

The Journal

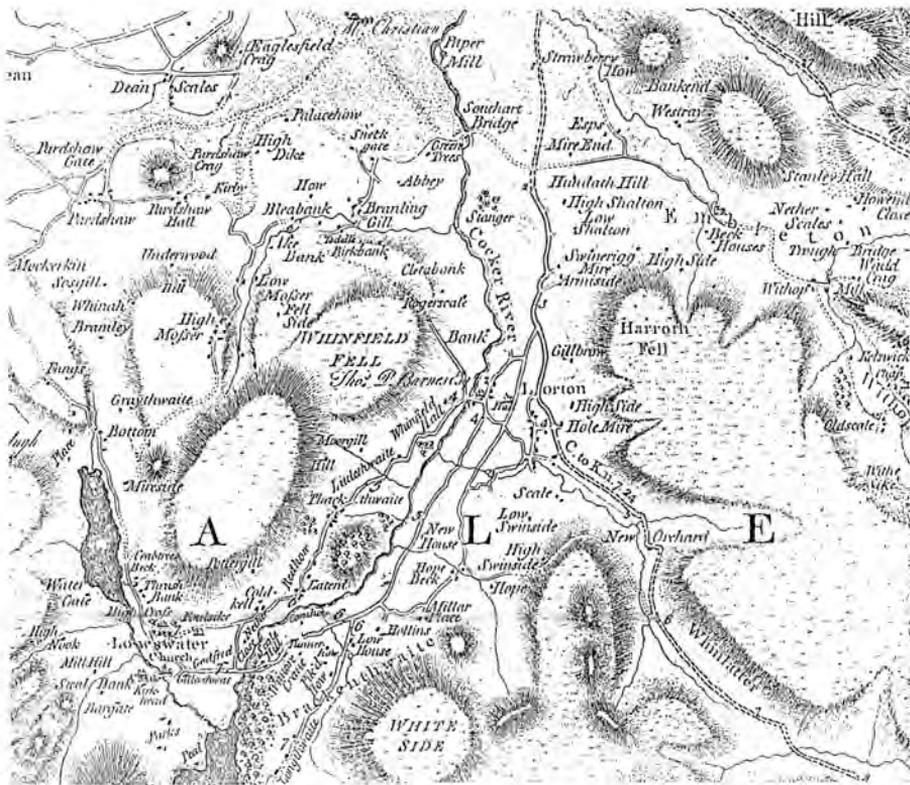
Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop

www.derwentfells.com

Newsletter No 1 - January 1994

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society



From Hodkinson & Donald's map, surveyed in 1770/71

The cover of the Society's first Newsletter

The Journal

Welcome to this fiftieth issue of the *Journal/Newsletter*. We celebrate this with a stimulating article from our President, Professor Angus Winchester, and a recollection of the formation of the Society from Michael Grieve. Michael was the Secretary and engine of the Society for eleven years, as well as Editor of the first thirty-seven *Newsletters*, before escaping from the country to bustling Dorset.

This is also an appropriate opportunity to thank Walter Head, who's interesting and enjoyable articles, full of local memories, knowledge and research, have supported these pages from the very early days.

It is good to have to find space for such a full programme on the back page, and that is just the next six months.

Derek Denman

An introduction from the Chairman

People like to celebrate milestones. This year the nation has been marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and on a much more parochial level, our Society is celebrating the fiftieth issue of the *Journal*. Milestones give an opportunity to review the period in question, and to assess what has, or has not, been achieved.

Sometimes when a small group gets together to form a club or society, the organisation peters out after a short period once the initial enthusiasm has faded. That is certainly not true of our Society, and the *Journal*, and the books we have published, provide a permanent record of our achievements in studying the history of our area. It is an advantage that a journal such as ours is not subjected to the strict standards applied to prestigious academic periodicals, for it means that all members of the Society can submit the fruits of their labours for publication without worrying about academic niceties. In spite of this, when scanning previous issues, I am struck by the range, variety and quality of the articles. Of course, no publication can ever be successful without a good Editor. Michael Grieve got the *Newsletter/Journal* off to a flying start with the first edition in January 1994, and since then there has only been

one further Editor, Derek Denman. Between them they have produced a *Journal* of a consistently high standard. Modern technology has considerably increased the value of the *Journal*, for thanks to Derek, all the back issues are now available on our website, and can thus be accessed by anyone anywhere.

On occasions such as this we should be looking forwards as well as backwards. I am confident that the *Journal* will continue to flourish, and will proudly produce its hundredth issue in due course. But its ongoing success will depend on the membership, so if you feel you can contribute an article, however short, on any aspect of the history of our area, please contact the Editor.

John Hudson

L&DFLHS 2012-13

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***A conservation opportunity
at the Loweswater Peel
(Crummock Water)
3rd – 5th September.***

Jamie Lund (National Trust Archaeologist) has contacted the society to ask for help in some conservation work on the site of the "so called Loweswater Peel on the side of Crummock Water," NY15062023. The conservation work would involve cutting gorse from the ramparts and creating a single, hard wearing footpath to replace the many narrow footpaths that encircle the promontory.

The site was scheduled in 1995 and was then thought to be a medieval moated manor house, the home of Ranulphe de Lindsaye and his wife who were connected with Loweswater in the mid 12th Century. It was described as being situated "on a rounded natural hillock which forms a peninsular of firm ground jutting into the lake. This peninsular is defended on the landward side by a system of banks and ditches. ... The manor house is thought to have been located on the lake side where there are the rectangular foundations of a hollow measuring 26m by 12m which has been interpreted as the cellar of a building." At the time it was noted that OS maps "locate a 'peel' some 120m further west on the opposite side of the hillock where a ruined farmbuilding considered to be a successor to the earlier structure now stands." Jamie includes in his request to us the tantalising comment "We actually suspect that the Loweswater Peel moated site stood elsewhere and that the visible ramparts belong to an earlier, possibly prehistoric, defensive site that made use of the natural lake promontory."

Jamie and Mark Astley (National Trust Ranger) have pencilled three dates into the diary for the work to be done between the 3rd and 5th September. I feel certain this will be an opportunity to find out a little more about this site which is right on our patch and familiar to many members. If anyone is interested, please give contact details as soon as possible and certainly by 6th August to: -
Sandra Shaw 01900 829812
sandra.m.shaw@btopenworld.com

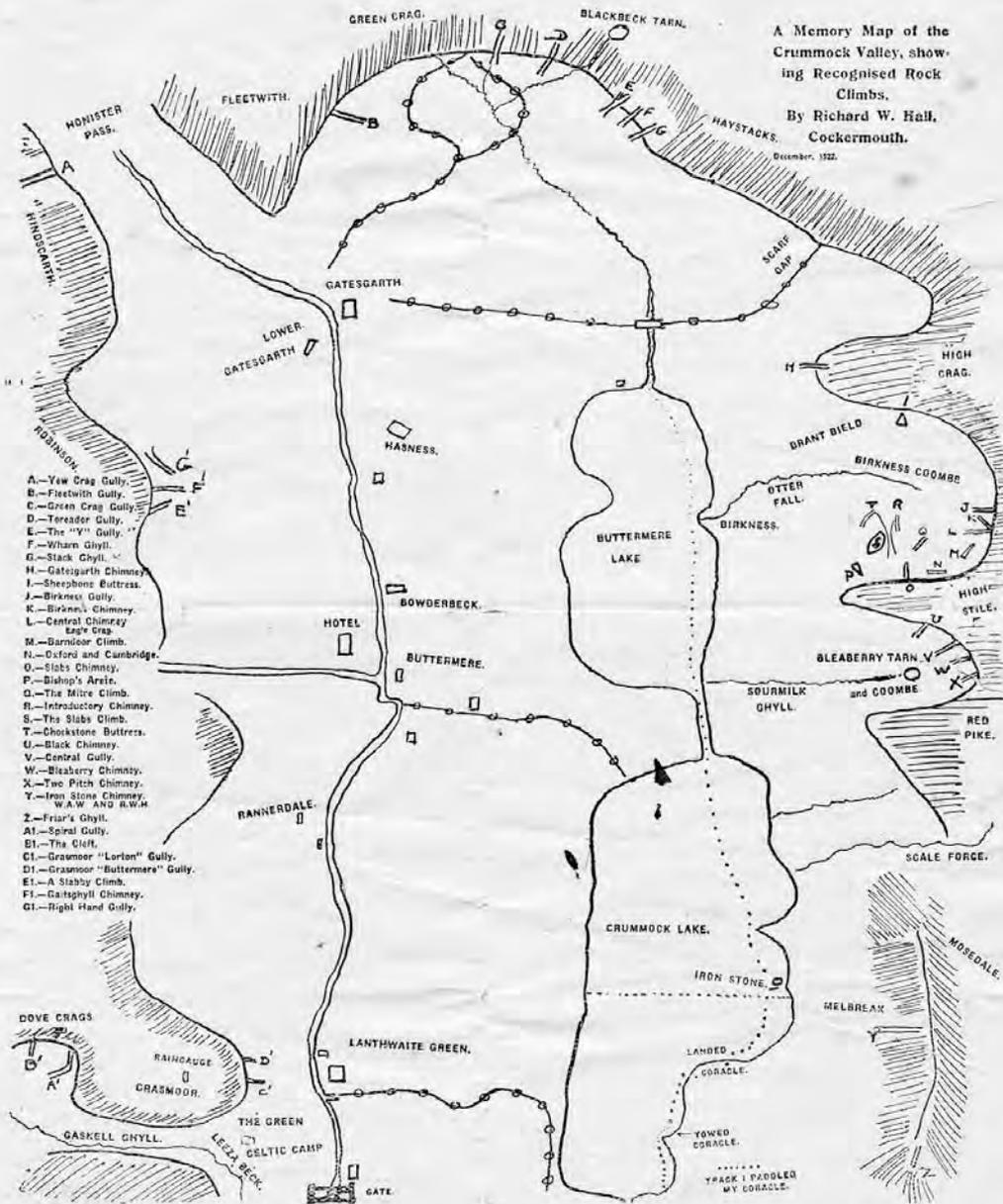
***A History of Lorton and
Derwentfells through
Objects***

Many of us heard some or all of the radio programmes in the Neil MacGreggor's series *A History of the World in 100 Objects*. This was a brilliant concept, and is now available as an illustrated book, which I strongly recommend. Angus Winchester in his article *A Memory Map* on pages 4-8 of this issue suggests that the Society creates something similar, recounting the history of our area through objects. He proposes that the project could celebrate the 50th issue of the Journal, but we could extend the project so that we have a collection of objects to display at the time of the Society's 20th anniversary in October 2013. We might be able to put on an exhibition in the Yew Tree Hall, as well as a virtual version on the society's website.

The genius of MacGreggor's idea was that each object was used to explore an aspect of world history. To take one example, a drum made in West Africa, and taken to America on a slave ship in the early 18th century, was used to describe the story of the slave trade. We should have no difficulty in finding objects on which to base accounts of events in our own history. To give one example, someone must have a memento of the railway that ran through Wythop and Embleton to describe the rise and fall of the line. Of course, MacGreggor's objects can all be seen in the British Museum, but ours would be in private hands, and loaned for photographing and for an exhibition if we have one.

This has to be a project conducted by the membership, and so this is an appeal for members to think of suitable objects and write a short piece about the history that it illustrates. The objects don't have to be small and transportable, they could be gravestones or even buildings, but they must tell a story. If we are going to extend the project in this way, I don't think we should limit the total to 12 objects – let's see how many we get. I will coordinate this project, so get thinking, and contact me with your ideas on 01946 861555 or johnhudson25@hotmail.com
John Hudson

Figure 1: The 'Memory Map'.



From Richard W. Hall

A Memory Map

by Angus Winchester

Here's an idea to help celebrate the Society's rise from strength to strength and the achievement of reaching the 50th issue of this *Journal*. We could create a local version – perhaps a virtual version on the Society's website – of Neil MacGregor's hugely successful *History of the World in 100 Objects*, scaled down a bit to be called, perhaps, 'A History of Lorton and Derwentfells in a Dozen Objects'. Like its inspiration, its aim would be to choose physical objects from the past which can be used as gateways into wider historical understanding. Playing with this idea led me to think what I might contribute – and I invite you to consider what object(s) you might include.

On my list would be a rather dog-eared and crudely produced sketch map of the Crummock and Buttermere valley, printed on a single sheet of paper in old Quarto size (10 x 8 inches), pasted on to a



Figure 2: Richard W. Hall at Lanthwaite Green, 1931.

linen backing. I would also want to exercise presidential privilege by including a subsidiary object, a cutting of a photograph from an unidentified publication, showing two men in a distinctly unseaworthy-looking coracle.

The map provides the starting point (Figure 1, page 4). It is entitled 'A Memory Map of the Crummock Valley, showing Recognised Rock Climbs, By Richard W. Hall, Cockermouth, December 1922'. It covers the valley from Lanthwaite Gate to Honister, marking the lakes, the houses, the roads and major footpaths, hemmed in by a wall of fellside, shown as a shaded border. Along the edge of this notional backdrop of the high fells are marked 34 rock climbs, labelled 'A' to G1', some named from their location ('Fleetwith Gully'; 'Bleaberry Chimney'); others with enticing names inviting further exploration, such as 'Toreador Gully', 'Sheepbone Buttress' and 'Oxford and Cambridge'. The map was given to me by my grandfather, A. J. Hall, who lived at Spring Garth, High Lorton from 1960 until his death in 1966. The maker of the map, Richard Watson Hall (1882-1935), known universally as 'Dick', was his elder brother (Figure 2). They were born and bred in Cockermouth, where Dick took over the family grocery business from his father, Josiah. Dick Hall was a reluctant grocer, as his heart was elsewhere, outdoors and on the fells. He was a keen rock climber (his hero was John Wilson Robinson of Whinfell Hall) and also a leader of walking tours in Britain and in the Pyrenees, a lecturer to Workers' Educational Association classes, a regular contributor to *The West Cumberland Times* and a Quaker involved in work with the unemployed in West Cumberland. He retired from the grocery business in 1926 to devote himself to his other interests.¹

Cockermouth's hinterland, a place redolent for him with memory and meaning, was his playground all his life. He had known it since his childhood in the 1890s: skating on Mockerkin Tarn in the freezing winters of that decade; rambling on foot to Whinfell on Saturdays in spring-time; driving along the 'coach road' between Hopebeck and Whinlatter, with his

¹ For Richard W Hall's life, see obituary in *The West Cumberland Times*, 16 February 1935.



Figure 3: E. R. Denwood (L) and Dick Hall (R) in the coracle.

parents in horse and trap on Sunday afternoons. Later visits were frequently made on his motorbike. He came to know the Cocker valley, its crags and its fells intimately, as the map shows. Grassmoor, in the bottom left-hand corner of map, was a regular destination. He would climb it once a month to record the rainfall on the summit (the rain gauge is marked on the map). But perhaps his favourite spot to turn off the engine and drink in the silence of the fells was Gatesgarth, from which he could explore the amphitheatre of climbs at the head of the valley. He knew the Nelson family, then farming at Gatesgarth, well. I've heard that it is to Dick Hall that we owe the name 'Innominate Tarn' on Haystacks: he had been walking over the fell and, returning to Gatesgarth, met Allan Nelson and asked him the name of that small, dark pool among the rocks. 'It hes neah nyam', said Allan and so 'Innominate Tarn' it became.

My subsidiary object, the photograph of two men in a boat (Figure 3), is linked directly to the tattered map. A dotted line follows the western side of the lakes, from Peggy's Bridge at the head of Buttermere to somewhere near the salmon ladder at

the foot of Crummock. This is explained as 'Track I paddled my coracle' and the line is annotated with some details of the voyage: 'Landed coracle', at Bowness headland, and 'Towed coracle', in the vicinity of the pump house near Park Beck. What prompted Dick Hall to build a coracle, test it on the fast-flowing Cocker in Cockermouth and paddle it down the lakes of Crummock and Buttermere, I do not know – it seems to have been a *jeu d'esprit* conceived within a couple of years of his return home after serving in the Friends' Ambulance Unit in France during the First World War. The coracle no longer survives, so the photograph must serve as a substitute.

Why, you will probably ask, should the scrappy map and its associated photo be included among the dozen objects chosen to tell the history of the Lorton and Derwentfells area? The objects in our collection should not only possess an intrinsic interest and a story of their own; they should act as vehicles to transport our thinking into wider themes of history. My answer would be that they key into two important themes which have played a part in shaping the history of this locality in the twentieth century.

The first is rather nebulous and concerns the networks of family and

friends which structure people's lives. The starting point is the steady drift of population away from rural areas such as the Cocker valley between the eighteenth century and the twentieth. Much of this out-migration was, initially at least, short-distance and local, to employment in the towns of Cocker mouth, Workington and Whitehaven, for example. We can assume that Dick Hall was not alone among Cocker mouth's inhabitants in feeling a strong sense of connection to the rural farming communities which formed part of the back-drop of family memory: '... as a background, was ever present the Yeoman Homesteads of our Quaker ancestry', he wrote, thinking of farms at Ullock and Loweswater, as well as his paternal family's farms on the Cumberland plain.² That back-drop of memory was maintained by family networks, fostered by market-day visits to Cocker mouth and, for Quaker families, sustained by regular gatherings at monthly and quarterly meetings. The growth of motorised transport in the 1920s and 1930s both increased the interchange between town dwellers and their relations in the rural hinterland and saw areas like the Cocker valley become playgrounds for the middle classes. Moreover, in those decades, the family connections and networks spread outwards to embrace those who had migrated further afield, bringing distant exiles back to the valley and drawing in wider circles of connections. William Arthur Cooper (1883-1943), a native of Cocker mouth and headmaster of the Quaker school at Ackworth, near Pontefract, bought and restored Crabtreebeck at Loweswater in 1928 (Dick Hall's coracle found a resting place there in the barn).³ The Quaker schoolmastering connection led to Arthur Cooper's former colleague, Victor Alexander (1887-1963) and his family making Low Park their home from the 1930s. The role social networks have played in shaping patterns of migration is now recognised by historians and historical demographers: the Quaker links

² Richard W Hall, 'Earliest Recollections', TIS account dated Christmas 1927 (in private hands)

³ My mother, Dick Hall's niece, remembers seeing the coracle during a holiday at Crabtreebeck c.1932

of Dick Hall and his co-religionists are merely one example of the interconnections that often lay behind the decisions taken by migrants, which, in turn, have forged the character of local communities in the social revolution which swept through the English countryside across the twentieth century.

The second historical theme illustrated by the tattered map is the growth of the outdoor movement, particularly in the Inter-War years. With its linen backing, the map was clearly intended to be taken outdoors and used on the fells. It was a product of the energetic thirst for the outdoors that was a feature of the 1920s and 1930s. Dick Hall himself was enthusiastically involved in the movement. His book, *The Art of Mountain Tramping* (published in 1932),⁴ was packed with homely advice on equipment, hill camping, walking on the fells, rock climbing and even had a section on 'What to do on a glacier!' He was active in the nascent Youth Hostel Association, taking the lead in converting the carriage shed at Pardshaw Quaker meeting house into a hostel. He was thus one small player in a massive movement, which was to transform the Lake District into the playground it is today.⁵ So, this rather tattered piece of linen-backed paper takes us towards some of the wider historical processes which helped to shape local communities in the twentieth-century. For us, his 'Memory Map' is a tangible legacy from a past era of homespun outdoor pursuits. It is also an example of how memories of days on the fells help to create the mental images of treasured landscapes which have played – and continue to play – such an important role in shaping the recent history of the Lake District.

Note: a larger copy of the memory map has been placed on the Society's website for personal use only. Please go to: - www.derwentfells.com/pdfs/memorymap

⁴ Richard W. Hall, *The Art of Mountain Tramping: practical hints for both walker and scrambler among the British peaks* The sports and Pastimes Library (London: H. F. & G. Witherby, 1932).

⁵ For the outdoor movement, see H. Taylor, *A Claim on the Countryside: a history of the British outdoor movement* (Edinburgh: Keele University Press, 1997).

Earning Pocket Money in the 1950s

by Walter Head

Young boys living in town had the opportunity of earning extra pocket money by having a paper round or working in a shop at the weekends. Opportunities to earn extra money for a country village lad were limited. In my case, at Dean, I spent a lot of time helping out at Manor Farm owned by Winder and Sadie Waite; in fact it was a second home for me. (I say helping out - if a young teenager was a help rather than a hindrance.) Winder was a patient teacher and by the age of 12 or 13 years old I could carry out most tasks on a farm and was confident with driving a tractor and various implements. Health and Safety at that time went by the name of Common Sense. Near to our house was a large stone barn with a byre at one end, which held ten cows. During the winter months I earned money by 'mucking out' this byre each morning before school, putting down new bedding and feeding hay to the cows.

Another way to earn extra money in the summer months was by collecting rose hips, which are the fruit of the dog rose, abundant in the hedges in this area. During the Second World War there was a shortage of citrus fruits and therefore a shortage of vitamin C. This shortage continued long after the end of the war. Researchers at Bristol and Newcastle upon Tyne had discovered how to extract vitamin C from rose hips. Rose hips contain four times more vitamin C than blackcurrants and twenty times more vitamin C than oranges. The collected rose hips were made into syrup which contained the vitamin C; the main

manufacturer was Delrosa based at Wallsend near Newcastle. The rose hips were pulled from the rose bush by hand at peak ripeness, bright red and slightly soft but you soon learnt that they weighed more when they were red but not too soft, at school you could tell which boys were collecting rose hips by the numerous scratches on their hands.



The collected hips were taken to the local collection point, organised by the Women's Institute. At Dean this was the Post Office run by Mrs Pattinson; at Lorton the collection point was Park View, the home of Miss Hope and at Loweswater it was Moss Cottage. We received 3d per pound (1.25p per 454gms) this later increased to 4d per pound (1.75p per 454gms). At this time 3d would buy you an ice cream and petrol cost approximately 4.1p per litre. There was also a badge scheme in operation; on collecting a certain weight of rose hips (I can't remember the exact weight) each child qualified for a badge. At the end of the season the children who had amassed four or more badges could trade them in for a year badge. A special award was made to the person who had taken the greatest weight of hips to their collection point. This was the Award of Merit.

Not only children collected rose hips; the benefit system was not as generous as it is today and so a lot of pensioners and unemployed used it as a way of increasing their income.

The collection of rose hips continued into the 1960s until citrus fruit became more readily available and also an alternative way was found to produce vitamin C. Rose hip syrup is still available to be purchased today.



Thornthwaite and the start of local forestry in the nineteenth century

by Derek Denman

'...top of Brown fell & from thence as ye [heaven?] Weltor Deales in ye Lords Seate Pike & soe to Seate Howe & from thence to Coom beck head & and soe to Broken Gill head & soe downe broken Gill to Whinlatter highway'¹

This article has been stimulated by Ron George's transcription of the boundary of Lorton commons with Thornthwaite, as perambulated in 1705, which he placed in our first *Newsletter* in January 1994. The development of forestry on the enclosed commons of Thornthwaite, principally the Hospital and Comb plantations, formed the start of mountain forestry on the Derwent Fells, and followed the enclosure of the commons of the manor of Thornthwaite in 1814. The Forestry Commission was created in 1919, a century after the Hospital's plantation, with the remit to replenish the nation's timber resources. At this time the Lorton fells were still rough grazing. This article will give an account of the history of wood and forestry in Thornthwaite through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Thornthwaite common and its owners

Figure 1 provides a plan of the rather complex boundaries of manors, townships and parishes which relate to this discussion of Thornthwaite. The principal nineteenth century plantations which preceded the Forestry Commission were created on allotments from the enclosure of the commons, awarded in 1814 and resulting from the Act in 1812. Before that the commons belonged to the lord of the manor of Thornthwaite, and the customary tenants of the manor had grazing rights on what must have been a poor, almost treeless fellside, with no wood shown on the Donald survey of 1770-1.

At some time before 1230, the manor of 'Tornthayt in Derwentfellez' was subinfeudated by Alice de Rumelli out of Derwentfells forest to Gospatric, a Curwen ancestor. Patrick of Workington built a

chapel in Thornthwaite in about 1240, that chapel being in the parish of Crosthwaite rather than Brigham, and so the boundary between Lorton and Thornthwaite was a parish boundary, as well as a manor and township boundary. The manor of Thornthwaite was not as large as the township, mainly because those parts which had developed between Beckstones Gill and Beck Wythop, outside of and to the north of the manor boundary, were enclosures in Derwentfells manor, and were managed by the manor court of Braithwaite and Coledale.

In 1566 Henry Curwen sold the manor to Anthonie Barwis, and Richard Barwis in turn sold to John Radcliffe in 1628.² The manor was then managed with the Radcliffe's manor of Castlerigg and Derwentwater and Keswick estate. James Radcliffe, third earl of Derwentwater, whose seat was Dilston Hall in Northumberland, rebelled in favour of the Old Pretender in 1715. For this treason he was beheaded on 24 February 1716. His estates were forfeit to the crown and in 1735 the rents and profits of the Derwentwater Estate, including the manor of Thornthwaite, were granted by George II to the support of the charitable Royal Greenwich Hospital for Seamen. In 1736 the manor of Thornthwaite contained thirty customary holdings, not all having farmsteads, plus Ladstocks stinted pasture. There was no freehold land.

It is clear that the grant of the manor of Thornthwaite in 1735 included the common up to Beckstones Gill, and the lead mines were entirely in the right of the manor of Thornthwaite.³ Nothing was due from Thornthwaite manor to the Dukes of Somerset as superior lords of Derwentfells in the Honour of Cockermouth. They were still due a yearly sparrow-hawk for 'Derwentwater', which was commuted to a more convenient two shillings. In 1812 the Earl of Egremont agreed to the straightening of part of the commons boundary between manors of Derwentfells and Thornthwaite and claimed nothing from the enclosure of the commons.⁴ It therefore seems likely that the original grant of Thornthwaite out Derwentfells, by

¹ *Newsletter* No.1, p.5. 'As the heaven water deales' means that the boundary follows the watershed.

² TNA:PRO/ADM 76/59

³ This and the above from the rentals; ADM 79/1-8

⁴ CACW/DLec. 136; CACC/QRE1/10

1230, included the common, in a manner similar to Wythop and Borrowdale.

The disputes over the wood on the tenants' estates

Usually all live or 'green' wood belonged to the lord of the manor, except on freehold land where enfranchisement normally included a payment for the wood. The lord's ownership included timber and coppice wood on the customary estates of the tenants, and timber trees in the hedgerows, which could be used for houseboot (building or repairs), only with permission. By the eighteenth century in the customary manor of Thornthwaite the tenants had established a practice of using or selling the wood on their estates. By the time that the Greenwich Hospital obtained the manor, customary rights were being created and claimed by the inhabitants. In 1737 the Hospital's valuer reported that there was no wood fit to cut as timber in the manor, and that the improving wood was worth only £58. By comparison, in Castlerigg and Derwentwater the wood was worth nearly £5,000.⁵ Similarly, on the few tenements in Thornthwaite township outside of the Thornthwaite manor, principally Powter How and Woodend on the shores of Bassenthwaite, the enfranchisement offers in 1759 included wood worth £379 3s.⁶

On their first survey of the Derwentwater estates in late 1735, the Gateshead-based Receivers of the Greenwich Hospital found their first difficult tenant in Thomas Jefferson. He was the incumbent of All Saints in Cockermouth but also the customary tenant of a large Thornthwaite farm, probably at Lane End. In the spring of 1735 he had sold 200 'Birks and Ellers' (birches and alders) to William Miles, a clogger of Keswick, for £6 12s 6d.⁷ This would be coppice wood on his farm tenement. The Receivers stopped the cutting and the payments because Jefferson had no right to sell the lord's wood, though he could have some for his own use on his tenement. Parson Jefferson was a good letter-writer, and claimed that such practice had been allowed by Lord Derwentwater, and Jefferson expected

that he should have no worse treatment than from a 'Roman Catholic lord'.⁸ He eventually gave in and made amends, but not until it was clear that the Greenwich Hospital would otherwise prosecute him. The value of all the wood in the manor then increased to £224 by 1774.⁹

The tenants had established their practice of using or selling the hedgerow trees more widely and thoroughly. It was only in the 1770s when a long running dispute with the Fishers forced the Hospital to test the issue at law, to establish what the custom was, or had become. Depositions were taken in evidence in 1771, and the eventual result was that the hedgerow trees were judged to belong to the customary tenants.¹⁰

The defeat at law by a few rustic tenants must surely have been a great embarrassment for the Receivers, who had always been of the opinion that that the distant estates at Keswick and Thornthwaite were more trouble than they were worth. By 1791 the value of the Hospital's wood in Thornthwaite manor was still only £200.¹¹ At this time the Receivers' remuneration was 6d in the pound on the Hospital's gross rental, which was £10 3s 10¾d for Thornthwaite, but supplemented by fines on change of tenant averaging £30. This gave the Receivers £1 per annum for their trouble, before paying the court-keeper. There had been great difficulty in getting the valuable general fine on the death of the lord, effectively two years current market rental of the whole manor. The uncollected general fine due on the death of the beloved but traitorous third Earl of Dewentwater was objected to on the technicality that the next lord, the King, had gained the manor through violence, specifically head removal. And then of course in law the King never dies. A special Act of Parliament was required in 1739 to make the customary tenants of Thornthwaite and of Castlerigg & Derwentwater, and some other places, pay a general fine on the bodily death of the king. This was collected on the death of George II in 1760, but then George III lasted until 1820, by which time the Thornthwaite tenants were freeholders.

⁵ ADM 66/106, pp.53-9

⁶ DLec.81&300

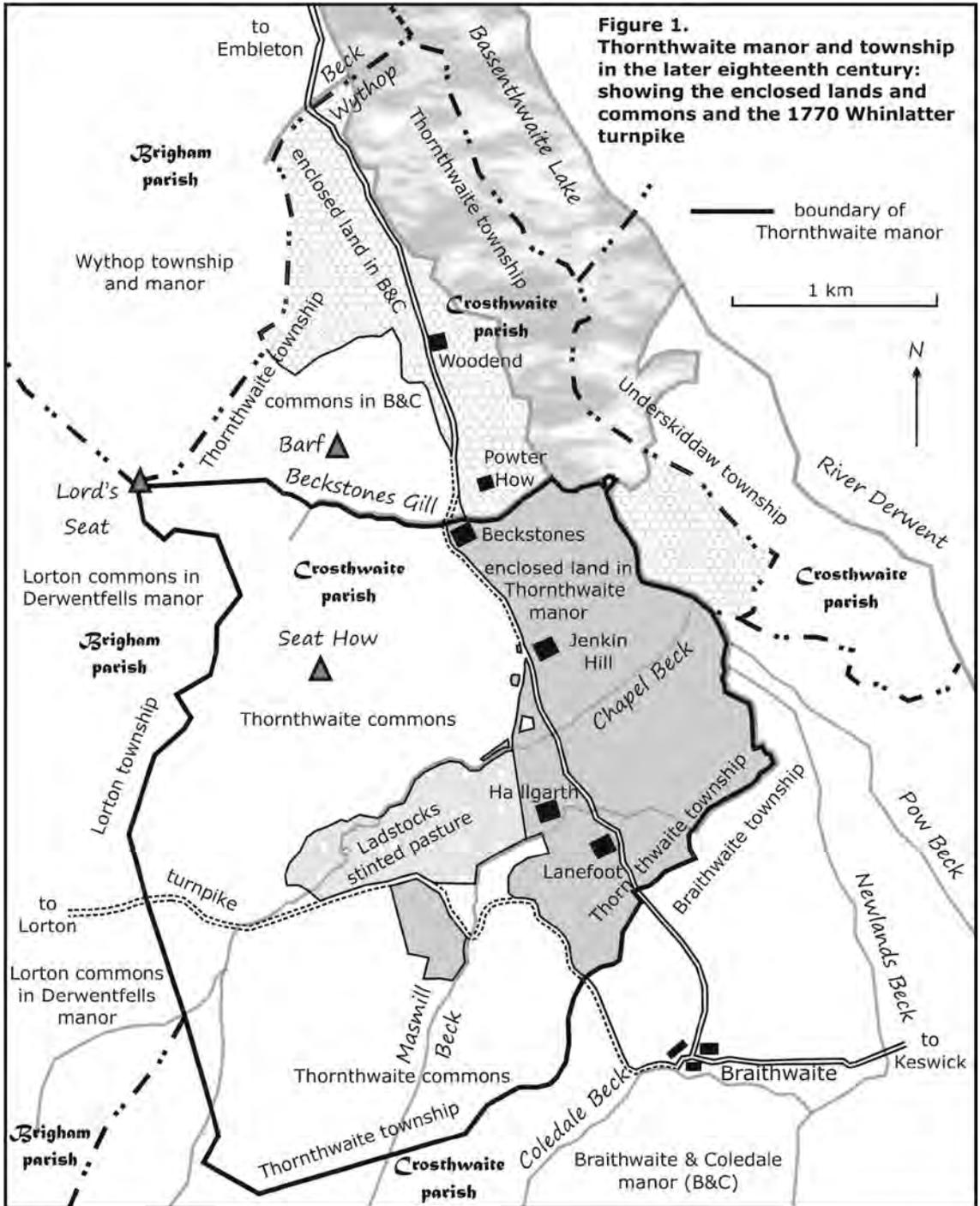
⁷ ADM 66/105, p.41

⁸ ADM 66/105, pp.170-1

⁹ ADM 79/57

¹⁰ TNA:PRO/E134-12Geo3-Mich13

¹¹ ADM 76/60



The Greenwich Hospital and the Sleethow (Hospital) plantation.

It is well known that the Greenwich Hospital had a difficult experience in managing woodland in the English Lakes, caused by the harvesting of the timber around Derwentwater, especially at Crow Park, just at the time that Derwentwater was being discovered as an English

Arcadia. In fact the harvesting was authorised in 1739, and removed the need to sell the Keswick and Thornthwaite estate to pay off encumbrances, but an early sale was thwarted by a cartel of the Whitehaven wood merchants, which delayed the sale at a fair price until 1747. The subsequent felling was captured in painting, verse and prose, presenting the Hospital as villains of

Species	Quantity planted in thousands					Total
	1814/15	1815/16	1816/17	1817/18	1818/19	
Scots fir	405	260	2	0	30	697
Larch	283	170	2	0	60	515
Oak	60	44	50	0	60	214
Ash	2	10	0	0	10	22
Sycamore	4	4	0	0	0	8
Alder	2	10	0.5	0	5	17.5
Birch	0	15	0.5	0	0	15.5
Elm	0	0	0.1	0	10	10.1
Total	756	513	55.1	0	175	1499.1
Cost	£1002 5s	£636 10s	£167 6s 8d	0	£342 10s	£2148 11s 8d

Table 1. Greenwich Hospital planting at Thornthwaite. Source ADM 66/88 & 89

taste, after which they were always keen to plant and reluctant to fell in the English Lakes.

The fourth Earl of Sandwich, John Montagu, now famous for that convenient working lunch, became first lord of the Admiralty for the third time from 1771 to 1782. He chaired the General Court of the Hospital and took a keen personal interest in its policy and management, including having the full ownership of the estates vested in the Hospital. From 1771 Montagu reformed the royal dockyards and promoted the supply of native timber, and English forestry in general. From his time the Hospital adopted the general policy of promoting the growth of mature timber and creating new plantations on its Northern Estates, which set the pattern for Keswick and, eventually, Thornthwaite.

The initiative to enclose the commons of Thornthwaite and enfranchise probably came from the tenants, perhaps wary of a general fine at the end of the regency. The Act was passed in 1812 and the award was made in 1814. The work was undertaken by three local commissioners, led by Joseph Harrison Fryer of Lyssick Hall, and including Joseph Fisher of Brackenthwaite. During the Napoleonic wars the improvement of land by such means, for agriculture or forestry, was patriotic and was economically supported by the wartime bubble in corn prices and land values. The Hospital had seen its rental income elsewhere double in a decade, and thought the increases would never end.

The Hospital was entitled to one fourteenth, or 78 acres, of the net allotted commons for its manorial rights and another 37 acres for Beckstones, which had escheated to the Hospital c.1811

through the conviction of the customary tenant, Hannah Grave, for felony. The other 1000 acres of commons was due to be shared by the customary tenants. The Hospital agreed to offer enfranchisement of the customary tenants in the enclosure process, and to take land in lieu of cash for granting the freeholds.

For enfranchisement it was entitled to 30 years of the customary rents, or about £300 in total, plus the value of the wood, perhaps a slightly large sum, but mainly eight years of the full market rental of the farms. Figures are not available, but it would amount to a few thousand pounds. This offer to take an equivalent value of in land in place of cash resulted in 100 per cent take up. The total allotment for enfranchising was judged to be 782 acres, leaving small but useful and improvable allotments for the tenants, mostly adjacent to their farms (see Figure 2). Overall the Hospital received in total nearly 900 acres of the rough and poor fells, with a condition in the award prohibiting the grazing of sheep for ten years. Only one customary tenant, the Rev. Lancaster Dodgson, of Shatton in Embleton, could not avoid paying some money to the Hospital, because the value of the trees on his land, at the foot of the Whinlatter Pass, exceeded the value of the allotment he gave up, by £138 10s. This nearly covered the Hospital's share of the expenses of the enclosure.

The Hospital planned to plant trees on their 900 acres, and started with the 341 acres of the Sleethow Plantation, later called the Hospital Plantation, to the south of the Whinlatter turnpike. Table 1 shows the plantings and expenses to 1819, with over 1.2 million trees planted in the first two seasons, managed by their bailiff in

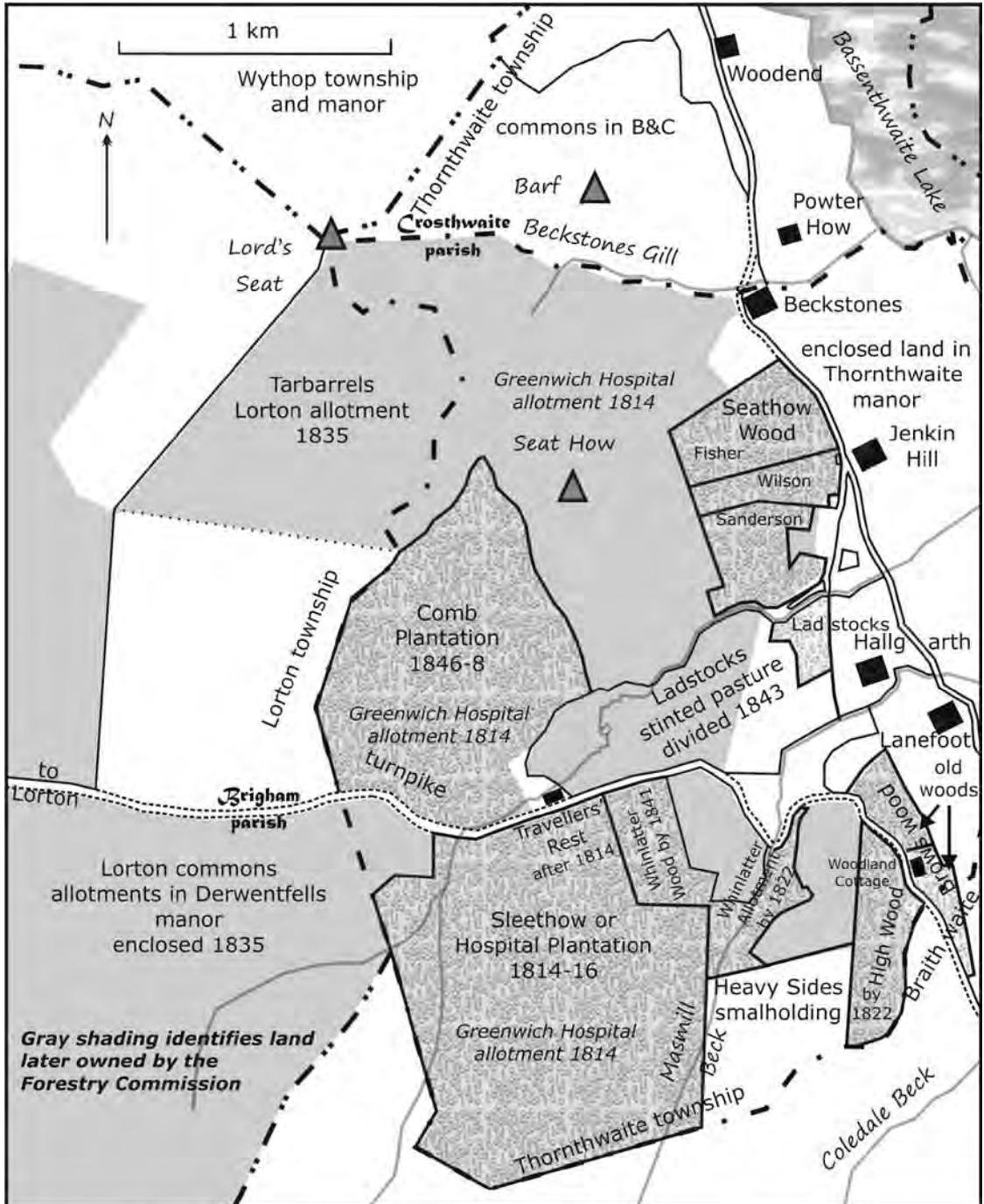


Figure 2. Plantations on Thornthwaite commons allotments by 1850

Keswick, John Scott. In addition they spent £622 on walling that plantation and on providing post and rail fences where required to separate their allotments from others. They never fenced the boundary between Thornthwaite and Derwentfells manors, from the turnpike to Lords Seat and the continuation to Beckstones Gill.

Table 1 shows a rather abrupt halt in 1816 until late 1819. During this period the Hospital and its Thornthwaite project were hit by a triple whammy. Firstly it must have been clear to them that their 900 acres was not a fair exchange for the enfranchisements. They received just £21 annual rent for the bovine grazing of the unplanted 557 acres, which implied a value

of around £630 or just over £1 per acre. Secondly, following the peace, agricultural prices and land values fell substantially, despite the corn laws, and therefore the decision to take land rather than cash turned out to be even worse. And finally, the drought of early 1816, which was the 'year without a summer' caused by Mount Tambora in 1815, meant that the plantation largely failed.

The management of the Greenwich Hospital was accountable to Parliament through the Admiralty, and it was in 1816 that scrutiny of the accounts of the Northern Estates led to accusations of mismanagement. Such a large part of the income had been 'invested' in improvements during the war years that it seemed impossible that a return on the investment could be achieved.¹² The surveyors John Claridge and John Bower made an independent investigation and report on the Northern Estates, completed in 1817.¹³ The management of Thornthwaite seemed to provide the greatest opportunity for criticism. The surveyors showed that the enclosure commissioners had allotted land of less value than the enfranchisements, and criticised the expense of the walling and planting (some £2,400) on poor land. They recommended halting further plantations at Thornthwaite, and in addition stated that any similar plan to enclose and enfranchise at Castlerigg & Derwentwater would not be in the Hospital's interest. The Receivers agreed and were 'dissatisfied ... with the Conduct of the Commissioners ... [but] ... there was no remedy but a Law Suit wherein the Hospital would have to contend both with the Commissioners and Proprietors'. They agreed not to plant further until the results of the current plantation were clear.¹⁴ The planting in 1818-19 was probably the replacement of the failed part. The Greenwich Hospital had again come off worse in a tussle with the canny Thornthwaite landowners, and did nothing more at Thornthwaite.

The Marshalls and the Comb Plantation

The Greenwich Hospital was obliged by economic and political necessity to sell the

Keswick Estate by auction in 1832. The only bidder was John Marshall of Leeds, who had already established his estate Loweswater, Buttermere and Brackenthwaite, and who was purchasing the estate for his son, John Marshall junior. The focus was on Castlerigg and Derwentwater, which Marshall bought cheaply and wished to keep intact and wooded, encouraged by Wordsworth. Thornthwaite was almost 'thrown in' with the sale, and the Thornthwaite plantation was valued for Marshall at only £1,100, for the wood and the land.¹⁵

John Marshall junior died in 1836 and the estate was then managed by his trustees, for the benefit of his family in Leeds. Those trustees were responsible for creating the Comb Plantation, to the north of the turnpike, which now contains the Whinlatter visitor centre and attractions. The adjacent Lorton commons had been enclosed in 1835, but still there was no fence on the manor, township, and parish boundary from the turnpike to Lord's Seat. On 7 September 1843, by order of Chancery, the disputed estate of the late Joshua Lucock Bragg was put up for sale by auction at the Globe in Cockermouth. Lot 8, the 193 acre Tarbarrels allotment adjoining the Marshall land, was secured for the Marshall trustees by John Hudspeth for £200. They acquired the benefit of a fence to the West. In creating the 200 acre Comb plantation from 1846, the Marshall trustees chose to plant only in Thornthwaite, to the west of Comb Beck, and just fenced the young plantation, rather than their full property boundary. In 1900 the Lorton commons allotment were still generally grazing land.

The success of the Comb Plantation was proudly included in the forestry section of the Victoria County History (VCH). The woods and plantations on the Castlerigg & Derwentwater estates 'show how well pleasure and profit can be combined for the owner under a continuity of careful, well considered and methodical management. ... The chief of the conifer plantations is a block of 200 acres (Coomb Wood), an outlying plantation formed in 1846-8, of larch with slight admixture of spruce in moist parts and Scots pine in

¹² Hansard, *Debates 1816*, columns 560-4

¹³ ADM 79/59, pp.55-60

¹⁴ ADM 66/89, p.202

¹⁵ The Brotherton Library, MS200/193

exposed places'.¹⁶ The planting cost only £2 per acre 'on land the fee-simple [freehold] of which was not more than £1 an acre'. Unlike modern conifer plantations, a larch or Scot's fir plantation let in light and supported grass after thinning, and could be let for grazing, in this case 'with other pasture land at about five shillings an acre'. In 1905 the VCH recorded that the plantation 'has been a very profitable and beneficial investment for the owner'.

The performance of the older Hospital plantation under the Marshall trustees was not recorded. Apart from the oaks, its mix of species was similar to the Comb Plantation, allowing it to be let as pasture in the long period through which the original wood was harvested. By the time that the VCH chapter on forestry was written, little wood was left in the plantation.

Other plantations

While the Greenwich Hospital/Marshall plantations were the major part of the nineteenth century forestry, and the purchase of the eleven hundred acre estate formed the core of the Forestry Commission's mountain forest, they were not the only early plantations. Two hundred acres of other plantations had been made by 1850.

The new freehold owners of local farms established plantations on their smaller allotments at roughly the same time as the Greenwich Hospital. Rev Lancaster Dodgson, curate of Embleton and then vicar of Brough, owned a farm in Braithwaite and Thornthwaite, let to farmers. He acquired the lord's timber on his Thornthwaite land labelled Brows Wood in Figure 2, but had no allotment. In 1814 his brother and heir, John Dodgson of Low House in Brackenthwaite, purchased 37 acres of allotments opposite to create High Wood, shown in the Greenwood map survey in 1822. Their estates descended to Mary Hutchinson of Shatton.¹⁷

The Greenwood map and the tithe map of 1841 show that the established statesman farmer families of Thornthwaite also planted on their allotments.¹⁸ By

1822 the Fishers of Jenkin Hill had established Seathow Wood on a commons allotment, and Ladstock Wood on the part of Ladstocks stunted pasture that they did not share. In the same period the Wilsons and Sandersons of Thornthwaite planted their allotments above the old road. Also by 1822, the Crosthwaites of Lanefoot farm had planted the Whinlatter Allotment along Masmill Beck. By 1841, the Lancasters of Hallgarth had acquired the adjacent Bewsher allotment, and planted the 27 acre Whinlatter Wood adjacent to Sleethow.

Figure 2 shows the boundary of the current Forestry Commission land, and it can be seen that, in Thornthwaite, the Whinlatter forest took over some 740 acres of plantations that had been created by others on commons between 1814 and 1848. The only ancient woodland contained was Brows Wood.

This article has not researched the creation of the Whinlatter forest itself, from 1919 in Lorton and Thornthwaite, and hopefully another person will wish to complete the story.

Hetty Baron-Thieme

Many members will know that, sadly, Hetty died on 13th June. Hetty was an early and enthusiastic committee member, always willing to get involved and keen to promote harmony in its management. Hetty volunteered to be treasurer for two years around the millennium, when the Society found itself in need.

Hetty's greatest interest and achievement within the Society was clearly the Three Valley's Oral History Project. This sprung from the Voices of Cumbria project with Ron George, and led to a really important collection of over forty themed interviews, which are now available in transcript through the Ambleside Oral History Group website. On retiring from the Committee, Hetty was made an Honorary Member of the Society.

Our condolences go to Michael and the family.

DD

¹⁶ VCH Cumberland, Vol. II, pp.506-7, 1905

¹⁷ See *Journal* No.45 for this family

¹⁸ CACC/DRC8/55/7 Tithe map Braithwaite & Thornthwaite

The formation of the Society

by Michael Grieve

Vivien and I moved to High Lorton in June 1990 and fairly quickly got to know Ron and Stella George. In particular, we learned that Ron was a keen local historian and had been working on the history of his house, White Ash in High Lorton, for many years.

When I got to know Ron a bit better, he told me how he had found it almost impossible to separate the history of his house from that of the village. For similar reasons, he had also widened his studies to include the valley in which Lorton lies. The results of all this work were contained in many, many sheets of various sizes, many with little obvious identification! All this paperwork led later to his book which I was involved in but that is another story.

When I started to show interest in local history, it soon became clear that Ron was very keen on forming a local history group of some sort but was concerned that there may not be enough support in the area. As a newcomer to local history, I couldn't do more than make encouraging noises whenever the topic came up but he must have been doing a bit of sounding out because in 1993 he arranged a series of small, informal, meetings in people's houses which generally discussed the setting up of a 'proper' local history society and in particular the agreement of a set of aims to guide such a society. Ron kept stressing that an important aim of the society must be that the members should always enjoy whatever it was they were doing. I must admit that I don't remember much about these meetings - even the one held in our house! - but the outcome was obviously promising because one day in late summer 1993 I think, he proposed holding a small meeting in his house to finalise the potential launch of a local history society. And so far as I can remember, that was all that there was on the table for that meeting. Ron started the meeting by suggesting that the latest proposals which had been discussed at the previous meetings should be put to a public meeting in the Yew Tree Hall which would help to gauge local opinion and hopefully get things started. A draft Constitution

and Ron's Aims were agreed and it was decided to nominate the main officers to propose at this meeting. I remember Ron being suggested for chairman with Ron accepting and similarly Daphne Holbrook for treasurer. Then Ron asked who would be willing to stand for secretary and there was dead silence! No one it seemed was willing to put their name forward. After some more words from Ron, I said that I would be willing to have a go for, say, a year - an offer which seemed to be grabbed very quickly by Ron! It turned out to be a very long year but I never regretted it.

The public meeting was held on 17 October 1993 and about 40 people attended. Things went very well with the Aims and the Constitution being agreed along with the dates of meetings in the Yew Tree Hall. A sufficient number of people indicated that they would be willing to join at the proposed fee of £6 per year and a Committee was elected from the floor to form the society. At this point Ron formally took the chair and announced that Dr Angus Winchester of Lancaster University and one time inhabitant of Lorton had agreed to become our honorary President. Furthermore, he would deliver the inaugural talk in January. The icing on the cake?

The first Newsletter, January 1994

Michael does not mention his role as editor of the Newsletter and the many projects or 'other stories' where an exposition of his Society work would fill this Journal. My job as chair from 2000 would not have been possible without him, as I am sure was the case with Ron George.

The next seven pages are a reprint of pages 2-8 of the first Newsletter, from the days when Michael was editor, contributor, printer, assembler, packer and personal distributor. The membership, the print run and our area became so large that he eventually had to use Firpress Printers and the postman.

The Newsletter gives the flavour of those early days and we could do well to try to re-capture the sense of discovery.

DD

LORTON AND DERWENT FELLS L.H.S.

NEWSLETTER No.1 : JANUARY 1994.

Since this is our first venture into print for your newly founded Society your Committee thought members would appreciate a re-statement of the aims of the Society, , as agreed by the founder members in October last. They are :-

- a. Primarily to study in depth all aspects of the history of the area comprising the ancient Manor of Derwent Fells and the adjacent areas, up to and including the present time.
- b. To hold meetings at regular intervals for talks by members and invited guest speakers.
- c. To provide an opportunity for individual members to meet , discuss and exchange notes regarding their individual interests and researches.
- d. To encourage and organize occasional field work as and when appropriate.
- e. To produce periodic newsletters.
- f. To work towards publishing members' original work of historic interest, either by the individual or by the Society.
- g. To work towards the provision of a local archive of such relevant historical data as may be discovered in National, Regional and personal archives : and to create an archive of current events for study by those who come after , and to provide an archive for consultation by the general public .
- h. Finally, to try and ensure that in undertaking any or all of the above, individual members derive fun and enjoyment from those activities.

We want to emphasize the point made in item "h". Your Society can only be as good as the membership care to make it.

Firstly, it needs to provide pleasure to all concerned - pleasure to come and attend the meetings; pleasure to hear what others have been doing, the problems they met in their research, and hopefully, how they overcame them or propose to do so ; pleasure to share your own work with others ; pleasure to meet and discuss the history which surrounds and interests all of us in one way or another. Do not say you are not doing research yourself - *we hope to find ways of making you want to do some - of kindling an interest* - there is so much to learn of the making of our surroundings, the very nature of which has brought so many of us here, and which has been so instrumental in making those who were fortunate enough to be born here what they are.

Secondly, to achieve this, as many members as possible can help in even a very small way by developing their own latent interests . Do you have a house of unknown origin and background ? Seek to discover it . Do you have local family connections with gaps in the family tree ? . Seek to fill them . Do you have any old photographs of the area which are labelled, or not labelled ? Seek to put them into context . Do you have an interest in farming or the environment ? Seek to discover how particular areas have changed through the centuries, brought them to their present state, and the likely direction of further change.

Thirdly, we need volunteers to record the present as it happens so that future generations can bless us for our foresight in providing them with the details of their past, as we now struggle with so much difficulty, (and pleasure), to find our own now. There is little chance they will curse us for denying them the work we undertake now - we can never hope to foresee and forestall all future questions : but we can lay a useful ground for them. The Church magazine and local newspapers are but two sources of news in the community.

What community ? Well, we only half defined our area of interest . - Lorton and Buttermere valley, Derwent Fells. There is, of course, no specified geographical limit - "local" is open to nearly as many interpretations as there are folks defining it. Two generalizations come to mind. One is to take the ancient "parishes" of Lorton and Loweswater. Translating this onto the map draws a rough line from Beck Wythop on Bassenthwaite Lake over the Lord's Seat, Hopegill

Head to Gatesgarth to Loweswater, Mockerkin, over Whinfell to Rogerscale to Wythop, Peilewyke and so back to Beck Wythop. The second delineation, would be "not to tread on the toes of any adjacent Local History Society".

If members would advise their interests we could keep a record of them and so endeavour to cater for them. Your committee has tried to organize the early bi-monthly meetings to cover a broad field in order to help those who are still a little uncertain in their minds as to exactly what purpose and function a LHS satisfies. Our hope is that after a few meetings many members will feel they have had their appetites whetted sufficiently to pursue some line of enquiry, to seek answers to questions which have come to mind. We dignify such activity with the title "research" which sounds delightfully academic, and is intended to impress the innocent, but really, it is nothing more than trying to find the answer to a difficult question.

We must not anticipate too much what our speakers will tell us, but in as far as the past is concerned it may help to give here a partial list of what records are easily available in the area.

For Family Research :-

The Parish Registers : All except the current registers are now kept in the Carlisle R.O.

Mr. George has full extracts up to 1900 for Lorton

The Tombstones in the Churchyards

The Census Returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891. These are available in Workington and Carlisle Public Libraries. (Later ones are not available to the public under the 100 year rule.)

Mr. George has transcriptions of those for Lorton and a few others

For Houses, Farms, Farm Land, and family

Various Estate Surveys, e.g. 1649 Parliamentary Survey of High Lorton - Mr George has a copy
For others consult Carlisle R.O.

The Enclosure Awards - Consult Carlisle R.O - Mr. George has that for Lorton

The 1841 Tithe Returns - Consult Carlisle R.O. - Mr. George has that for Lorton

Miscellaneous Records - e.g. Quarter Sessions, Census Returns, - Consult Carlisle R.O

Less Easily Available Records that are within a day's journey.

For Family Research

Probate Inventories and Wills - probably at Preston Record Office, up to 1856
subsequently a few at Carlisle R.O. until 1858.

For Family and Buildings etc - Deeds of individual properties (where they exist) by permission of the current owner.

Other Organisations.

Cumbria Local History Federation,

Mrs. Jean Turnbull, Secretary,

61, Bellingham Road,

Kendal, LA9 5JY Tel: 0539 722439 (We have joined this organization)

British Association for Local History,

Shopwyke Hall,

Chichester,

West Sussex, PO20 6BQ Tel: 0243 787639

Cumbria Family History Society

Mrs. Margaret Russell, (Secretary)

32, Granada Road,

Denton, Manchester, M34 2LJ

Please remember our next meeting on 20th January 1994 in the Yew Tree Hall, 7.30 p.m. to welcome our President, Dr. Angus Winchester on "The Rise and Fall of the Lakeland Yeoman".

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS"

MAPS GALORE.

As long as I can remember, I have enjoyed using and reading (yes reading !) maps. Until fairly recently my maps have been new ones of many different areas, at many different scales and they have been a mixture of Ordnance Survey maps, coloured relief maps, street plans and all sorts of others such as geological maps.

A few years ago I began to ask myself different questions. Previously I had asked questions like "where is such and such a place ? " and "where does this road lead to ?" ; now I began to ask "Why is this road here and not there ?" , and "how old is this road, who planned it and why ?" It was then that I started to notice old maps in antique and junk shops and began to collect these, some of which go back to about the beginning of this century. And very interesting they were. For example, how the roads northwards out of Keswick - or rather Crosthwaite - have changed from going either up the east side of Bassenthwaite Lake or straight over the River Derwent through Portinscale , to the system of roads we have now.

Then, out of the blue, I saw a book in a shop which reprinted all the road maps surveyed by John Ogilby and published in his "Britannia" of 1675. His survey took from 1669 to 1674, it introduced the statute mile of 1760 yards and it established the scale of one inch to one mile which is still sometimes used today in our semi-metric Britain. His maps show the road going from the bottom of the page to the top with a little of the countryside shown on each side, like the old AA route maps. I bought this book and have been hooked on old maps ever since.

Over the last couple of years I have been looking out for old maps of Cumberland and Westmorland (amongst other areas of course) and have found many interesting examples. For instance, I have found that the oldest 1" to 1 mile map of Cumberland was surveyed in 1770 and 1771 by Thomas Donald and engraved by J. Hodkinson in 1774. It was re-engraved in 1802 and I have a photocopy of this second edition. Another map at this same scale was surveyed in 1822 and 1823 by C & J Greenwood and I was lucky enough to trace an original set of their maps of Cumberland and Westmorland, this one dated 1844, so it has some railways added. This beautiful set comes on six maps, on dissected paper on linen and packed in its original leathercloth slip case. To put these into perspective, the first Ordnance Survey map of our area was published about 1860 and entitled "Cockermouth". Subsequently, the Ordnance Survey maps were produced in a 25" to 1 mile scale in 1863, revised in 1899. The Carlisle Record Office holds copies of these maps for most if not all of our area in both series, and these not only show a considerable wealth of detail, but comparing the two shows changes in individual buildings between these dates.

Many of you may have seen some of the famous county maps by Christopher Saxton , first published in 1579, and by John Speed (1611 or 1612). They are fascinating maps with odd place name spellings and so on but there is one peculiarity in both sets of maps - not a single road is shown on them. Some bridges are shown, but they don't lead anywhere. Work that one out !

In this brief note I have concentrated on roads but of course all these maps - including the Ogilby strip maps - contain a wealth of other information. I find that new pieces of information and enlightenment appear each time I look at any of them. What a wonderful hobby !

Finally, a practical example, not of roads, but of boundaries. Before maps were in use, villagers were kept aware of their boundaries, and by implication those of their neighbouring townships, by an annual "beating of the bounds". These were confirmed in writing by a description of the bounds known as a "perambulation". This example is a 1705 perambulation of the Lorton Commons bounds with those of Embleton, Wythop and Thornthwaite, and in this case the perambulators rode on horse back .

ref d/lec/85 court leet verdicts 28th Sept 1705 - transcript 22 nov 93 / rcg
Line

1. Upon the perambulation of ye Common of ye Lord of the said Manor belonging to Lorton and ye limits & bound
3. between ye Inhabitants of Lorton aforesaid & ye Inhabitants of Embleton and alsoe of Lorton & Wythopp, Lorton &
5. Thornthwaite the 23 day of September 1705 by adioiment we do finde upon ye oathes of Edward Winder of ye age of seventy nine years Peter Watson of
7. ye age of fifty years Jonathan Pearson of ye age of fortysix years & James Lawrence of ye age of
9. sixty years that ye said Common extends by those limitts divisory and grounds herein after mencoined That is to say beginning
11. att Stubb Close nook & from thence to Bolton Gill Head and from thence to Gray Beck & soe to Jenkin Walk & soe along
13. upwards to ye Fell Side to a place called Stone Rays & thence to Birk Snabb & soe to [erased]
15. [erased] Milkin Beck Foot & from thence to Bleddert keld & soe upwards to Meare beck head & from thence to
17. Witty howe & soe to ye topp of Brown fell & from thence as ye [heaven ?] Weltor Deales in ye Lords Seate Pike & soe to
19. Seate Howe & from thence to Coom beck head & soe to Broken Gill head & soe downe broken Gill to Whinlatter
21. high way.

Memorandum
 Mr. Joseph Rette &
 Mr. William Eward
 was at the riding of the above
 Bound (and 9 other names added)

Note by RCG - the above may be identical in reality with the parish boundary of today BUT I can not make it agree on any map as the names are either changed or are too insignificant to be marked thereon.

1 upon the perambulation of the Common of ye Lord of the said
 3 the Manor belonging to Lorton and ye limits & bound
 between ye Inhabitants of Lorton aforesaid & ye Inhabitants
 of Embleton and alsoe of Lorton & Wythopp, Lorton &
 5 Thornthwaite the 23 day of September 1705 by adioiment we do finde upon ye oathes of Edward Winder of ye age of seventy nine years Peter Watson of
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 11 att Stubb Close nook & from thence to Bolton Gill Head and from thence to Gray Beck & soe to Jenkin Walk & soe along
 13 upwards to ye Fell Side to a place called Stone Rays & thence to Birk Snabb & soe to [erased]
 15 [erased] Milkin Beck Foot & from thence to Bleddert keld & soe upwards to Meare beck head & from thence to
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 21 high way

Memorandum
 Mr. Joseph Rette &
 Mr. William Eward
 was at the riding of the above
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COACHING IN AND AROUND THE LORTON VALLEY

The original turnpike road between Keswick and Cockermouth was via Lorton and the Whinlatter Pass, this formed part of the 1761 turnpike road from Kendal to Cockermouth which went via Ambleside and Dunmail Raise to Keswick, and then on to Cockermouth. Prior to that, the Romans had a road over Whinlatter, starting from their fort at Papcastle.

According to William Hutchinson, in his History and Topography of Cumberland, 1797, early travellers over the Whinlatter Pass found: "looking down from such tremendous precipices, from the windows of a carriage, the aspect and situation are alarming"! Admittedly those passengers seated on top of a stage or mail coach would indeed have found it rather alarming - the height of the mail coach from ground to roof was 7 feet 2 inches! The rocking motion of the coach on rough roads would undoubtedly have brought on vertigo in some folk!

Stage coaches operating in the Lake District had marvellous names: 'Defiance', 'The Flying Machine', 'The True Briton', and 'The Royal Pilot'. Their average speed was between five and six miles an hour, and the Mail coaches travelled at up to ten miles an hour, with a change of horses every ten to twelve miles. People could set their clocks by the Mail coaches, whose timing was incredibly accurate.

In 1822 a Mr Banks, who was a tanner by trade, started the first daily coach service from Keswick. It ran to Cockermouth over the Whinlatter Pass, before the new road to Cockermouth, by the west side of Bassenthwaite Lake, was built.

There were two very popular coaching inns in the valley; one was the Rising Sun (now known as Mountain View in High Lorton), on the Whinlatter Pass, where travellers could procure refreshments, and horses were also fed and watered, although it is doubtful whether horses were actually changed there. The other was the Scale Hill Inn which was extremely popular with visitors who were "doing the Buttermere Round". This was a coach trip from Keswick up Borrowdale, over Honister Pass to Buttermere, and back to Keswick either by Newlands or Whinlatter Pass. Those taking the Whinlatter route would stop for refreshments at the Scale Hill Inn. The cost of the trip at the end of the 19th century was 5/-.

Travelling by coach through the Lake District must have been a mixture of extreme discomfort (especially in cold or hot weather) and excitement, mingled with pleasure at the constantly changing and sometimes spectacular scenery.

If anyone has any information about coaching in the Lake District, I should be most interested.

Vivien Grieve

COMPETITION.

Your committee would like to have an appropriate design, symbol, device, or emblem, with or without a motto to head our Society notepaper, newsletter and other printed matter. We invite members to submit ideas for this, and if the committee should decide to accept one of these for adoption, the originator will be rewarded with one years free membership. The work should be capable of being photocopied. Closing date - by the January meeting, please.

Membership Card.

We hope to produce a Membership Card for paid up members very shortly, on which the year's programme will be shown together with names and telephone numbers of the Committee.

REPORT OF THE MEETING held at the Yew Tree Hall 17th October, 1993.

For the benefit of members who were unable to be present at the meeting held on 17th October 1993, at which this Society was established, we give here a résumé of that meeting.

Mr. George, in the Chair, welcomed the 40 or so persons present and thanked them for their interest. He then went through the aims and objects of the proposed Society, and these having been accepted by the audience, continued by reading the intended Constitution. This too was accepted with the comment that we should re-consider fees for students. After discussion of times and dates of meetings the preference was for the Yew Tree Hall on the second Thursday in alternate months, at 7.30 p.m. starting in January and this was agreed. However to prove that this might need to be flexible, the first meeting was fixed for January 20th, the 3rd Thursday that month. A sufficient number indicated their willingness to join at the proposed fee of £6 p.a. and a Committee was elected from the floor. Whereupon, the newly elected Chairman announced that Dr. A J. Winchester, of Lancaster University, and one time inhabitant of Lorton, had agreed to become our Honorary President, and would deliver the inaugural lecture in January. After an interval for refreshments, Mr. George gave a talk entitled "Walking in the Shadows", during which he gave a brief history of our area up to the introduction of church registers. It was a taste of things to come at our meetings and an indication of the history that is there - waiting for the investigative seeker to piece together. The evening finished with the inscription of our founder members. Subsequently, at the first Committee meeting, the Committee agreed that we should have a student subscription of £3 p.a..

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

Please help to make your Newsletters interesting. Articles and comments from the membership are an integral part of a lively and active Society. The quality of your literature is as much a function of your interest as in the work of your Committee and editor, though naturally the latter must reserve the right of judgement as to what is published. Work produced on a 3 1/2" floppy disc with MS-DOS Windows or compatible would be a help.

LORTON & DERWENT FELLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2012 HISTORY QUIZ

7.30pm Thursday 11th October 2012
Yew Tree Hall, Lorton

Test your team's knowledge and observational skills in a wide ranging, interesting and enjoyable illustrated quiz about our local history and environment

- ❖ Organise a team of up to 4 friends yourselves
- ❖ or just turn up on the night and join in
- ❖ Bring a pencil and your own beverage and glasses
- ❖ Choose from a delicious selection of historical puddings during the interval
- ❖ Compete for the special prizes for the best 2012 teams

Organisers: John Macfarlane and Roger Coles, whose decisions on the answers are final!!

The 4th Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture.

This biennial lecture, organised by our society in conjunction with the Cockermouth Museum Group and the Cockermouth Civic Trust, takes place this year on Friday 28th September in the Kirkgate Centre Cockermouth at 8pm. Tickets are available from the Kirkgate Centre at £2.50 each, and it is best to purchase soon.

The lecturer is Dr Alan Crosby, and

his title is *Family life in Victorian Cumberland: explorations in Cockermouth and district.*

Alan Crosby is one of Britain's leading local and family historians. He is editor of *The Local Historian* and a main contributor to the BBC *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine. His particular interest is in the social and landscape history of North West England, and in the last few years he has worked extensively on various aspects of Cumbrian history. This lecture considers in particular the question of bastardy, for which Victorian Cumbria had an unenviably bad reputation, and the tragedy of lunacy and mental illness. We will look at some of the archive sources, using local examples from Cockermouth and West Cumberland.

What did the Victorians do for Cockermouth?

Is the title of an exhibition by the Cockermouth Museum Group running in the Kirkgate Centre from 6th August to 2nd September, 10am – 4pm daily.

The Journal

Journal 51 will be published for 1st February 2013. Please send contributions by 7th January.

Back issues of *The Journal* are available on-line at www.derwentfells.com/journal Copyright remains with the individual contributors.

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L&DFLHS – Programme for 2012	
Date	Event
13 th September	<i>The Baroness of Belsfield</i> , by Ian Jones
28 th September	Bernard Bradbury memorial lecture. Kirkgate Centre, £2.50, see above
11 th October	L&DFLHS 2012 History Quiz 7.30pm, see above
8 th November	<i>An 1850 sketchbook – Wordsworth and the Lakes</i> , by Jeff Cowton OBE
Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton s at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 with refreshments.	