Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Wanderer

No.54, November 2024

Contents

Society News

Meeting Reports

Articles

Society News

Members' access to Cockermouth Castle Archives, 22-25 October.

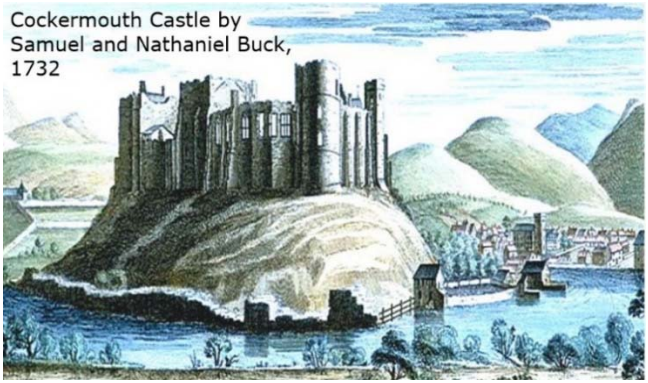
By the time readers see this Note, Society Members will have participated in a rather unusual project. We have been granted access to documents held in the privately owned Leconfield Estate archives, kept at Cockermouth Castle. Those records, of the Honour of Cockermouth, dating back to the Percy inheritance c.1400, are fundamentally important to our local history.

The event will take place too late for a report in this Wanderer, but it will be reported on fully in February 2025.

The plan is not only for research to be done by individual Members, but also for a major exercise in photography to take place. Our intention is to photograph important documents in the Estate's archives that relate to the Society's area of interest, and we envisage that the images will become available via the Society in due course. That will then overcome the problem encountered by those carrying out research into local history of not having sight of such documents because access to them via Cumbria Archive Service has ceased in recent years.

We are most grateful to Lord Egremont, whose family have owned Cockermouth Castle since the 18th century, for enabling the study week to take place.

Charles Lambrick



Cockermouth Castle by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 1732

Our future programme 2024/5

14 Nov 2024	'The rise and fall of Maritime West Cumberland'.	Alan Bell
20 Mar 2025	'Getting to know John Peel: an American's impression of Cumbria's past'.	Dr Christopher Donaldson
15 May 2025	'Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere dam'.	Ian Hall
12 Jun 2025	AGM followed by 'Names in the Landscape'.	Professor Angus Winchester
18 Sep 2025	'Clouties and Mud – Long Meg Stone Circle and Birdoswald Roman fort'.	Bruce Bennison
13 Nov 2025	'The great enchantress: Ann Radcliffe's 1794 tour of The Lakes'.	Dr Penny Bradshaw

Talks are at 7.30 pm in the Yew Tree Hall, are included in membership and are open to visitors at £4 cash at the door, with refreshments. Talks are also streamed live to members using Zoom but are not recorded. Other activities may be added.

Officers and Committee 2024/5

President: Professor Angus Winchester Financial Examiner: Dr Ian Shaw

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The **next issue** of the *Wanderer* will be published on 1 February 2025. Please send any short items to the Editor, Derek Denman, by 1 January.

The *Wanderer* is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cockermouth CA13 0GU.

http://derwentfells.com *https://facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety*

L&DFLHS Archive: *https://derwentfells.org.uk*

Our Future Talks

'The rise and fall of Maritime West Cumberland', our next talk on 14 November, 7.30 pm

Alan Bell's interest in West Cumbrian shipping was awakened when shipwreck timbers washed up on the Drigg beach following storms in early 2018. They were originally thought to date from the 16th century but close analysis revealed the timbers were likely to date from 1790 to 1810, still a very rare find in Britain.

Alan, who is Chair of Drigg Heritage Group and West Lakes U3A, will present an

A sailing ship by William Mitchell of Maryport

overview of the state of shipping up to Elizabethan times and the dramatic change in the Stuart times. His talk will include Whitehaven, Parton, Workington, Harrington and Maryport. He will focus on the time when Whitehaven became the second biggest port in England, and its slow demise, and why other ports flourished. The last surviving Whitehaven ships and their locations will be featured, as well as information on the last ship built in a West Cumberland port.

A preview of the Talks programme in 2025

As you may have guessed, our offering in March, 'Getting to Ken John Peel. An American's impressions of Cumbria's past' is NOT about John Peel. Dr Chris Donaldson, Director of the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University will look beyond John Peel and discover some extraordinary individuals: warring bishops, fugitive slaves and fearless suffragettes, who are all part of Cumbria's history. He will also look into the lives of Cumbrians who left the region to seek their fortunes elsewhere. Chris Donaldson has published widely on the history of northern England, especially Cumbria, the English Lake District and the Anglo-Scottish border region.

In 'Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam', Ian Hall will tell the life story of Mary Jackson of Armboth, Thirlmere, an heiress married off at a young age to Count Ossalinsky, ostensibly a Polish nobleman, who charmed and then scandalised Keswick society. Forty years later, Countess Ossalinsky found herself under the spotlight again when her fight with the Manchester Waterworks Committee over the Thirlmere Dam fascinated the whole country. The talk will also deal with the wider opposition to the dam, the first such nationally organised campaign. Ian Hall is the author of *Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam* and *Thirlmere before and after the Dam*.

Next June, following the AGM, in 'Names in the Landscape' Professor Angus Winchester will explore the history of place-names in the Lake District. Names give places a cultural meaning: once coined, they pass down the generations, acting as a bridge linking us with past generations. They are part of the communal memory. His talk will look at the names of villages, farms, fields and becks, of fellsides, crags and tarns, asking when they were named, by whom and what the names signify.

In September, we will host the archaeologist Bruce Bennison who will speak about 'Clouties and Mud – Long Meg Stone Circle and Birdoswald Roman Fort'. He will explore two of the best-known archaeological sites in Cumbria, separated 3,000 years in time. He will talk about his personal experiences of these sites and tell some of the stories behind the important discoveries from recent excavations and surveys.

Ann Radcliffe, one of the most popular novelists of the late 18th Century, set off on a tour of the Lake District in 1794. The account of her experiences in the region appeared the following year and provides an important stepping-stone in the journey from picturesque tourism to later literary accounts of the encounters with the landscape of the Lakes.

Lena Stanley-Clamp

Message from the chair

Dear members,

Welcome to our latest edition of The Wanderer, in which you'll find a number of interesting articles covering topics as diverse as slavery and spectacles making.

The Society's visit to Carlisle Cathedral, covered in the report in this edition, was well attended and allowed some of our members to see the highlights, as well as learn more about the precinct in which the cathedral sits, along with the story of its evolution from its founding in the early twelfth century. I particularly love the mid-fifteenth century paintings on the backs of the choir stalls depicting the lives of St. Cuthbert and other saints, and the carving on the misericords in the choir, which date from the earliest part of the fifteenth century. I have always been intrigued by the presence of mythical beasts and birds in places of Christian worship.

Having always enjoyed history, I am an avid reader of books covering topics both ancient and more recent events in our human story. I have always been drawn to the broader sweep of history as a generalist, but have found it really fascinating to learn about how wider events, such as the industrial revolution, the civil war and the restoration of the monarchy resonate in local history, as well as learning more about the lives of people from this part of the country and how they experienced their world. The society continues to provide insight into these subjects and more through its series of talks by eminent local historians and through articles published in The *Wanderer* and elsewhere.

My wife, Catherine, and I recently visited a house in a part of rural Cumbria, that was associated with the Red Spear men of Inglewood Forest, which I had not heard of before. I'm sure some of our members will already be familiar with this subject, but learnt that they were mediaeval bailiffs in the forest armed with red spears, who used to ride through the streets of Penrith every Whit Tuesday as a challenge to any who may violate the Inglewood Forest. I'd love to learn more about this tradition. Maybe it could be the subject of a future article?

On the subject of articles, I really enjoyed our last edition of The Wanderer and thank all the contributors that made it so interesting. I particularly enjoyed Sheila Drewery's lovely 'Childhood memories of Palace How, Brackenthwaite' and it is articles like this which really bring to life recent history in the area. It would be great to capture more of these memories in future editions of The *Wanderer*.

Finally, I was part of a small team of people who organised the first Melbreak Communities Apple Day, on 13 October. As part of the preparations, I conducted a little bit of local history research into orchards in the area, so that we could contrast today with the past, and use that insight to think about how we might encourage the planting of more fruit trees in the area, which will aid species diversity. This may seem to be more environmental than historical research, per se, but serves to illustrate at a local level how history can inform how we look to our future.

Andrew

A new Bank Account – a new Treasurer?

In September the Society closed its account with the Cumberland Building Society and opened a new, free, Community Account with NatWest. We have banked with the Cumberland for over thirty years, and have always had good service from the staff in the Cockermouth branch, but the account no longer met our needs. We had no access to the account online, even to see the balance, and to make electronic payments we had to take forms to the branch. Like many organisations, our account requires dual authorisation for payments, which only worked at the branch, or using cheques.

We now have an account with NatWest which does provide dual authorisation online, and so our account is easier to use and up to date. NatWest has no fixed branch in Cockermouth, but a van visits once a week, which allows us to pay in cash and cheques on the few occasions we need to.

Subscriptions

You will soon receive a request from Mary Baker to renew your membership for 2025 and to pay subscriptions, which are unchanged from 2024. By far the most convenient method is to pay by bank transfer, giving your name(s) as a reference. Our details have changed to:

Name: Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS

Account Number: 27260291

Sort Code:01-02-17

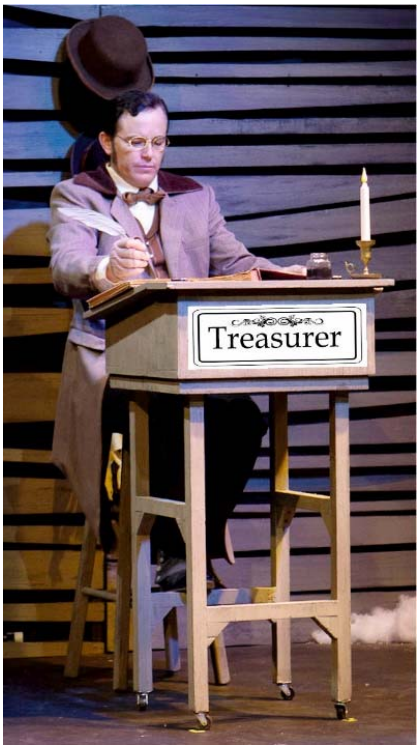
You can also send a cheque by post, using our name as above without abbreviation, or you can pay by cash or cheque at our November meeting. Sorry that we cannot take card payments – that costs money.

Treasurer

The change of bank account completes a sequence of changes designed to make the role of Treasurer much simpler, and yes, we hope that means that one of our 180 members might wish to take on that role from June 2025, when I stand down. Our accounts are kept on a simple Excel spreadsheet, originally designed by Christopher Thomas but now simplified by being just a cash account which aligns at year-end with the bank account, newly visible online. By June, the 2025 accounts will be well underway, and would be followed by a gradual handover with any help as needed.

The Society's Treasurer, a role so good that I have done it twice, is elected by members to look after the Society's money and to advise the committee on financial aspects of decisions. This involves just four short committee meetings a year, plus the AGM, at which the Treasurer provides the written and examined accounts for approval. Would you like to know more about this, or do you know someone we might ask?

Derek Denman
Treasurer



Overheard in the lowest depths of Coniston Copper Mine .....

Good day to you Barratt. It would appear that Adams fellow has produced edition 3 of his "Mines of the Lake District Fells".

This is indeed true Mr. Taylor, sir. It was with great joy and anticipation that I purchased a copy this morning. I shall seek out a quiet stope where I might read, and derive enlightenment from, its contents.

If, like the distinguished gentlemen above, thinking about mines ignites your most primitive passions .....

AND IF you are a member of one of the following societies ...

CATMHS, NMRS, CWAAS, Cumberland Geological Society, Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society.

THEN you can receive a copy of "Mines of the Lake District Fells, Edition 3", for the unprincely sum of £20 postage free

If this is an offer you can't refuse please email dave@p3publications.com stating £20 offer, to which society you belong, the book title, and how many copies you would like. Dave will take it from there.

Normal shop price £25, postage extra. Ouch!

Meeting Reports

Talk: 'A Place in History: three locations with a fascinating past', 12 September

Speakers Judith Shingler and Alison Peak of the Ambleside Oral History Group are no strangers to our society, Judith addressed us on her own as far back as 2014 and the Ambleside Oral History Group (AOHG) also hosts our own oral history collection. The AOHG presentations have become slicker and more professional as the years have gone by; now starting with previews of other talks available and fleshed out with extensive research and numerous photographs, (contemporary and recent) to enrich the tales being related. Their oral history archive started nearly fifty years ago, using reel to reel tape, and they continue to record more recent events using digital recorders, as memories quickly fade.

The three locations discussed are the Thirlmere to Manchester pipeline, Grizedale Hall, and the Theatre in the Forest in Grizedale.

The Thirlmere to Manchester Pipeline

In 1874, the Manchester authorities were advised that as the population expanded to work in the growing businesses, more water would be needed. Their chosen solution was to dam Thirlemere, and pipe water to Manchester. Royal assent was granted in 1879, and work started in 1885, taking eight years and the labour of 3,000 men. The first interview we heard, was the first recorded by AOHG in 1977; from Edith Benson, then 100 years old. The first she knew about the pipeline was when she encountered a man by the side of the road hammering a peg into the ground. It was a cold day and he had a drop on the end of his nose, which stuck

The draw-off tower on Thirlmere Reservoir (image AOHG)

in her mind. She recalled the sheds the men stayed in and the church they had. Miners from Gloucestershire lodged with her family for two years and one night some of them took her into the tunnel for a look, before the water came through. She recalled the tramways, and the dirt.

Another respondent, Nigel Hutchinson said the Mechanics Institute, now the Market Hall, had been used to house workers, often just for their first week, before their wages were paid, enabling them to move to more suitable accommodation and pay for their boots. Ann Muir referred to a group of workers, including her father, who came down from Collin, a small village in Ayreshire, as there was no work locally. Her father stayed in the area and married a local girl.

The entire project was a tremendous feat of Victorian engineering, constructed with an eye to appearance as well as function. Access gates with sandstone posts to a uniform design were used throughout the length of the pipeline. The straining well and valve house, also referred to as the draw off tower, alongside the road was built to resemble a castle. Water flowed along the entire length of the pipeline without use of pumps, utilising gravity and syphons. A fountain in Albert Square, Manchester was erected for the opening ceremony on 13 October 1894.

Longer-standing members will recall a talk the Society had in May 2009 about the Thirlmere reservoir and 'aqueduct', by John Butcher of United Utilities, but this was before the Wanderer carried reports of talks. In March 2010, we visited what was referred to as the 'draw off tower' and a short illustrated report of that visit by John Hudson can be read in the Wanderer of May 2010.

Grizedale Hall

After two previous halls on the site, this was rebuilt in the Gothic style in 1905 by Harold Brocklebank, a wealthy Liverpool merchant. Following his death in 1936, it became the property of the Forestry Commission (FC) and at the outbreak of WWII was commandeered to become POW Camp no 1 - known locally as the U-boat hotel because of the luxury it provided for high-ranking German naval officers. It could accommodate around 300 such prisoners.

David Scott told how German prisoners were brought by train to Windermere station, from where they were driven to the hall in Army trucks.

The prisoners led a life of luxury, and this led to local objections, although there is some suggestion that this luxury was deliberately provided, to lull the prisoners into a false sense of security, as there were hidden microphones intended to catch unguarded intelligence. We were shown a list of items purchased by German officers during a five-week period in 1945. The total came to over £604 and included 4 accordions at £68, tobacco (pipes and cigars) £137, toilet requisites, beer, cigarettes, cake etc £98 and £92 on 'sports goods' (hockey sticks, football boots, jerseys, boxing gloves etc). There were dances to which local young women were invited, though one interviewee said that their fathers were unhappy about this development. Nevertheless, some of the prisoners married local girls.

Escape was always an imperative for prisoners of war, so security was tight. Jack Huddlestone told of his involvement in adding barbed wire fencing round the Hall, shortly after the outbreak of war. Sentries changed their passwords regularly and one with a 'w' in it was particularly effective, as a native German speaker will tend to sound this as 'v'. There were several tales of escapes, but two will suffice here. That of Baron Franz von Werra, fighter pilot, in 1940, inspired the 1957 film 'The One That Got Away',

The Garden Terrace and Theatre in the Forest, Grizedale (Image AOHG)

starring Hardy Kruger and filmed at the Hall before its demolition. Oberleutnant Bernhard Berndt of the German Navy escaped and was shot in the back by his pursuers on 19 October 1941, aged only 25. He was buried in Hawkshead churchyard and is now additionally remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves monument at Cannock Chase.

After the war, the Hall was returned to the FC but remained empty. The cost of maintenance grew prohibitive, and the FC began auctioning off all the internal fittings, finally demolishing the buildings in 1955, leaving little to show but the garden terrace.

Theatre in the Forest

By the 1960s the FC was under pressure to increase public access and provide facilities for recreational activities. Bill Grant was the head forester at the time and rose to the challenge. The Theatre in the Forest opened with a ballet performance, shortly followed by Dame Flora Robson. The Grizedale Society was formed in 1968 to further arts within the forest and over time the 230-seat theatre hosted a range of shows including jazz, classical and folk music, and drama. Such stars as Sir Anthony Hopkins, Dame Judi Dench, Julian Lloyd Webber and Kenny Ball appeared.

In an audio clip, Bill Grant recalls that funding had been something of a challenge and the theatre had been given a ‘not very good’ piano. They managed to raise £800, and he was sent off to find a second hand piano. Marguerite Wolff was due to play at the theatre and joined Bill at Steinway Hall in London where she selected a piano, of which she said, ‘you

must buy it'. The price asked was £2,600 and when told that the theatre only had £800, the response was 'pay that now, and the rest when you can afford it'. There was no interest to be charged, and it took fourteen months to raise the balance, thanks in part to a lottery grant.

In 1977 a sculpture trail was established. Bill Grant retired in 1997, and the theatre seems to have gone into a rapid decline. It was closed two years later for financial reasons, and the Grizedale Society became Grizedale Arts, moving to a site overlooking Coniston Water in 2007. Bill Grant died in 2002, and a stone bench serves as a memorial to him, inscribed 'Bill Grant, OBE'. His achievements in wildlife conservation, recreation, the arts and his love of the forest will continue to inspire those who follow'.

Sandra Shaw

Visit: Carlisle Cathedral, 10 October

The following report contains the impressions of an artist with a lifelong interest in cathedrals, churches and monasteries – indeed, in all sacred places. One cathedral which has played an important part in my life is Durham. As a student it was my rock and refuge. My favourite saint, Cuthbert, was finally laid to rest there and his shrine behind the high altar is a place of pilgrimage for many. So I was pleased to learn that he had visited Carlisle in 685. The connection between Durham, Carlisle and our own parish church of St Cuthbert in Lorton felt significant.

Until the tour I had only visited the cathedral for various services and events and so I was very grateful to Andrew for organising this special day and to our guides, Alison and Jim, for sharing their wisdom and passion. I am not a historian but shall attempt to share some of their deep knowledge amongst my reflections. I have welcomed the opportunity to get to know this sacred place better and feel this is just the beginning of an ongoing process to deepen this connection.

We arrived on a glorious autumnal day and my first glimpses of the cathedral were through a veil of golden beech leaves beneath an azure sky. It felt an auspicious start. Gathered in front of the main entrance in the precinct, we were told that this was the site of an Augustinian priory founded by Henry I in 1122. Unlike in a monastery, where the monks were 'set apart', the canons of the priory were very much involved in the world and their practice of prayer and loving service in the community is still at the heart of the cathedral's mission today. 'Ora et labora' had become 'Action and contemplation', the mantra of the new monastic movement today. Augustine of Hippo was very much committed to the communal aspect of faith.

Before entering we looked at the model of the original cathedral and I understood why I had the impression of Carlisle being a 'short' cathedral: it has lost two thirds of its nave and all of its spire!

As soon as you entered the cathedral you knew you were on fragile ground. Evidence of subsidence, irregular arches – Norman giving way literally to Gothic – cracks and other irregularities were everywhere to be seen. In its 900 years of existence, this place has suffered fire, raids by the border reivers, the dissolution of the monasteries (incidentally, the priory didn't lose many possessions as it didn't have much to lose and Henry VIII wasn't very interested in Carlisle) and general decay and neglect. And yet it was still standing, albeit not straight!

The remaining end of the nave houses the chapel of the Border Regiment (founded in

A view of Carlisle Cathedral – photo Roger Hiley

1881), created in 1949. In 2006 the regiment became the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. Yet its 21 colours still hang here and will continue to do so.

The starlight ceiling of the cathedral – photo Roger Hiley

Around the corner in the north aisle is a maquette of a sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos, the original being in St

Mary's, Windermere. She loved children, maybe all the more for not being able to have any of her own, though she and her husband, the artist Delmar Banner, adopted two boys, and many of her sculptures depict children – including this one. Her work can be seen all over the Lake District and one of my favourites is 'They Fled by Night', to be found in Cartmel Priory. There is an innocence, grace, fluidity and tenderness in her work. A fascinating biography which I would recommend is by Margaret Lewis.

Turning back, one cannot fail to be struck by the massive organ, commissioned from Henry Willis and installed in 1856. Apparently, it can produce the sound of every instrument in the orchestra and is still played most days.

I was very touched by the story of Dean Tait (former head of Rugby School), who was appointed Dean in 1849. He managed to negotiate a grant of £15,000 from the church commissioners for restoration work in the cathedral, the choir ceiling being a major project, which I will come on to. He suffered from physical disability, overwork and the dreadful loss of five children in succession. These children are commemorated in the Dean Tait window in the north aisle. What a source of comfort this window must have been… and so the theme of the love of children continues through sculpture into stained glass. Dean Tait went on to be Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury.

Stepping into the choir is like stepping into another world. Every arch different, the asymmetry of the organ and adjacent arches, the richly carved stalls and highly imaginative misericords (dating from 1400–1420), all of which combine to create an amazing visual feast. I find myself embracing the quirkiness and joyfulness of it all. And all of this survived the choir ceiling burning down! Which brings me to the choir ceiling – part of the restoration project.

When I first came to Carlisle cathedral, I was a bit taken aback by the choir ceiling. It distracted me and didn't seem to fit… this bright blue vault studded with golden stars, reminiscent of the Moorish architecture to be found in Granada and Córdoba, felt out of place in Cumbria. And yet, the more I reflected – the memory of the blue sky and golden leaves on our arrival, the images of all those brightly coloured Cumbrian terraced houses painted in defiance of the 'dreich' weather which can beset us here – the more I thought, 'Why not?!' The shoulders of the church can be broad enough to commemorate those lost men of the Border Regiment, to shelter and comfort those who have lost children and loved ones, and yet also to lift our spirits and celebrate life. This ceiling sings the hymn 'Eternal glory of the sky' and voices the words of Psalm 148:

Praise him sun and moon

Praise him shining stars

Praise him highest heavens

The great east window is equally magnificent, the biggest expanse of medieval glass in the country and the largest, most complex example of flowing decorative Gothic tracery. The stone tracery could be said to depict the tree of life, hearts, flowers… it is creative and organic and demands a return visit!

After tea in the Undercroft, a wonderful, low-vaulted space which felt like a crypt, we were taken to the Prior's Tower. This was the icing on the cake of the tour! Probably built by Prior Simon Senhouse, its painted ceiling, said to be one of the finest medieval ceilings in the north of England, is a riot of colour and symbolism and has survived damp and neglect remarkably well. There are scallop shells,

The Society group outside of the cathedral – photo Lena Stanley-Clamp

choughs, eagle's legs, popinjays… all symbols of great families of the region, the popinjay being the symbol of the Senhouse family. This artist had fun! I loved the ragged staffs tied together with coiled rope to symbolise the marriage of Thomas Dacre and Elizabeth Greystoke, which thankfully was a long and happy one. There were wonderful bosses also, including one of a pelican plucking its breast to feed its young with its own blood – a well-known Christian symbol of sacrificial love. It reminded me of the same image depicted in the wonderful Pre-Raphaelite stained glass in the parish church in Brampton.

And the meaning of all of this? Our guide did share one interpretation, but we were advised not to mention the Battle of Flodden! However, if the Scots had won that battle, Carlisle would have been next in the firing line and none of this might have survived.

Gazing through the window of the tower at the truncated west end and the patchwork of different coloured sandstone glowing in the setting sun, shoring up this beleaguered building, I felt a sense of awe and gratitude for the resilience and faith of the human spirit and a desire to deepen my connection with this place.

My thanks to Roger and Lena for their wonderful photos.

Sue Pexton

Roger Hiley's report can be seen at *https://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/241010_History_Soc_Carlisle.htm* Ed.

Articles

Cold Keld in Loweswater: reconstructing its history

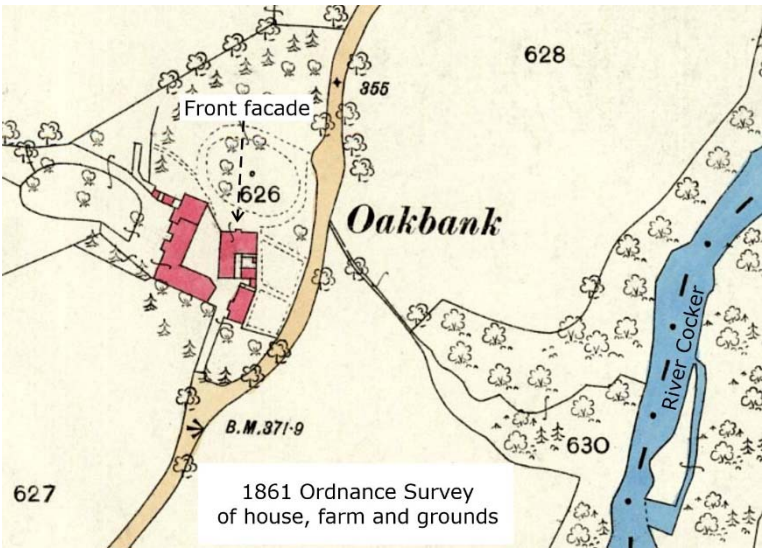
by Roz Southey

In 1987, my father idly remarked that he would love to find out more about the history of our house – Cold Keld, Loweswater, on the back road through the valley about a mile or so south of Thackthwaite. Little did either of us know that the search for that history would take nearly forty years but I have finally finished the history of the house from the first known mentions of it in 1524 until my father's death in 2004 and the result is a two-volume study which should be available to look at in the Cumbria Archives' Whitehaven branch from the end of the year. The history comes in two volumes: Vol. I, the history of the house and its owners and tenants, and Vol. II, a survey of the structure of the house, using photographs taken by my father and other members of the family, in an attempt to unravel exactly when it was built and by whom, which bits came first and how various bits of it were constructed over the years.

My parents, who were originally from Bristol, bought the house in 1958 – it needed a great deal of modernisation and my father, who enjoyed a bit of DIY, did most of it himself. In the course of installing new fires, repairing the roof, replacing joists and so on, he often came across puzzling oddities. A door had been blocked up on the front façade; in the single-storey extension at the back, some walls showed signs of being infilled with thin brick. Roof timbers were mainly eighteenth century but in one place were Victorian. And there was an unexpected internal structural wall which showed that the house had originally been two separate buildings – probably a small farmhouse with barn attached.

Finding out information in 1987 involved consulting the deeds – disappointing in view of the fact that many of the originals had been thrown out thanks to a 1922 law – and paying multiple visits to the Carlisle Record Office, which at that time was in the impressive but draughty confines of the castle. I consulted old maps, manor court records, parish registers, and miscellaneous odd survivals. And in the end I wrote a 27 page report which raised far more questions than it answered.

I thought that was as much as I was ever likely to find out. I turned to writing short pieces on local history for the parish magazine. And then, around 2000, came digitisation. The British Library started



1861 Ordnance Survey of house, farm and grounds

Rendering removed from the front façade, showing the blocked-up doorway, 1978

would have delighted Charles Dickens. I plunged into another round of investigation, using the material from the newspapers and genealogical sites to point out the directions in which I needed to go.

putting all its newspaper holdings online.[1] The General Registry digitized births, marriages and deaths. Local History Societies started up helpful websites. And suddenly new lines of research proliferated. Old newspapers provided anecdotes which hinted at occupants of the property: a tenant's carriage overturned on Whinlatter, an elderly lady died on a brief visit to a friend living there. Gentlemen from London, Bideford, Whitehaven and Workington, elderly ladies from Carlisle, retired tax inspectors, and the sister of the famous photographer, Francis Frith, all occupied the house at one time or another. The house, or its occupants, had been to the Court of Chancery no fewer than three times, which

The earliest references I could find to the house date from the early sixteenth century and come in the manor court records.[2] As a crime novelist, I was delighted to find that these involved violent encounters and even a murder – in 1524-1525, the occupant of the house at the time, James Robynson, apparently harboured one of the accomplices to the murder. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, there were two households on the property: the Robinsons and the Wilkinsons; Thomas

Victorian photograph of the house, late 1890s

[1] *www.Britishnewspapersonline.co.uk*, still one of the most massively useful resources for a local historian

[2] Many thanks to Derek Denman for pointing out one of these references.

Wilkinson married Jenet (or Janet) Robinson, uniting the families. This resulted in the first visit to Chancery, as Thomas and Jenet ran an alehouse at the property, and Jenet's younger brother thought he was being treated to free food and drink – until he received the bills. He took his sister and brother-in-law to court in 1652 but the verdict has not survived.

The Robinsons moved away and the Wilkinsons went into decline until, at the end of the seventeenth century, mortgages on the property were two a penny. John Wilkinson, grandson of Thomas, was glad therefore to come to a deal with a young shoemaker from Park. John Fisher, who was married with three small children, had just been appointed bailiff to the Lord of the Manor, and was a shrewd financial wheeler and dealer. He first rented the property from the Wilkinsons, then gave them a mortgage, then came to an agreement to take the house and land off their hands. The Robinsons' part of the property had passed into the hands of the Burnyeats of Netherclose but Fisher moved in on that too and by 1712 was in possession of the entire property. His descendants were to own Cold Keld for around 120 years.

Only one early description remains of the property and is enigmatic. Surviving plans often make no pretences to accuracy and are usually more confusing than enlightening. Many of the fields – which stretched originally from the River Cocker to the foot of Low Fell – may have been shared between the two households, as were some of the farm buildings. Fisher seems to have moved into the bigger house, which belonged to the Wilkinsons, and used the smaller house, originally belonging to the Robinsons, as the farmhouse. He leased out the running of the farm to tenant farmers, keeping a few fields for his own use.

Described in the parish registers as 'a noted man', Fisher clearly saw himself as a gentleman as did the three other John Fishers who followed him. They sent their sons to St Bees School and occasionally on to Oxford or Cambridge. They provided handsome dowries for their daughters. Each in turn was bailiff to the Lord of the Manor, accruing a great deal of money along the way. And somewhere towards the end of the eighteenth century, they decided that their house needed improvement.

There are no documents surviving to describe their alterations, but many of them can be deduced from the structure of the house itself. It seems that the original farmhouse formerly faced south into the farmyard; the Fishers 'turned' the house to face north, away from the smelly, ungenteel day-to-day farm work. They knocked the small house and its adjoining barn into one bigger building, blocking up some doorways and opening others; a chimney stack which now found itself in the middle of the new house was blocked up and another constructed at the end, over what had been the barn. An outshut[3] roof was then added to the back, connecting what had been a single-pile house (one room thick) with a small dairy and, very possibly, with a small single-storey building at the back. Partition walls upstairs show that at one point the upper storey was simply one room, rather than divided into bedrooms.

This new L-shaped house was then completed by adding a small square courtyard at the back, with washhouse and other outbuildings, and converting part of a field into extensive 'pleasure grounds' at the front of the house and vegetable gardens at the side. Included in all the new work was an outside earth closet and smart ceiling decorations in the show rooms at the front of the house, together with a new stair in a turret that sticks up above the outshut roof.

It's very likely that the work was completed in a number of phases, but it

[3] A long roof at the back of a house, extending over the main house, often used to incorporate outbuildings into a house, thus expanding its size.

was certainly completed, more or less, by 1804 when one of the young Fisher daughters etched her name into a bedroom window. Another date of 1807 is scratched in one of the windows of the single-storey extension.

Unfortunately, all this expensive work coincided with the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, a period at which British agriculture suffered severely. The expense, unfavourable political circumstances and a series of hard winters put the Fishers into severe financial difficulties. The period between about 1812 and 1830 shows the family constantly mortgaging the best fields, and sometimes it's clear they were raising one mortgage to pay off the previous one. Disaster inevitably struck: a mortgager foreclosed and in 1832, the Fishers were forced to sell off stock and possessions, and move out. The family emigrated to Canada, as many did at the time.

The property was then occupied by the first of a series of West Cumbrian gentlemen who had made their fortunes in coal and steel and who wanted to bolster their credentials as gentlemen by buying, or renting, a country property. Thomas Smith from Hensingham occupied the house until 1848, bringing up a young family there and deciding that the traditional name for the property – Cold Keld – was not genteel enough. He rechristened it Oak Bank. But he died early and left a confusing will; his widow was forced to take the executors to court to try and gain support for the couple's eight children. So the house ended in Chancery again, in a case which lasted a decade and which echoes Dickens' *Jarndice v Jarndice* in *Bleak House* – although the case was resolved in the widow's favour, there was very little money left for herself or the children.

During the case, Cold Keld/Oak Bank had been rented out to James Peard Ley, from Bideford, who was in partnership in steelworks on the coast, and who wanted an impressive country residence for his new wife. But his wife died, and the property was taken over by David Ruston Harrison, a Cockermouth man who had just come into an inheritance. (It was his carriage that overturned on Whinlatter as he treated his family and friends to a day out.) The farm was also leased to these men although Edward Nelson of Gatesgarth rented it for some years to graze his prize-winning flocks of Herdwick sheep.

Then the Court of Chancery agreed to sell the property in order to raise money to support the children while the case continued. It was bought by Joseph Collins of Maryport, who had also just come into an inheritance. He redecorated it, put in entirely new modern furniture, and etched his name into the bottle glass of the washhouse window. And then he took out all his new furniture and put the house up for sale again, within two years of buying it. It was not an easy task – year after year he advertised the property for weeks at a time. The house probably stood empty all this while, although the farm continued to be worked. It was only six years later that the Lord of the Manor, William Marshall of Patterdale Hall, decided to buy.

Marshall already owned several of the neighbouring farms and over the next few years amalgamated them with Oak Bank land, to produce a larger, more profitable whole. Four separate farms – Riggbank, Pottergill, Oak Bank and Netherclose – were eventually all run together, and in the mid-1860s a large portion of fell land was added during the enclosure of the commons.

Marshall chose to rent out the main house. He obviously wanted the sort of gentleman tenant who had occupied the house for the last twenty or thirty years, but only one presented himself and he soon moved on. Instead, in 1862, Marshall rented it out to two middle-aged unmarried sisters, Mary and Jane Key, and they and their servants occupied the house until 1903. When Jane died, a sale was made of all her household goods and the sale inventory survives, listing everything that was in the house at the

time of her death – all the household crockery, much of it especially made for the family, the cooking pans and silver cutlery, the carpets and rugs, feather beds and hair mattresses, bird cage and washstands, a garden seat and a phaeton but no horses. Perhaps the most surprising item was a telescope.

My father, Charles Williams, repairing the roof in the early 1970s

After the death of the Key sisters, the house was occupied by a series of retirees, a tax inspector, a land agent, and Helen Frith, the sister of the photographer. The farm was occupied from 1870 until 1945 by the Swinburn family, one of whom married the late Miss Key's housekeeper. But the early twentieth century brought financial problems to the Marshall family and in 1934 they sold off large swathes of property to recoup their situation. Oak Bank House, by now renamed Cold Keld again, and the farm (still Oak Bank farm) were sold to Balliol College, Oxford. Balliol removed all the old documents from the deeds, as they were entitled to do, but fortunately put them in their own archives, where they can still be seen. Much of the detail of financial dealings and ownership can be traced through these deeds.

But Balliol's ownership did not last long. In 1956, they sold the farm to Dick Bell of Latterhead, who amalgamated the land with his own, and the house to George Watson of Greysouthen, a retired land agent. Watson's early death led to the property coming onto the market again in 1958, when my father bought it. These sales meant that for the first time since 1710, the farm and house came into separate ownership again.

I would never have been able to build up such a detailed account of the house and the people who lived in it, without the digitisation of old documents which has taken place this century. This has meant that a considerable amount of the research could be done in the comfort of my own home, combined with visits to local archives and libraries, and a long and fascinating trawl through the large picture resources that my family's obsession with photographing everything has created. I hope that the study will show people interested in the history of their own house how many resources are now available to them, and the stories that can be reconstructed. Although I hope they won't need forty years to complete the project …

Killed by their slaves; Thomas and Mary Rudd from Cockermouth

by Gloria Edwards

In the eighteenth century slavery left its mark on Cumberland, as it did in other parts of the country, either directly or indirectly. Between 1710 and 1769 there were 69 slave voyages involving the port of Whitehaven.[1] Families such as the Lutwidges, Hows, Flemings and Spedding were some of those directly involved in the 'triangular trade', where African slaves were taken forcibly from their own countries across the Atlantic to the southern states of America and to the West Indies, and goods (chiefly tobacco, cotton and sugar) were brought to this country to be used in industries or sold by merchants here. People buying rum, for instance, at a spirit merchants in Cumberland would be drinking spirits using 'slave sugar' in the manufacturing process. Many wealthier local people would probably also have had shares in those ships plying their trade across the Atlantic.

In Cockermouth one family in particular felt the consequences when rebellion against the repression of slavery ensued in the West Indies. Thomas Trohear Rudd was the second son of John Rudd and his wife Jane of Derwent House. Thomas was born in 1772, two years after his close neighbour William Wordsworth, and was christened in All Saints Church. In 1793 he married Mary Jackson, whose father Henry was a Whitehaven shipbuilder.

The couple went out to a plantation in Jamaica and tragically met an untimely end in 1803. Their young son John was witness to their murder at the hands of slaves.

The Lakes Hotel in 1936, now The Trout but formerly Derwent House.

[1] See 'The Transatlantic Slave Trade, its Abolition and the Cumbrian Connection', by Dr Rob David, in 'The Abominable Traffic: A Teacher's Resource Pack, 2006', *www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/542/795/41053132443.PDF*

William Rudd, brother of Thomas

The following is taken from the Rudd family Bible (*The Rudd Family Records*, A M Rudd, 1920):

> *Thomas Trohear Rudd and Mary his wife departed this life Thursday, September 15th, 1803. They were barbarously murdered by three of their own Negroe slaves, who had been the peculiar objects of their care and affection at their Plantation Skiddaw in the Parish of Portland in the Island of Jamaica. How little they deserved their fate … .*

The epitaph on their tomb in the garden of Warsaw Plantation (placed there by Mr Joseph Dixon, first cousin of Mr Rudd) includes the following:

> *And let it also be a lasting Monitor that neither Virtue, Humanity, Charity, nor Benevolence are at all times a shield against savage Barbarity, Ferocity and Ingratitude. In their prime of life they were barbarously murdered (on the 15th of SEPTr. 1803) by some of their own Negroes, to whom the most tender and attentive duties of a Master and Mistress had been extended and shewn in the most indulgent manner.*

The Gentleman's Magazine (Vol. 73, Part 2, Deaths 1803, September 15th) carries a graphic account of their murder:

> *About half past seven in the morning, Mr and Mrs Rudd, their little boy (about 2 years of age), and Captain Read, of the ship Friends of London (who had just recovered from a dangerous sickness), sat down to breakfast. About 8, Mr Rudd left the table to go to some Negroes who were at work in a wood about 100 yards from the house. He had not left the room many minutes when a shrieking was heard. Captain Read and Mrs Rudd immediately rushing out of the house, the first object they beheld was two of the Negroes with billhooks in their hands, covered with blood, and running towards them. There could be no doubt as to the horrid act which the villains had just perpetrated, and to Captain Read, having no weapon to defend Mrs Rudd and himself with, there appeared no safety but in flight if it could be effected. Captain Read therefore caught Mrs Rudd by the arm, whose shrieks and lamentations would have pierced the heart of any but the most ferocious savages, and endeavoured to regain the house. But, weakened as he had been by three months' sickness and agitated by the horrid circumstance which had just taken place, Mrs Rudd too was then almost exhausted with distress and horror, his foot struck the stump of a tree and he fell. The inhuman monsters were by this time close to them and Captain Read in rising saw one of them strike the fatal blow at the unfortunate lady … He had run only a few yards when the murderers, having completed the second bloody business pursued him with all their speed ….*

Captain Read was fortunate to escape the attack, when other workers came to his assistance. The two attackers were caught after a two-day search, tried and executed at Port Antonio, and their heads stuck on poles near the spot where the murders had taken place. The poor child, terrified by the cries that he had heard, 'covered himself over with some clothes on the floor' and thus escaped the attention of the attackers. He was later taken away to safety by John and Joseph Dixon. The child and his mother had been due to return to England four weeks later, with his father to return the following Spring. On the journey home to England a few months later in August 1804 the poor child died from a convulsive disorder. One can only imagine the distress that the Rudd family suffered, and the horrified fascination that the story caused locally.

A British Act of 1807 abolished the trade in slaves, but not slavery itself. It was not until 1838 that slaves in the British West Indies were given their full freedom. In America slavery lived on and left a lasting legacy. A Cockermouth Quaker, Joseph Adair, kept a diary and in 1847 he made the following entry:

3rd Month – 16th: A Slave delivered a lecture in the Court House this evening on the horrors of slavery. He showed in strong, but good language, the situation of three millions of his fellow countrymen in the United States … He had been in bondage himself and witnessed the evil treatment the slaves are subjected to by their unmerciful masters … The lecture was far beyond what was expected from a negro. All seemed to concur with the opinion that it would have done credit to any learned Englishman.

The Court House, where the lecture was given.

The Green Family of South Lodge, Cockermouth and Maryport

by Lena Stanley-Clamp

This final chapter of the history of South Lodge, a Georgian mansion built in 1831, features the life stories of Paul and Irene Green focussing on the years of their residence from 1960 to 1989. It will also relate the history of Paul Green's factory in Maryport.

From East-Central Europe to Scotland and West Cumberland

Pavel Grun (3.9.1907 – 23.9.1984), whose name was anglicised to Paul Green when he became a British citizen, was born in Budapest. His family was Jewish. His father Herman Grun was a career officer in the Austrian army. His mother was Laura Grun, née Platschek. Pavel's childhood was marked by the First World War. At the outbreak of the war the family lived in Lemberg (Lviv) but the city was evacuated in August 1914. The moving Eastern Front was responsible for Pavel's fractured education; he was good at languages and maths as well as football. The family's home town was Uhersky Brod in Moravia, in today's Czech Republic.

Young Pavel's early employment was as a travelling agent selling spectacles and binoculars. He travelled through Central Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East establishing new markets for his suppliers. He had good trade contacts in Germany, Britain and elsewhere, and eventually established his own business with a spectacles factory in Brno. In the early 1930s Pavel married his first wife Ritza Leibling (1912-43) and in 1938 his son Michael Henry (1938-43) was born.

With the rise of Nazi persecutions of the Jews in Germany, Pavel and his wife planned to escape to Britain via Switzerland. Pavel made it to Britain in 1938 and tried to bring his wife and son to safety but, through a series of tragic misadventures, he failed. Czechoslovakia was occupied by Nazi Germany in March 1939. Ritza and Michael Henry were murdered in 1943 as were several other members of their extended family during the Nazi Occupation. In later life Pavel could never bring himself to speak about their fate.

Sometime after arriving in London as a refugee Pavel was called up for military service with the Free Czech Forces, but was declared unfit because of his withered

Paul Green's passport, as Pavel Grun


REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ.

ŘIDIČSKÝ PRŮKAZ.

Jméno a příjmení	Grün Pavel
Místo a datum narození	Budapešť 3. IX. 1907
Domovská příslušnost	Uher. Brod
Státní příslušnost	Československá
Povolání	obchodník
Bydliště	Brno Falkensteinerova 56

STÁTNÍ TISKÁRNA V PRAZE 1916-35 Čís. skl.: 111 č.

right arm. He later moved to Glasgow. He found work there as an Optical Works Manager and joined a social club for Czech Servicemen where he met his future wife, Irene Allan.

Irene Green at a Trade Fair

Irene Green (18.11.1918 - 23.7.2005) was born and brought up in Glasgow. She was the daughter of Robert Allan and Florinda Elliott. Her father was a senior engineer at the locomotive works in Glasgow. Irene studied at the Liverpool Teacher Training College where she qualified as a PE teacher. During the war she taught in a tough Glasgow school.

Paul and Irene Green married in July 1946. As was customary at the time, Irene gave up her work as a teacher after her marriage. The regulation which required women teachers to resign their posts on marriage existed in the UK from 1915 to 1945. A 1912 Royal Commission report stated that 'responsibilities of married life were incompatible with the devotion of a woman's whole time and energy to the public service'.[1]

Over the next few years their children Allan, Marilyn and Michelle were born in Glasgow. Paul Green started his own business manufacturing spectacle frames. The demand for spectacles grew exponentially after the newly created National Health Service promised free spectacles for everyone. This policy was reversed by the Conservative government which came into office in 1952, but the subsidised NHS range of frames continued to be made available to OAPs and people on benefits. British manufacturers relied heavily on these subsidies. In the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government discontinued the NHS frame range and de-regulated the trade.

In 1960 the Green family and business moved to West Cumberland. They were encouraged to move by a cousin based in Whitehaven who alerted them to the availability of factory premises in Maryport and, very likely, some incentives for new businesses. South Lodge in Cockermouth was to become their new home.

Paul Green Limited in Maryport and Malta

The 18th century town of Maryport was founded on coal, iron and shipping. The expansion of coal mining was followed by the development of shipbuilding yards, manufactures of cotton, sail cloth and other industries in the 19th century. From 1840 the Maryport and Carlisle Railway brought increased coal traffic.

[1] Catherine Adams, Women in Teaching between the Wars, Open Access *brill.com/downloadpdf/journals/ser/21/2/*

The premises of Paul Green Limited, in Maryport

A new basin in the harbour and the construction of the Elizabeth and the Senhouse Docks allowed larger ships to trade. The decline of the town began at the turn of the century when Workington took over as the leading coal port in the area. The industrial decline accelerated during the depression of the 1930s. The closure of collieries and massive unemployment was followed by the closure of the port in 1951.[2]

The Special Areas Act of 1934 introduced incentives for the establishment of light industries in areas of high unemployment such as West Cumberland. After 1949, the Board of Trade set up further initiatives to encourage industry in Development Areas including in West Cumberland.

Allan Green, Richard Page MP, Paul Green and Bill Foskett

[2] Cumbria County History Trust https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/maryport

The Green family in 1962: Paul, Marilyn, Irene, Michelle and Allan

From November 1960 Paul Green's business and factory found a home on the Solway Estate in Maryport where suitable premises stood vacant. In time Paul had them extended with an additional block.

The business took off in the optimistic sixties and brought much needed employment to Maryport with a work force of 120 people at its peak. Paul's expertise and his network of trade contacts ensured that it continued to prosper for many years. His son Allan joined the company after graduating with a business degree from Salford University. Allan Green would eventually take over the management of the company on his father's gradual retirement.

They regularly attended Trade Fairs in the UK and in Milan, Paris, Dusseldorf and Karlsruhe to extend their contacts and client base. In 1967, Paul Green Ltd was awarded a prestigious Rocel Design Award for outstanding spectacle frame design.[3] In 1969, Paul Green was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers and at the same time to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. There is footage in existence of a Border TV broadcast about the business including an interview with Paul Green.

In 1969, while their business was booming in Maryport, the manufacturing of the spectacle frames expanded abroad with the establishment of Paul Green Malta Ltd. There were big incentives available for setting up factories in Malta: cheap rents, cheap labour and funds to buy machinery. After some productive years in Malta the political and economic circumstances including the exchange rate changed radically. Buying spectacles in Malta for the business in Maryport was no longer viable. After tough negotiations by Allan Green and the general manager Bill Foskett the Malta factory was sold to a German buyer in 1974.

These were difficult years for the UK economy with the oil crisis, escalating petrol prices and power stations running out of coal following the miners' strike. However, the Maryport factory was exempted from the 3-day working week because the making of frames was considered a continuous process.

Allan Green recollects that in the 1970s a trickle of imports of spectacle frames from the Far East began and then progressively grew into a flood. Competing with the cheaply produced imports became impossible. Furthermore, the subsidised NHS range of frames was withdrawn in 1985. In 1989 the Maryport factory had to close as did eventually nearly all factories

[3] *Times and Star*, 2-17 December, 1967

on the Solway Industrial Estate. This was done in an orderly fashion with all the orders fulfilled and the last pair of frames manufactured on 26 October. It was a very sad event.

The good life at South Lodge

The Green family bought South Lodge in Cockermouth and moved there in 1960. The house had been unoccupied for a while and required modernisation such as the installation of central heating. It was a courageous decision to take on a 150-year-old mansion house with adjoining buildings and seven acres of grounds including gardens, orchard and woodland.

Paul undertook to make the property more viable as a home for his family, as well as protecting it from wholesale development in the future. He had the adjoining servants' quarters, stables and storage buildings converted into separate dwellings now known as the Long House and Mill Cottage, and sold. In 1978 five detached houses standing in their own grounds were built along Simonscales Lane. The original entrance and driveway to South Lodge was reconfigured and moved from Vicarage Lane to a private lane off Simonscales Lane. In 1985, Allan had Riverdale House built for himself and his wife Sheena.

South Lodge proved to be a wonderful home for the Green family. Irene furnished the house in style relying to a considerable extent on Mitchell's Auctions. The younger children Marilyn and Michelle went to school in Cockermouth attending Fairfield and the Cockermouth Grammar while Allan went to Fettes College in Edinburgh.

The Greens were very sociable and hospitable. The house was often full of visiting friends and family members or Paul's business guests. Memorable parties were held for the children and their friends, neighbourhood children, and grown-ups. The Greens' daughters' weddings were celebrated at South Lodge. Paul was involved in Maryport Rotary while Irene was a member of the Inner Wheel.

Paul Green in later life

Paul Green died in 1984. Irene carried on living at South Lodge until 1989 when she moved to a flat at Wordsworth House. She continued to lead an active life in Cockermouth, volunteering for the Save the Children shop where she met Princess Anne during her visit to Cockermouth. She also did a lot of travelling to visit her daughters and grandchildren in Canada. Irene died in 2005.

Paul and Irene Green are still remembered fondly by the neighbours. A bench in their memory is inscribed with their names in the Cockermouth Memorial Gardens.

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This history of South Lodge in Cockermouth, one of the very first mansion houses built in the area, revealed the life stories of its owners and tenants during the 19th and the 20th centuries. The house and the estate were financed by the inheritance of Lydia Yeates, who was born on a sugar plantation in Antigua where her father John Yeates was a manager. Her mother Ann was "a native of Antigua", probably a slave. After marrying Jeremiah Spencer in a Quaker ceremony in Cockermouth in 1829 and acquiring the South Lodge estate,

Aerial view of South Lodge in the 1970s

the Spencers became landed gentry.[4] The ownership of the land and the house remained in the Spencer-Bell family and their descendants until 1919.[5]

South Lodge became the home of Norwich-born Robert Alleyne Robinson and his wife Jessie who took a lease on South Lodge from 1873 – 1893 following his appointment as chief land agent of the Lowther family (the Earls of Lonsdale) Estates. Robinson served four successive Earls of Lonsdale in that capacity and was immensely influential.[6]

Following R.A. Robinson's accidental death, South Lodge acquired new tenants: Richard Williamson was a scion of the Williamson dynasty of shipbuilders of Harrington and Workington whose shipyards were the longest in existence on the West Coast of Cumberland. Richard and his wife Marian lived at South Lodge from 1894 to 1919. Richard was a hard-working engineer, shipbuilder, shipowner and philanthropist.[7]

William Upton Armstrong bought South Lodge and some of its land at auction in October 1919. He died in 1941; his wife Katherine and son John, a retired army officer lived there until the later 1940s. They lived off their inheritance invested in commercial properties in Manchester. The main passions of the father and son were hunting and fishing.[8]

The Douglas family, who lived at South Lodge from 1950 to 1959 were Scottish and descended from the ancient Scottish aristocracy. Archibald Andrew Henry Douglas was a civil engineer who during his years at South Lodge worked as the Director and General Manager of the Distington Engineering Company.[9]

Finally, Paul Green was an entrepreneur born in Czechoslovakia who developed his business in Maryport. Irene, his Glasgow-born wife, was a teacher up to her marriage.

The owners and the tenants of South Lodge present a revealing cross-section of the more affluent strata of Cumberland society. Several of them were born outside the county. They all made a contribution to their communities through their talents, business acumen and good works.

Acknowledgement

The author wishes to thank Allan Green for sharing his family's history, documents and photographs. Without his assistance the article about the Green family could not have been written.

[4] See my article 'From Antigua to Cockermouth: the Story of South Lodge and its Residents', *Wanderer,* August 2020.

[5] 'The Spencer-Bells of Fawe Park on Derwentwater', *Wanderer*, May 2021.

[6] 'The Robinsons of South Lodge, Cockermouth', *Wanderer*, February 2021

[7] 'The Williamsons of South Lodge, Cockermouth', *Wanderer*, November 2021

[8] 'The Armstrongs of Armaside and South Lodge: their lives in Lorton and Cockermouth', *Wanderer*, November 2023

[9] 'The Douglas Family of South Lodge, Cockermouth', *Wanderer*, May 2024