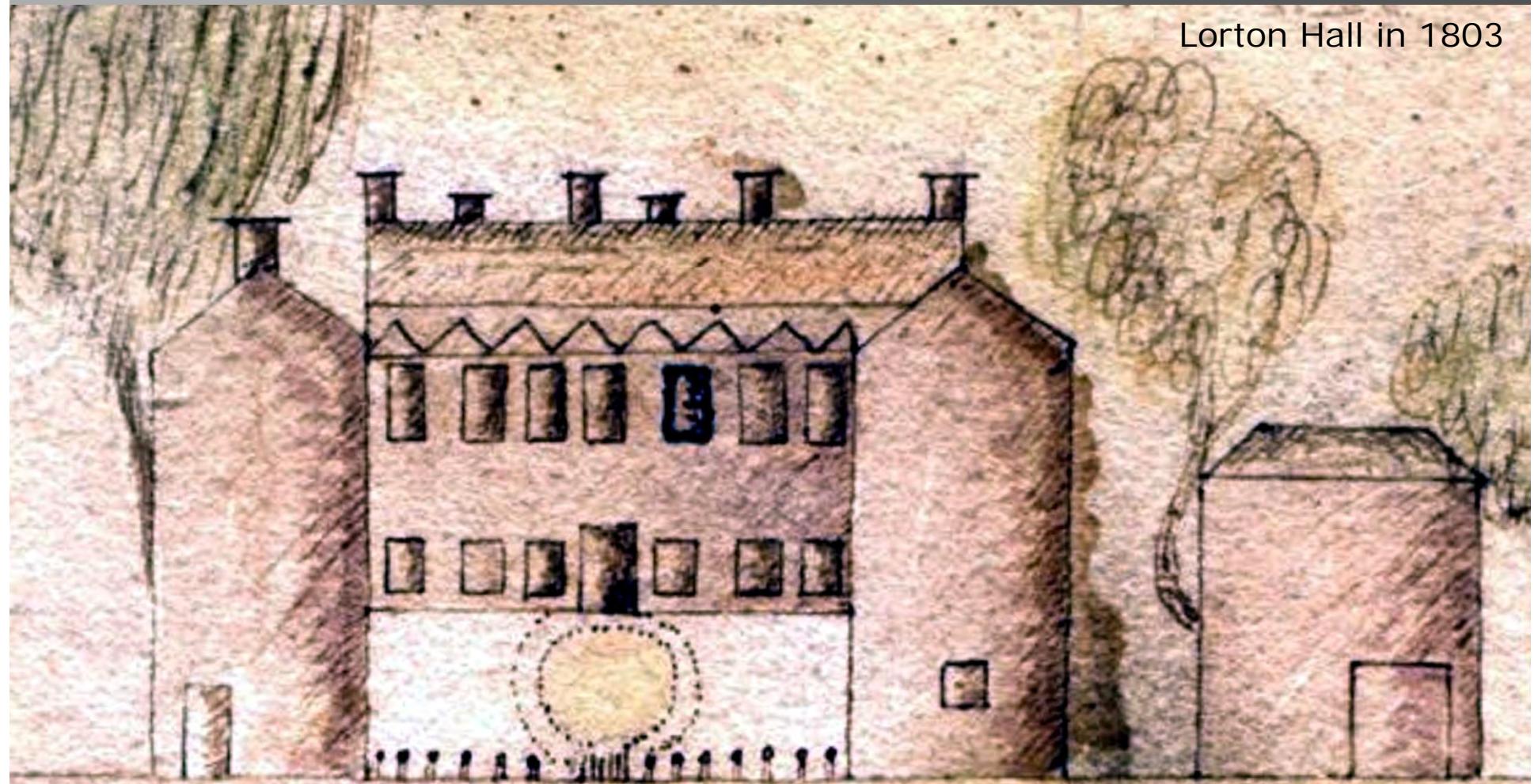


LORTON AS IT WAS 200 YEARS AGO



Lorton Hall in 1803

Updating John Bolton's
lecture of 1891

by Derek Denman
A talk given to L&DFLHS on 10th November 2011
Copyright: Derek Denman 2011

John Bolton

- Of Cockermouth, but master of Lorton School from 1877-82
- Gave his lecture at the school in 1891, chaired by William Lancaster Alexander of Oakhill
- Based his talk on the recollections of his grandmother-in-law, born Dinah Iredale at Hollins in 1802.
- Covered every building in the village and its occupants
- Lorton's first local historian

Ron George (1924-2004)

- Lived at White Ash from 1980
- Founded the society in 1993 and was chair until 2000
- Published *A Cumberland Valley, a History of the Parish of Lorton* in 2003. An important source for this talk.
[Copies for sale]

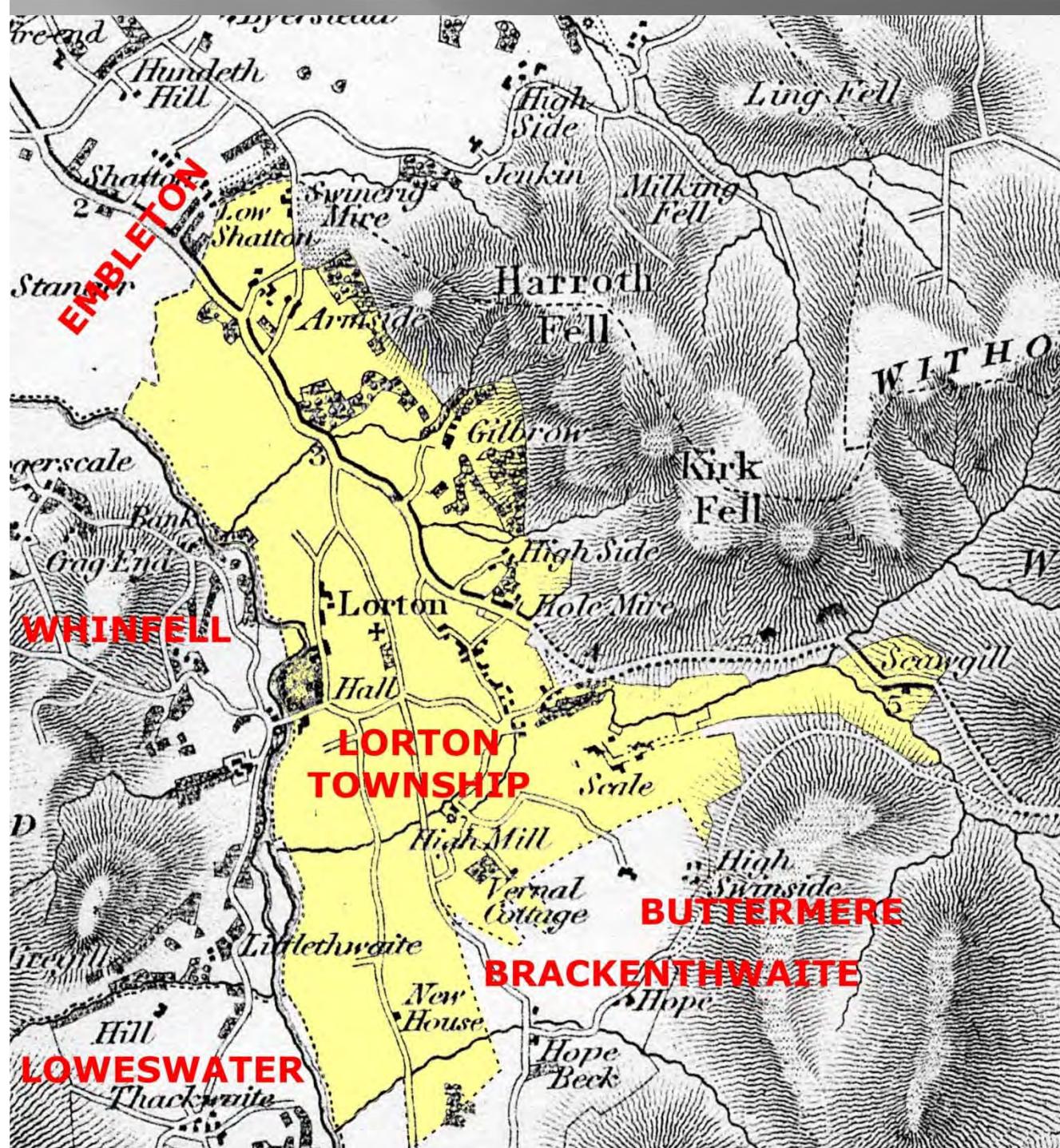


Content

- What is Lorton?
- General local developments leading to 1811
- General circumstances in 1811
- Development into Victorian Lorton
- Properties, people and village life in 1811

What is Lorton

- This talk covers Lorton Township, which preceded Lorton Parish Council
- Lorton C of E 'Parish', covered by St Cuthbert's, included Buttermere, Wythop and much of Whinfell, but was within Brigham Parish
- Lorton Township was within two manors, High Lorton was within the Manor of Lorton and the remainder was in the Manor of Derwentfells

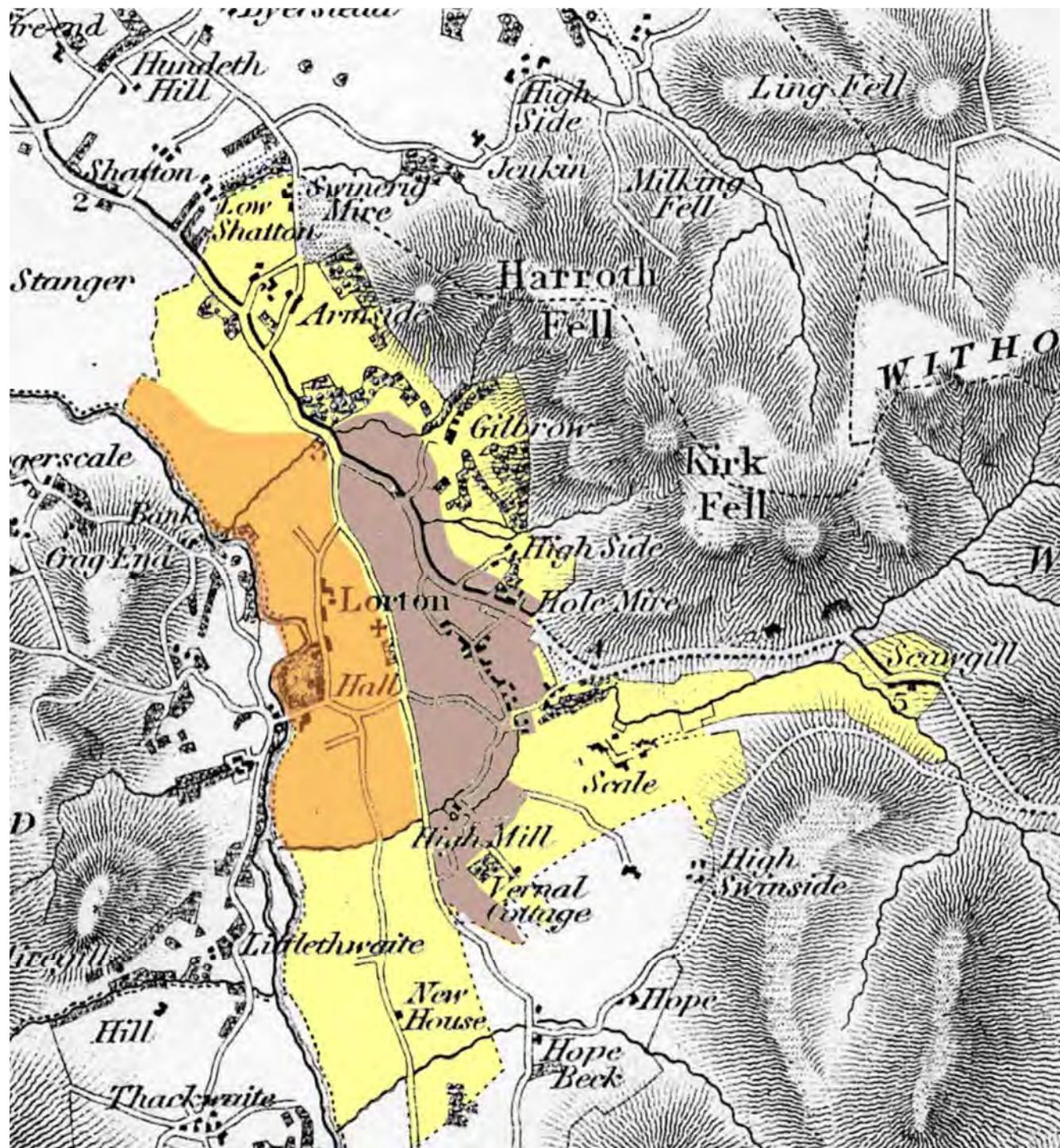


Lorton Township circa 1811

- Enclosed land in 1811 shaded yellow
- Townships in red
- Based on the Greenwood map c.1822

What is Lorton

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- **Lorton Township was within three manors, Low Lorton, High Lorton and the remainder within the Manor of Derwentfells**



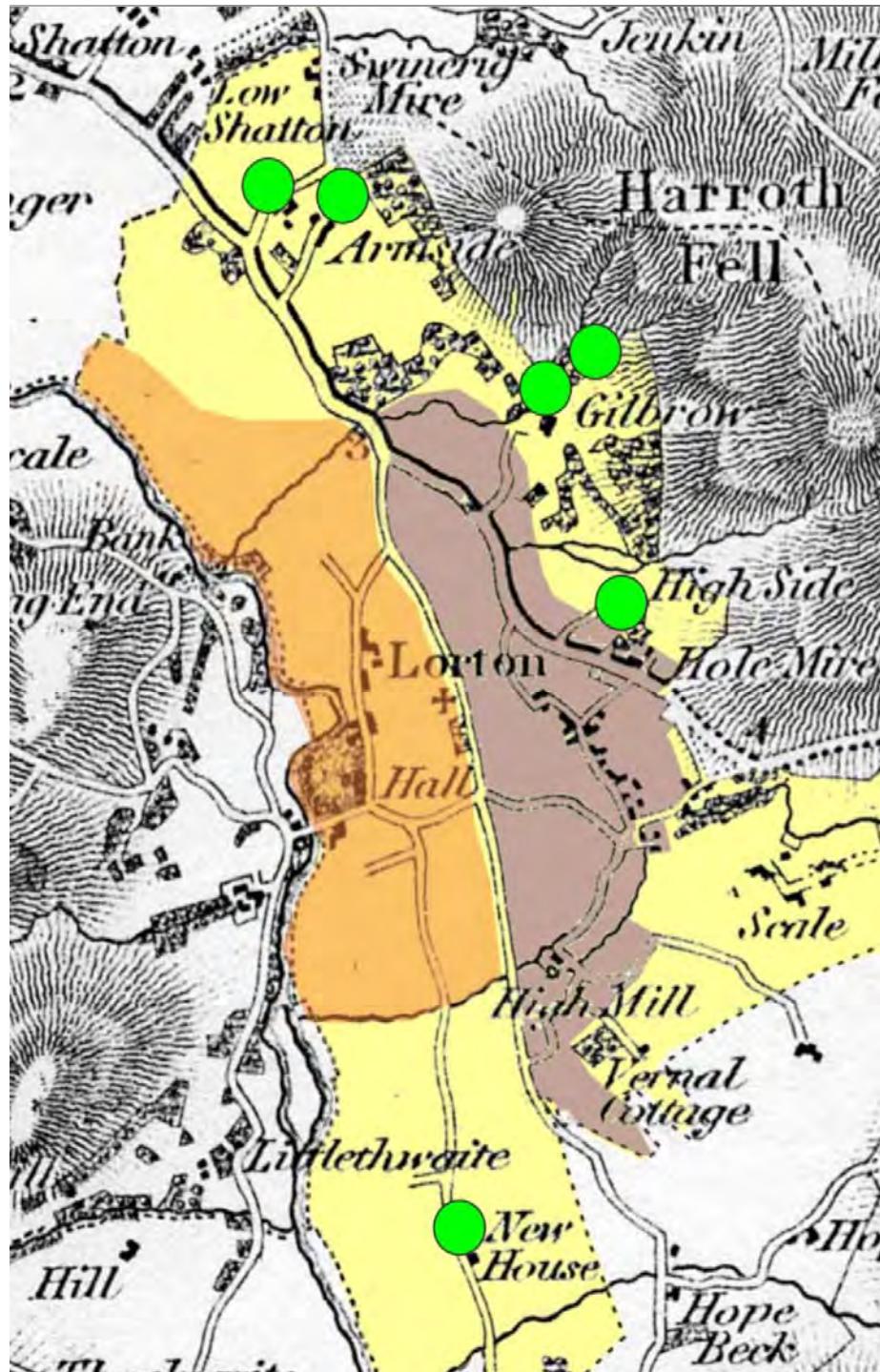
Lorton Manors

Purple land in the
Manor of Lorton and
Allerthwaite, lords
the Dean and
Chapter of Carlisle,
through a gift of
1158

Orange land in Low
Lorton, granted also
in C12th – no
record until 1230

Yellow land
remained in Manor
of Derwentfells in
the Honour of
Cockermouth

Based on the
Greenwood map
c.1822



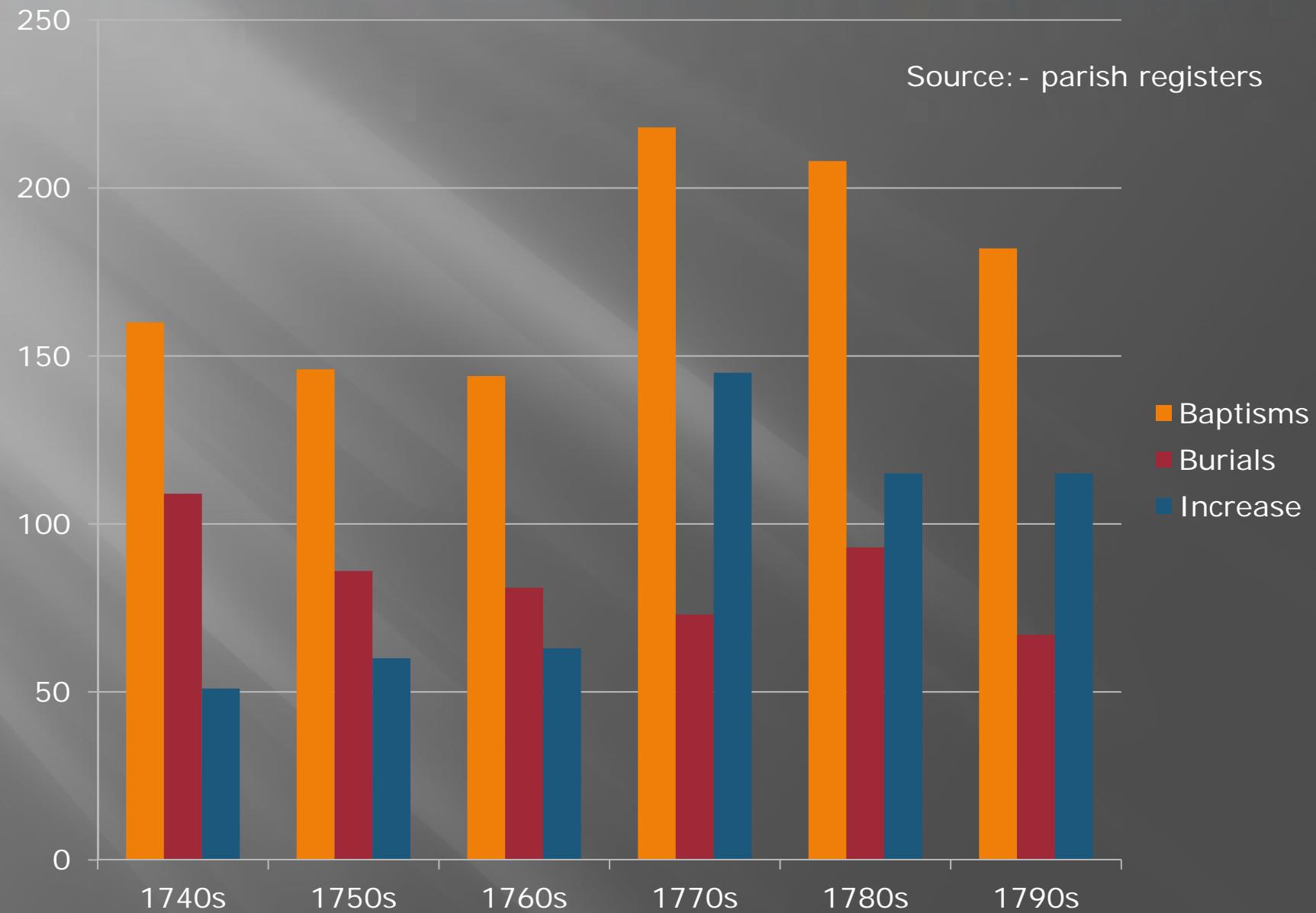
The peripheral farms

not discussed by John Bolton

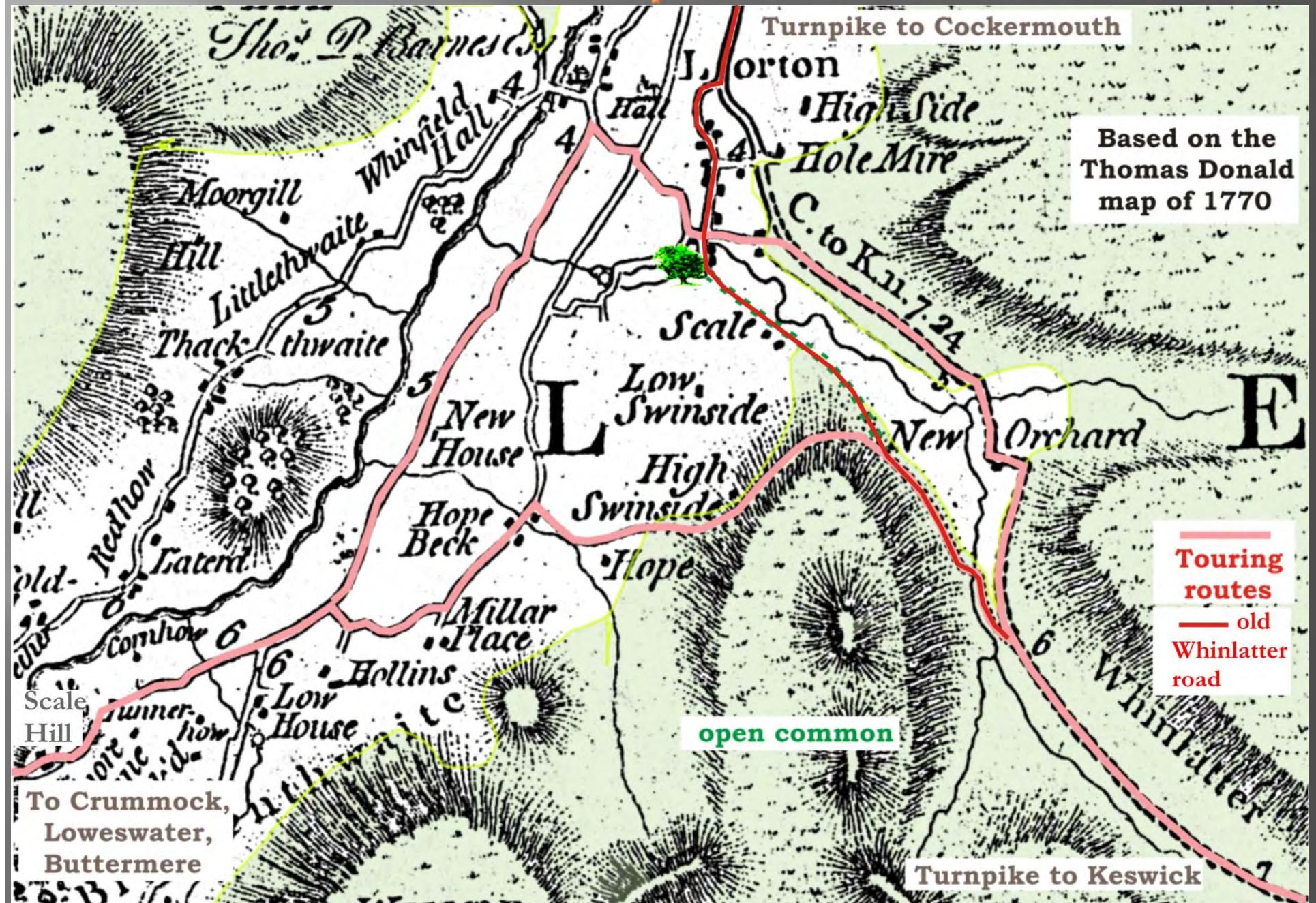
- Low Armaside
- High Armaside
- Gillbrae
- High Gillbrae
- Highside
- New House (a C17th farm)

Note that the Shattock farmsteads were in Embleton except for one barn

Lorton Parochial Chapelpy Statistics



The Whinlatter turnpike road from 1770



The Whinlatter turnpike - the new road and bridge



The turnpike from Keswick, fork left to join the old road

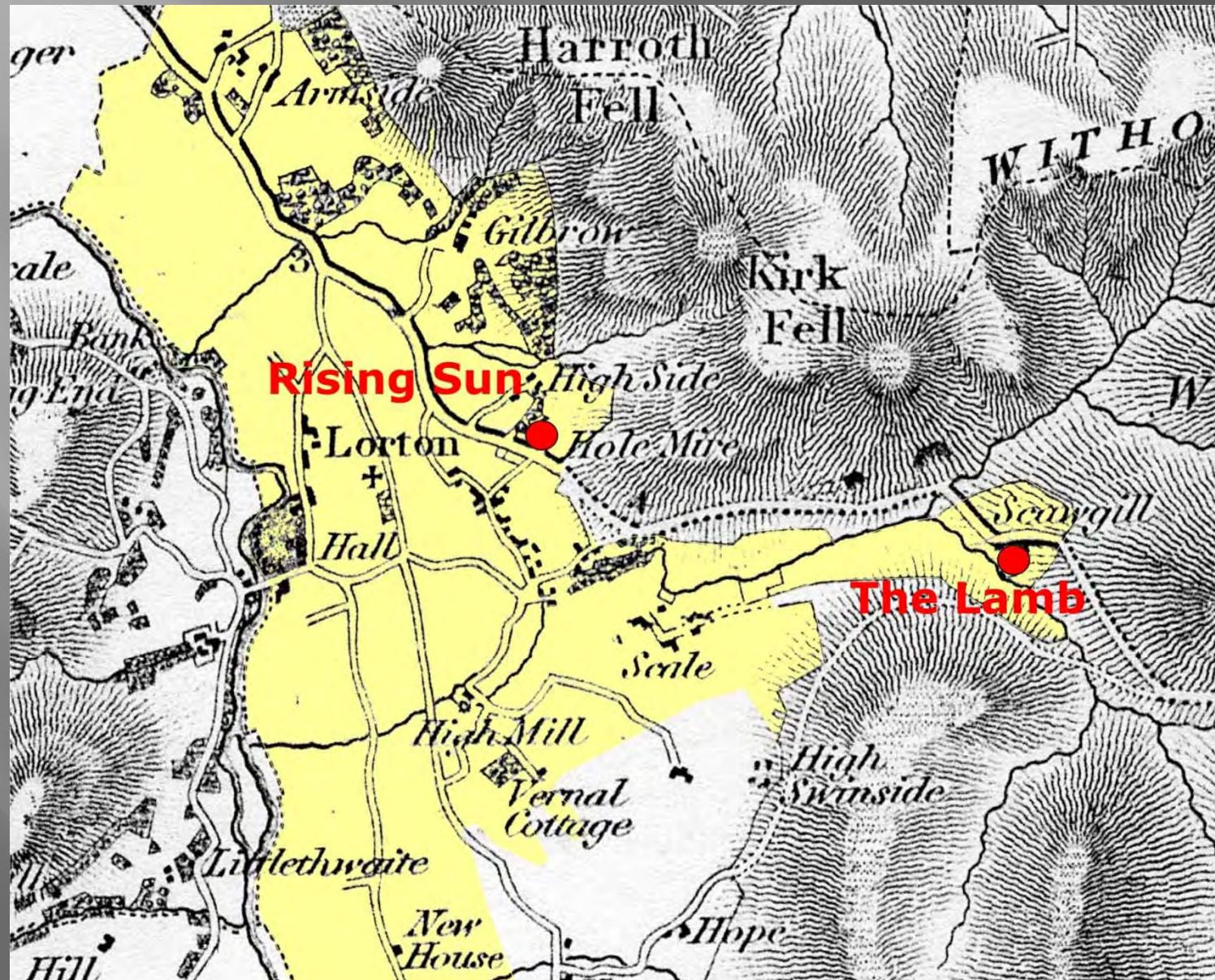


The New Bridge on the turnpike

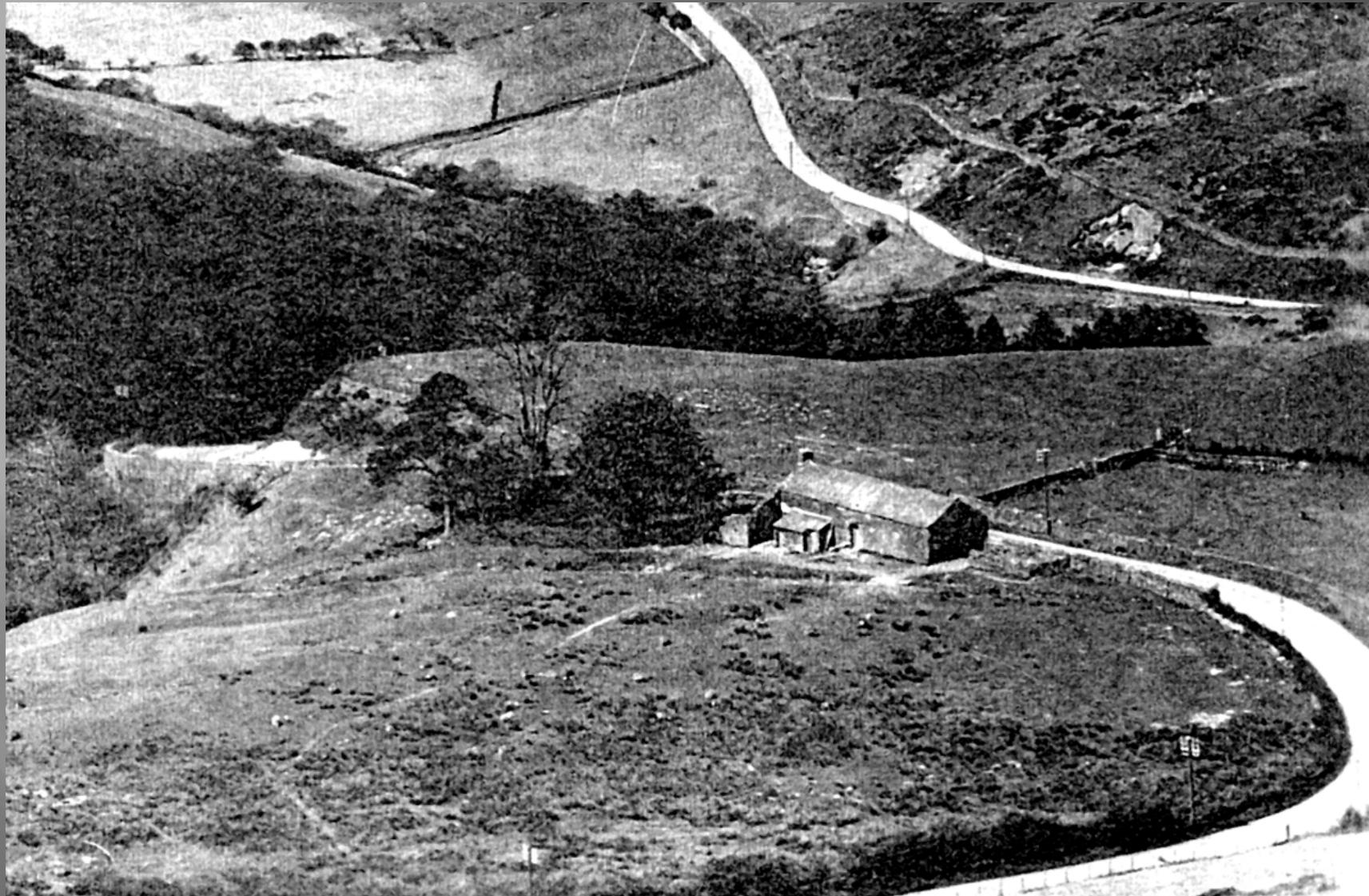


The old highway to High Lorton straight on, fork left for the new turnpike to Keswick

Developments on the Whinlatter Turnpike, 1770s



The Lamb at Scogill, remains early C 20th



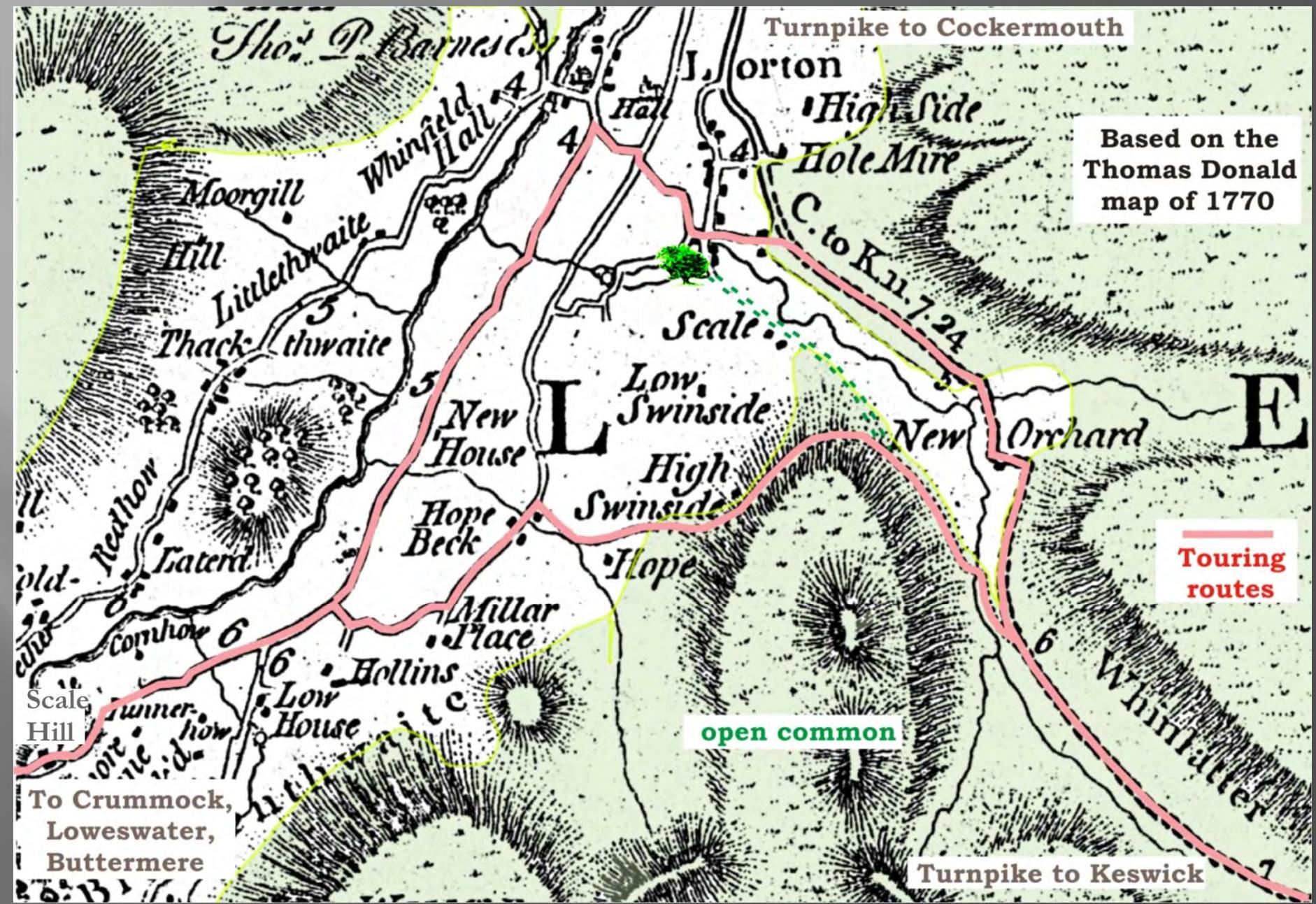
Built by Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside
In 1811 owned by John and Sarah Brough

The Rising Sun at Holemire



- Built by Wilson Pearson of Bridekirk (owned Holm Farm)
- Sold to Jonathan Peill in 1787, dau Ann Peill married Isaac Harrison in 1798, who was innkeeper

Touring routes from 1770



THE FAMOUS LORTON YEW-TREE

Lorton's only
tourist attraction

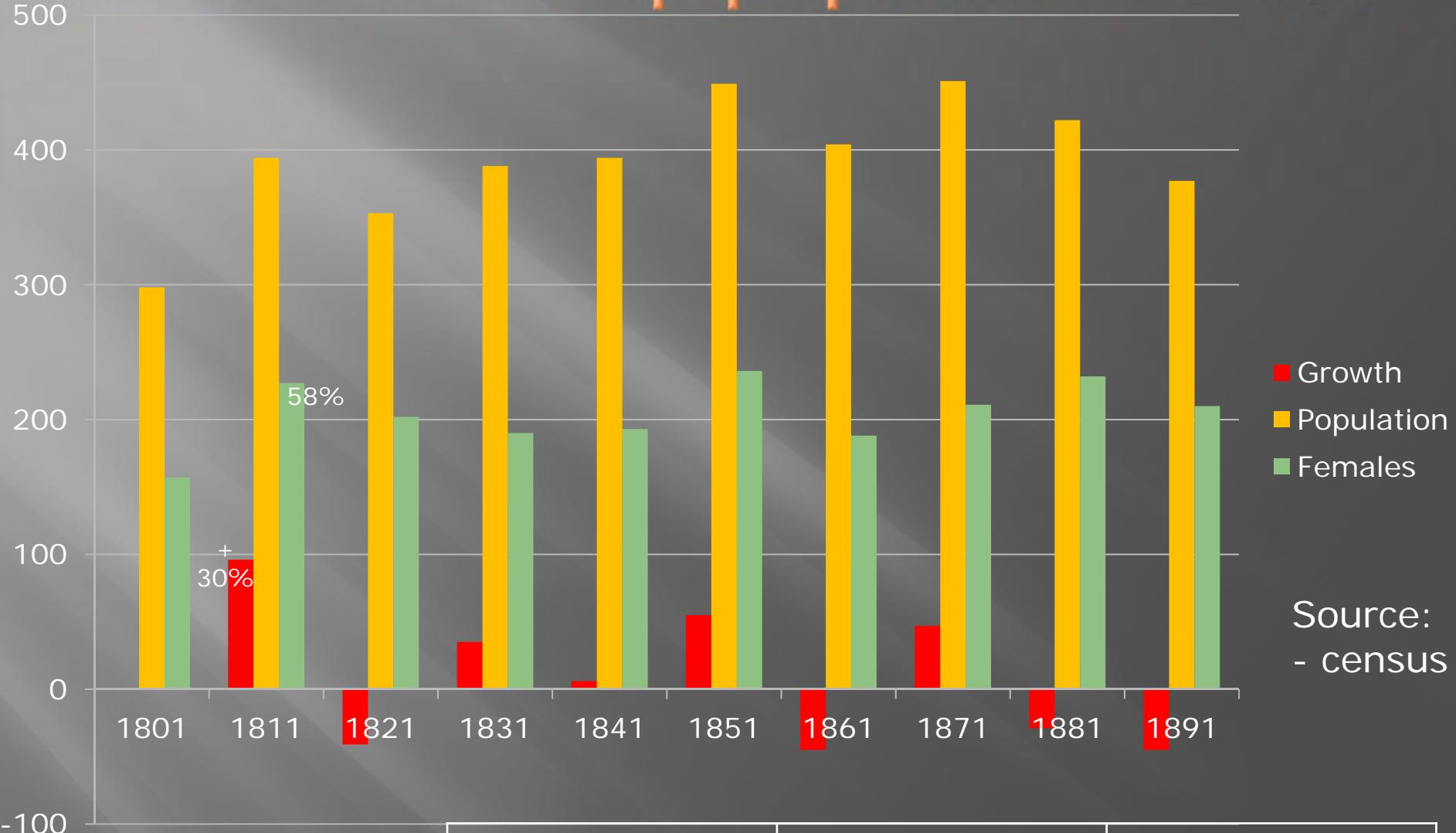


Lorton in 1811

- George, Prince of Wales became Regent
- Britain had been at war with France since 1793, but risk of invasion had passed
- Prices for agricultural produce were at a peak, high rents, high agricultural wages – huge national debt
- Improvement of land was in progress to increase corn production, but Lorton commons were not enclosed
- Lorton was at the peak of prosperity until the recession from 1816, when land values fell



Lorton Township population C 19th



St Cuthbert's registers:-
post-war depression

period	marriages	illeg. baptisms
1801-1815	65	4%
1816-1830	43	9%

Source:
- census

Income Tax - Lorton Assessment 1810/11

Income Tax 1810/11, page 2

No. 11. 6

Collector's

FIRST ASSESSMENT made upon the several Inhabitants of
Contributions on the Profits arising from Property, Professions,

Name of Person charged.	Name of Person against whom Served	A.	B.	D.	E.	Total
Hodgson	Sohn Pearson	Land 12. 0. 0	7-17. 6			
Hodgson	Cate Bragg Esq:	do 3. 16. 0				
Heads	Peter Ranson	do 1. 1. 0				
Jackson H.	John Lewis	Land 3. 10. 0				
Hodgson	Sohn Pearson	Land 0. 8. 0				
Sunninge	Himself	do 0. 17. 0				
	Ann Wilkinson	do 3. 6. 0				
Sunninge	Sohn Pearson	do 1. 0. 0				
W. Key	W. Wetherby	do 3. 4. 0				
W. Stoddart	Sohn Wilson	do 0. 17. 0				
Sunderland	W. W. Fisher	do 6. 0. 0				
Muggrave	Wm. Younger	House 0. 6. 0				
Nicholson	Joseph Sutton	Land 0. 11. 0				
Nicholson	Himself	do 1. 5. 0				
Nicholson	John Morris	do 0. 9. 6				
James Braggs	W. Bragg	do 1. 0. 0				
Pearce	Himself	do 7. 12. 0	2-10. 2			
Ranson	Himself	do 6. 0. 0	3-19. 3			
Reeves	Himself	do 0. 11. 0				
Robinson	W. W. Wetherby	Land 0. 4. 0				
William Patterson	John Fisher	do 0. 8. 0				
Rufell	Sohn Robinson	do 1. 16. 0				
Lincoln	Himself	House 0. 4. 0				
Robinson	W. W. Wallace	Land 5. 0. 0				
Robinson	Himself	do 5. 1. 0	1-13. 9			
Lincoln	John Gibson	do 0. 6. 6	0-0. 0			
Wren	W. W. Dixon	do 6. 0. 0	0-10. 0			
Johnson	W. Bragg	do 0. 19. 0				
		Total.....				

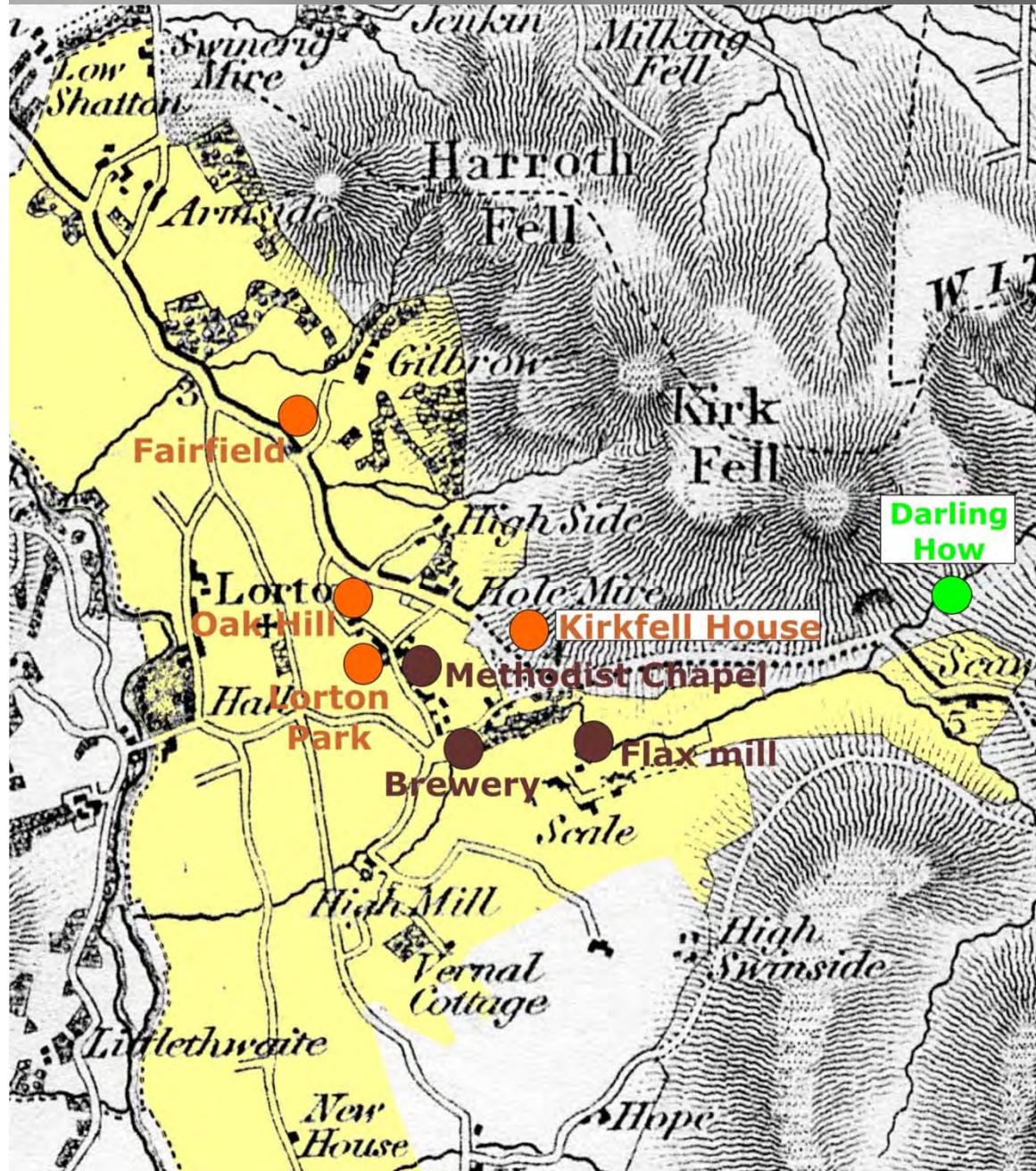
Certificate.

pursuant to Acts passed in the 43d, 45th, 46th, and 48th Years of His present Majesty's Reign, granting
Trades and Offices, for the Year 18 ending 5th April 18

Properties and families in 1811

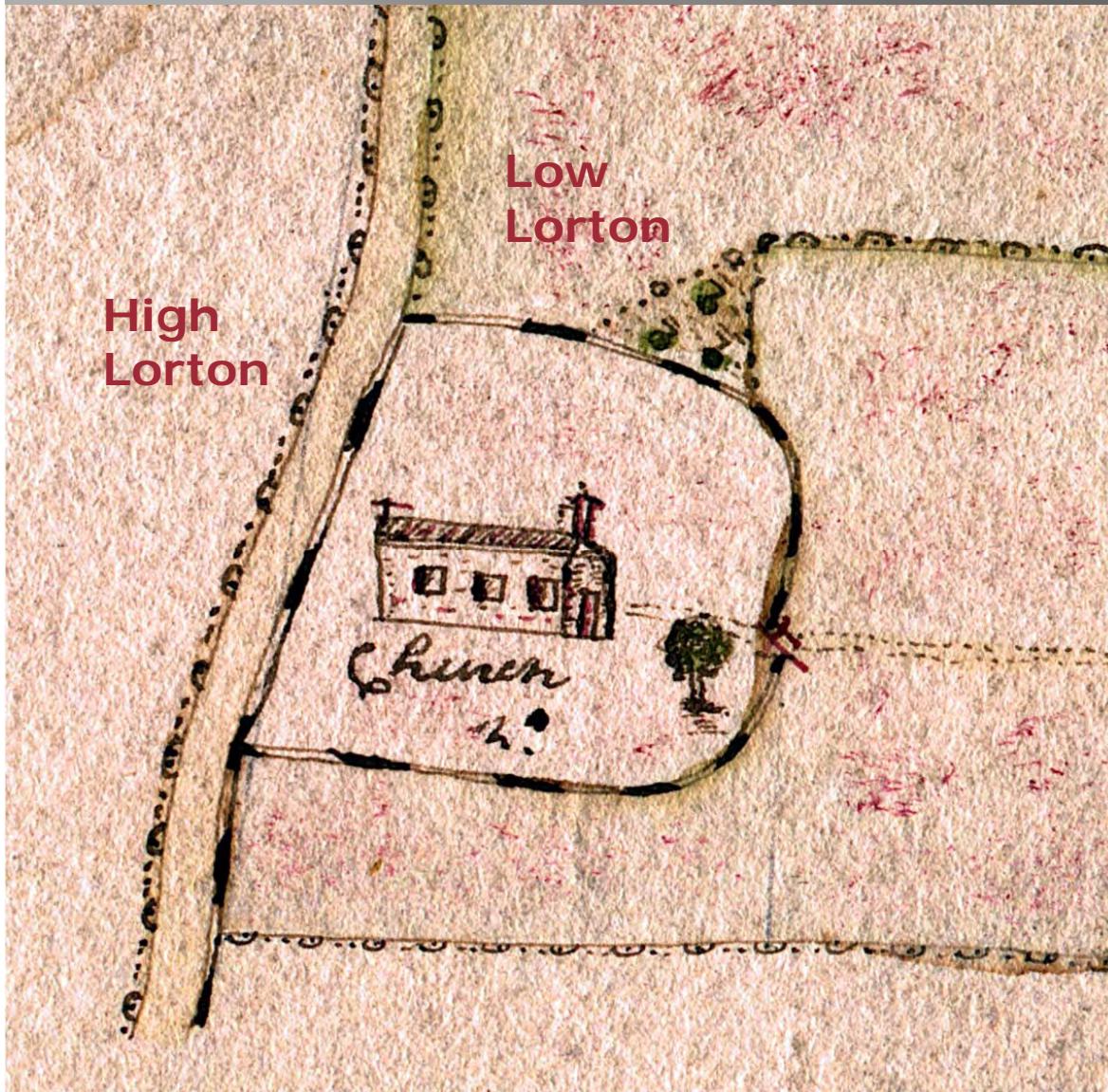
- Not yet built
- St Cuthbert's Lorton
- Lorton School
- Lorton Hall and the Lucock-Braggs
- Lorton Cross
- 'Lorton Low Mill' – in Whinfell
- The Packhorse Inn
- Low Lorton farms
- Scales area and the common
- Tenterers and rural industry
- High Lorton, Village and Mill

C 19th buildings not present in 1811



- Buildings associated with industry
- Enclosure farm, 1830s
- Houses of the Victorian middle classes: -
Lancaster,
Harbord,
Alexander,
Armitstead,
Wilson

St Cuthbert's Lorton



St Cuthbert's in 1803

Parish of Brigham,
Diocese of Chester

Curate 1800-1820,
John Sibson, of
Rogerscale in Whinfell.
Also curate of Mosser

1806, petition to
rebuild with a steeple.
The Squire, Joshua
Lucock Bragg, wanted
and eventually paid for
a tower. The current
church dates from that
rebuild/repair in 1809

St. Cuthbert's Lorton



Completed approx 1809, seen here pre-war

Lorton School



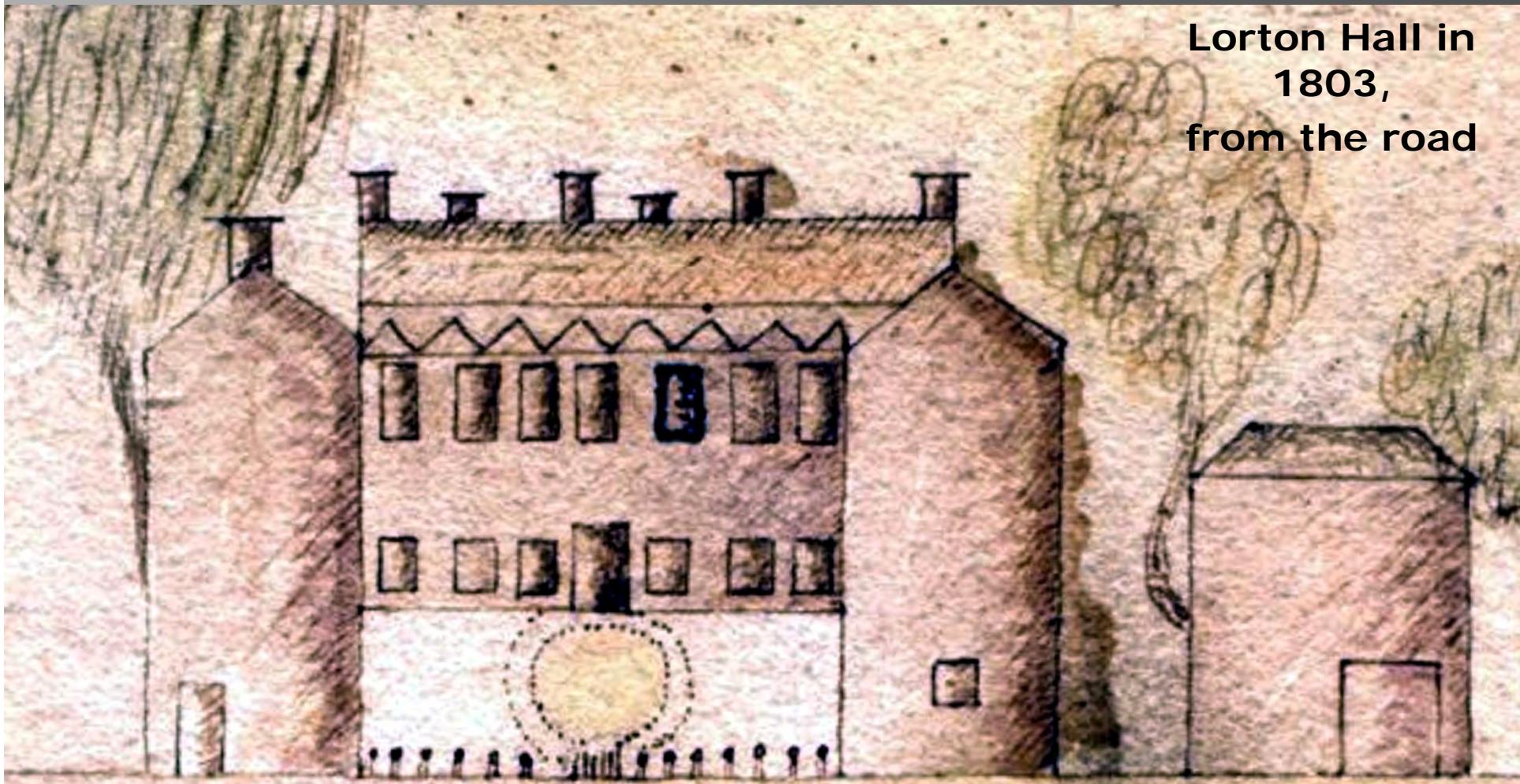
- The school was a new building on land purchased from Joshua Lucock Bragg in 1809
- In 1811 the master was William Soddrel from Brigham. Married Sarah Martin in 1818 and lived at Birkett House

Lorton Hall Estate

Part of the
estate map
drawn for
Joshua
Lucock
in 1803



LORTON HALL



**Lorton Hall in
1803,
from the road**

**As rebuilt by John Winder in 1663
Owned by minor figures in C18th
Mortgaged in 1797
No pele tower until 1840**

**Building rented by
Stephen Martin,
auctioneer, now
Stables Cottage**

Lorton Hall in the 1880s



- Showing the Pele tower without windows, part of the alterations of George Lucock Bragg circa 1840

Lucock Braggs of Lorton Hall

Joshua Lucock = (1) Mary Grisedale = (2) Rebecca ? = (3) Elizabeth Raisbeck

1710-1782

Sheriff Cumberland 1745
Rebuilt 'Wordsworth House'

George Wilkinson = Rebecca

Raisbeck = (1) Mary Bragg = (2) ? Davies

Rebecca Lucock Wilkinson
1774-1839

1794
= **Joshua Lucock (Bragg 1805)**
1772-1809
Lorton Hall, 1800

Raisbeck	Rebecca	Matthew	John	Sarah	Joshua	George	Elizabeth	= Robert Bridge
1795	1796	1797	1800	1802	1804	1806	1806	Weymouth
lunatic	scalded	measles	lunatic	lunatic	lunatic	Lorton Hall	d. 1865	
1850	1798	1800	1875	1875	1859	accident		

C o c k e r m o u t h

1828

George
1806
Lorton Hall
accident
1847

John Bolton on the Braggs of Lorton Hall

- **On the Hall:** the history of Lorton Hall for the last 80 years is a singularly sad one. Eighty years ago the old Hall was an old picturesque place full of memories of old time, but today the Hall stands renewed
- **On Mrs Bragg and family in Church:** John and Joshua were about the same size. The two girls were blue eyed and light haired and they used to wear red coats . . . It was fine scarlet cloth. They had red hats with large white ostrich plumes. The youngest boy [George] . . . opened the large pew door . . . used to make a grand bow . . .
- **On Joshua Lucock Bragg:** he kept a pack of hounds and hunted regularly [in Brackenthwaite]. He was not like "John Peel with his coat so grey" but wore a scarlet coat

Properties and families in 1811

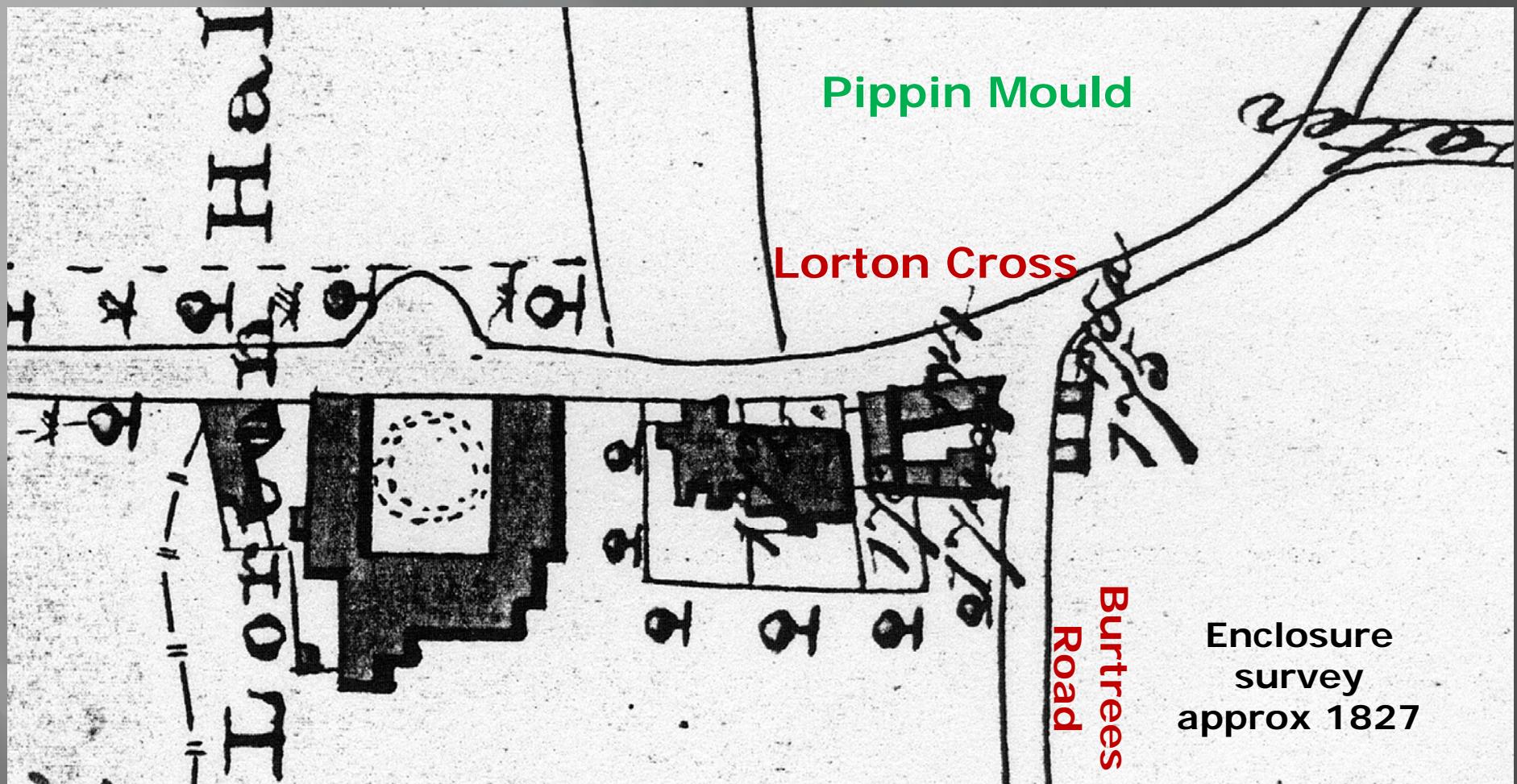
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- **Pearsons, Scales area and the common**
- **Tenters and rural industry**
- **High Lorton, Village and Mill**

Lorton Cross



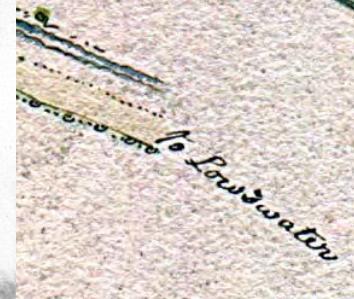
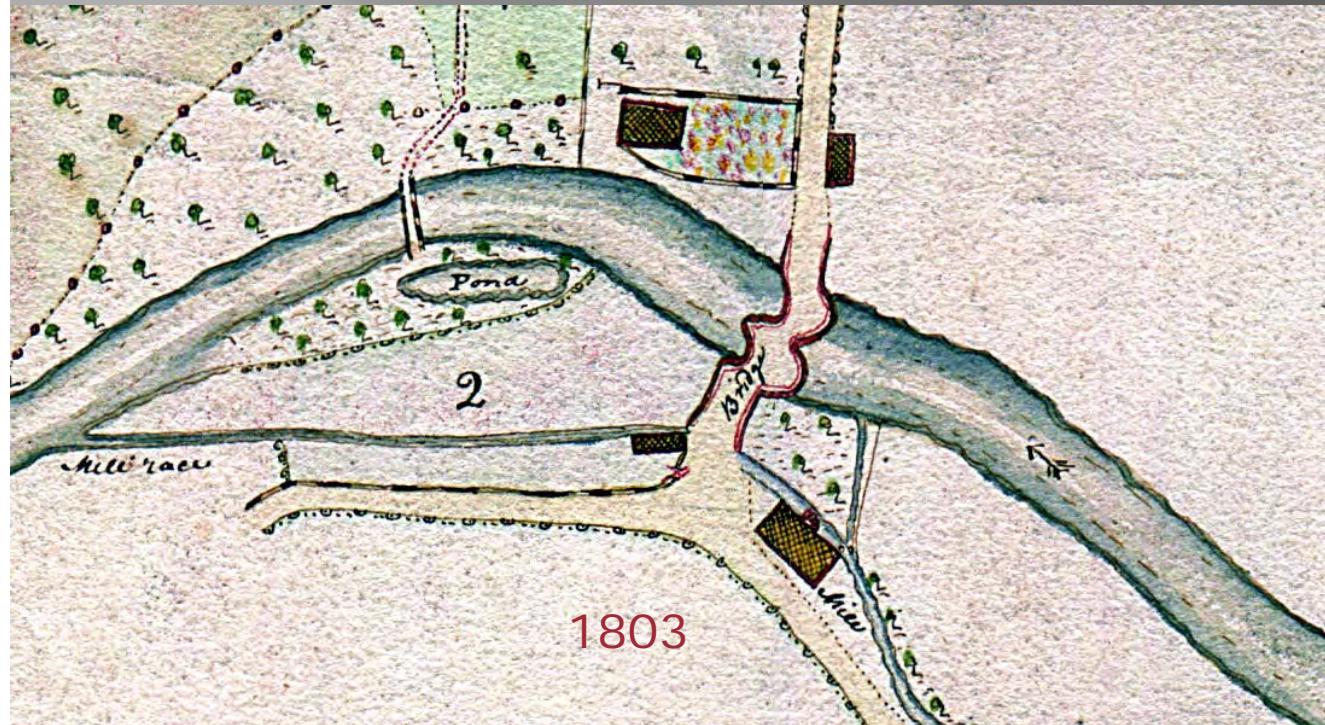
□ Looking for Cross Nook

Lorton Cross



- Winders held a third of the vil of Lorton freehold in 1398
- Lorton Cross was the remains of the tenements. In 1811 Bartholomew Stagg farmed the Lorton Hall estate land.
- 23 inhabitants in 1841, but gone by 1891 for Mr Dixon's summer house and wall

Lorton Low Mill (in Whinfell)

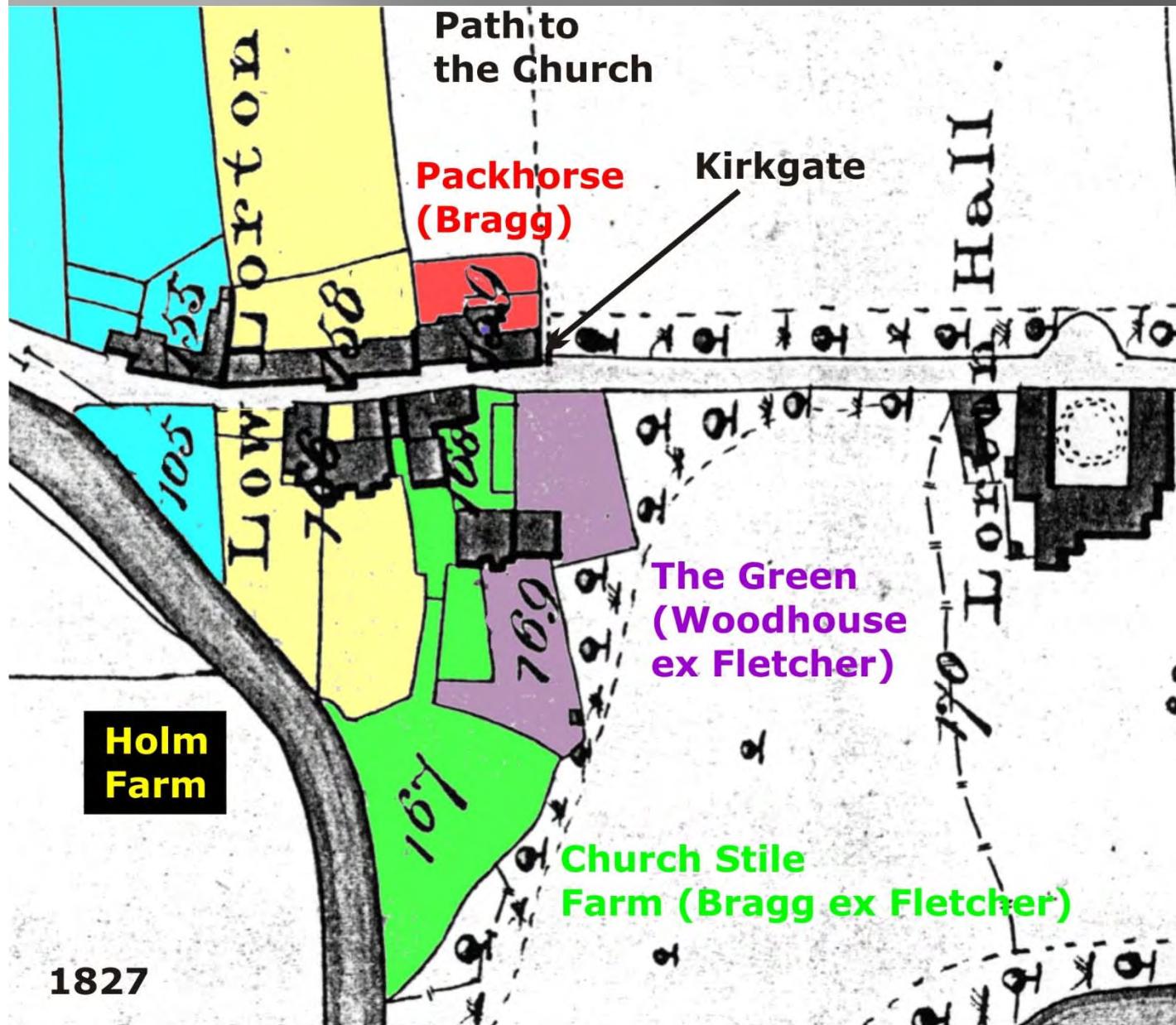


Part of the
Lorton Hall
estate
Rented by
Thomas
Thompson £42
Robert Burgess
a miller in Low
Lorton in 1811

The Burgess family in 1811

- John Bolton tends to miss out the discordant parts of Lorton life
- Richard and Rebecca Burgess came to Low Lorton with a family. He was employed as a miller and lived at Lorton Cross
- From the St Cuthbert's registers in 1811:-
Robert Burgess buried 9th July, aged 13
Twins Rebecca and Nancy Burgess born 22nd November
Nancy Burgess buried 1st December, aged 8 days
Rebecca Burgess buried 5th December, aged 12 days
They had three more children in Lorton

Lorton Low Farms



- The old farmsteads straddled the road
- The green/purple/red farm was once Kirkgate End Farm
- No Wheat Sheaf until the 1840s



The Packhorse Inn

- Part of the Lorton Hall estate
- In 1811 tenanted by George and Sally Chambers
- Landladies went through the female line. Ann Chambers married a Churnsides, Sarah Churnsides married a Beattie. Mrs Beattie tenant in 1881

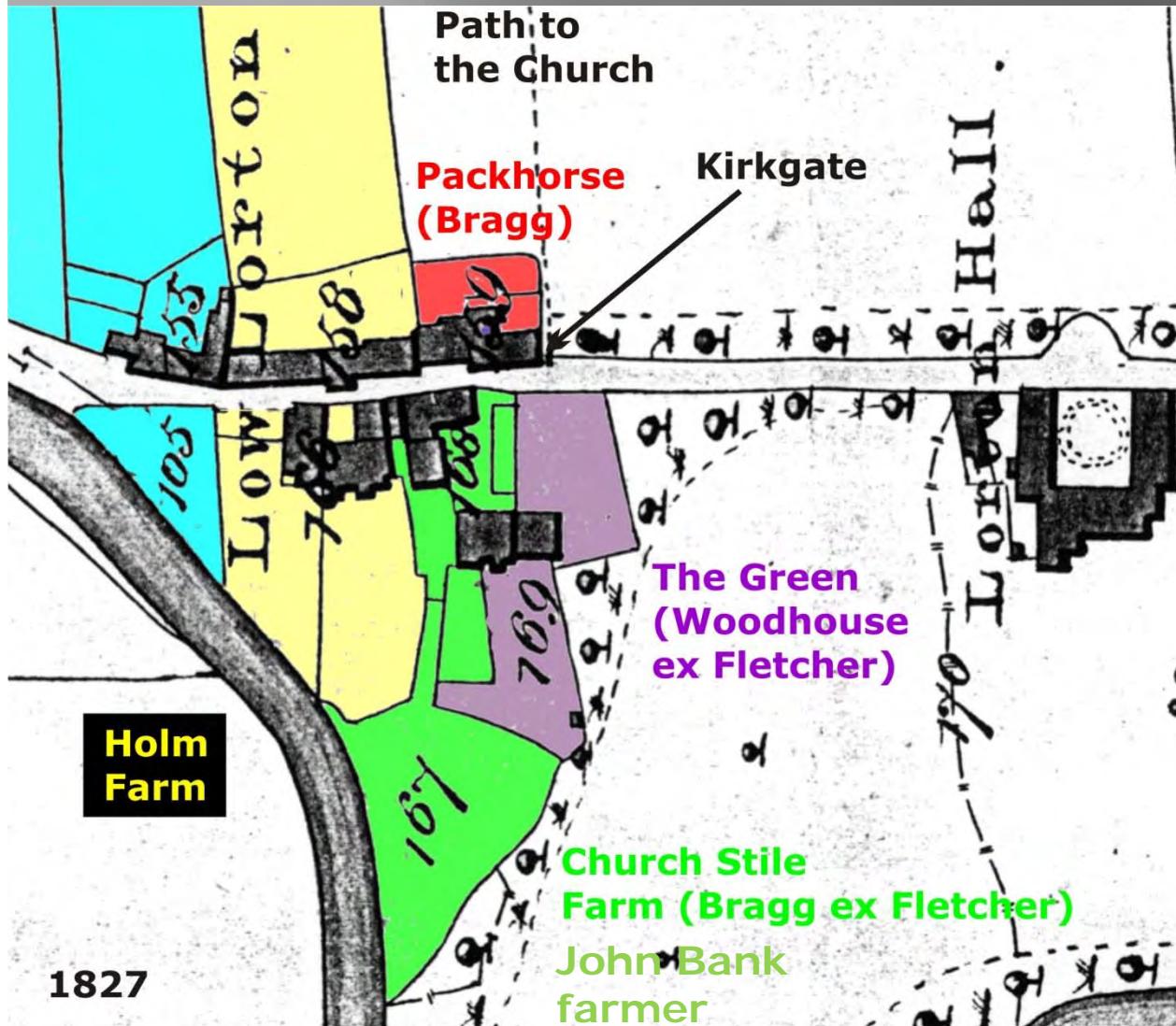


Kirkgate End or Church Stile Farm



- Nothing remains except the gate and Lorton Hall Lodge

Kirgate End and the Woodhouses



Kirgate End farm went from the Peiles to the Fletchers in C18th

Isabella Fletcher took or built the Green as her portion, and married a merchant, Joseph Woodhouse Esq.

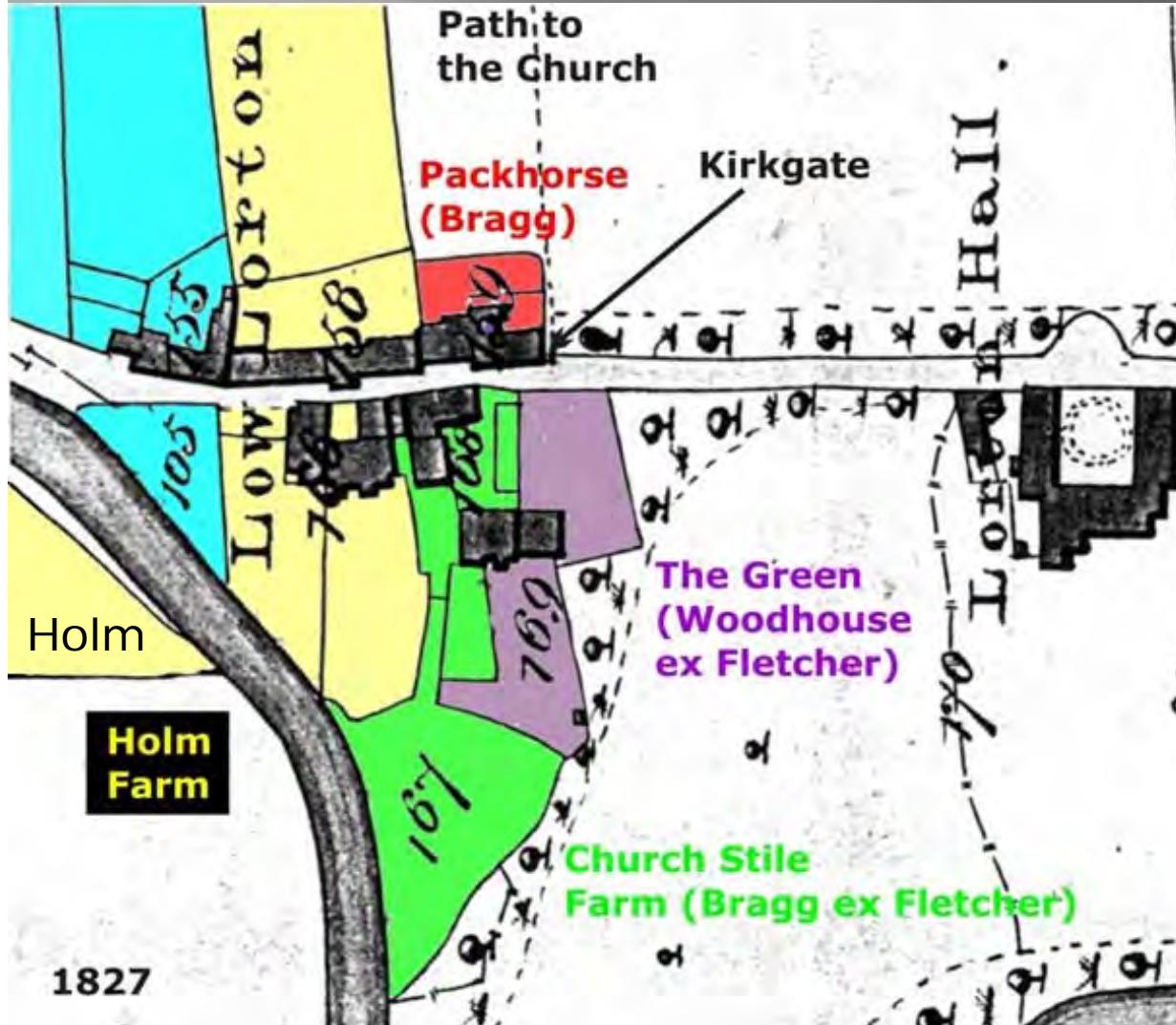
The Woodhouses were church and Sunday School people – Isabella ‘terribly fine’

The Green was replaced by Lorton Hall Lodge

The Holm Farm



The Holm Farm and the Ewarts



Holm means island and refers to the Holm over the river.

The farm was owned by Allan Pearson Esq of Bridekirk

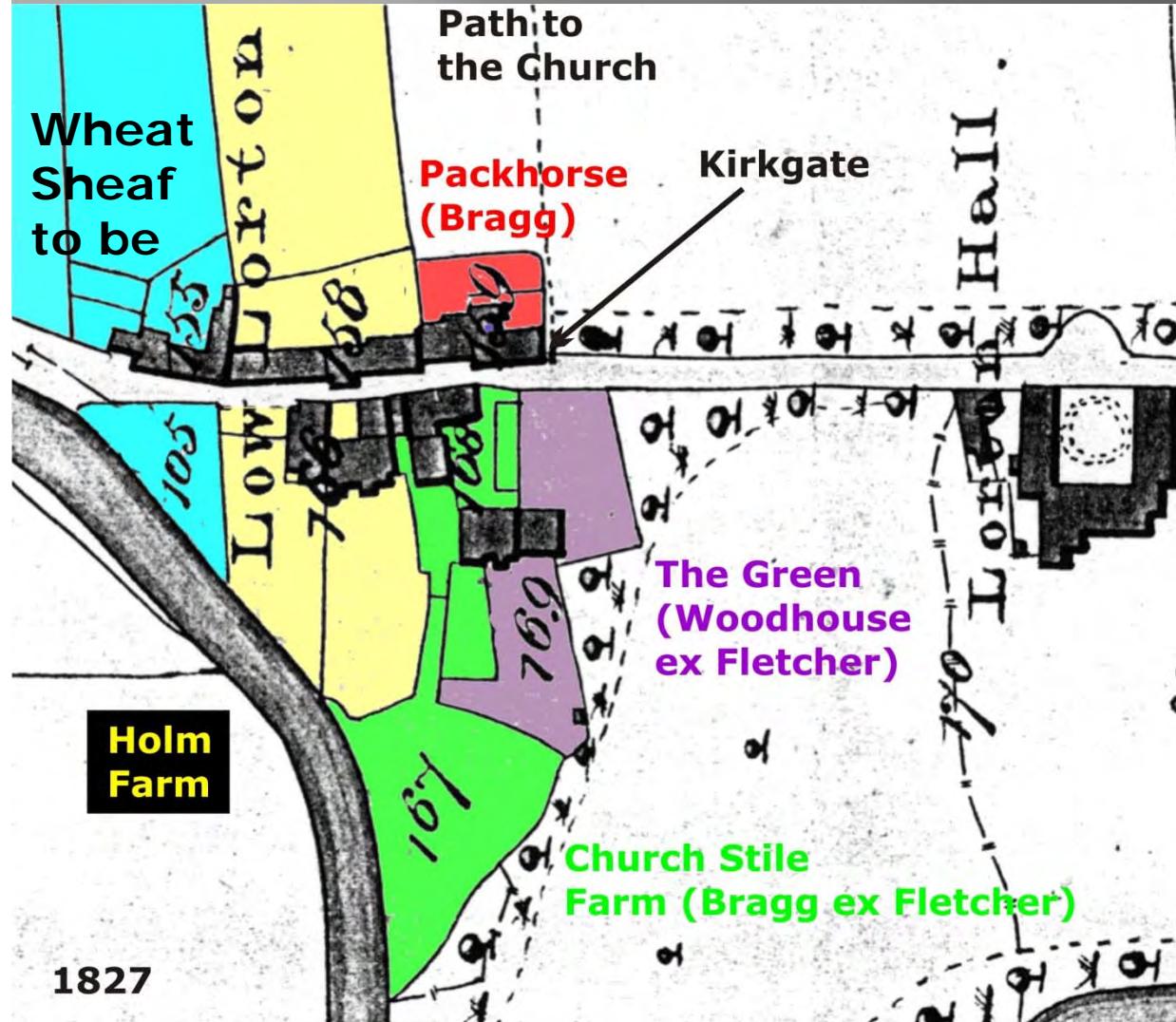
Farmed (for 41 years) by John and Sally Ewart in 1811, 'with a numerous family'. Sally had 'six yards o lads and eighteen yards o lasses'

Not as fine as the Woodhouses

Origins of The Wheat Sheaf



John Fletcher the Veterinary



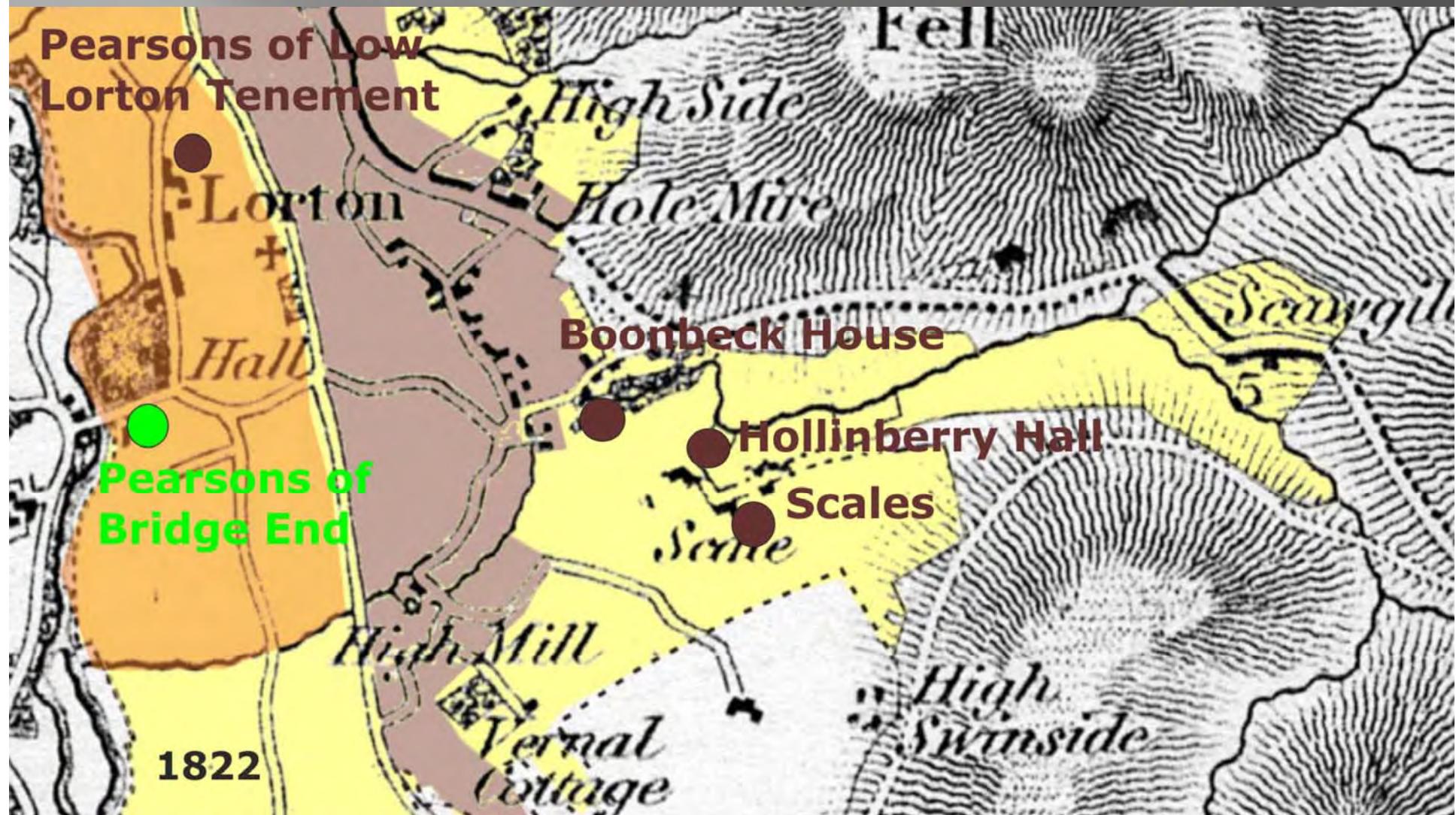
The farmstead that became the Wheat Sheaf and caravan site was owned by 'Auld Doc Fletcher, a veterinary who combined his practice with a smallholding. A fine singer

His son Henry created the Wheat Sheaf in the 1840s. Wheat was not a local crop!

Properties and families in 1811

- Not yet built
- St Cuthbert's Lorton
- Lorton School
- Lorton Hall and the Lucock-Braggs
- Lorton Cross
- 'Lorton Low Mill' – in Whinfell
- The Packhorse Inn
- Low Lorton farms
- **Pearsons, Scales area and the common**
- **Tenters and rural industry**
- **High Lorton, Village and Mill**

Pearsons of Low Lorton in 1811



- Peter Pearson of Bridgend farmed to the South
- John Pearson of Low Lorton Tenement (Croft) also held Scales and Boonbeck House/ Hollinberry Hall



Pearson's of Bridge End

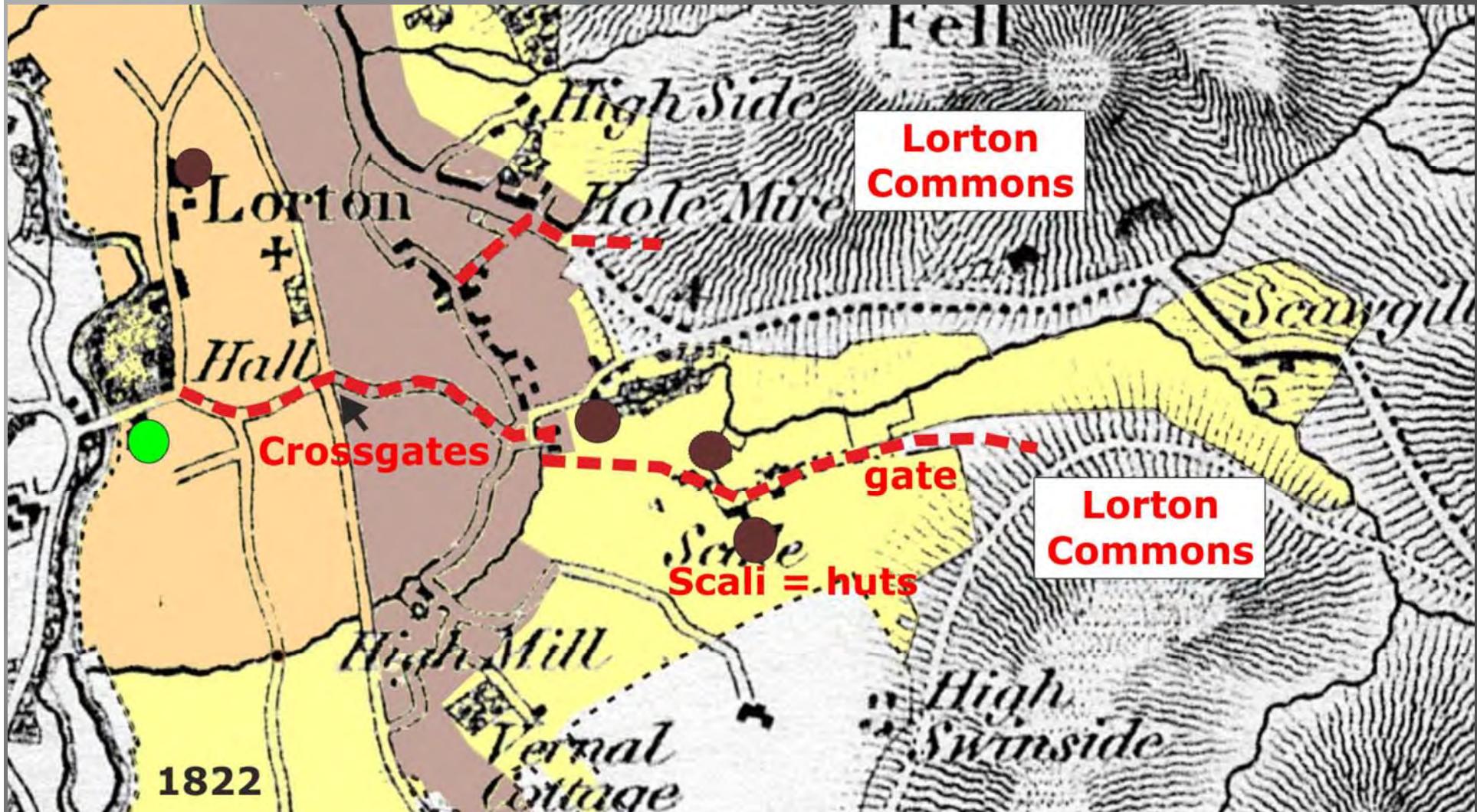
A fine Georgian
farmhouse, in a
farmstead with
a fold off the
highway

Pearson's of Low Lorton (Croft)

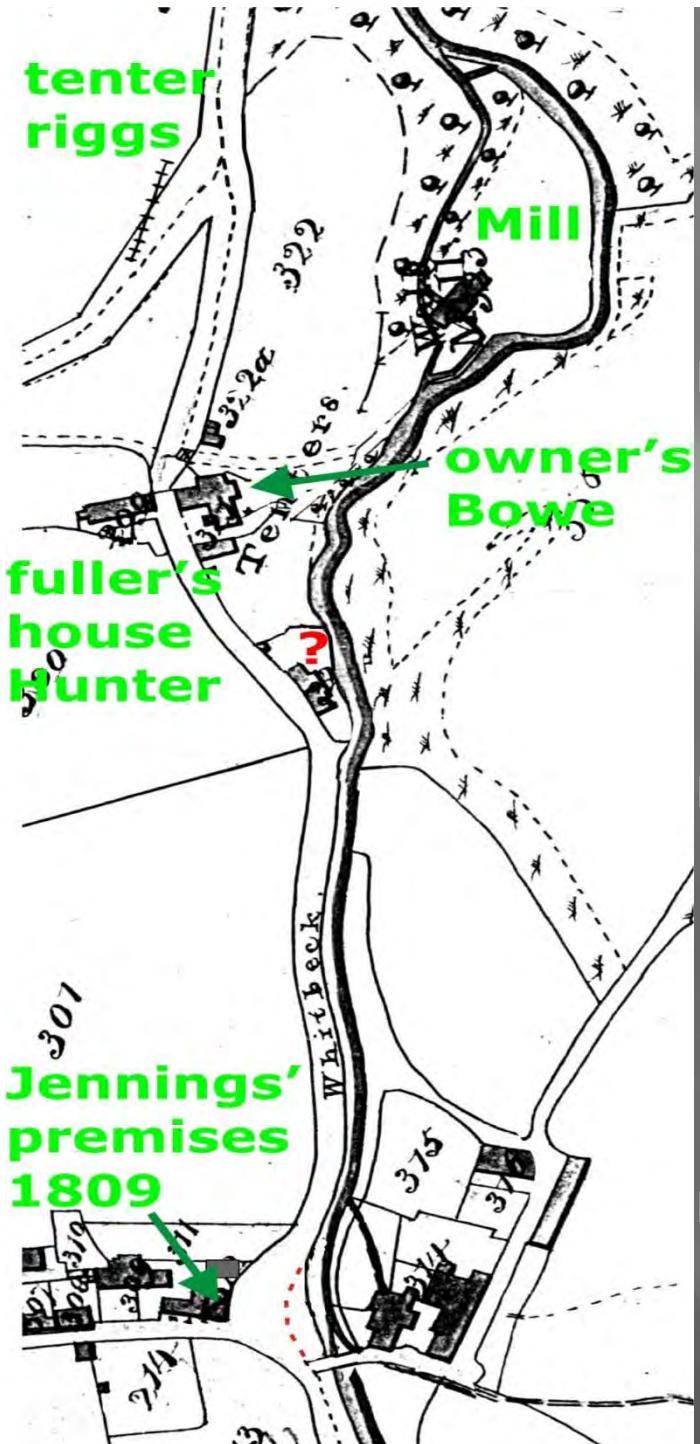


**The farmhouse on one side of the highway (left) and the barn on the other side (right).
(The other houses are later)**

Route to Scales and the common, 1811



- Stock from Low Lorton had to go through High Lorton to get to the common
- Scales was originally huts on the common. John Pearson's ownership (brown) retains the ancient connection to Low Lorton



Tenters and rural industry

- The Fulling Mill dated from the C15th, established by the Peile's of Low Lorton. A thriving business in 1811
- Old Bill Jennings was the maltster at 'Corner House', the kilns were along Whitbeck. No brewery yet
- Tenters was the poor area of the village, the least eligible housing and environment

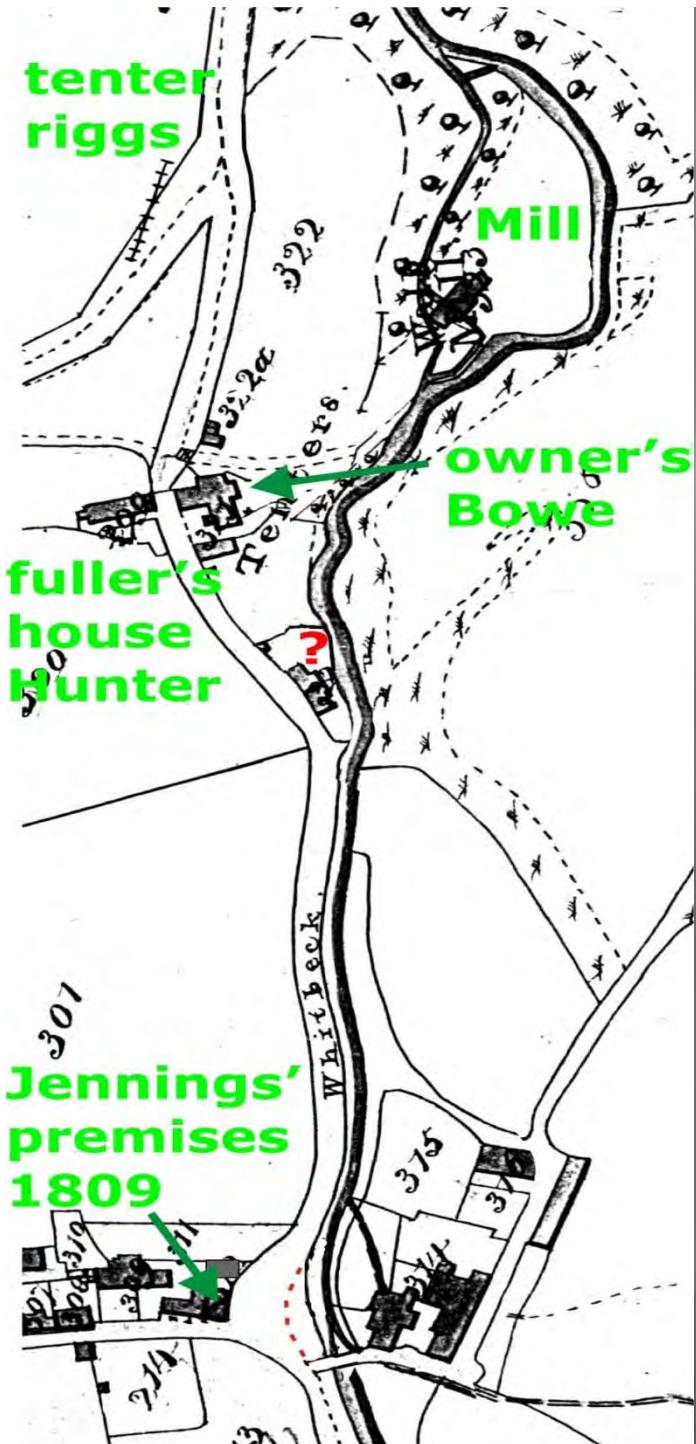
Poor housing in Tenters in 1811



Now extended on both sides and greatly improved

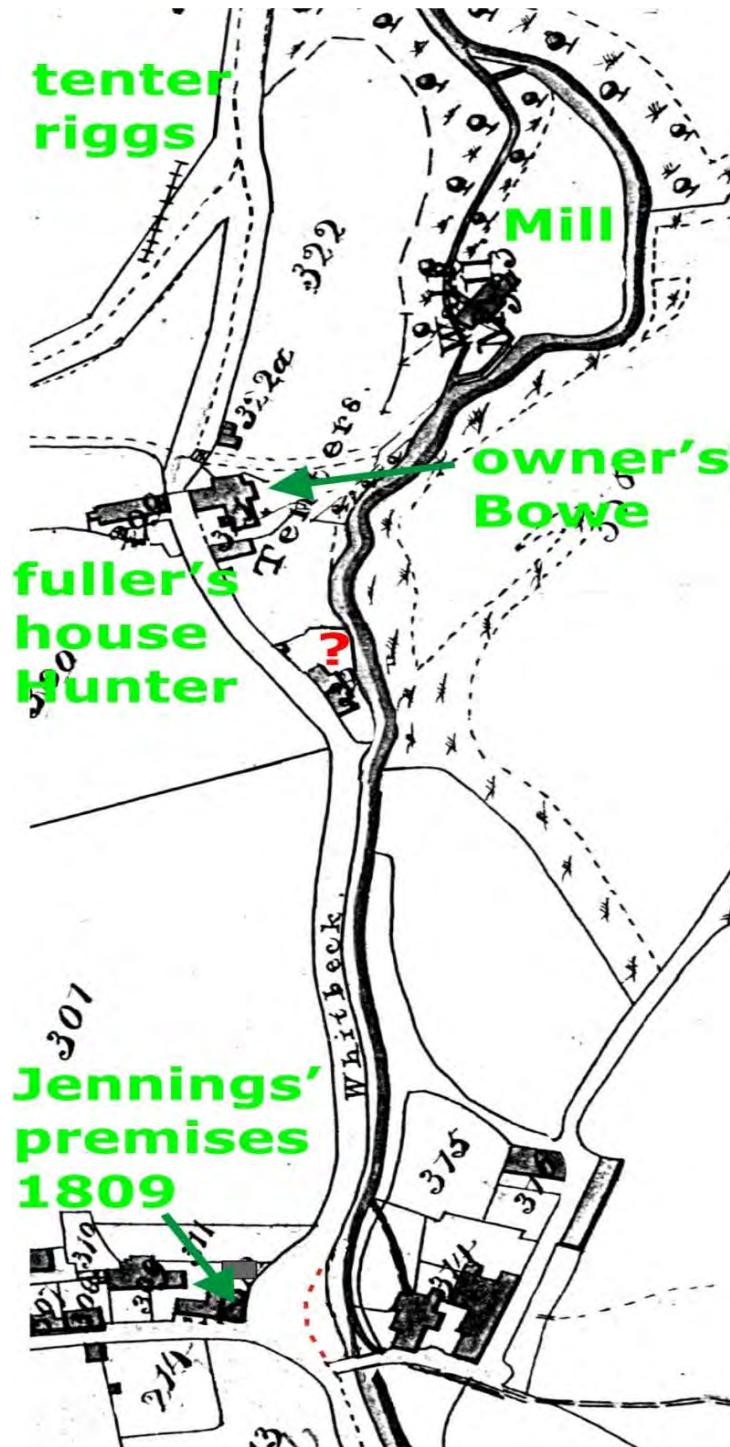


- 'The stairs used to be from the outside for people going to bed. Fancy leaving your comfortable fire on a snowy night and coming outside to go to bed'



Frank and Fanny Hunter - fullers

- Lived with his wife, mother and seven children born between 1789 and 1804
- No daughters married at St Cuthberts, but five illegitimate children born at the house from 1805 to 1829
- This family were right at the bottom of Lorton's social structure in 1811



John Jennings (1782-1876)

'The first brewer of the celebrated Lorton ale' in the 1820s.

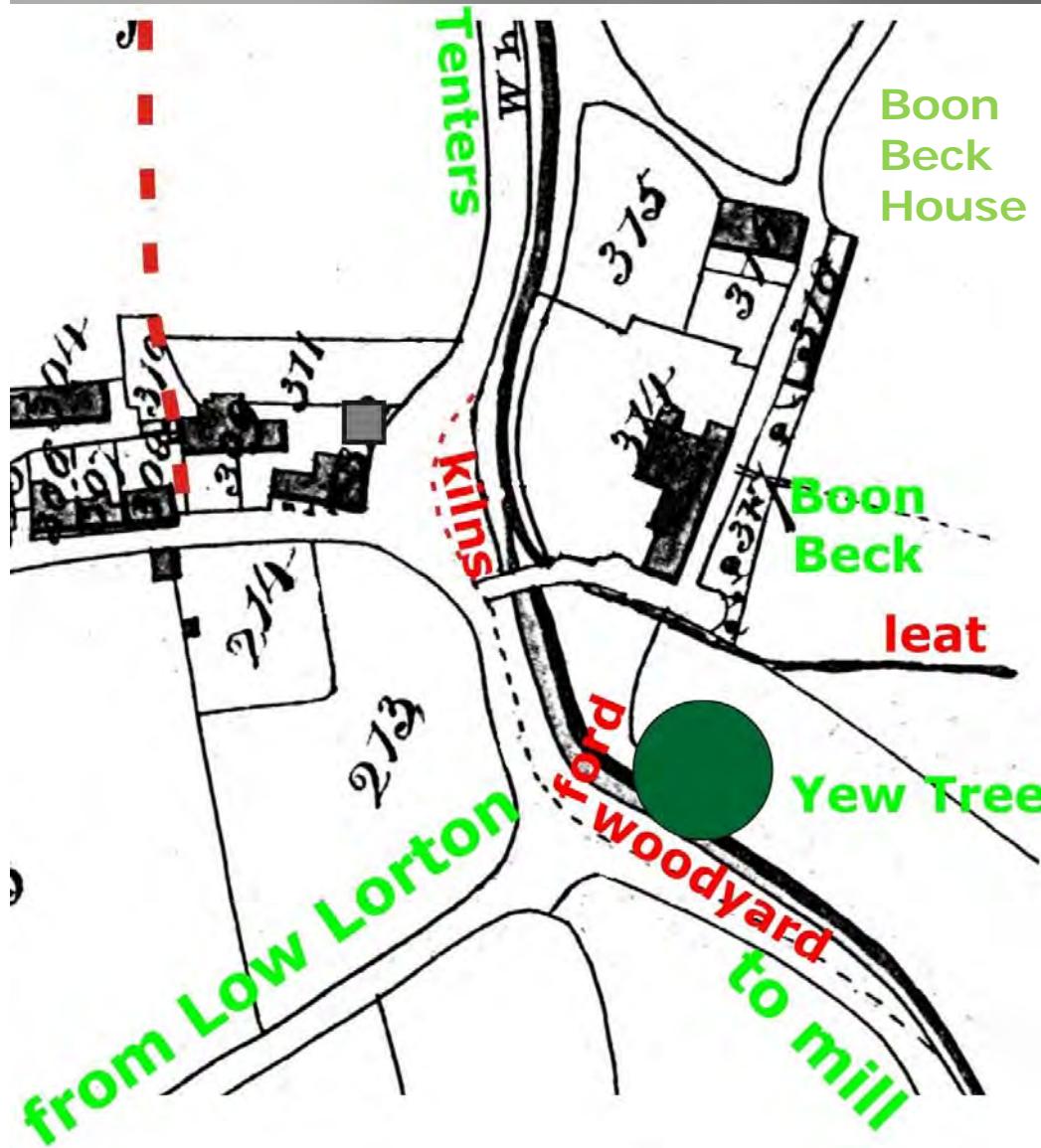
10th January 1811 – John Jennings and Ann Wilkinson (1776-1841) married

16th March 1811 Mary Anne Jennings born

Ann had inherited a farm at Scales and 'Beech Cottage'

John Jennings was a very energetic man, brewer, farmer and later the flax mill proprietor, and not safe with females

Boon Beck



Boon Beck means above the beck, the only farmstead in the Manor of Lorton over Whitbeck

Boon Beck farm was owned by the Stubbs family, but leased to farmers. Its land was towards the mill, including the yew tree



The way for
stock across
Whitbeck

Boon Beck Farm from 1813



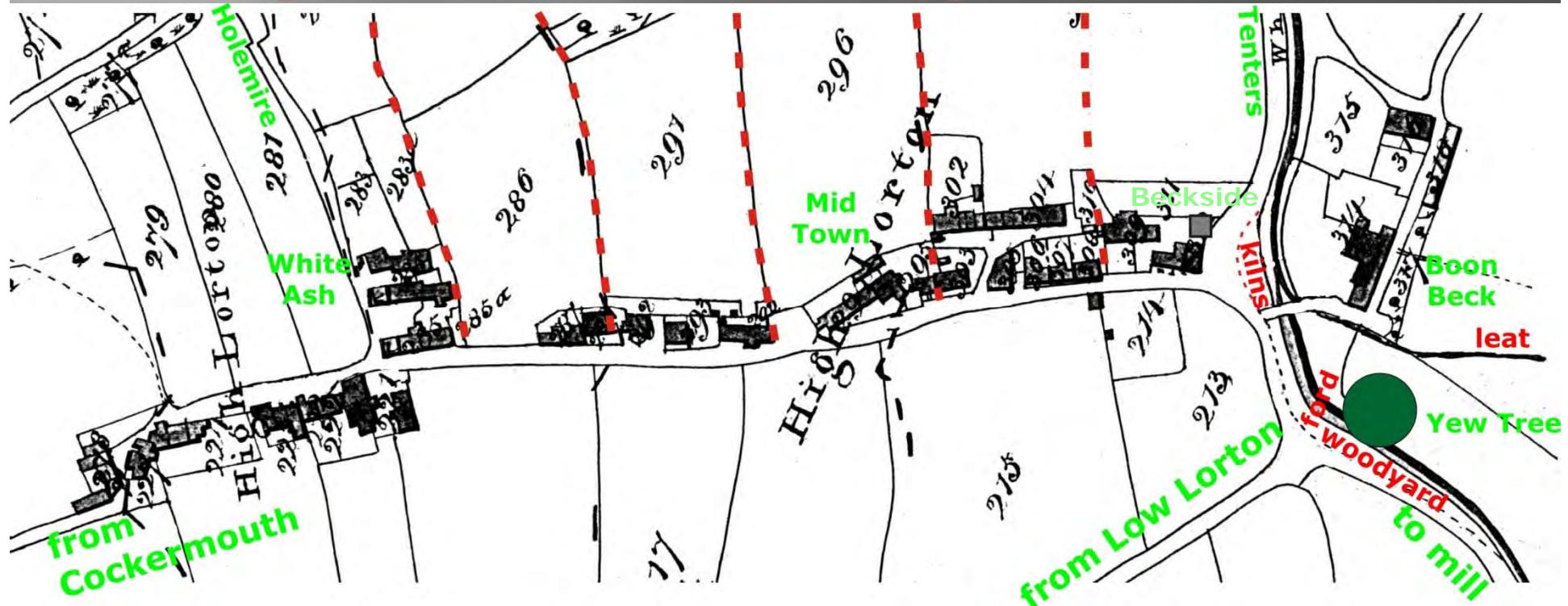
- In 1813 Peter Iredale and family moved from Low Hollins to lease Boon Beck Farm, following John Brown. The rent was high due to the war
- 'While they were at Boon Beck the barn and threshing machine and sheds were built, and the race water wheel made'.

Lorton (High) Mill



- The ancient corn mill in the Manor of Lorton existed in 1158
- 'John Pickering and his wife Ann lived at High Mill. The house was a low one and has been much altered since then'.

High Lorton Village in 1811



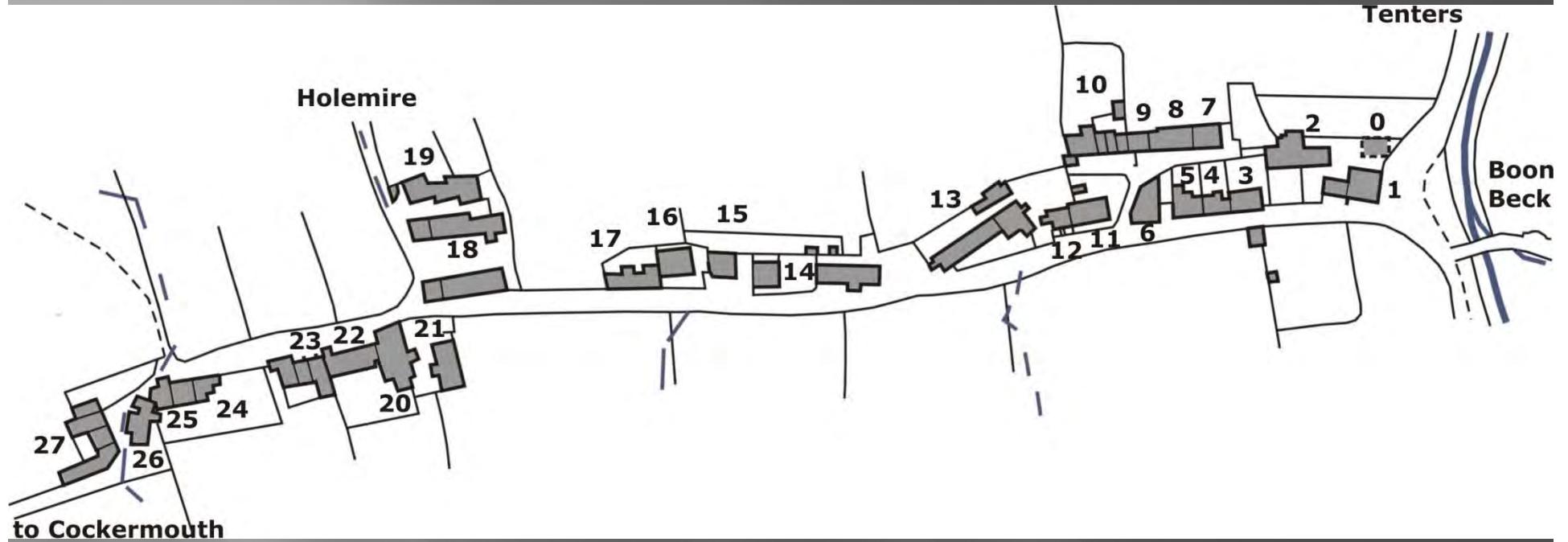
- Population in 1841 was 163, of whom 53 children (under 15), 18 were 60 or over. 1811 would be similar
 - Old farmstead boundaries red. The farmsteads were generally to the East of the highway.

High Lorton barns



Generally, the old High Lorton farmsteads presented the backs of their barns and byres to the Highway. This shows the two C17th barns of 'Fellbarrow' and Midtown.

High Lorton Street perambulation, 1811



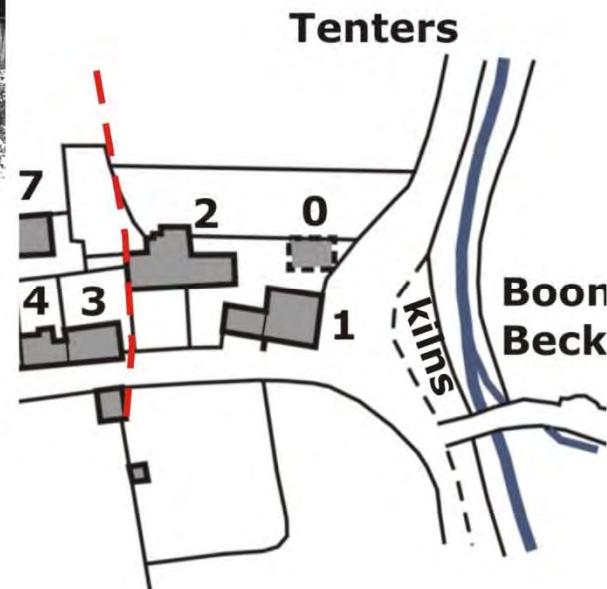
This is the same map as on the handout, representing the village in 1811 by adjusting the 1827 plan backwards. It cannot be 100% accurate.

The old Beckside tenements



**2. The whole tenement bought by William Nicholson. The house gentrified with a garden/orchard across the road. Later The Cedars and Graceholm.
Part of the barn sold to Jennings in 1809**

0. Joseph and Nancy Thompson and son 'thick Ike'



**1. Premises of Bill and Betty Jennings, the maltster
Later the Moffat's PO and shop**



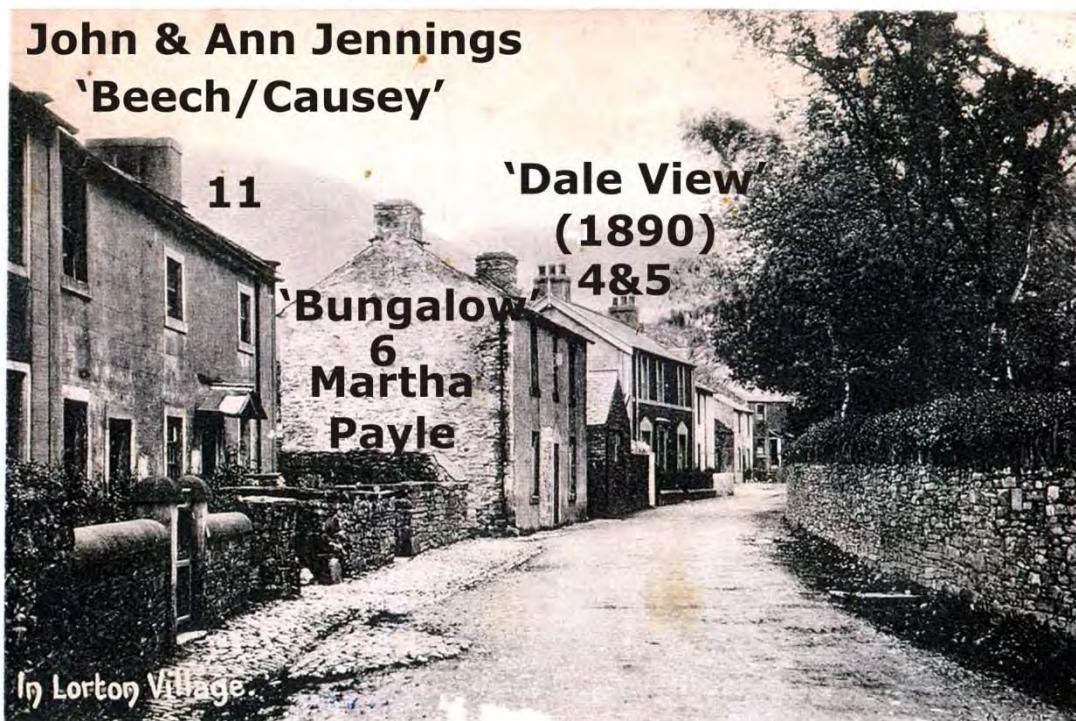
The remainder of Graceholm's barn



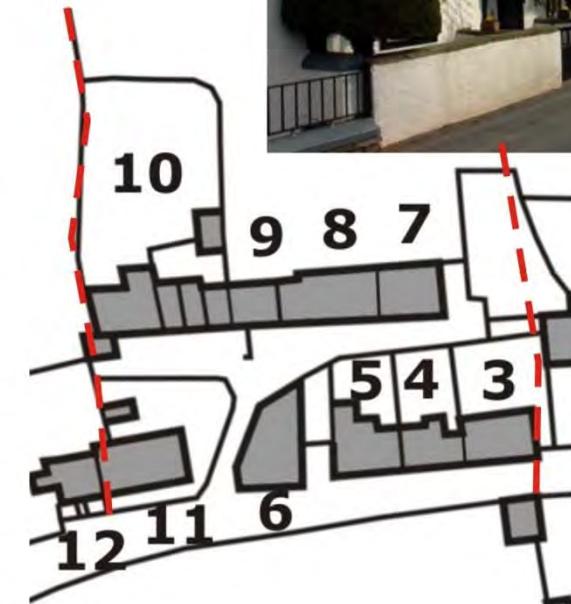
- Much of the barn was sold to Bill Jennings and demolished for 'Corner House'
- The height has since been reduced

The old Thos. Peale tenements (1)

'Dale View' was two 'mansions' occupied by Mally Borranskill, as a dame school, and Old Jack Crosthwaite and wife



Tom Crosthwaite, ex-quarryman and parish clerk



This old farmstead was sold by Michael Peile and in development for cottages by 1741. 'Yew Tree' (3) and 'Beech/Causey Cottage' (11) were similar small houses with barns attached



In Lorton Village

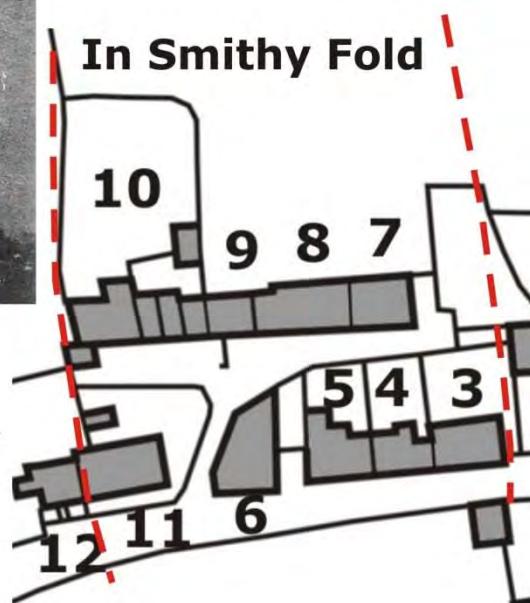


'In Lorton
Village'
c.1920
and
2011

The old Thos. Peale tenements (2)



**8,9, 10. Peter & Mary Robinson,
house, joiner's shop and
cottages let out**



**The Blacksmith's arms,
later Horse Shoe, James
& Sarah Sargison then
John Lennox**



The old Midtown farm

**Midtown was still a working farm of 34 acres in 1811
Anthony & Nancy Garnett**



**Kent cottage was built late C18th on land sold from Midtown.
1811 Mrs Crosthwaite**



Midtown was sold by John Garnett in 1837. Thomas Ewart bought the house and the closes behind it

John Bolton lodged here from 1877

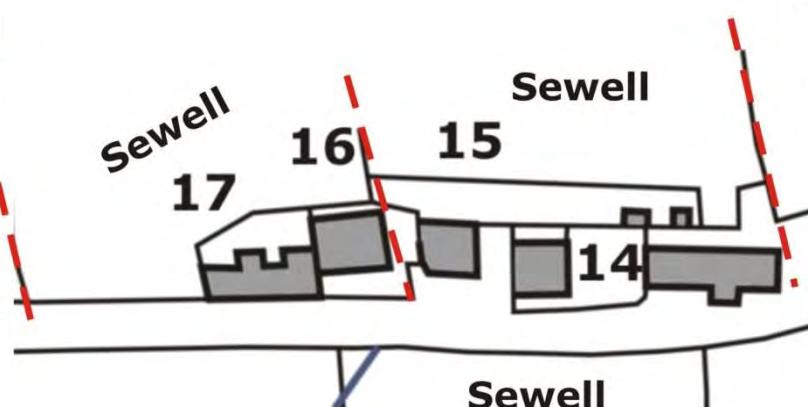
The old Wilson and Bouch farmsteads



'Rose Cottage', 16., the holiday home of Captain Russel, and 17., the home of Jonathan and Grace Musgrave



15. 'Spring Garth' the shop and later Post Office run by John and Mary Turrel



14. 'Huntingdon House/ Park View'
Priest Sewell farmed 10 acres



A C18th/19th house with coachouse. The earlier farmhouse was across the road

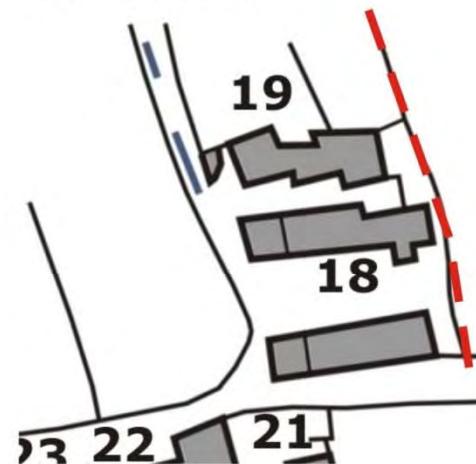
The old White Ash farmstead

19



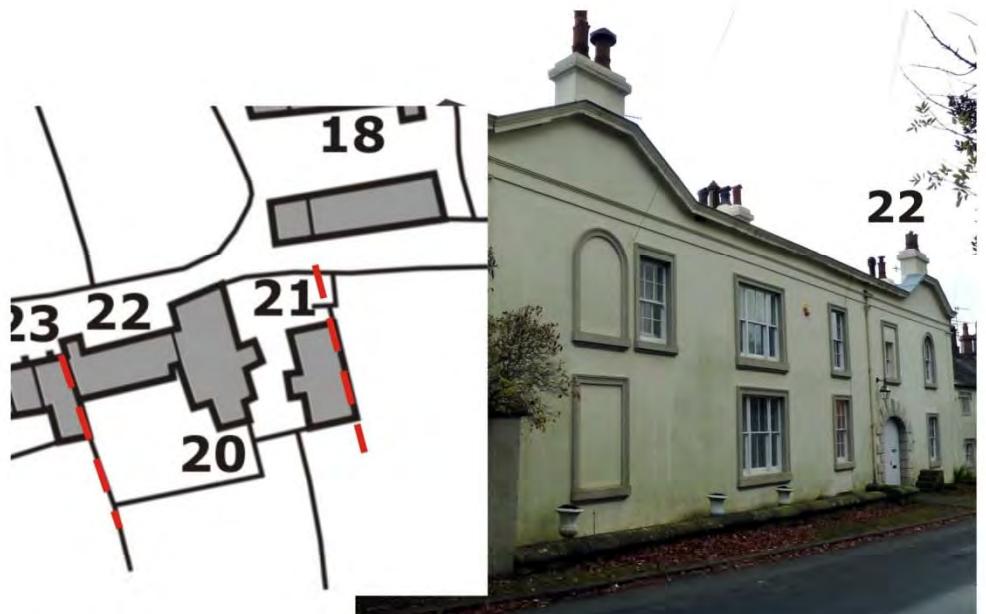
The Ash had previously been divided in two. In 1811 White Ash, 19., was a farm owned by the wife of Thomas Burnyeat, Jane born Peile, farmed by Isaac Harrison

Holemire



Wholemire, 18., or 'Lamb Fold', was farmed by Mirehouse and Sarah Key

The old Williamson farmstead



Lorton Park was built from the late 1820s incorporating Bella Thompson's bakehouse, 20., attached to John Martin's farmhouse, and John and Betty Graft's cottage, 22. The old outbuildings, 21., were demolished

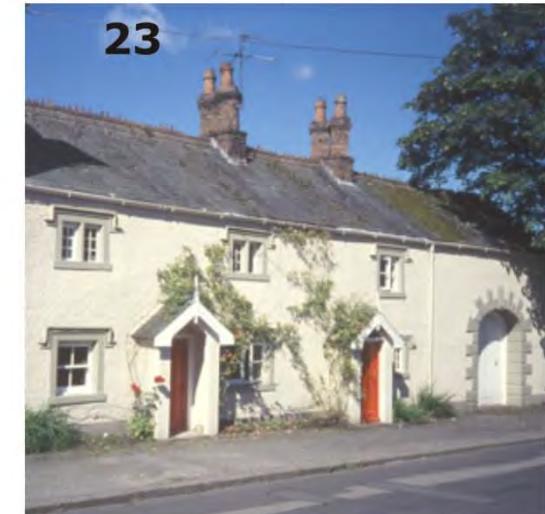
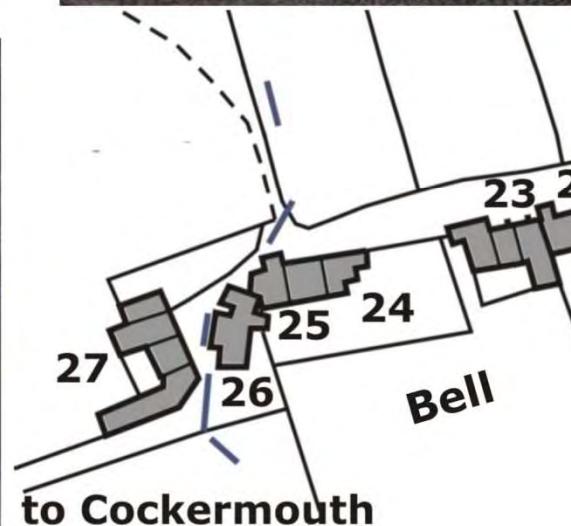
Rev. Lancaster Dodgson had purchased 20 and 21 in 1809, and purchased 22 in 1827. Lorton Park was then built.

The northern buildings

24,25. Once the house of John and Betty Bell and Robin Hartley's weaver's shop



27. A farmstead built in 1700. Owned by Joseph Fisher and the home of John Thompson



23. The Bell's cottages, occupied (in part) by dressmakers

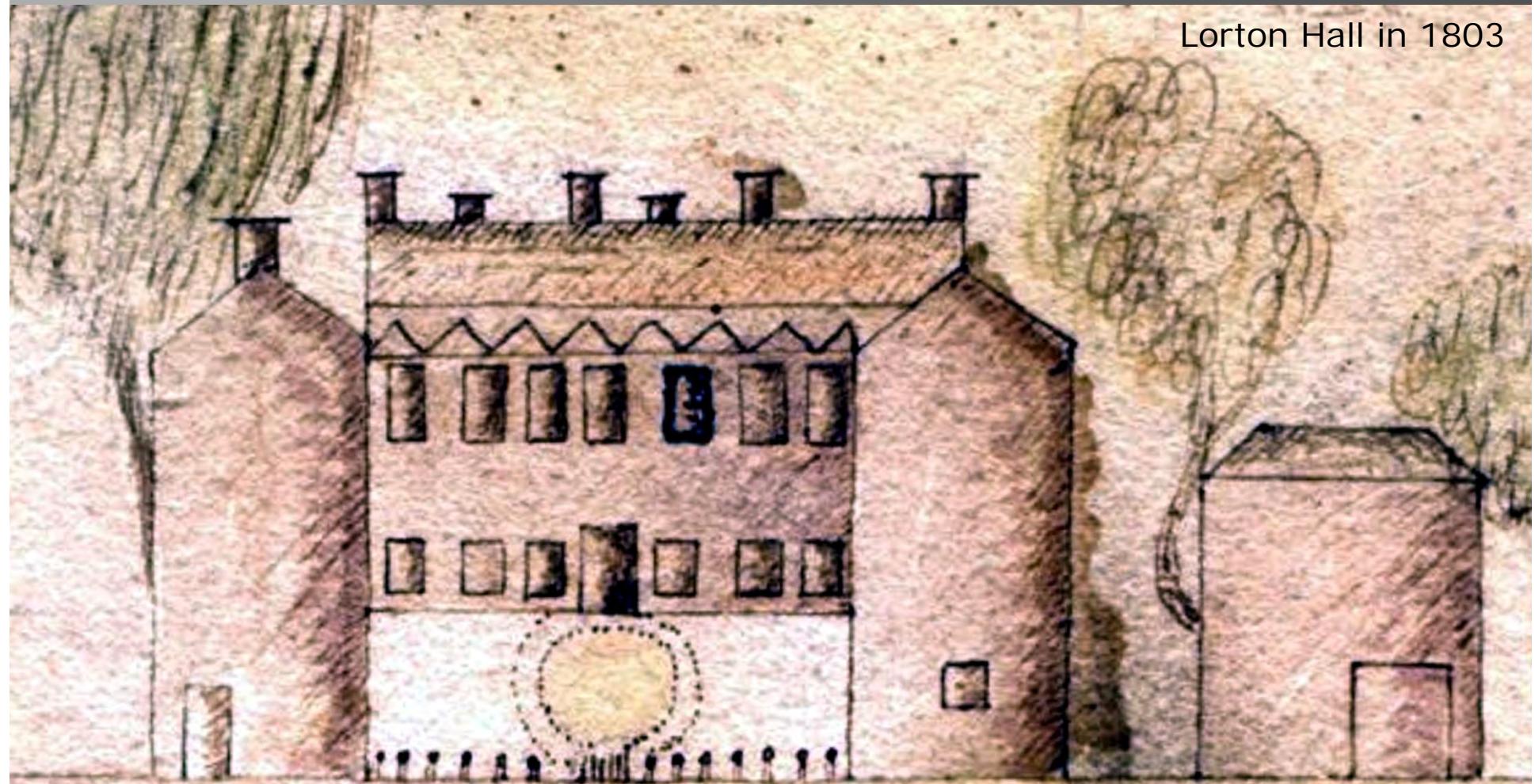
26. Grace Hinde's cottages occupied by excise men (demolished)

These late C17th & early C18th properties were acquired and converted to provide stables and cottages for Lorton Park

The end of the tour

- ❑ Not everything has been covered, but please send me any enquiries
- ❑ In 1811 Lorton was at a peak of prosperity and population, with housing trying to keep up
- ❑ The major changes of the nineteenth century were yet to come

LORTON AS IT WAS 200 YEARS AGO



Lorton Hall in 1803

Updating John Bolton's
lecture of 1891

The End