

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

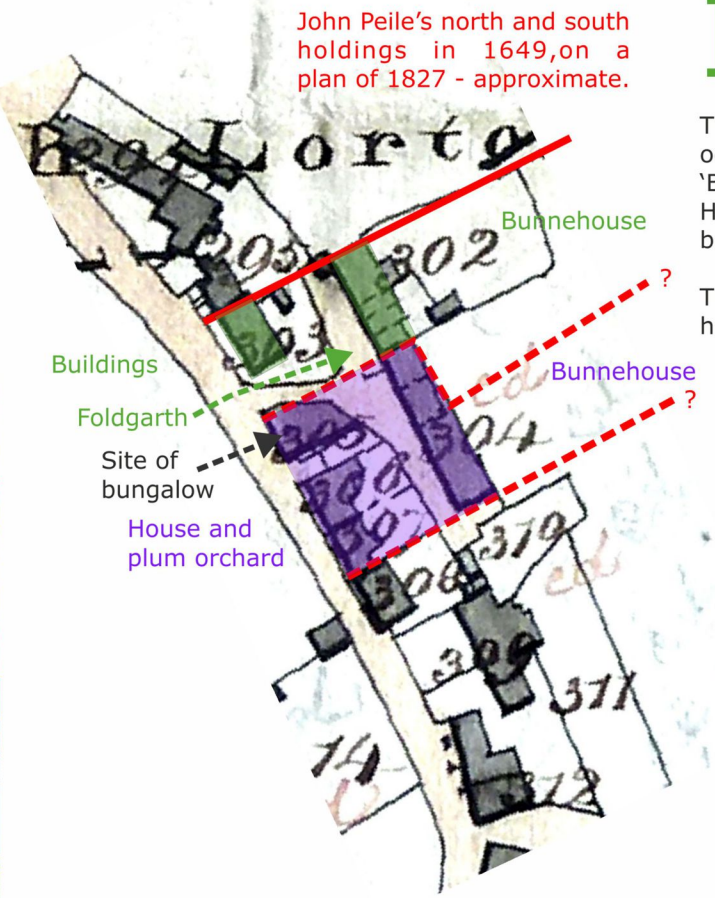
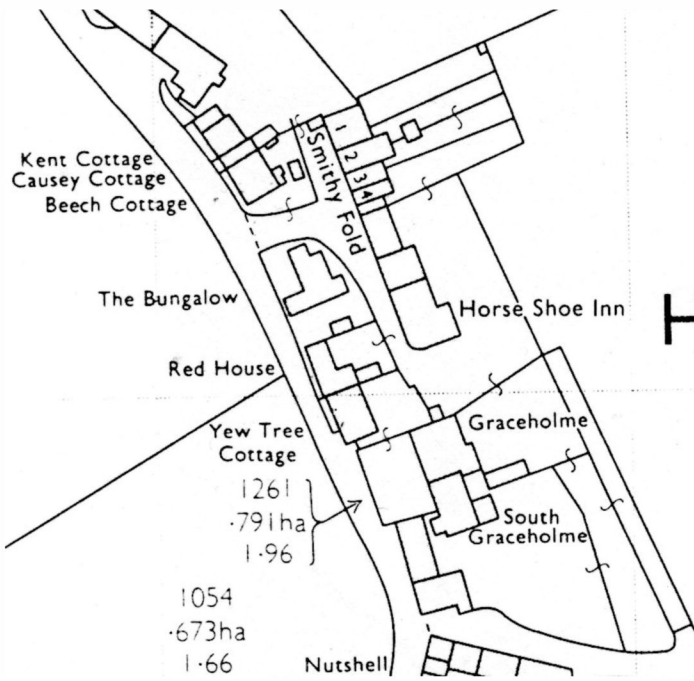
Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Lorton Loweswater Mosser Pardshaw Whinfell



1649 - 1812, farming and then slating

A history of the use of a piece of land in High Lorton, previously for a wooden bungalow, and now for a pleasant garden space.

This presentation covers the small piece of land in High Lorton, occupied on this 1960s map by The Bungalow. The bungalow was demolished in 2015, and its land was divided for two gardens, one attached to Dale View, and the other owned with Wheelwright Cottage. The photograph is of the Wheelwright part, adjacent to Smithy Fold access, which is the subject of this presentation.



John Peile's north and south holdings in 1649, on a plan of 1827 - approximate.

In 1649 Thomas Peile's farmstead to the north supported a substantial farm, having 'One dwelling house, a barne, an oxhouse, and a foldgarth'. The foldgarth should be the origin of Smithy Fold.

The south farmstead was simply 'one house and a Plume garth', or a large plum orchard occupying one fifth of an acre. This farmstead retained its large garden behind, or 'Bunnehouse', (boonhouse meaning above the house) plus an 'Ing' or meadow above that. However, this was not a viable farm and the farmstead was redeveloped by sales and building.

The figure on the left, on a plan of 1827, gives a general idea of the farmsteads, though the houses cannot be placed exactly

Slating for the 'great rebuilding'

The development of High Lorton from a row of farmsteads to provide more housing and shops for tradespeople appears to start at the restoration, as does the 'great rebuilding' of farmsteads in Cumberland, in stone and with slate replacing thatch.

The court books for High Lorton are complete from 1680, and it is difficult to track the redevelopment of Peile's south 'Smithy Fold' tenement until 1680. However, it is clear that was divided and built on, and the part which later contained the bungalow became the residence and possibly works of families concerned with the slating of the new buildings, many of which were previously thatched.

This principal families engaged in slating, and owning the plot of land, were the Salkelds, the Graysons, and the Bells, throughout the later seventeenth century and the eighteenth. The Salkelds and the Graysons were new to Lorton in the seventeenth century. The Bells have always been numerous.

Slate Quarry on Graystones, Derwentfells manor described in 1777 as four acres near the New Bridge (built 1760s)



Graystones slate quarry, 68, as surveyed in 1826-7. New Bridge and the turnpike road were built in the 1760s

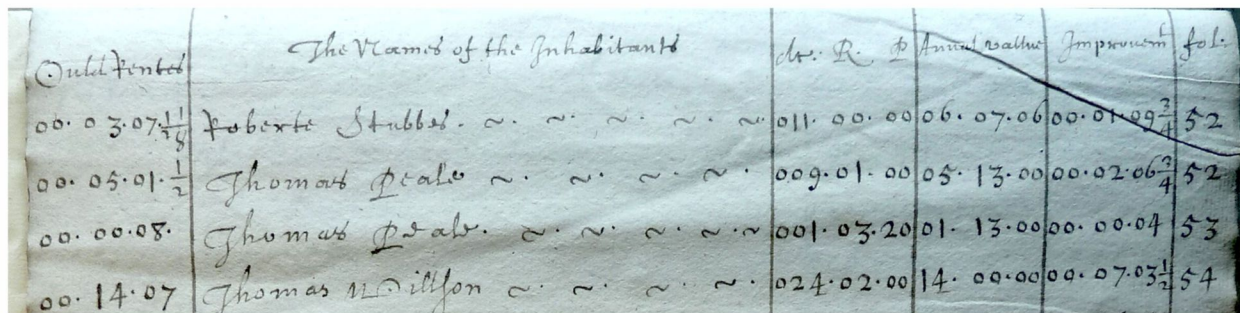
Ownership of the property in High Lorton

- 1649 Thomas Peile holds, manorial rent 1s
- 16?? Anthony Bouch, Cockermouth, property dealer
- by 1664 Richard Salkeld, residence unknown, rent 1s 10d, property undefined
- by 1680 Edward Grayson in call list, for some property formerly held by Richard Salkeld
- 1681 Edward Grayson sells/surrenders another house and garden, rent 1d, but retains this property
- 1707 Death of Edward Grayson of High Lorton, slater
- 1707 Admittance of John Grayson, on the death of his father, Edward, to a house and garden rent 1d. (305 on 1826 plan above, the bungalow site).
- 1730 Manor court verdict, 'We find Jane Tison tennant from John Grason of a house with a garden lying in Lorton of the yearly rent of one penny'
- 1733 Jane Tyson of Lorton married Daniel Drape of Holm Cultram, widower
- 1748 Surrender of Jane Draipe and admittance of Adam Bell
- 1767 Death of Adam Bell of High Lorton
- 1796 Admittance of John Bell, son and heir of Adam, deceased (John born 1724 at the Hole-Mire, now Lambfold)

This panel illustrates how manorial records can be used to trace the history of properties in High Lorton back to 1649

The manor of (High) Lorton was given to the Priory Church of Carlisle, circa 1138, under the Scottish rule of David I. At the dissolution of the priory the manor was granted to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, who held it into the twentieth century. Except for the Commonwealth period, when under Oliver Cromwell the bishops were removed.

In 1649 the manor was subject to a parliamentary survey, which increased the ancient manorial rents. The survey allows a plan to be reconstructed, though the buildings cannot be exactly placed. The survey forms the starting point for surviving records, which provide much of the information included here.



In 1649 the listings above show that Thomas Peale had two adjacent holdings to which he had been admitted in 1641, each with a farmstead on the east side of the highway. The farmstead occupied the north (Beech Cottage) and south (Dale House) parts of the present Smithy Fold. The acres above are forest measure, or 60% larger than statute acres.

