



November 2018

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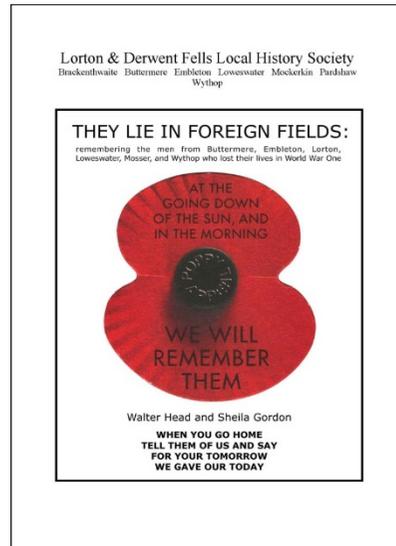
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**They Lie in Foreign Fields:
 remembering the men from
 Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton,
 Loweswater, Mosser and Wythop
 who lost their lives in World War
 One, by Walter Head and Sheila
 Gordon.**



Included with this *Wanderer* is a copy of the Society's latest publication, which has been issued to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Walter Head began this venture many years ago, by researching his uncle Thomas Head who died in the war and commemorated on the memorial in Lorton Church. Walter's sister, Sheila Gordon, joined him *page 3*

Our future programme 2018-2019

8 Nov 2018	<i>From Markets to Supermarkets: 200 years of Shopping in Cumbria.</i>	Dr Michael Winstanley
10 Jan 2019	<i>Postal history of Cumbria, with particular reference to West Cumberland</i>	Mike Mapleton
14 Mar 2019	25 th Anniversary Lecture. <i>Lordship and Manor: the Norman imprint on the area covered by the Society</i>	Professor Angus Winchester
Apr/May 2019	Spring Outing – to be arranged	
9 May 2019	<i>Viking longhouse in Cumbria</i>	Steve Dickinson
13 Jun 2019	AGM plus talk and exhibits <i>A social history of Loweswater through key moments in time.</i>	Dr Derek Denman
11 Jul 2019	<i>Cumbria's explosive coast</i>	Bill Myers
12 Sep 2019	<i>The 1st Battalion of the Border Regiment at the Battle of Arnhem, 1944</i>	Stuart Eastwood
Sep/Oct 2019	Autumn Outing – to be arranged	
14 Nov 2019	<i>Roman Roads through the lakes</i>	Dr Paul Hindle

Talks are at the Yew Tree Hall at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Visitors £3. Please do not park to the left of the entrance (looking from outside) as the road is narrow.

Officers and Committee 2018/19

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Diary dates

08 November. Our talk by Dr Michael Winstanley at the Yew Tree Hall. 'From Markets to Supermarkets'. *Shopping and shops have changed dramatically over 200 years yet the various 'retail revolutions' have, until recently, been largely ignored by historians. This talk looks at the transformation and fortunes of markets, shops and shopping, setting the national contexts but illustrated with local examples.*

17 November. Lancaster University Regional Heritage Centre. Study Day. '*Political Radicalism and Dissent in the early 20th Century*'.

The next *Wanderer* will be published on 1 Feb 2019. Please send items to Derek Denman, by early January.

Published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cocker mouth CA13 0GU.

<http://www.derwentfells.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety>

From page 1 in this work and Walter was awarded a small grant by the Society in 2004 to widen the scope to include the other men listed on the Lorton Memorial. His researches have since expanded to include other memorials in the Society's area and Sandra Shaw wrote about the men on the Mosser (Eaglesfield) memorial in 2016. Since then, Walter has discovered more information on those men and some descendants of family members have come forward with information.



Thomas Head

In addition to the copies being sent to individual members, small numbers of the booklet are also being presented to relevant organisations in the local area and to descendants of the men's families, and others who have helped in this project. The booklet is posted online at www.derwentfells.com/pdfs/foreignfiel ds.pdf, where it will be searchable worldwide and possibly found by other family descendants who might be able to contribute further knowledge.

The committee is pleased to have been able to publish this booklet and hopes it will be seen as a fitting tribute to the memories of those who lost their lives in that global conflict a hundred years ago.

Sandra Shaw

Reflections on the First 25 Years

by Charles Lambrick
Chairman

The Society marks its 25th anniversary in October this year, and it is opportune to reflect on the years since its formation and to try to peer into the future.

The Society was established by a body of enthusiasts in Lorton led by the late Ron George, who had moved into the village following retirement. Its original focus was the history of Lorton parish, which included the chapels at Buttermere and Wythop. These lie within the area of the ancient forest of Derwentfells – hence the name of the Society. The initial membership numbered a very respectable 60, of whom a dozen have remained members for each of the intervening years. The Society was very fortunate that Professor Angus Winchester, who had lived in Lorton when growing up, agreed to become its Honorary President. Each year ever since he has kindly agreed to continue in that role, for which members of the Society are very grateful. As a well-known and highly respected local historian the Society could hardly have a more distinguished person fulfilling the role.

From the beginning a pattern of annual activity (comprising six bi-monthly Talks, outings to places of historical interest, encouragement of research, and the formation of an archive of local history) was established, and has since continued. After seven years the Society expanded its area of interest to include Embleton, and across the Cocker, beyond Derwentfells, to embrace Loweswater, Mockerkinn, Pardshaw and Winfell. Wider opportunities for research thereby came about, and much was done by members. The fruits of their efforts are reflected in the

publications that the Society has produced over the years. These have variously included the *Newsletter* and the *Journal*, which are available online, and more recently the *Wanderer*.

For many of the Society's first 25 years there was a body of particularly committed members who threw themselves into investigating aspects of local history and publishing the results. During this time research into the history of land ownership, features in the landscape, and individual dwellings attracted particular attention. Membership peaked at 200, but people come and go and it now stands at about 140. In more recent years, while a significant contribution was made by members collating information about the civil parishes within the Society's area to the initial stages of the Cumbria Victoria County History project, research activity has lessened. Nevertheless, members do continue with research projects albeit on a reduced scale.

Looking ahead, judging by the usually very well attended Talks, there seems little doubt that interest in learning about local history, whether very particular to the Society's geographical area or more generally about the modern county of Cumbria or the North West of England and the Borders, will continue. As long as there is a body of capable speakers available to call on, Talks will remain a key feature in the Society's annual programme of activity. So will outings to historic places. It may be that with the burgeoning of people's interest in family history facilitated by what can now be accessed on line, there will be trend towards more research into social issues and the people who over the ages lived and worked in the Society's area.

I very much hope that the Society will flourish for another quarter century.

Changes to the *Wanderer*

This is the first issue of the Society's extended *Wanderer*. Up to 2017 we published two *Wanderers* and two *Journals* a year, with the *Wanderer* containing news and the *Journal* containing local history articles. The *Journal* was no longer sustainable, and so the Society decided to issue the *Wanderer* quarterly. We have now decided to extend the format of the *Wanderer* from its normal four pages to allow it to carry more news and information, but also some shorter local history articles of general interest. Longer articles can be hosted on the website, or by special publications. Essentially, we are proposing to produce something akin to the early *Newsletters*. We will archive the *Wanderer* on the website at www.dewentfells.com/wanderer.html.

This issue has been compiled from contributions by several members, making it truly by members and for members. It is hoped that this will be the pattern for future issues, but much of it is experimental, and we would appreciate the views and ideas, and the contributions, of members on any aspect of how it might change and develop, from the type of paper to the type of content. This includes the name and the banner of the publication, which represents the historically-minded inquisitive observer wandering, in a strictly Wordsworthian manner, around the Derwent Fells area.

This issue is printed and distributed entirely by the Committee. Our main cost is stamps, which forces us to the A5 format. We would welcome distributors elsewhere than Lorton, where we are grateful to John Hart. Many members have chosen to receive their *Wanderers* and notices by email, which saves costs and therefore helps to keep down subscriptions. This issue has been sent to all members in print,

because it comes with a booklet. We will revert to email in future for those who have already chosen that delivery.

If you wish opt into receiving future Wanderers and society notices by email, or if you wish to change back, then please contact Lena Stanley-Clamp, our membership secretary at ldflhsmembership@gmail.com.

To comment on the extended *Wanderer* or to provide material, please contact me or any Committee member.

Derek Denman

Our Privacy Policy & Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In common with many other organisations we have been developing the Society's privacy policy during the past year. The Society has always taken privacy and data protection seriously and has formalised its procedures through Sandra Shaw's time as Secretary, leading to the policy adopted in June.

We have made some changes to the policy both to simplify it by concentrating on the Society's commitments to its members, and to be more precise on the period for which we need to retain information. The revised policy is printed on the back of your membership renewal invitation, and we work on the basis that your renewal accepts the policy.

We ask that you tell us of any changes to your personal data given in the renewal invitation. If you have any questions or concerns about our privacy policy generally, or how we manage it, then please contact me personally.

If you have supplied us with an email address, then we will use it for messages from the Society only, and

primarily about the Society, its activities, and your membership. This includes important late changes to the programme, which occur very infrequently. We will send the *CLHF Bulletin* this way, and limited information on relevant events organised by other groups.

Derek Denman
Secretary

Membership news

For its 25th Anniversary Year, the Society is enhancing members' benefits. The new extended version of the *Wanderer* will from now on include more articles on new research and other items of interest. We are also presenting members with a copy of *They Lie in Foreign Fields: remembering the men from Butteremere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mosser and Wythop who lost their lives in World War One* by Walter Head and Sheila Gordon. This unique publication marks our contribution to the commemorations of the Centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

Our wide-ranging programme of talks for 2019 is full of interesting subjects and speakers – see p.2. The highlight of the series will be our 25th Anniversary Lecture by our President and distinguished historian, Professor Angus Winchester, on 14 March.

The L&DFLHS has been thriving for 25 years thanks to its members. We hope you will spread the word among your friends and bring them to our talks. We are counting on your enthusiastic participation and support.

As a **special offer**, any new member who joins for 2019 at our meeting on 8 November will not pay the visitor fee and will receive a free copy of the WW1 booklet *They Lie in Foreign Fields*.

Lena Stanley-Clamp
Membership Secretary

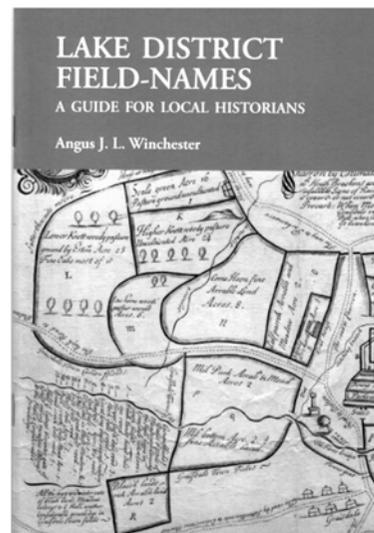
Book Review

Lake District field-names: a guide for local historians, by Angus J L Winchester

ISBN 978-1-86220-338-9

Published by and available from Lancaster University, Regional Heritage Centre.

60 pages A5 Price £4 plus £1 postage.



Recorded field names, or names of closes, are true historical sources of great value to anyone who is interested in the use of agricultural land over centuries of development. These names are a product of the interaction between the culture of an agricultural people and the nature of the land they colonise, some names being retained for centuries, others being added or changed as both people and their use of the land changes. Field names complement place names and the names of geographical features, but field names are more dynamic and valuable to the local historian.

It has been worth waiting for a treatment by our President, Professor

Angus Winchester, who must be the best author that one could hope to find on this subject and district. Clearly 'lake district' is not a meaningful boundary for field names, but a way of focussing on a culture and a terrain which generates the names covered. The book is generally relevant to the agricultural history of at least the whole of Cumbria. L&DFLHS members are particularly fortunate, in that many of the illustrations and examples are taken from our area.

There is a good explanation of how field names have originated, have been chosen, and have been retained or developed, plus a discussion of the study and collection of field names. A taxonomy is offered, which is enlightening but could never embrace all the names which individual farm owners have chosen to identify and describe their land. The book includes an invaluable sixteen-page glossary of name-elements which would seem to justify the purchase on its own.

This is also a practical book which can support accessible studies of field or close names in any part of the Society's area. The most comprehensive collection of names must be the Tithe Apportionments of the 1840s, where every close covered was given a number and required a name. We hold all this information in our archive, and anyone interested in discovering and understanding the names of fields in their locality should read the archive section of this *Wanderer*.

Derek Denman

From the Archives

An Introduction

Archives are the root of most local history, and the intention of this new section of the *Wanderer* is to present the content of archives which could be

useful for any member thinking of starting a project in local history. By archives I mean a number of types: the Society's collection of books; the Society's copies of archival records which are relevant to our area; the content of the previous publications by our Society, for example in the Journals on our website; and copies of relevant material in public archives in Cumbria and The National Archives.

The purpose will be to select archival information which can be of practical use to members, to explain its nature and content, and to suggest ways in which it can be used. The Committee expects that this section will contain short pieces by a number of contributors, and so please contribute as you wish. We also do requests, given notice.

In future the *Wanderer* will be archived on our website, and so these pieces on archives will remain accessible.

Derek Denman

The tithe commutation records

by Derek Denman

Tithes are an ancient and highly complex form of property, but it is not necessary to master tithes to be able to use the information. Essentially, the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 required a huge and detailed survey of titheable agricultural land and buildings, providing detailed tables and maps of almost all of our area, including every close of land, its size, its use and its name. The tables group the closes and buildings into farms, and we are given the owner and the occupier of each piece of land. The purpose of this exercise was to apportion the rent tithe charge of an area among the smallest titheable property elements, every house and every close of land. It is the detail of this division which is so valuable.

For anyone interested in field names, this gives a name for every close of land in the area covered. So that the tithe commutation records of the 1840s are an obvious place to start, before going backwards or forwards in time.

For each place, there are three records. The Tithe Apportionment contains all the data and is primarily a listing of all titheable property, i.e. closes, buildings and roads, organised alphabetically by owner and then by farm. The Tithe Map is a large-scale map of the area showing all the titheable property, linked to the apportionment by numbers allocated to each element. Often this is the earliest detailed drawing of the outline of a building. However, care must be taken with these maps because their purpose is to identify and locate the property and not to undertake an expensive survey to provide a contemporary map. Often older maps were re-used and adjusted. Thirdly, the Tithe File is a collection of papers concerning the process of the commutation, which have survived the weeding process. These make varied and interesting reading.

Three copies of the apportionments and maps were made, one for the landowners, one for the tithe owner and one for the Tithe Commissioners. Only the Tithe Commissioners had the tithe file. The Society has photocopies of the Tithe Commissioners documents, including the tithe file, now in The National Archives. Those we hold with full coverage of enclosed land are: Brackenthwaite, Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mosser, Whinfell, and Wythop. Additionally we have small commutations in Dean, where most had already been commuted, as had Eaglesfield.

To mark its 10th Anniversary the Society exhibited many Township Maps

but excluding Wythop, Mosser, Mockerkin (in Loweswater) and Dean. These combined the Tithe Commutation with the 1841 Census to provide a complete picture.

Much of this material will be available to see at the meeting on 8 November 2018.

Meeting Reports

Society Outing to Caldbeck, 26 September 2018



Part of the group at Caldbeck

Nineteen people set out in the coach from Cocker mouth for this historical outing, on a day with a warm but dampish start, but which improved through the visit. Unfortunately, our group leader, Tim Stanley-Clamp, was indisposed that morning, and his role was divided among some able lieutenants.

Whether by co-incidence or design, our coach took a historical route, along the Cocker mouth – Penrith turnpike of the 1760s, over Ouse Bridge and the fell road, giving an experience perhaps similar to a ride in an old coach-and-four, complete with sheep on the road. On arrival we were met by John Price and David Pollitt from Caldbeck & District LHS, who would be our guides.

Caldbeck is a village to the north of the Skiddaw Fells, developed on some good agricultural land on the powerful beck which drains those fells.

Cald Beck becomes the Caldew River. The fells, and the water power from its becks, determined its economic development, in mining and woollen industries though the 16th and 17th centuries, and then as part of the water-powered industrial revolution. As steam replaced water in the 19th Century, villages such as Caldbeck and Lorton ceased to develop, and retained their character. Caldbeck is just inside the National Park.

Before lunch we were treated to a presentation in St Kentigern's Church, aka St Mungo, whose eponymous well by the church was used for early baptisms. Small parts of the church are Norman 12th Century, including a leper's window and the original zoomorphic chancel arch, now reused in the porch. A complex tale of development from the 13th to the 18th Centuries confirmed the continuing need to cater for the growth of the parish of Caldbeck.

A leisurely lunch was taken at the Oddfellows Arms, and we can certainly vouch for the quality of the food there. We struggled out for our afternoon guided walk around the village and its industrial sites, which had clearly spread from the old centre and up the becks towards the fells. The Howk, a series of waterfalls, gave its name to a large bobbin mill, of around 1847, set in a deep ravine cut by Cald Beck. The water-powered bobbin mills of Cumbria, including the Howk, worked



At the Howk bobbin mill



Todcrofts

disappointment, in which her first husband, married in Lorton, was executed at Carlisle for forging the name of an MP, Mary married again and had a more conventional life as a farmer's wife at Todcrofts in Caldbeck.

Overall, a very enjoyable day, and we thanked Tim in his absence.

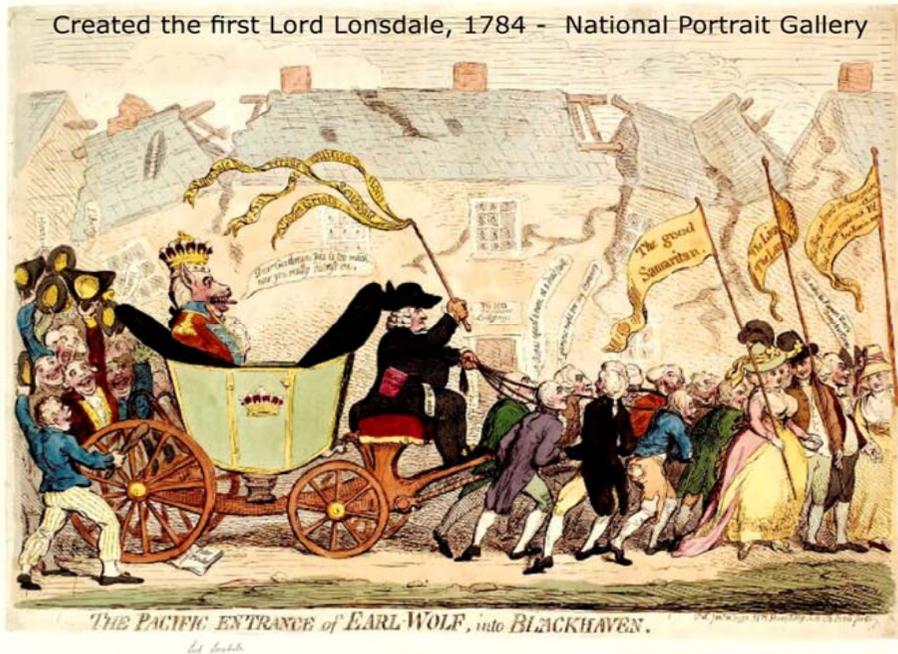
Derek Denman – and photographs

Breaking Up is Hard to do:- the Selling Off of the Lowther Family Estate

The Talk to members of the Society on 13th September was given by Dr Alan Crosby, one of the country's most eminent local historians, on the break-up of the Lowther Estate in West Cumberland. His knowledge of what is in the Lowther archives, most of which are deposited at the Carlisle Archive Centre, is second to none. So it was with particular interest that members

into the twentieth century, supplying wooden bobbins for the textile-spinning industry of Lancashire.

Caldbeck is notable as the resting place of at least three well-known people. John Peel is best known, and John Woodcock Graves, who wrote the song, also lived here. Our main interest would be in Mary Harrison, who was previously Mary of Buttermere, and originally, in 1792, Budworth's Sally of Buttermere. After an initial



listened to Dr Crosby's Talk, which was very well illustrated.

To explain the circumstances of the disposal of property in West Cumberland in the mid-20th century, Dr Crosby outlined the history of its acquisition in the 17th and first part of the 18th centuries. Sir Christopher and particularly his son Sir John Lowther founded the family's fortunes in Whitehaven and surrounding areas. While intent on exploiting coal reserves in the district, they were conscientious landlords by comparison with their successors. The latter became absentee landlords, only concerned for the wealth they derived from their land holdings and the coal mining in West Cumberland.

By the second part of the 18th century the Lowther family had become one of the richest in Great Britain, and this led to James ('Farthing Jimmy') being created the 1st Earl of Lonsdale in 1784. Dr Crosby made the point that while he was admired for his wealth he was heartily disliked. This antipathy among people in West Cumberland, and particularly in Whitehaven, grew steadily among not only those working in the mines but also professional people who disliked the vice-like grip the Lowther family had over the town's affairs.

Dr Crosby explained that from the late 18th century onwards the Lowther family spent much of their time living at their estate in Rutland where they indulged in hunting and racing. They derived huge wealth from West Cumberland but gave back virtually nothing. During the second half of the 19th century, however, spending was beginning to get out of hand. The 5th Earl (the 'Yellow Earl'), who inherited the title in 1882, exacerbated the problem over the following 62 years when expenditure had virtually no limits. Dr Crosby touched on some of the extraordinary manifestations of this notorious extravagance.

When the Yellow Earl died in 1944 the Lowther family were faced with death duties of substantial proportions, and these increased as a result of his successor dying not long afterwards in 1953. In order to pay what was owed, the decision was taken in the light of coal nationalisation, low rental income from hundreds of dwellings, and poor returns from agricultural property, to sell the West Cumberland estate in its entirety. Dr Crosby explained very clearly the process and scale of the operation undertaken between the 1940s and 1960s. The repercussions of the Lowther's stewardship and sale of their interests in the county could be said to continue to this day.

This was a very well-presented Talk on a subject with much of historical interest, however antipathetic many in the audience may have felt about the circumstances and personalities involved.

Charles Lambrick

William Brownrigg M.D., F.R.S., - a Physician and Philosopher Eminently Distinguished

William Brownrigg's life and work provided the subject of our July talk by Dr. Phil Sykes, whose extensive knowledge and evident admiration of the scientist made for an inspiring evening.

The list of Dr Brownrigg's interests and achievements bespeak a life well lived in the service of others. Educated in the classics by the Vicar of Bridekirk and then apprenticed to a surgeon/apothecary in Carlisle, William continued his medical studies in London for two years where he showed an aptitude for study and an appetite for knowledge which won him a place at the celebrated Leiden University in Holland. Returning to England he began his own medical practice in

Whitehaven almost immediately and cared for patients there for the next 30 years. His original case notes have survived, providing a valuable record of eighteenth-century medical practice and replete with recipes for the various innovative medicines he devised.

He would spend the rest of his life in Cumbria, reluctant to move away from where he felt most at home. He became a member of the Royal Society and made many important contributions to its work, winning the Copeley Medal for a paper on his investigations into the composition of mineral waters. It is possible that his loyalty to the county he was born in affected his career at least as far as fame was concerned. Often he would send his latest paper to London to be presented by others and some were unscrupulous enough to take credit for the work in it. (Joseph Priestley, on receiving a gold medal for experiments on the behaviour of air, was an honourable exception, noting in public that Brownrigg had laid all the important foundations for his own paper.)

Nevertheless, he was prolific. As well as the development of innovative medicines and frequent contributions to the proceedings of the Royal Society, his life's work includes:

- an inquiry into the effects of environment, especially the air, on health
- work on gases as they affected the safety of the mines (the Lowther family encouraged this work)
- studies into epidemiology, prompted by a particularly vicious outbreak of typhus in Whitehaven
- the composition of mineral waters and their health benefits
- salt making (England's salt was the worst in Europe in the middle years of the century, a matter of national strategic concern given that the country was at war so much of the time)

- studies of the properties of platinum at a time when the metal was very little understood
- the invention of a new type of furnace for the Welsh Iron industry.
- Improvements in the drainage and fertility of agricultural land

In his later years William lived at Ormathwaite near Keswick. He was visited there by his many friends and colleagues, notably, in 1772, Benjamin Franklin, who was on a tour of Britain. He worked as a political agent for the Lowther family, served as a magistrate and worked on a history of Cumbria. He died in January 1800 at the age of 88. His obituary, all the more telling for its brevity, reveals the affectionate respect in which he was held.

'Yesterday se'ennight, (the 6th inst) at Ormathwaite, near Keswick, William Brownrigg, M.D., F.R.S. of London and Edinburgh, aged 88 years. This venerable Philosopher and Physician was possessed of every excellent quality which could adorn the great and good'.

Tim Stanley-Clamp

Articles

Place names round our 'patch'

by Sandra Shaw

I have already written about the origins of some of the place names in our area. It seemed appropriate now to complete the names of the places listed in our strap-line and to include Mosser, which for some reason is not listed. I have previously covered Lorton and Loweswater but will recap briefly here.

Places within the National Park have been studied and written about and the name origins are relatively easy to find. I consulted *Lake District Place Names* by Robert Gambles and *Dictionary of Lake District Place-names* by Professor Diana Whaley. For places

outside the National Park, reference sources are not so easily available.

I indulged in a little playful speculation on the origins of Pardshaw before consulting reputable sources. I speculated that the first element might be an abbreviation of leopard, a word known to have been used widely for any of the 'big cats' and in Cumbria this could have referenced the European lynx. The second element, shaw, often denotes a wood; derived from the two related words Old Norse (ON) *skogr* or Old English (OE) *sceaga*. The ON is more frequently rendered beginning sk- or sc- while the OE leads to shaw.

However that is not the accepted derivation and although the lynx is now firmly dead, I feel the wood might still be in with a chance. I finally consulted *Pardshaw; Quakers and others* by Bernard Bradbury and *Landscape and Society in Medieval Cumbria* by our President, Professor Angus Winchester, whom I also contacted by email about the origins of both Pardshaw and Mockerkin. So we have:

Brackenthwaite: recorded as Brakenthwayt from 1230 to 1541. The first element, bracken is self-evident and thwaite is the familiar Scandinavian or ON term *thveit*, meaning clearing.

Buttermere: first recorded as Butermere in 1230. The first element is from OE *butere* meaning butter, thought here to refer to the flat fertile land at both ends of the lake, which provided good grazing. The second element means lake. So the settlement is named after the lake, incorporating the mere element into its name.

Embleton: recorded as Emelton in 1195, the 'b' occurs in Embelton in 1233, although the earlier use continued. The present spelling is first recorded in 1243. The second element is the easier and more familiar, being

OE *tun* meaning settlement. The first is more problematical, being either an OE personal name probably Eanbald, or less likely the OE word *emel* meaning caterpillar.

Lorton: first recorded c.1150 as Loretona. The first element is probably from ON *hlor*, referencing the roaring of one of the becks and the second is OE *tun* meaning village or farmstead.

Loweswater: first recorded as the lake of Lowsewatre in 1230. The first element is from ON *laufsaer*, meaning leafy lake, and the second is OE *waeter*.

Mockerkin: I am grateful to Angus Winchester for this explanation. The name is thought to be an 'inversion compound' dating from the Viking era in Cumbria and reflecting the presence of Gaelic speakers from Ireland or western Scotland. The word order is reversed from the familiar English/Scandinavian order, where the defining element comes first and the generic element second, as in 'Bridekirk' - St Bridget's church. In Gaelic, this is reversed, to have the generic first followed by the specific, as in 'Kirkbride', which means the same as 'Bridekirk'. Mockerkin is thought to mean 'Corc's hill', the first element *mol*di (a Scandinavian hill name, meaning literally 'top of the head'), followed by a diminutive form of an Old Irish personal name Corc (something along the lines of 'Corcan').

Mosser: both elements are from ON. The first *mosi* means bog (moss) and the second *erg* means shieling ground or summer pasture. This indicates the old farming practice of transhumance where stock would be driven to an upland pasture in the summer months, by residents of a lowland area. However, as Angus Winchester explains in *Landscape and Society in Medieval*

Cumbria, the word *erg* was borrowed by the Scandinavians from the Gaelic word *airigh*, referring to lower lying summer shieling grounds quite close to the home farm. This is evidence, as at Mockerkin, of the influence of both Gaelic speakers, as well as Scandinavians, in the area.

Pardshaw: recorded as both Perdishau and Perdshaw in 1203 in *the Registers of the Priory of St Bees*, the name was still being written with three syllables well into the C16th. While I have been researching this article, Derek Denman had occasion to be looking at the Loweswater court records in DLec 299a for an entirely different purpose. He found numerous cases of Pardshaw people being fined for having stock on Loweswater common. The name was rendered Perdishow in 1507 and Perdishowhall ten years later.

In his booklet on the village, Bernard Bradbury suggests that the first element is derived from the OE personal name of Perdi or Preed with ON *haugr* or how, meaning hill. Angus Winchester favoured Preed and supported hill, though the Perdi first syllable that survived for so long, would make Perdi's hill seem more likely and I still have a hankering for wood.

Wythop: first recorded as Wizope in 1195, Wythorp(e) in 1260 and the more familiar Wythop Beck not until 1867, although Bechwythop had been used in 1247. The first element is from OE *widig* meaning withy or willow and the second element is from OE *hop* meaning a blind valley. This gives us the willow valley.

Lorton and the Motor Car *by Walter Head*

In the latter part of the 1800s a number of people in different countries were working on the development of

the motor car as a means of transport. The first all British four-wheeled car was built by Herbert Austin in 1900. He later founded the Wolseley Company, which was the largest manufacturer until Henry Ford in 1913. Henry Ford was the sponsor of the development of the assembly line technique of mass production. The model T ford went into production in 1903 and in 1913 Henry Ford introduced the conveyor belt into the assembly line and mass production made the motor car available to the general public.

On 25 August 1904 Lorton Parish Council passed a motion that 'Cockermouth Rural District Council to be asked to take needful steps to restrict the speed of motors on the highway and that they be entirely prohibited from being used on the road from Low Lorton to Scale Hill and Buttermere'. This was followed up with a letter to the Rural District Council on 15 February 1908 complaining of the rapid speed of the motor cars sweeping around the curves of the road and along the narrow roads without blowing their horns or giving any notice. On 8 April 1908 the Parish Council sent a letter to the Rural District Council to make them aware of motor cars driving on rapidly to the danger of life and limb. The Rural District Council to be asked to limit the speed of motor cars passing through the village to 5mph.

The rest as they say is history!

Captain Thomas Harrison of Loweswater, and of HMS Dromedary *by Hugh Thomson*

The link between Thomas Harrison (1752–1803), buried in Loweswater churchyard, and Admiral Lord Nelson may be closer than Walter Head suggested in the February 2018 edition of the *Wanderer*.

By October 1796, the British navy had lost its war with republican France over the control of the Mediterranean. Most of Italy was in French hands; even Naples had made peace with the French. Nelson had been unable to prevent the small boat invasion of Corsica, and only the much smaller island of Elba remained in British hands. Its garrison of 5,000 men was dangerously exposed.

On 10 December 1797, Nelson, who had been involved in the occupation of Elba in 1794, was ordered back to the island to evacuate the garrison. He reached Porto Ferrajo, the island's capital, on Boxing Day, and was greeted as a conquering hero at a grand seasonal ball; 300 people danced until 3 in the morning.

The store ship *Dromedary*, commanded by Thomas Harrison, was already in Porto Ferrajo and had evidently been there for some time. On 3 November 1796 the senior naval officer in port had received a letter about the *Dromedary* and its captain from an officer of the Naval Dockyard. The letter read:

Sir
The constant difficulty we experience in obtaining any of the stores wanted for the fleet out of the Dromedary, as daily reported to me by Mr. Chiene, Mr. Oben and Mr. Churchill, officers of the Yard here, and the great damage the King's stores have ever suffered on board that ship from the first of her arrival in this country, compels me to acquaint you herewith.
That added to the constant state of intoxication Captain Harrison has appeared to be in for these last six months, obliges me to beg you to take such steps as may seem best for His Majesty's service, for it is next to an impossibility for me to conduct that part of it entrusted to my care without you are pleased to bring him to the enquiry he so richly merits.

The signature to this letter is not legible.

As soon as the Christmas festivities were over, on 28 December 1796, Nelson convened a court martial on board his ship *Minerve*. The charge against Harrison was 'drunkenness and neglect of an essential part of his duty'. Witnesses were called, who testified that Harrison was often drunk and, in general, in bed in the forenoon apparently in a torpid state. On occasions his Lieutenant, Nicholas Meager, had not been able to wake him, but Meager claimed that this had happened 'only in harbour'. The *Dromedary's* surgeon stated that Harrison (then aged 42) suffered from rheumatism, gout, headaches and a 'weakness of the eyes'.

The court found the charge 'proved in part and do therefore only dismiss him the said Captain Thomas Harrison from the command of His Majesty's ship *Dromedary*. He was evidently not dismissed the service and so may have spent his remaining years as a naval captain on half-pay.

The last entry in Harrison's log book is dated 29th December 1796; it reads 'Came on board Captain Bartholomew James as acting commander, superseding me as having been dismissed the ship by the sentence of a court martial.'

Sources:

J. Sugden, *Nelson: A Dream of Glory* (Cape, 2004), 680-682
N. Slope, 'The Trials of Nelson: Nelson's Camel', *The Nelson Despatch* 7 (July 2001), 436-445

Loweswater Corpse Road Confusion *by Roger Asquith*

Despite the local tradition that the dead were carried along the track through Holme Wood on their way to be buried at St Bees, it is often presented as fact

in local walk descriptions that the path above Holme Wood, from High Nook towards Fangs Brow, was Loweswater's 'corpse road'. Derek Denman's article in the *Wanderer* of May 2018 cited the local tradition and showed that Loweswater's departed have been buried within their own churchyard since the beginning of the 15th Century.

Readers may have come across an interesting (2018) publication entitled *The Corpse Roads of Cumbria*, with the sub-heading 'Featuring walks along the county's ancient paths'. In the case of their Loweswater Corpse Road walk the authors have discounted the local tradition (such oral traditions being 'famously unreliable') in favour of the High Nook fell side path, placing their trust in internet sources and guide books. Given the elapsed six centuries, caution regarding local tradition is understandable, though it may just have persisted because it is consistent with local knowledge of the terrain and history. The alternative route appears to lack compelling logic or other evidence, a recent misconception that has gained credence by frequent repetition.

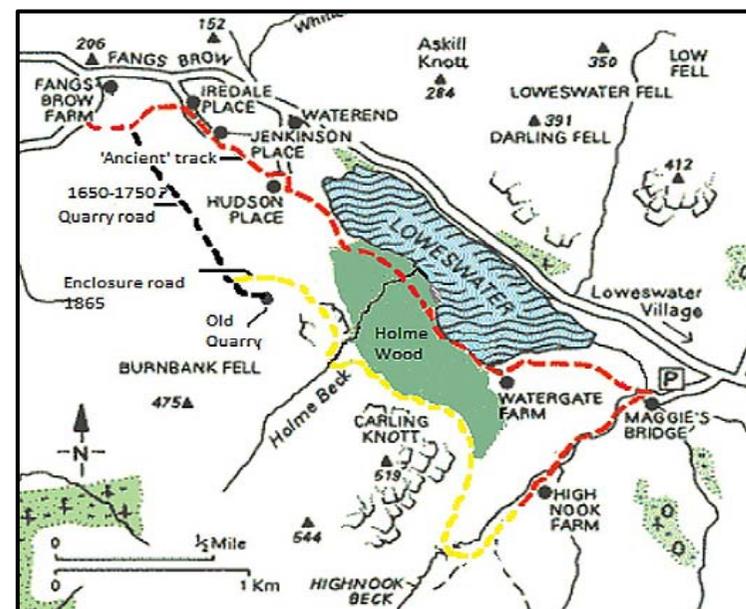
For the purpose of comparison both routes can be considered to start at the NT Maggie's Bridge car park and to end at the gate onto the Lamplugh road above Fangs Brow. The high path is approximately one mile longer and involves considerable unnecessary ascent (to over 1000 ft.). Through the wood the path is effectively level before climbing gently past Hudson Place, Jenkinson Place, Iredale Place and up to the open fell. Any corpse road usage in Loweswater was definitely 'ancient', more than 600 years ancient. While the track up through High Nook is centuries old, having provided access to that farm (also the now vanished High Iredale) and an exit for stock from the enclosed land on to the open common, the westwards continuation above Holme Wood is much more recent. The

impressive 25 inches to the mile maps (OS1 surveyed 1863-4 and OS2 revised 1898) show **no such path** above Holme Wood at the earlier date, though it showed the sheep folds and 'piles of stones'. By 1898 a path spurs off from the Burnbank Fell quarry road and crosses two becks, i.e. Holme Beck and the one above High Nook, to establish the link which walkers enjoy today. (Given the exposed situation, to 'enjoy' requires fine weather, definitely not a windy, wet and cold day, nor to be burdened by an extra body!)

The Burnbank Fell quarry appeared as 'old quarry' on the 1863 OS1, the quarry and the track to it are unlikely to significantly predate 1650 as little local building would then have been in stone. The 'Inclosure Map of Loweswater Commons' (1865/6) shows that the path above Holme Wood was created at this time as an enclosure road providing access and right of way to the newly created parcels of fell side land. The quarry was designated a public quarry for the purposes of road construction and maintenance.

The track through Holme Wood on the other hand is 'ancient', even if the woodland is an early 19C development. Past Watergate Farm the track emerged onto open common prior to the end of the 16C. The key point here is that the enclosure of the Holme was long after, and therefore did not impact upon, funeral processions to St Bees.

The 'Place' tenements at Waterend are believed to be of relatively later date than most in Loweswater, established during the 1500s. Whether the boundaries of these tenements respected a pre-existing track or served to establish the line that exists today is debatable. Clear from old maps and on the ground is the fact that this ancient road was well made, well defined and important. Until modern times it was a lane



between two walls as it emerged from the enclosed ground onto the common and crossed it to join the Fangs to Lamplugh road.

Starting from Fangs end the main track now, in 2018, clearly runs straight on towards High Nook above Holme Wood, with the option of a fork left after 300 yards, along a less appealing, grassy field path signed to Hudson Place. Formerly, as the OS1 and Greenwood's maps indicate, the main track followed the Hudson Place direction. With most folk starting the walk at the Fangs end, for ease of parking, this 'changed priority' at the junction of paths and under-use in the Hudson Place direction, has probably led to the confusion regarding which is the old road and hence which might be termed the 'corpse road'.

'Many roads saw the passage of coffins whether on horseback or on a sled, but in a few instances the route was used for hardly any other purpose, and became known locally as a "corpse road"', (*Roads and Tracks of the Lake*

District by Paul Hindle). The route from Loweswater church, through what is now Holme Wood, linked habitations and provided the way out of the valley to Lamplugh and onwards to St Bees. As such it does not fulfil Paul Hindle's usage criterion in that it will have been in daily use as part of the farming

routine, nor is there evidence to state that this was the only route for corpses on their way to St Bees. However, if the 'corpse road' title is to be awarded to a route in Loweswater township then this ought to be it! One thing we can be certain of is that the path above Holme Wood started life as an enclosure road and was not a corpse road.

Benjamin Franklin in Loweswater in 1772?

by Derek Denman

Benjamin Franklin visited William Brownrigg at Ormathwaite in 1772 – see page 11. On Crosthwaite's map of *Buttermere Crummock and Loweswater Lakes* he states 'The 2nd station [Flass Wood] was the favourite one of Dr Brownrigg and Dr Franklin in this round'. There is no reason to disbelieve Crosthwaite, though 1772 is an early date for recorded tours of Crummock, Scale Force, and Loweswater village. [date corrected from 1772 in printed version of *Wanderer*]