aged thirteen, provides some information about their life: visiting the extended family and friends, attending Quaker meetings and going for walks in Hyde Park. School,

¹¹ The 1870 Education Act, www.parliament.uk.

¹² *Leeds Mercury*, 16 May 1870.

¹³ *Annual Monitor*, 1872; Probate document, 8 April 1872.

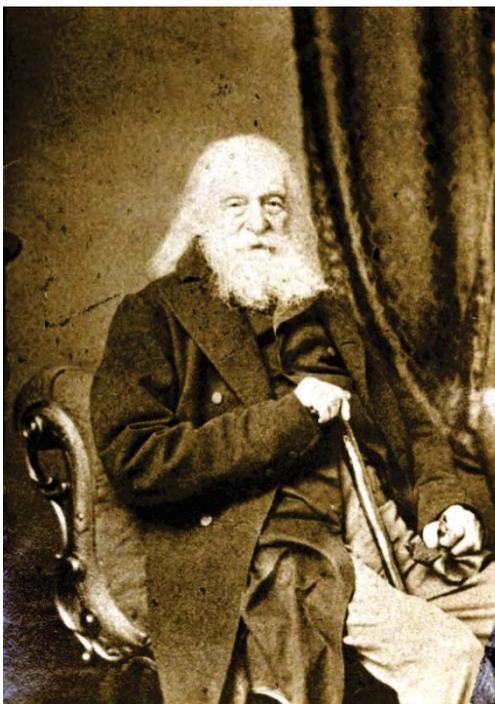
¹⁴ Will dated 31 Aug 1864 with a codicil dated 19 Apr 1865.

croquet, and singing were also mentioned.¹⁵ There were visits to the Royal Academy and to Sir Edwin Landseer and his sister Jessie, who was a particular friend. A visit to Bernardo's, then a recently founded charity for destitute children, received a well-deserved mention. A high point of their London social life happened later, in 1886, when Mary Ann and her daughters were presented to Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace.¹⁶

When at Fawe Park, the family went boating or rowed across the lake to Keswick. Adelaide refers to her siblings as Nellie, Freddy, Doulie and Bertie.¹⁷ She also mentions her aunt, Eliza Bell (1808-1886), who owned the Brandelhow estate on Derwentwater. In 1879 Eliza Bell conveyed the lands at Brandelhow Park to Mary Ann 'for reasons of affection'.¹⁸

Sir John George Woodford, a friend of the people

Adelaide's diary mentions a friend of the family, Sir John George Woodford, on a number of occasions. This fascinating character deserves to be remembered here. The young Adelaide was very fond of him; she bought a present for his 88th birthday and worried about his salvation as a Christian. This most benevolent of men was probably an agnostic. Major-General John George Woodford KCB (1785–1879) served in the Napoleonic Wars and was Wellington's aide-de-camp at Waterloo. He played an important role in military reforms, was a passionate opponent of corporal punishment and generally concerned about the welfare of the common soldier. In 1818, he did valuable archaeological work in the area surrounding the Battle of Agincourt which earned him a reputation as the first battlefield archaeologist. After inheriting



Sir John Woodford, photograph by P B Abraham, Keswick, 1875

in 1841 Lord William Gordon's picturesque estates on the Western shore of Derwentwater, he retired from the army and settled at Waterend House for the next 40 years.¹⁹

Sir John lived very simply like a soldier in camp. He pursued antiquarian research, surrounded by his vast collection of books, maps, coins and engravings. His ambition was to produce a guide to the antiquities of Cumberland, but he had too many matters on his mind to achieve this goal. Although he lived a secluded life, he kept in constant correspondence with the wider world. In

¹⁵ Adelaide's diary, in a private archive.

¹⁶ *London Evening Standard*, 6 May 1886.

¹⁷ Adelaide's diary, 1872-73, in a private archive.

¹⁸ Indenture dated 14 June 1879, mentioned in Mary Ann's will of 1887.

¹⁹ J. Fisher Crosthwaite, *Brief Memoir of Major-General Sir John George Woodford KCB, KCH, a Paper Read to the Keswick Literary and Scientific Society*, 29 March 1880, London, W. Kent & Co, 1881.

1845, Sir John submitted to the government his views on the re-establishment of the militia, urging that corporal punishment not be practiced. In a later submission, he argued for a fairer recruitment system. He believed that the poorer classes ought to be exempt from serving in the militia, other than by voluntary agreement. The following events demonstrate his commitment to local people and justice.

Sir John was incensed about the unfair tithe award of £100 that was claimed from the freeholders of Borrowdale on the basis of a thirteenth century endowment to the Crosthwaite Church. While this was a small matter to himself, Sir John established by careful research that the farmers should have been exempt, like the owner of Monk Hall in Keswick who successfully appealed against it. Sir John published a tract, *To the Gentlemen and Yeomen of Borrowdale*, advising them against 'giving up the birthrights of your children'. He also made an application on the 28 May 1845 to the Court of the Queen's Bench at Westminster. However, his application was read on the last day of the Court's session, when only a quarter of his affidavit was read, and the case was dismissed. Sir John concluded 'there is one law for the rich and another for the poor'.

Two years later Sir John published an answer to the Vicar's Notice of Distrain for Tithes: 'I deny that the rent charge demanded by the Vicar is morally, lawfully or fairly due to him; and I look forward to the recovery of the rights of the parish according to justice and the laws'. He refused to pay as a matter of principle. Every year the Tithe Collector would seize one particular cow of Sir John's that came to be called 'the Vicar's cow'. It was sold on the spot to Sir John for the sum demanded, which was paid together with a gift of one crown to the collector. This business went on year-by-year.

Sir John went to extraordinary lengths in a dispute over timber waste on his estate in 1859 when he showed his solidarity with the ordinary people and irreverence for the courts. After disposing five years earlier of his rights to the waste on the estate to some individuals (who must have paid money for this), he apparently allowed the collection and felling of timber for fuel by some unspecified others. The matter came to court in February 1859 when he was served with an injunction forbidding him to allow any timber waste on the estate. It seems he ignored this injunction and consequently Sir John, then 74, was committed to the Queen's Bench Prison on 4 June 1859 for contempt of court. He was eventually discharged on 16 June after undertaking to respect the original injunction and to pay the costs.

He came before the court again in October 1859, when 'the Master of the Rolls explained to Sir John Woodford personally the danger he incurred, and the impropriety he was guilty of, not obeying the injunction of the Court, and on Sir John then promising greater deference to the order of the Court than he had previously displayed, he was discharged'. However, the timber was again felled, and Sir John Woodford, 'finding himself in custody, came in person to explain in open court that he never intended to show disrespect to the Court, and that it was not timber, but merely kind of underwood, or coal crop, that he had permitted to be cut away. The Master of the Rolls would not, however, entertain any of the excuses made by Sir John for his seeming indifference to the orders of the Court after the previous explanations and warnings that had been given him, and ordered him back, with some acerbity, to whence he came'.²⁰

Sir John lived to the grand old age of 94. He would be remembered for 'the excellence of his disposition, his sterling integrity, and his moral worth'.²¹ He was

²⁰ *Carlisle Patriot*, 25 June 1859 and *Carlisle Journal*, 11 November 1859.

²¹ J. Fisher Crosthwaite, op. cit.

interred in the Crosthwaite Churchyard with full military honours. 'The day of his funeral every shop in Keswick was closed, and along the route all blinds were drawn. The flag on the Church tower was seen floating at half-mast, and the mournful knell tolled from the belfry'. All the local gentry and 'many trades people and others attended anxious to pay the last tribute of respect to one whom they regarded as more than a friend'. As the corpse was carried into the church, Mrs Spencer-Bell placed a second wreath on the coffin.²²

Two years later, the 1881 census reported all the Spencer-Bell family present at Fawe Park: Mary Ann, the head of the household and a landowner whose age was given as 46 (she was 49) and her five children: Adelaide, 21; Frederick 17 (who was a scholar at Clifton College); Helen, 16; Juliet 14 and Hubert, 12. Mary Ann's sister-in-law Eliza Bell, 73, was also there. The household included five servants: a butler, a cook, a nurse, an under-nurse and a housemaid.

The papers mention Mary Ann's involvement in charitable projects in Keswick. In August 1878, she joined other local ladies in the patronage of an annual bazaar to raise funds in aid of a Museum of Local Natural History and of the School of Art. Assisted by her daughters she ran the refreshments stall which offered exotic fruit and other fare. In April 1881, Mary Ann's name appeared also on the list of ladies who volunteered to help with a bazaar in aid of the Fitz Restoration Ground project.²³ The driving force behind the creation of Fitz Park as a public amenity was Henry Irwin Jenkinson, the author of the *Jenkinson's Practical Guide to the Lakes* (1872), who was also a champion of free access to the fells.

Tragedy on Derwent Water

Life at Fawe Park came to an abrupt halt with a tragic accident on 9 September 1886. James Frederick Spencer-Bell, aged 22, and his friend Edward Rathbone, 27, drowned while sailing on Derwent Water in Frederick's yacht. Several attempts at rescue were made when the boat capsized but they were thwarted by the stormy weather. The inquest revealed that the bodies were found 100 yards offshore and that the boat had too much sail for the state of the weather. James Frederick was reputed to have been a good swimmer but was probably rendered unconscious by an injury to the head. At the inquest, the foreman of the Jury, Rev. Hardwicke Drummond Rawnsley, conveyed the gratitude of Mrs Spencer-Bell and the Rathbone family for the assistance given by the people of Keswick in the search and rescue attempts. Frederick was buried at Crosthwaite churchyard. The burial service was performed by Rev. Rawnsley and Rev. J. S. Ostle, with a very large number of people in attendance. The grave was filled with flowers to the depth of two or three feet. A muffled peal of church bells was rung.²⁴

A subscription was launched in Oxford in memory of James Frederick Spencer-Bell, an undergraduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and a fellow undergraduate from Ireland, who died in the same year, also aged 22.²⁵ The sum of £250 was subscribed 'by many who loved them'. This was entrusted to the Council of the Universities Settlement Association to be expended in annual payments to their fund for providing country holidays for poor London children. A bronze plaque in their memory was placed in Toynbee Hall in the East End of London.²⁶

²² *English Lakes Visitor*, 29 March 1879.

²³ *English Lakes Visitor*, 31 August 1878, 2 April 1881.

²⁴ *Morning Post*, 13 September 1886; *Carlisle Patriot* and *Carlisle Journal*, 17 September 1886.

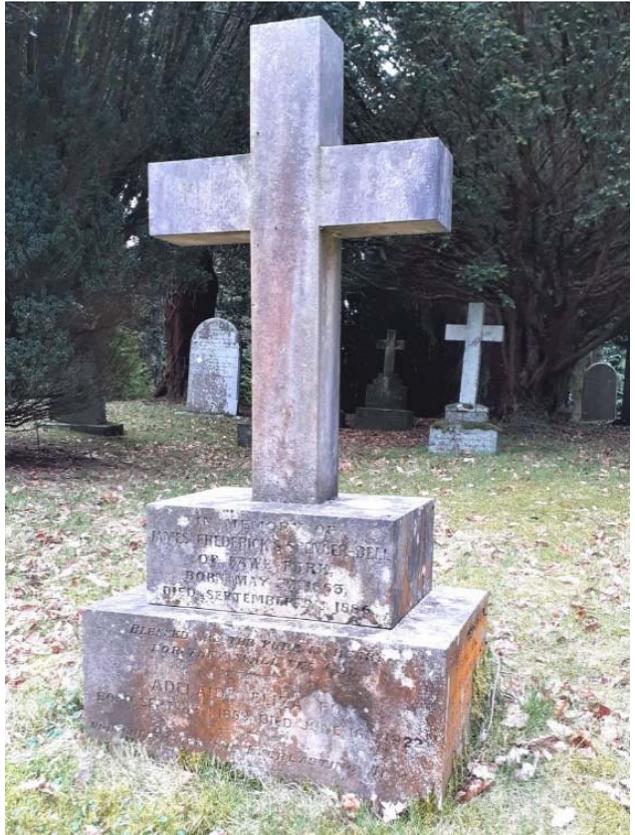
²⁵ Joseph Foster, *Oxford Men and their Colleges*, 1893.

²⁶ *English Lakes Visitor*, 16 July 1887.

The dispute over the right of way

A bitter conflict began in 1885 between Mrs Spencer-Bell and campaigners for public access to an old track on the Fawe Park estate when access was blocked on the grounds that it invaded the owner's privacy. The track ran very close to the house but had been used by riders and pedestrians since it was made.²⁷ The traffic would have increased noticeably from the 1860s with the introduction of the railway line to Keswick and the beginnings of mass tourism. Discussions with Mrs Spencer-Bell were suspended in 1886 after the loss of her son in the accident on Derwent Water. They continued in 1887 but made no progress. The Keswick Footpath Preservation Association (KFPA), with Rev. Rawnsley as president and Henry I. Jenkinson as secretary, had much public support. The Association sought legal opinion which concluded that the KFPA had a strong case. On 30 August, a group of people led by Jenkinson and Routh Fitzpatrick (a leading member of the Association) walked through the estate to remove the barriers erected by the owner. They were confronted by Mary Ann Spencer-Bell. She made an impassioned speech referring to her recent bereavement and how saddened she was by the actions taken against her. Apologies for the distress caused were offered, but the barriers were removed and the group walked along the path.

Mrs Spencer-Bell re-instated the barriers but did not take legal action for trespass. At a meeting on 21 September,



The grave of James Frederick Spencer-Bell and other members of the family at Crosthwaite Churchyard

the KFPA voted to restate their rights to use the Fawe Park path and announced that they would remove the barriers on 28 September. A crowd of 500 people marched to the estate that day and the barriers were removed once again. Mrs Spencer-Bell decided not to proceed with any legal action and the path remained open to the public.²⁸

²⁷ See also 'Lord Gordon and the picturesque occupation of Derwentwater in 1780' by Derek Denman, *Transactions C&WAAS*, xiv, 2014, pp. 207-230.

²⁸ *English Lake Visitor*, 10 September 1887 and www.hdrawnsley.com/index.php/conservation/keswick-footpaths-disputes.

A much happier occasion was recorded in the press the following summer when members of the Wesleyan Band of Hope from Cockermouth had their annual trip to Derwent Water. The use of the private land had been granted by Mrs Spencer-Bell. Tea was made ready and 'the cups that cheer, but not inebriate, were handed round by the ladies while the gentlemen made a distribution of buns [...]. Games and competitions were indulged in during the afternoon and evening'.²⁹

One more insight into Mary Ann's household at Fawe Park can be gleaned from the 1891 census. She was living there with her two younger daughters Helen and Juliet, as well as the German-born lady's companion, Henrietta Schenck, and six servants. Her daughter Adelaide was by then married.

Mary Ann Spencer-Bell died at her London home in 1 Devonshire Place on 16 August 1891. She was buried at the Quaker burial ground in Winchmore Hill, Enfield. In her will dated 19 March 1887, she stated that as a consequence of 'the lamented decease of my dearly beloved son James Frederick' she divided her estate between her three daughters upon trust for them and their issue. The Swinside estate was left to Adelaide Eliza Fox, who inherited Fawe Park. The South Lodge mansion house and estate 'erected and occupied by my father Jeremiah Spencer Esquire' was bequeathed to Helen Joanna. This bequest included all the lands on the east of the River Cocker as well as properties in Cockermouth, Embleton, Broughton and Wigton. The youngest daughter Juliet inherited the Brandelhow estate. In her will Mary Ann mentioned the provision made by 'my late dear husband' for their disabled younger son Hubert, which she considered sufficient (in fact, he predeceased her in 1888). The residue of her property was left in trust for her daughters and their issue. In default of

issue several charities were due to receive large bequests. Smaller bequests ranging from an annuity to sums of £50-100 and one-year's wages were left to servants. The details of the will were widely reported in the press. The probate revealed that the value of her personal estate was £50,904.³⁰

All three Spencer-Bell daughters married. Adelaide, married the playwright Samuel Middleton Fox in a Quaker ceremony at the Westminster Meeting House in 1887. He later served in the Cumberland Voluntary Battalions of the Border Regiment, which was rather incompatible with Quaker ethics. Juliet married Colonel Edmond Grove-Hills at St George's Church in Hanover Square in Marylebone in 1892. Helen married Louis Hilary Shore Nightingale in 1903 at All Saints Church in Kensington. In common with many upper-class Quaker families of the time, the Spencer-Bells' strong ties to the Quaker tradition dwindled away. Fawe Park became the home of Adelaide Fox and her family. Their descendants live there to this day.

The history of the Spencer-Bell family recounted here covers a span of 250 years: from their farming roots in Embleton to the sophistication of London society and life at Fawe Park. The late 19th century brought reforms and change. The small market town of Keswick became a centre of mass tourism; institutions were founded such as the new Keswick Museum (built in 1898), the School of Industrial Art (1883-4), and public amenities such as Fitz Park which opened in 1887. In 1902, the acquisition by public subscription of the Brandelhow estate, once in the ownership of the Spencer-Bell family, marked the birth of the National Trust in the Lake District.

The author wishes to thank Caroline Ainscough for sharing the family portraits and Adelaide's diary.

²⁹ *West Cumberland Times* 11 August 1888.

³⁰ Will dated 19 March 1887 with codicil of 1 August 1891 and probate dated 31 October 1891.

Fawe Park, from wooded hill to iconic Dewentwater property

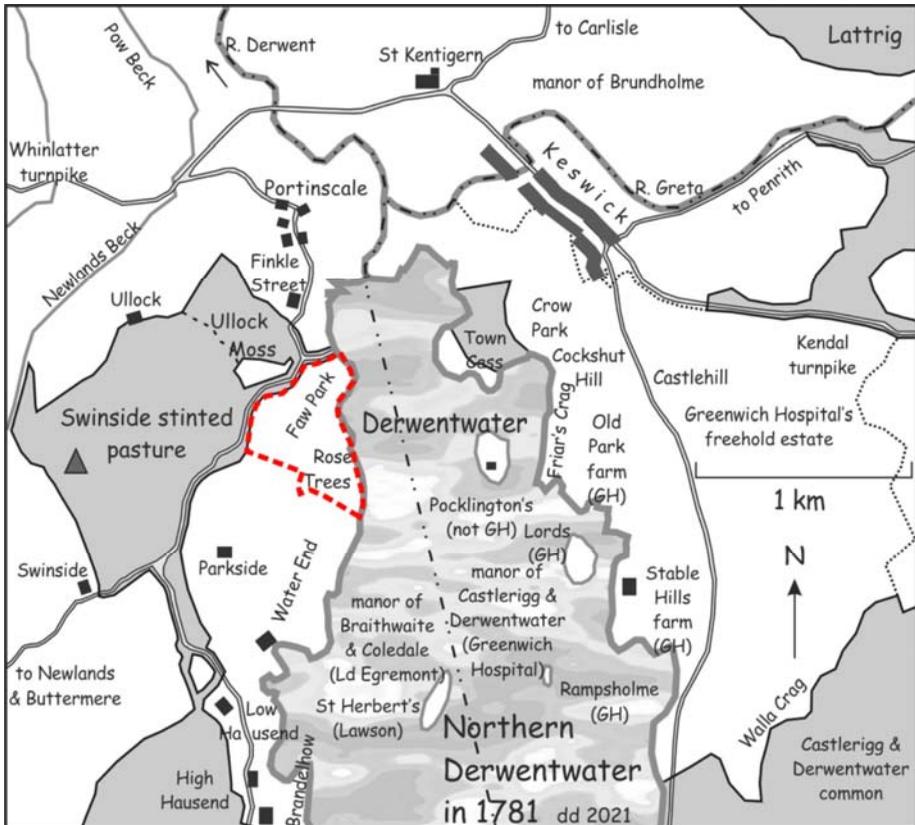
by Derek Denman

This issue of the Wanderer includes an article by Lena Stanley-Clamp which follows the life of Mary Anne Spencer. She was born at South Lodge in Cockermouth, later to be mistress of her country residence at Fawe Park, on Derwentwater, as Mrs Spencer-Bell. Fawe Park is a hill 124m high on the north-western shore of Derwentwater, close to Portinscale. The house was built in 1856-8 for James Bell before his marriage, on an estate which

had reached an iconic status through the 'discovery' of the English Lakes from around 1750. This article provides some of the history of the Fawe Park, from a wooded hill with deer in the early sixteenth century up to its inclusion in the Water End Estate of Lord William Gordon, which became the inheritance of his nephew, General Sir John Woodford.

Not Keswick, but Cockermouth.

In the new Pevsner the late Matthew Hyde includes the mansions around Derwentwater under Keswick, which is a lasting consequence of that market town becoming the main visitor centre for the northern lakes.¹ Keswick 'on



¹ Matthew Hyde & Nikolaus Pevsner, *The buildings of England: Cumbria*, 2010.

Derwentwater' now owns Derwentwater culturally, but in no other formal sense. Fawe Park is now in the extensive civil parish of Above Derwent, which includes the old township of Portinscale. Ecclesiastically, Fawe Park is and was in the parish of Crosthwaite, being in that part of the Derwent Fells which drains into Derwentwater, and becoming part of the diocese of Carlisle when that was created in 1133.

However, in terms of landownership and lordship, Fawe Park and all Portinscale were in the manor of Derwentfells, the land between the Derwent and Cocker which was transferred from the barony of Coupland to the lord of Allerdale soon after 1100. Derwentfells became firmly part of the Honour of Cockermouth forever after, being the property of the Percies, Earls of Northumberland, for much of the period of interest. Whereas Keswick, though also in the barony of Allerdale, had passed as a part of the freehold manor(s) of Castlerigg and Derwentwater from the Curwen ancestors to the de Derwentwaters, and then by marriage to the Radcliffes. After the execution of James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater in 1716, and there are several executions in this article, the manor of Castlerigg and Derwentwater passed to the management and benefit of the Greenwich Hospital, from 1735. So, there was a line of division of property through Derwentwater.

1515 - a wooded hill with contention for deer.

The manor of Derwentfells was a medieval private forest and still had that residual status and function in 1515, when Fawe Park was continually violated by intruders from the Keswick area. According to the inquisition reporting to the capital court of Derwentfells:

Rowland Clerke of Keswike ... yeoman ... did enter the liberty of the lord of Derwentfells with force and arms viz. with

bows and arrows and hounds and horn and 4 wild animals called Fallowdeer being in a certain place there belonging to the lord called Fawparke did chase with his hounds and did threaten and cause to flee out of the said liberty the said wild animals and did pursue them with his hounds into the park of John Radcliff Kt of Derwentwater contrary to the virtue of his said liberty. Also ... Andrew Richardson servant of the hospice of John Radcliff Kt of Derwentwater ... yeoman did enter the said liberty in the form aforesaid and two wild animals called Fallowdeer in the aforesaid Fawparke did drive ... and cause them to flee. ... the aforesaid Roland and Andrew at divers other times of the year ... both together and separately did chase threaten drive and pursue divers wild animals²

It appears that Fawe Park was then a wooded hill in the hands of the lord and was a refuge for deer. By that time there was little wood remaining on the commons of the Derwent Fells, and the lord had retained or enclosed areas of woodland as a resource. Today we see Swinside as a large, wooded hill behind the small twenty-acre lakeside wooded hill of Fawe Park. But Swinside was a stunted pasture, and only became re-wooded after an enclosure by private agreement in 1817.³

1564-71 - a wooded hill with contention over wood.

In October 1564 Elizabeth I granted letters patent to Hochstetter and Thurland to mine for metal in Cumberland and Westmorland and elsewhere. This led to the German (or Dutch) miners establishing their works in Keswick. The principal sources of copper were found in Newlands, in the Earl of Northumberland's manor of Derwentfells. In the Catholic England of 1515, the fifth earl, Henry Percy, was in favour with the young Henry VIII, continuing the good relations established with Henry VII. By 1564 much

² Cumbria Archive Service Whitehaven, (CASW),D/Lec.299T, folio 264, Derwentfells capital court 5 Oct 7HenVIII.

³ CASW/DLec./136, agreement and plan for dividing Swinside stunted pasture.

had changed. The Percy estates had been placed expediently into crown by the sixth earl in 1531, awaiting his nephew's coming of age, but the nephew had been executed in 1537, following the Pilgrimage of Grace. In 1557 Mary I had restored the estates, including Derwentfells, to his son, Thomas, who was the current Catholic seventh earl in 1564, tolerated in Elizabeth's Protestant England. He would lead the Rising of the North in 1569, to be executed in 1572. His brother, Henry, was next in line.

Processing the ore from Newlands and elsewhere required vast quantities of wood in the form of timber and coals. The charcoal was required to smelt the ore in a reducing furnace, and would come mostly from Borrowdale and more distant places, quite easily transported. The timber was required to support the mine workings, to construct the works, and for the facilities to be built, partly on Derwent Isle, then called Vicar's Island remembering its ownership by Fountains Abbey before the recent dissolution.

In November 1566 Thurland wrote 'our mines of that place called Newlands wax every day fairer and more plentiful than ever I saw in all England'.⁴ However, timber was more difficult to find, with Lady Radcliffe requiring very high prices for the little timber she would sell from the Derwentwater estate. Thomas Percy disputed the grant of his Newlands mines as 'Mines Royal' and was not content to have insult added to injury by supplying his timber for construction. In 1567 George Nedham, acting as the Queen's intermediary with Percy 'suggested that the Crown should acquire the woods at Keswick belonging to My Lady (Lady Radclyffe) and those at Fawepark just across the lake which belonged to the Earl of Northumberland'.⁵ His post-script noted '... Mr Daniel ... minds ... to make his

smelting house as much bigger and double his furnaces and workmen. For doing whereof we shall have great need of timber of all sorts. Here is none to be had near hand or possible to be carried us but in Fawepark here by Keswick.'

Thomas Percy lost his case over the ore in 1568. The accounts of the mines for 1569 include a payment to J Scot for 'a gate to the Vorbarckh (Fawe Park) and to fix the posts and hang the rails of two already there', confirming that timber was being taken from Fawe Park.⁶ In 1571 Stup was paid 3s for transporting nine boatloads of wood from the Vorbarckh (Fawe Park), and stakes were later brought from Fawe Park to the island.⁷

Thomas Percy had fled to Scotland after the Rising of the North in 1569, to be sold later to Elizabeth and beheaded in 1572. His lands were confiscated, and consequently the mine owners had to deal with the President of the North, at York. The account of Easter term 1571 for wood from Fawe Park was not settled. 'We now write off the balance to his brother - £5 6s 8d'.⁸

How much of the wood in Fawe Park was cut and how much was left is unknown, but clearly it was fenced so that the wood would spring again. It could have no deer and no tenant of the grazing for some time, and the Percy Survey of 1569, of the confiscated lands, does not identify a tenant.⁹

1578-1758 – the Fawe Park tenement.

Henry Percy was loyal to the crown when succeeding his unfortunate father and brother, but he was tempted into serial conspiracies with Mary Queen of Scots. Henry experienced the hospitality of the Tower of London three times, but was not executed, because in 1584 he was found

⁴ M B Donald, *Elizabethan Copper*, Pergamon Press 1955 p.115.

⁵ Donald, *Elizabethan Copper*, p.121.

⁶ W G Collingwood, *Elizabethan Keswick*, CWAAS, 1912, p.44.

⁷ Collingwood, *Elizabethan Keswick*, p.101-3.

⁸ Collingwood, *Elizabethan Keswick*, p.188-9.

⁹ TNA/E164/37, Percy Survey 1569 – copy in L&DFLHS archive.

dead in bed in the Tower. The inquiry found that he had shot himself.

One benefit of his disloyalty was the Great Survey of his lands made in 1578, which provides the first detailed listing of a manorial tenement including Fawe Park, under Braithwaite and Coledale. 'Hugh Stanger the son of Thomas of Ullock within age holdeth a tenement house a barn or byer ... a parcel of pasture in Fawe Parke called the Hill contg [blank] And another parcel there called Rose Trees contg [blank] ... and renteth by the year 24s 6d'.¹⁰

The fact that Fawe Park was included in a tenement as pasture does not mean that it was no longer wooded, and in fact records of 1758 show that it was full of timber. The wood belonged to the lord but was sufficiently well re-established by 1578 for the grazing to be let to a tenant. It became wood-pasture, as was much of the Keswick estate across the lake.

1758-9 – Enfranchisement of the tenants and sale of the wood¹¹

In 1758 the second Lord Egremont, Charles Wyndham, now the holder of the Honour of Cockermouth, commissioned a surveyor named Browne to survey and value his customary estates in Braithwaite and Coledale, and Lorton and elsewhere. The intention was to offer the freeholds to the customary tenants for cash. Browne's survey was the basis of the enfranchisement of the tenement called Faw Park, Coledale, to William Stanger, yeoman of Deanscales.¹² The message [house, barn, byer, and orchard] was at Ullock with some land, but the majority of the 75 acres was by Derwentwater, including Faw Parks, 20 acres, and Two

Rice Trees, 8 acres. Rent 18s. Rice Trees was probably a mis-hearing by Browne for Rose Trees, though rice was a term for the fine trimmings or loppings from trees.

The cost of the enfranchisement would be eight years' purchase, or eight times the annual rental value of the land. For Fawe Park this was £200.¹³ However, the wood was to be purchased separately at a cost of nine tenths of its market value. Browne had noted 'a great deal of very good timber in the Fow Park', and this translated into a large additional cost of £963. Lord Egremont offered eleven months to pay and then loans to the purchasers, and William Stanger borrowed £600 to pay the balance in 1760.¹⁴ The obvious means of repaying the loan and profiting would be to sell the timber, with or without the land.

The 'discovery' of Derwentwater and its woodlands, from 1751

Lord Egremont's enfranchisement of his tenants and his sale of the wood coincided with the development of the discourse on the English Lakes, which started with George Smith's article of 1751 in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.¹⁵ By 1755 John Dalton was warning potential visitors that they 'must be prepare to be shocked at some late violations of those Sacred woods and groves'.¹⁶ This referred to the sale of timber in 1747 on the Greenwich Hospital's estate, including the totemic Crow Park, which was felled through the 1750s, just as the beauties of Derwentwater grew in popularity.

Fawe Park was, in effect, the east bank equivalent of Crow Park. The adjacent low-lying Water End estate was also enfranchised in 1759 at the same

¹⁰ CASW/Percy Survey 1578 – transcription on shelves.

¹¹ For more information from this point see Derek Denman 'Lord Gordon and the picturesque occupation of Derwentwater in 1780', *Transactions CWAAS*, 2014, pp. 207-230.

¹² CASW/DLec./300 Braithwaite and Coledale no.19, Browne's survey; DLec./9 no.5, enfranchisement of Faw Park.

¹³ CASW/DLec./81, Braithwaite & Coledale.

¹⁴ CASW/DLec./81, note of repayments.

¹⁵ George Smith, 'An account of a journey to the black lead mines and the neighbouring mountains', *Gentleman's magazine*, Vol. xxi. 1751.

¹⁶ John Dalton, *A descriptive poem, addressed to two ladies, at their return from viewing the mines near Whitehaven*, 1755, pp.vii-viii.

time as Fawe Park, but its working wood cost £145 compared with Fawe Park's £963. The poet Thomas Gray, visiting in 1769 and writing in a letter of 3 October, described from the east bank 'the most delicious view that my eyes ever beheld: opposite are the thick woods of Lord Egremont and Newland-valley, with green and smiling fields embosomed in the dark cliffs ...'.¹⁷ At this time the woods of Brandelhow did still belong to Lord Egremont. On 5 October 'then I took my way through Portinskall village to the Parke, a hill so called, covered entirely with wood; it is all a mass of crumbling slate.'

In his Guide of 1778 Thomas West made Fawe Park, 'a round hill completely clothed in wood', one of his stations for a picturesque view.¹⁸ His notes of 1779, published posthumously in the second edition of 1780 stated:

'The fall of Crow-park on Derwentwater has long been regretted. And the present fall of Lord Egremont's woods has denuded a considerable part of the western borders of the lake. Nor is Mr Gray's beautiful description of Foe-park above mentioned, to be verified'.¹⁹

Brandelhow's woods were no longer his lordship's but were the property of his steward and own-account property-speculator, Robert Baynes, whose financial vehicles were often fuelled from the exhaust of his lordship's estates. He had installed one Tolson as customary tenant, as his puppet trustee.

1781 – 1787; competition for lakeside estates.

From 1781 the estates on the west bank became the subject of competition for ownership between Lord William Gordon (1744-1823), the brother of the infamous Lord George Gordon of the Gordon Riots,

and Joseph Pocklington, who had purchased Vicar's island in 1778 and was embellishing it with structures.

Gordon had status, notably through his relationship with the prince of Wales, but little money, while Pocklington had plenty of money but craved attention and status. Gordon took an option to purchase Water End in 1781, which he completed in 1784, but he had the intention to own all the west bank from Nichol End to and including Brandelhow,²⁰ which he would manage on picturesque principles. In 1781 Gordon had the lands of the west bank surveyed and valued by Poole from Nichol End up to Brandelhow, and Beane drew a plan of those estates plus Brandelhow in 1782.²¹ In 1788 Pocklington made a rough copy of that plan, which survives.²²

Fawe Park as a property, now lacking trees, had changed hands and had lost the rustic farmstead in Ullock by 1782-3, when Pocklington purchased it from John Fisher. In 1784 Pocklington offered Baynes £1600 for Brandelhow, while Gordon's servants were negotiating for it. Through entertainment and other means Gordon was able to convince Pocklington to withdraw from the Brandelhow competition and to sell him Fawe Park. Gordon was vice-admiral of Scotland and might have arranged the tenancy for Pocklington at Old Park on the eastern shore, through the Greenwich Hospital. Gordon paid Baynes the inflated £1600 for Brandelhow, and Pocklington sold the 72 acres of Fawe Park to Gordon in 1786-7 for £1500.²³ In 1781 Poole had valued the remaining wood at Fawe Park at just £16, for 27 oak trees, a few alders and a little coaling wood.²⁴ Therefore in 1786-7 Gordon paid over twice the value given to the land in 1759, for the purpose of converting populated, productive, working woodland into an aristocrat's show-park.

¹⁷ William Mason, *The poems of Mr Gray, to which are prefixed memoirs of his life and writings*, Vol.2, Dublin, 1775, p.113.

¹⁸ Thomas West, *A guide to the lakes ...*, 1778, p.108.

¹⁹ Thomas West, ed. William Cockin, *A guide to the lakes: ...*, 2nd ed., London, 1780, pp.88-9.

²⁰ CASW/Benson Archive (DBen.), 1/1943-6.

²¹ CASW/D/Ben./1/1940,1944-6.

²² CASC/DSen./14/6.

²³ CASC/DSen./14/6/3, list of sale prices by Pocklington; CACW/DBen./1/1959; Clarke, *Survey*, map of Derwentwater and its environs.

²⁴ CACW/D/Ben./1/1940,1945.

By 1787 Lord William Gordon had all the west bank, from Nichol End to the common and the lead mine south of Brandelhow, plus Scale Thorns beyond, which he laid out as his picturesque park, initially called the Water End estate, and later the Derwent Bay estate. Wordsworth was seventeen and absent, but in thirteen years' time, soon after arriving impoverished at Grasmere, he would walk to Water End with Dorothy and they would feast on gooseberries at Silver Hill.²⁵

Lord William Gordon to Sir John Woodford

Gordon laid out much of his property as a park, on picturesque principles, with his pavilion residence replacing the old farmhouse at Water End. His principal means of improvement was planting wood, which he did at Fawe Park. There was no house on the Fawe Park property, the cottage at Silver Hill being just outside. Gordon also instigated the enclosure in 1817 of Swinside stinted pasture, the larger hill behind Fawe Park, taking ownership of most of it and creating the planting which today is the main wooded feature in the landscape.²⁶ His purpose was clearly to impress people with his intervention and his taste – not so different from Pocklington's purpose.

Towards the end of his life, Gordon, who was never resident, ceased to thin the wood. Fawe Park became overgrown, as reported by William Green in 1819.²⁷ After Gordon's death in 1823, his trustees attempted to sell the Derwentwater Bay estate, including Fawe Park, and gained an income by selling the old timber from Brandelhow.²⁸ In 1832 John Marshall Jnr had the choice of purchasing either the Greenwich Hospital's estate on the east, or the Derwentwater Bay estate on the west. He chose the former, noting the inferiority

of the wood on the Derwentwater Bay estate.²⁹ Consequently, Gordon's nephew, General Sir John Woodford, received the benefit of the estate from Lady William Gordon in 1834, and ownership after her death in 1841.³⁰

Conclusion

This article has charted the uses of a small hill, a mass of crumbling slate beside a lake, covering an eventful 300 years, from 1515, during which period it was wooded and was populated by deer, sheep, cattle, various woodmen, and then tourists. From the later sixteenth Century it was farmed from Ullock. No known house was built during this period. That would wait until James Bell in the 1850s, as discussed by Lena Stanley-Clamp in this issue.



Frances, Lady William Gordon (1761-1841), by Thomas Lawrence.

An heiress and ward of court who married Gordon in 1781, in contravention of Lord Hardwicke's Act of 1753. She was 19, he 36.

²⁵ Dorothy Wordsworth, ed Pamela Woof, *The Grasmere and Alfoxden journals*, 2002, p.17.

²⁶ CASW/DLec./136, agreement and plan for dividing Swinside stinted pasture.

²⁷ William Green, *The tourist's new guide*, 1819 Vol.2, p.109.

²⁸ CASW/D/Ben./box 412, Plan of the Derwentwater Bay estate, 1824; Green, *Guide*, Vol.2, p.109.

²⁹ Brotherton Library, MS200/18/8, Derwentwater notes, 1832.

³⁰ J Fisher Crosthwaite, *A brief memoir of Sir John Woodford*, 1883, pp.41-2.