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The Journal

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop

www.derwentfells.com

A History of our Area in Twenty Objects – the Society's Twentieth Anniversary Exhibition, 19th & 20th October 2013

A view of the exhibition in the Yew Tree Hall

A group of some of the objects on display

The Journal

Welcome to Journal No. 53, which is devoted to our Objects Exhibition of October 2013. I was delighted when Derek Denman suggested that we provide a permanent record of the Exhibition in this way, and it has been a pleasure to act as Guest Editor. We had no hesitation in making it a colour edition; it was the only way to do justice to the Exhibition.

It is impossible to mention everyone who contributed and helped by name, but reference must be made to Ted Gilbertson. Ted was in charge of publicity until his sudden death a few weeks before the event, but he had already planned most of the media coverage we received, and I am sure the excellent attendance owed a great deal to his efforts.

By any measure the Exhibition was a resounding success. Not only was the total attendance high, but we received many favourable comments, we attracted some new members, we no doubt increased knowledge about our history amongst the local community, and, not least, some of our members did some historical research for the first time. I am very grateful to all those who were involved in any capacity. The Exhibition could not have succeeded without all their hard work.

John Hudson

L&DFLHS 2013-14

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Congratulations

from Derek Denman

I would like to welcome this opportunity to record in our *Journal* the excellent work which was done by society members for the 20th Anniversary Exhibition. It is particularly appropriate that John Hudson is editor for this issue, because the exhibition project, which he led, can be seen as a culmination of the five years he gave in leading the Society as its chair.

A project of this nature is beneficial for the society, its members and for the community, particularly because a number of members can participate, contribute and can be part of the creative side of the Society. Our aims expect us to be involved in furthering and promoting the study of local history in our area.

The opportunity to have such a project for the 20th anniversary might have been missed or postponed in favour of a project for the 25th anniversary. It was only when our President, Angus Winchester, made an independent suggestion for a project based on objects that the two ideas were put together. We would have been the poorer for missing it. There was some hard work for a few (other) people, but the rewards of the successful outcome made it worthwhile.

There is no reason why the 25th anniversary should not also be an opportunity for a similar project. If we start now with some ideas for a participatory project of some sort with a public output, then there is plenty of time to achieve it. Are there any suggestions?

An outline of the exhibition

by John Hudson

In 2010 BBC Radio 4 broadcast a ground-breaking series of 100 programmes called *A history of the world in 100 objects*. In each 15 minute programme the Director of the British Museum, Neil MacGregor, considered an object from the Museum's collection and described some of the things it could tell us about the period in which it was made and the society from which it came. The series subsequently appeared as a highly successful book. Soon after its publication our President, Angus Winchester, suggested that we might collect together a group of objects which

would illustrate the history of our own area. As a result we decided to hold an exhibition of objects to celebrate our 20th anniversary, which fell in October 2013. The exhibition was well attended, and many favourable comments were received.

Although our project was initially inspired by MacGregor's programmes and book, it was clearly going to be very different in many respects. Whereas MacGregor could choose from several million objects in the Museum's collection, we appealed to our members to find objects associated with our local area. Initially our target was 20 objects, and for a while it seemed that even this number would not be reached. However, in the end we assembled a total of 24, a number which was about right for an exhibition of this type. We were able to illustrate many themes in the history of our area without running the risk of inducing visitor fatigue.

Unlike MacGregor, who was able to pick and choose his objects, the collection we assembled was simply determined by what was offered by our members. We never expected the exhibition to provide a history of our area that was in any sense complete. But nevertheless we had objects ranging from the Neolithic period to the 20th century. Each was accompanied by a few hundred words of text contributed by the member who had provided the object. Each piece of text explained how the object illustrated a theme in our history. This special issue of the *Journal* contains photographs of all the objects, along with the associated texts.

The first two objects were from prehistoric times. A Neolithic stone axe was used to tell the story of how small patches of land were first cleared for agriculture about 6,000 years ago (Object 1). The ensuing Bronze Age was represented by a few cobbles excavated from a burnt mound (2). We were here reminded that much of prehistory remains veiled in mystery, for the purpose of these mounds is still not understood.

The bulk of the objects came from much more recent times. By the Middle Ages, although farming remained dominant, other activities had become established. Charcoal was being produced, and some of it was being used on-site in primitive iron smelting (3). Quarrying, and other extractive industries such as mining for lead (4), copper, and later barytes, began to develop, as well as mining for graphite in Borrowdale and for slate at Honister. By the last decade of the 18th century the turbulent events of the incursions of the Border Reivers and the Jacobite rebellions were past history, but times were still unsettled, and a local yeoman farmer felt the need to provide himself with a cavalry sword (5).

By this time our area had begun to see a trickle of gentry tourists, attracted in part by the first guide books being produced (6). The trickle subsequently became a flood, and souvenirs were on sale to the visitors (7, 8). While early tourists were largely content to admire the scenery, usually from designated viewing stations, eventually many ventured into the mountains as walkers and climbers (9, 10).

Although tourism was to become an important contributor to the local economy, agriculture continued as the principal economic activity supporting much of the population. A 17th century innovation was to spread lime on the land to improve soil fertility (11). The oats and barley, grown mostly for local consumption, was, until the late 19th century, sent to local mills to be ground (12). Horses rather than tractors were used on the land until the 1950s after which fewer crops of oats were grown (13). Many farms made their own butter, some of which would have been sent to market in Cockermouth (14).

The enclosure of common land mainly took place during the first half of the 19th century, and this is reflected in the first edition of Ordnance Survey maps, which appeared in the 1860s. Their detail and accuracy would have assisted farmers and land agents in land management (15). An ambitious (and successful) scheme to drain low lying land in the Cocker valley was carried out in the later part of the 19th century (16).

Most settlements in our area had a chapel before churches were consecrated in some (but not all) of them. The area is famous for its connections with the Quakers, which go back to the early days of the movement in the 1650s, with Pardshaw having particularly strong associations (17). There was a Quaker meeting house and school there from the

18th century onwards. The established church also provided schooling for children, and from the 19th century the State became increasingly involved in educational provision (18).

Other 19th century developments which had a significant impact included the opening of a railway line through part of our area (19). The growth of the printing industry in Cockermouth meant that printed material could be produced rapidly and cheaply, with beneficial consequences for all manner of local commercial and social activities (20). The area was (and remains) relatively isolated, with the consequence that a sudden serious illness could more easily turn into a life-threatening emergency (21).

In the two World Wars of the 20th century many local men gave their lives, especially in the first war. In the second war, our isolated rural area was not a target for German attacks, but the crash of a Wellington Bomber at Buttermere on a training flight cost the lives of the entire crew (22).

In the 20th century many villages acquired village halls, which greatly assisted local social activities (23). The Yew Tree Hall was the old malt kiln of the Jennings brewery, which started here in the 1820s. Such halls provided a natural venue for local functions, and a meeting place for clubs and societies (24). During the last 20 years our society has used the Yew Tree Hall every other month for lecture meetings on a wide variety of topics of local historical interest.

Such, briefly, was our collection of objects. When he opened the exhibition, Angus Winchester quoted MacGregor, who said that objects left behind, often accidentally, act as “prisms through which we can explore past worlds and the lives of the men and women who lived in them”. Our exhibition certainly provided insights into the lives of our predecessors, but there was an obvious contrast between the type of object we assembled and those that featured in the radio series. Most of MacGregor’s objects were “special” in the sense that they were associated with rulers, priests, or other powerful members of society, or were of great value, or were works of exquisite craftsmanship (and many were all of these). And of course they came from all continents. Our objects were not only associated with our own small patch of the planet, but they all had a direct connection with the those who lived, worked, and played here in the past, rather than with people of power and authority. Angus quoted Macgregor again, when he said that he hoped that the series had “demonstrated the power of things to connect us with unmatchable immediacy to people far distant in time and place….”. In the case of our exhibition the people with whom we were connected may have been of another time, but were very much of our place. The immediacy of the connection which our objects forged was even greater.

1. Neolithic stone axe found at Pardshaw

by Peter Style

Axes like this were quarried up to 5800 years ago from the volcanic tuff found across the Central Cumbrian Fells, and provide the first evidence of human presence in the area. Although it is likely that the area was visited by hunter-gatherers in the Mesolithic period, following the retreat of the ice sheets around 10,000 years ago, no evidence has been identified locally of these hunting forays.

A major step forward in technology occurred in Britain at the beginning of the Neolithic Period around 6,000 years ago, when flint axes were first used. Soon Neolithic prospectors found a rock with similar knapping properties to flint in the volcanic tuff beds of the central fells, formed from fine volcanic ash deposited in a huge caldera which outcrops from Scafell Pike to Great Langdale. Consequently, the outcropping tuff on the crags of the Central Fells was quarried by fire setting to split the stone from which “rough-out” axes were made; this occurred most intensively around Pike O’Stickle in Great Langdale. These rough-outs were then transported to lowland sites such as the Furness Peninsula, West Cumbrian and Solway coasts, and Eden Valley, where the rough-outs were polished. One such polishing site at Ehenside Tarn near Beckermet was excavated in 1873 where a number of axes in various stages of

polishing were found along with Neolithic pottery.

This is the first industry to be found in the Cumbrian Fells and accordingly stone axes became first trade exports from the area, being found in some quantity all over the British and Irish Isles. They were exchanged for goods such as grain, hide or flint and so some of the first regular trading routes would have evolved.

These axes enabled the felling of trees, the clearance of scrub and the maintenance of clearings. Experimental work shows that they had the potential to fell large trees and the large trunks were then used in the construction of communal ceremonial megalithic monuments and as massive posts in timber circles and henge monuments.

However the day-to-day purpose of stone axes was for more lightweight use such as cutting hazel coppice in order to construct temporary dwellings and hurdles to pound stock at night. This would have been an essential part of the nomadic pastoral lifestyle that developed in the Neolithic Period following the domestication of cattle, sheep and pigs. The repeated felling of trees with axes to clear woodland for grazing would not have been necessary as the cattle and sheep would have cleared this continuously over the decades of revisiting the area in the summer. Axes would have been used for maintaining these clearings and securing them from stock so that the small garden plots of grain crops could be cultivated. Such an encampment may have been located near Crummock Water adjacent to Park Beck where on the glaciated slab the people left their cup-marks. Similar marks are also found at Buttermere.

Thus the stage was set for the intensification of agriculture which occurred slowly through the Neolithic period, but sped up with the advent of bronze metalworking around 4500 years ago. Bronze made more efficient tools which were utilised to clear greater areas of land to feed a growing population. People became more mobile, trade increased, and more permanent agricultural settlements were established, some of which can be seen on the Western Moors of Cumbria.

2. Stones from bronze-age burnt mound, Buttermere

by Jamie Lund, National Trust Archaeologist

The burnt mound at Cragg House Farm was identified during an archaeological survey undertaken as part of the Buttermere Historic Landscape Survey completed in 2008. Members of the LDFLHS took part in a National Trust project which catalogued over 300 new archaeological sites across Buttermere and Loweswater.

Burnt mounds were practically unknown within the Lake District a decade ago. However, their number has increased steadily as a result of new survey and archaeological research, bringing the total of recorded burnt mounds in Cumbria to around 90.

Burnt mounds typically consist of a large mound of burnt, fire cracked and shattered stones, set in a horseshoe shape around a central trough. In a small number of cases the careful excavation of such troughs has shown them to have been lined with either wood or stones. Archaeologists believe that these troughs were used as containers in which water could be heated. Certainly the close association between many burnt mounds and a local water source, such as a beck or spring, supports this theory.

The term ‘burnt mound’ was coined to describe the condition of the stones within a mound that is commonly heaped around a central trough. These stones, usually reflecting the local geology, display clear evidence of being heated up through direct exposure to fire, most probably being heaped onto a thick bed of hot embers. The stones then appear to have been rapidly cooled resulting in them fracturing and developing a cracked ‘patina’; indicative of heating and rapid cooling or quenching. Archaeologists regard this as evidence that the stones were plunged into water contained in the trough, presumably to heat it.

Archaeologists cannot agree on why water was heated in this way and what actual function burnt mounds may have served. It has been suggested that burnt mounds were used for cooking, brewing, fulling, bathing and that they may even

have functioned as saunas. However, each of these possible explanations has its own problems.

The use of burnt mounds for communal cooking and feasting seems persuasive; ethnographic studies certainly provide plenty of comparable examples of food being prepared in this way. However, the total absence of animal bone from any burnt mound sites in the north of England makes this interpretation problematic. The use of burnt mounds for processes like fulling (the softening of woollen cloth) or brewing is another possibility. However, the absence of any residues that would confirm the use of these sites for such purposes has encouraged archaeologists to discount these options as being likely.

The use of burnt mounds as ritual sites for washing and bathing, or perhaps as saunas, is another possibility. Once again, there is an abundance of ethnographic evidence to support this theory, with water being heated outdoors using similar techniques being commonplace in societies around the globe. All recent discoveries of burnt mounds have taken place away from known areas of bronze-age settlements, suggesting that the function of these sites might have been linked to occasional ritual events, rather than any everyday practice.

3. A piece of bloomery slag found at Mosser

by Jim Proctor and John Hudson

Until the early 19th century, the most common method of extracting iron from its ore was to heat it with charcoal. Before the invention of the blast furnace, various types of small hearths or furnaces were used for roasting the ore and charcoal. However, the process was technically difficult, because iron has a relatively high melting point (1538ºC). This temperature could not be reached in primitive furnaces, so the iron was obtained in a soft spongy mass called a bloom. The liquid waste material (slag) ran out of the furnace, but the process was inefficient, and the slag contained a considerable amount of iron dissolved in it (up to 40%).

This sample of slag clearly contains a large amount of iron, which suggests that it came from a primitive medieval furnace (a bloomery). Indeed sometimes samples of slag similar to this were collected together in the late 19th century, and reprocessed to extract more iron.

Bloomery sites occur in many places throughout Lakeland. They are frequently associated with pitsteads where the charcoal was produced. The smelting process required about seven times as much charcoal as iron ore, so it was common to transport the ore to the place of production of the charcoal rather than the other way round. Some bloomery sites bear names that indicate their history (e.g. Cinderdale Common near Crummock water, where samples of slag can be found on the shore), and some were in use for a considerable period of time. However in other cases, smelting probably took place for only a short period, and such sites often give little or no clue that iron production took place there, apart from the occurrence of the occasional pieces of bloomery slag.

This piece came from such a location in this area, where lumps of slag are being washed out of a bank by a stream. Bloomeries were often sited near streams, which could be used to purify the ore by washing, and sometimes to power bellows. However, there are no signs of any previous buildings at the site, suggesting that iron production here was probably a short-term operation.

With the invention of the blast furnace the bloomery became obsolete. The higher temperature that could be achieved meant that the iron as well as the slag was produced in the molten state, and both could be tapped from the furnace in liquid form. Early blast furnaces still used charcoal, and were often situated near sites of charcoal production. Eventually iron smelting used coke rather than charcoal, and was concentrated in large centres such as Workington, Maryport and Barrow.

There is a certain irony in the fact that landowner who found this sample of slag moved to Cumberland many years ago to take up employment in the local iron industry. It was only recently that the appearance of pieces of slag as a result of the erosion caused by the stream led him to conclude that he had been living on the site of a much more primitive method of extracting the metal. The massive more

modern furnaces for producing iron have also now disappeared from our region, like the primitive bloomeries which preceded them.

4. Two cogs from Loweswater lead mine

by Walter Head

In 1816 while drainage work was being carried out on land at Godferhead owned by Skelton Wood, a mineral vein containing lead was discovered, and in 1819 the mineral rights were leased to Skelton Wood and Joseph Skelton. This mine was situated on an igneous intrusion in the slate base which extends along a line from Stonycroft in the Newlands valley through Force Cragg Mine to Loweswater and on towards the West.

Most mines worked along this line were drift mines, but the mine at Loweswater was accessed via two vertical shafts. The mine opened in 1829 when a shaft 18 fathoms (110ft or 34m) deep was sunk. A second shaft was dug later to assist in ventilation of the mine. The shaft located near to the mine office was known as the Old Wheel Shaft and the other was known as the Flat Rod Shaft.

With the constant ingress of water Loweswater mine was regarded as a “wet mine”. At the Old Wheel Shaft a 40ft (12.3m) overshot waterwheel was installed to pump water from the mine. The water to drive the waterwheel was supplied from a dam high up on Crabtree beck and channelled down to the mine via a leat which went around the end of Low Fell to the mine. The waterwheel was also used to haul ore to the surface and drive the dressing machine which also used water from the dam.

In 1839 the Loweswater mine was leased by messrs Mellor, Pratchett, Jones, Clemence elder, Clemence younger and Sealby who appointed William Jeffrey as mine manager. In 1840 a level was driven eastwards at 300ft (92m), and a small vein was struck which yielded good quality ore. Despite this the mine made a loss of £6,000 during its working life before it closed in 1841. Following the closure the mine timbers quickly rotted in the damp conditions and the roof fell in. In 1865 the two mine shafts were filled with rubble and allowed to settle, and in 1868 the final few feet of the Flat Rod Shaft was finally filled in.

The mine buildings were situated opposite Netherclose Farm. Moss Cottage was the original mine office and the current wash house was the smithy. Traces of the waterwheel fittings can still be seen on site, and approximately 30ft (9m) from the cottage is a small building 12ft (3.6m) square which was originally the explosive store. In 1973 when the old wooden floor was removed, the odd shaped timbers were found to form one side of a waterwheel.

No records are known detailing the quality of the ore extracted from the Loweswater mine, but galena (lead ore) normally contains approximately 86% lead and 14% sulphur. Lead ore often contains silver as an impurity, and ore extracted at Force Crag mine on the same vein contained 350oz (5.55kg) of silver per ton. In 1909 the weight of silver extracted from lead ore in Cumberland was 9cwt 3qtr 231b (506kg).

Small scale mining was also carried out at the Kirkgill Mine and the Whiteoak Mine and a number of trial digs were also carried out in the area. On 28th July 1892 a sale of various items of redundant mining equipment was held at Loweswater mine.

5. Cavalry sword of a local yeoman farmer, c.1795

by Jacqui and Chris Bower

This sword was designed to be used from horseback and was made about 1795 for Isaac Sibson of Brow Farm, Whinfell. It has always been in the Sibson family and is now owned by Jacqui Bower (née Sibson). At first sight it seems somewhat strange that a local farmer should feel the need to equip himself with such a vicious weapon as late as 1795.

Our area had certainly seen troubled times in the past. In Cumberland, yeoman farmers were given the right to inherit the tenancy of their farm and land, and to pass them on to their children, in return for keeping a horse and sword available to be called out for border service in time of need.

Such a need had arisen when a gang of border reivers swept through the area. Border reivers were local family groups or

clans each with their own separate surname, holding sway in the border lands between Scotland and England. Most active in the 16th century, reivers owed allegiance to their family clan but to no-one else. The clans often fought each other, and raided deep into Dumfries & Galloway and into Cumberland & Northumberland, stealing cattle and anything else worthwhile, including women. They often carried a Scottish and an English flag in their saddlebags, so that they could wave the right one if they were overtaken by either Scottish or English law enforcers.

In 1603 when James VI of Scotland also became James I of England he refused to tolerate lawlessness in the borders, which were then in the centre of his joint kingdom. He ruthlessly put an end to reivers – or nearly so, because the borders were a difficult area to police.

Strife in the borders returned with the Jacobite rebellions. The final attempt of James's descendants to reclaim the throne was made by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. He succeeded in occupying areas of Scotland and Northern England with large support form Highland Scots. The brutal defeat of his army by the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden left the borders peaceful once more.

So while the troubles of the past had not been forgotten, it is probable that there were other reasons why Isaac Sibson acquired this sword in 1795. The French Revolution had created great alarm in Britain. Civil unrest had been sparked in some places (notably the Birmingham riots of 1791 on the second anniversary of the storming of the Bastille), and conflict with France seemed likely. In 1792 the Cumberland Militia had been called out as a precautionary measure, and Sibson would most likely have been a member. Hence, while the reason for a local yeoman farmer equipping himself with a horse and a sword had changed over the previous centuries, the need was still very real.

The sword looks as if it has seen action; or it may just have been damaged in training. It has been dated independently by the Military Museum at Carlisle and by the late Mr Jackson of Banks Hardware in Market Square, Cockermouth.

6. 'A Guide to the Lakes, in Cumberland, Westmorland, & Lancashire', by Thomas West, 3rd edition, 1784.

by Derek Denman

Thomas West published the first guide to the English Lakes in 1778, which became the standard work for fifty years. He established the first touring routes and the sights and views to be seen. His guide confirmed Keswick as the principal centre from which tours would be taken. Keswick had been important since the 1750s because of its proximity to the first lake of interest, Derwentwater.

Travelling extended into the Buttermere, and Lorton valleys from the 1770s. The account of the tour 1772 tour made by the 'father of the picturesque' William Gilpin recorded the route used and promoted by West's guide. This was not through Borrowdale and over Honister, but via the Newlands Valley, to explore Buttermere and its romanticised, simple rustic inhabitants. Thence by Crummock to Lorton, followed by the new turnpike road over Whinlatter to Braithwaite and Keswick. This circuit could be accomplished in a day on horseback, but not by wheeled transport until the nineteenth century. West's guide identified the facilities for tourists, noting the Inn at Buttermere (now the Fish Hotel, and where Budworth would admire 'Sally of Buttermere' in 1791) and the Ale House at Scale Hill. Scale Hill developed an important role as a coaching inn accessible from Keswick via Whinlatter.

Thomas West was a Jesuit Priest who wasn't concerned with noting and praising the few seats of the established gentry. Rather, he celebrated the past monastic influence, and so his work did not quickly date. His picturesque approach, derived from Gilpin, describing the lake scenes as a sequence of views from recommended points, or stations, became the height of fashion for tourists and artists in the 1790s. Although West died in 1779, his editor, William Cockin took the text to the seventh edition before 1800, appending an increasing number of other writings.

The lakes tour soon became recommended to the Oxbridge

undergraduates in the long vacation, as an alternative to a continental tour. The young William Wilberforce wrote of his visits to Buttermere and Scale Hill in 1779. The extension to Ennerdale Loweswater was added to the recommended tours rather later. In 1796 the intrepid and Honourable Mrs Sarah Murray of Kensington was considered the first lady of quality to cross Honister to Buttermere, where she lodged at the Ale House for a week of exploration, 'with the help of my own sheets, blanket, pillows and counterpane'.

On 11th November 1799 the tourist Samuel Taylor Coleridge, accompanied by his native guide William Wordsworth, recorded his ecstatic reactions to his day's journey from the Inn at Ouse Bridge. They walked through Wythop and Embleton, crossed the common to Lorton, admiring the yew tree, then spotted the distant white houses of the Loweswater statesmen, strode the length of Crummock, spied the maid at the Buttermere Inn, and crossed Loweswater's Mosedale valley via Floutern Tarn to Ennerdale. Wordsworth was subsequently to publish his own book, *A Guide through the District of the Lakes in the North of England*, which further enhanced the popularity of the region as a tourist destination.

7. An 1820s Davenport porcelain sweetmeat dish with a view titled 'Buttermere Lake'.

by John Hart

This elegant dish in the rococo revival or new French style is decorated with a scene from the English Lakes, at the time a favoured resort for the gentry and upper middle classes. The scene illustrated is titled 'Buttermere Lake' but is principally of the new road around Buttermere Hause, on Crummock, but with a lake and mountain schene which is intended to represent Buttermere rather than to depict it accurately.

Often these scenes were reproduced from published views created by journeyman painters who would be given the task of providing a suitable scenic view for the space on the china. Many such views were generic and did not portray a real place, or not one which could be identified.

The view showing two people walking or standing on the road illustrates a new development which was important to tourism. Before about 1805 Buttermere Hause, at Rannerdale and just inside the township of Buttermere, was a rock headland which jutted out into Crummock. From the Cockermouth side the way wound up sharply to the hause, and then slowly descended on the Buttermere side. This route, which can still be followed, formed a barrier for wheeled vehicles, but also provided an excellent viewpoint from the hause. The start of the steep climb was therefore well known to the eighteenth century tourists who came from Cockermouth, or from Keswick over the new Whinlatter turnpike road, as the location at which the carriages stopped and other means of transport were had to be engaged before proceding further.

The existence of the hause as a barrier allowed the Scale Hill hotel, in Brackenthwaite, to develop as the stopping point for the carriage trade, and a base from which to tour further, fish the lake or draw. From a point near Buttermere Hause a ferry would often be taken across Crummock to Ling Crag, to see Scale Force and then to travel on to Buttermere on foot.

Peter Crosthwaite's map titled *An accurate map of Buttermere, Crummock & Lowes-water lakes; Scale Force &c*, first published in 1794 for the tourists from Keswick, shows the hause as his fourth viewing 'station'. From c.1805, the new road around the hause, shown on the plate, allowed carriages to travel on to Buttermere, where further hotels were developed in the nineteenth century.

The manufacturer of this plate, John Davenport, was born in 1765, trained as a potter and started his own company in 1794 in Longport, Stoke-on-Trent. For the first fifteen years he made earthenware articles of every conceivable type in large quantities, including willow-pattern services and individual items, Toby jugs, watch stands and other domestic china. In 1815 Davenport started to use porcelain to develop and produce services and display items of superb quality and design, equal to Derby and Coalport wares. This plate

provides a fine example, dated to the 1820s by the impressed mark. The Davenport factory closed in 1887. No pattern books or factory records remain.

8. Souvenir cedar wood small drawer unit (Mauchline Ware)

by Anne and Roger Asquith

This item was probably purchased in Keswick in the late 19th or early 20th century. The arrival of railway passenger transport in Keswick in 1865 prompted an expansion in the tourist industry in the northern Lake District. Although an increase in visitor numbers was not universally welcomed, particularly by the select minority who had hitherto enjoyed the peaceful scenery (John Ruskin referred to 'stupid herds of modern tourists being deposited like coals from a sack at Windermere and Keswick'), the holiday visitors, it was hoped, would 'bring prosperity to Keswick's flagging economy'.

The hoteliers of Kewsick were quick to realise the potential of coach rides for visitors. A particularly popular trip, 'combining superb scenery with a taste of adventure', was known as the Buttermere Round – travelling by 'well-equipped' four-in-hand coaches up Borrowdale to Seatoller, over Honister and down into Buttermere. A three hour stop allowed for lunch at one of the inns, 'The Fish' or 'The Victoria' (now The Bridge), followed by a walk to viewpoints or a boat trip down the lake to Scale Force. The return trip was either via Lorton and the Whinlatter Pass, or by Newlands Pass. A series of coaches, carrying in excess of twenty people each, left Keswick at 10am and arrived back just before 6.00pm In 1892 the round trip cost 5/- per head plus 1/- for the driver, with the boat to Scale Force a further 1/- per head. Given the unmade state and gradients of the 'old road' from Seatoller over Honister Pass ('the worst road in England') it is unsurprising that the more able passengers had to get out and walk. A highlight of the trip was that some of the Honister Slate Quarry men known to the drivers would time their dramatic descent from the quarry to the road with a laden sled of slates, to coincide with the arrival of a coach full of passengers – who would be encouraged to dip into their pockets to show their appreciation. As well as the two Buttermere inns, farmhouses offering refreshments and accommodation benefited from the boost to the valley's economy from the 'Buttermere Round'.

Back in Keswick the intrepid visitors were tempted by a range of gifts and souvenirs, including the products of Keswick's several pencil factories and cedar goods workshops (making use of the cedar off-cuts from pencil manufacture).

Known in the antiques world as 'Mauchline Ware', wooden souvenir items bearing transfer scenes were made in Scotland, chiefly at Mauchline in Ayrshire, and sold throughout Britain and many other countries worldwide. Many Lake District scenes appeared on items made of the typical sycamore wood, while objects crafted from the darker 'pencil cedar' almost exclusively featured scenes from the Keswick area. Some would have been commissioned from the Scottish factories, while others were made locally - items occur bearing 'Hogarth & Hayes, Southey Hill, Keswick'. The object displayed here, with scenes of Keswick, Borrowdale and Buttermere, would appeal to visitors who had experienced the Buttermere Round. Views of Crummock and Honister appear on similar items.

9. Pre-war climbing boots with tricounis (metal nails) fitted

by Richard Easton

These boots, loaned by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club archive, are from the 1930s and are typical of those worn by early rock climbers. The history of the development of this sport among the crags around Buttermere can be told in the stories of three climbers, all closely associated with the area, and reflecting different aspects of climbing heritage.

John Wilson Robinson was a yeoman farmer from Whinfell Hall and was an active climber from the 1880s. These were the earliest days of rock climbing and most activity was undertaken on Great Gable and Pillar by affluent offcomers staying in Wasdale. Robinson would typically walk from his home, down to Buttermere, over Scarf gap and round the head of Ennerdale

(past the site of "Robinson Cairn" later built in his memory) to Pillar where he joined his friends from Wasdale for a day's climbing before returning home (a round trip of 20 miles). This friendship was characteristic of the classless appeal of climbing. Robinson was a founder member of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club that continues to publish rock climbing guides to the Lake District to this day. By the time of his death in 1907, climbing had become sufficiently well established in the valley for Lehmann J Oppenheimer to devote a chapter of his *Heart of Lakeland* to it; one of the first books to chronicle the newly emerging sport.

A C Pigou was a Cambridge professor of economics. His politics were radical liberal, a tradition with some echoes in the valley through the Marshalls (landowners) and the historian G M Trevelyan. It has been alleged he was a soviet spy. The roots of left-leaning politics in the valley may be traced back to local Quakerism (Robinson was a Quaker). Pigou occupied Lower Gatesgarth in Butteremere for periods during the 1920s and 1930s and became the centre of a group of visiting climbers including Wilfrid Noyce, Menlove Edwards and Winthrop Young. Many of the first ascents in Birkness Combe are recorded as "A C Pigou and party".

The real acceleration of route discovery in Buttermere happened in the 1940s and was initiated by a coal miner from Workington. Bill Peascod represented a new generation of working class climbers who, in escaping the confines of their regular work, created new standards of boldness and adventure. Eagle Front in Birkness Combe is a notable example ("the belay was improved by a six inch nail I had picked up in the mine and which I hammered into the crack"). Peascod was a remarkable man. He became a widely recognized artist, emigrating to Australia as a lecturer in the subject, and then returning thirty years later to continue his climbing exploration of the valley.

Buttermere has never been at the forefront of this sport in the way Wasdale, Landgdale or Borrowdale have been. Its crags are more secluded and required more effort, both physical and imaginative, to discover and map. Those prepared to put in this effort have been amply rewarded.

10. A Memory Map – the personal record of a rock climber

by Angus Winchester

This 'Memory Map of the Crummock Valley' was made in 1922 by Richard W. ('Dick') Hall (1882-1935), a keen rock climber, and shows 34 climbs on the fells around the head of the valley. Dick Hall was a Cockermouth man, inheriting the family grocery business from his father, but he was a reluctant grocer, as his heart was elsewhere, outdoors and on the fells. Cockermouth's hinterland was his playground all his life He climbed Grassmoor once a month to record the rainfall on the summit (the rain gauge is marked on the map). But his favourite destination was Gatesgarth, from which he could explore the amphitheatre of climbs at the head of the valley. A dotted line on the 'Memory Map', following the western side of the lakes, shows the route he paddled his home-built coracle, an episode which 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.

This tattered map links to two important themes which helped to shape the history of this locality in the twentieth century. The first concerns the networks of family and friends which structure people's lives. Population drifted away from rural areas such as the Cocker valley, particularly after c.1850. We can assume that Dick Hall was not alone among Cockermouth's inhabitants in feeling a strong connection to the farming communities which formed the back-drop of family memory: '... as a background, was ever present the Yeoman Homesteads of our Quaker ancestry', he wrote. The growth of motorised transport in the 1920s and 1930s both increased the interchange between town dwellers and their relations in the countryside and saw areas like the Cocker valley become playgrounds for the middle classes. Family connections and networks spread outwards, drawing distant exiles back to the valley, such as W. Arthur Cooper (1883-1943), a Quaker headmaster and native of Cockermouth, who bought and restored Crabtreebeck in

1928, and his schoolmastering colleague, Victor Alexander (1887-1963), whose family made Low Park their home from the 1930s. Such connections illustrate the role social networks have played in shaping patterns of migration: the Quaker network was merely one example of interconnections lying behind individual decisions to move house, which, in turn, forged the character of rural communities across the twentieth century.

The second theme is the growth of the outdoor movement. With its linen backing, the map was clearly intended to be used out on the fells. Dick Hall himself shared the energetic thirst for the outdoors that was a feature of the 1920s and 1930s. His book, *The Art of Mountain Tramping* (published in 1932), was packed with homely advice on equipment, hill camping, fell walking and rock climbing. He was one small player in a massive movement, which was to transform the Lake District into the playground it is today. The 'Memory Map' is thus a tangible legacy from a past era of homespun outdoor pursuits and 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 Lake District.

11. Burnt lime from Pardshaw Crags

By Sandra Shaw

Over the centuries, lime has had many uses, including building and agriculture. At its most basic, it can be used in wall building, and limestone walls are a local feature in the north-west of our territory. From Roman times until well into the 17th century, the main demand for lime was for mortar, lime-wash, lime-plaster or as a binder mixed with clay.

From the mid 17th century, lime began to be used in agriculture as a soil conditioner and a means of reducing soil acidity. This also improves the plants' ability to take up and use the major nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). Before lime can do this, it has to be treated and this is known a lime-burning. The basic process is to heat the limestone (calcium carbonate) to a sufficiently high temperature (900°C) to drive off carbon dioxide, leaving quicklime (calcium oxide). The source of heat might be wood, charcoal, coke or coal.

Quicklime is unstable and over time, will reabsorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, returning to limestone. When used in agriculture, the quicklime is spread on soil, where is comes into contact with moisture and is 'slaked' producing calcium hydroxide, rendering it more readily usable in the soil.

Lime was burnt in kilns. Initially simple structures were built on the site of the naturally occurring lime. Known as 'flare' kilns, these were loaded with alternate layers of fuel and limestone over the course of one day, burned for three, cooled for two and unloaded during the seventh.

The vast majority of these flare kilns were small, often seasonal, and in many cases served a single farmer's needs or at most, a hamlet or village. Later, single pot 'draw' kilns were constructed which operated on a more or less continuous basis, with raw materials being loaded at the top, while the finished product could be removed from below. Finally, elaborate, multi-pot kilns such as those at Ward Hall (which the society visited in 2008) or at the Rheged Centre, evolved as part of a considerable industry along with the transport infrastructure required for bringing in the raw materials and distributing the finished product.

Lime does not occur throughout the majority of our territory, but it does outcrop locally at Pardshaw Crags and this sample of burnt lime is currently being eroded out of the soil there, by the action of rabbits. The site is close to where Isaac Fletcher (the diarist of Underwood in Mosser) constructed his lime-kiln; first fired in 1760. It produced a steady supply of lime for his own use and local sale. The diary records much information about the construction, early firing attempts and subsequent operation of the kiln.

In his introduction to *The Diary of Isaac Fletcher*, Angus Winchester speculates that Fletcher may have been a local pioneer of the application of lime as a method of soil improvement. The diary contains numerous references to use of lime including 'plaisterers lime', 'lime for whitewashing' and 'liming the ground'.

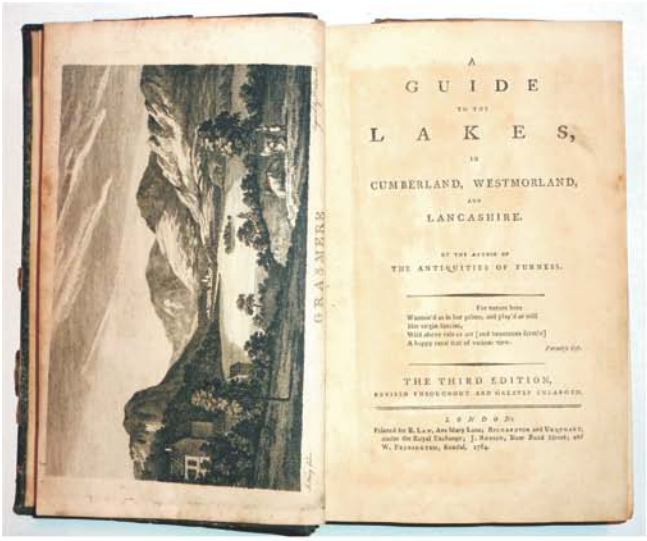
1. Neolithic stone axe found at Pardshaw

3. A piece of bloomery slag found at Mosser

2. Stones from bronze age burnt mound, Buttermere

4. Two cogs from a Loweswater lead mine

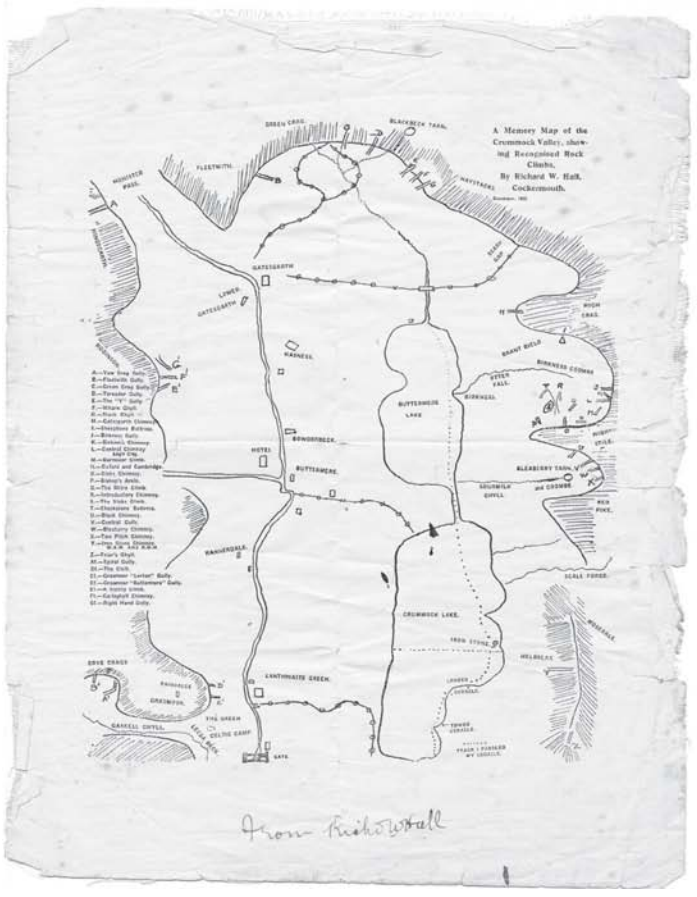
5. Cavalry sword of a local yeoman farmer, c.1795



6. *A guide to the lakes ...*
by Thomas West,
3rd edition, 1784

8. Souvenir cedar
wood small drawer
unit (Mauchline ware)

10. A memory map - the personal
record of a rock climber



12a. Piece of a millstone
from Brackenthwaite

7. 1820s Davenport porcelain sweetmeat dish with view 'Buttermere Lake'

12b. Corn drying tile from Brackenthwaite

9. Pre-war climbing boots with tricounis (metal nails) fitted

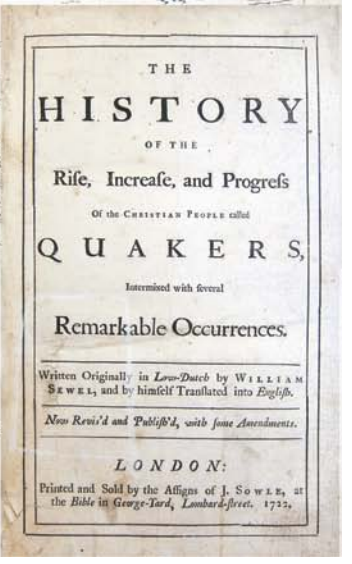
11. Burnt lime from Pardshaw Crags

13. Cart-horse shoe from Watergare, Loweswater

14. Scotch hands and roller from Low Hollins, Brackenthwaite

15. Map of a portion of Cumberland, 25 inch scale

16. Lorton main land drainage scheme indenture, 1881



17. *The history of the rise, increase and progress of the ... Quakers*, by William Sewell, 1722

12a & 12b. Piece of millstone and a corn drying tile from Brackenthwaite

by Sandra Shaw

The milling of grain to produce meal or flour has long been an important economic activity. 5624 corn mills were listed in Domesday, about one per 300 head of population. Up to around 1800, the term 'corn' meant oats and barley, particularly in upland areas and those with poorer soils. Mills were owned by the local lord of the manor, leased out to a miller who charged his neighbours a proportion of the corn he milled. In this way he could make huge profits and become thoroughly unpopular. It was obligatory for inhabitants of the manor to take their corn to the lord's mill for milling on pain of being presented to the Manor court and fined for failure to do so. However millers could also be fined for taking more than their fair share of flour.

Milling was achieved by a pair of horizontal mill stones, one fixed to the mill structure (the bed), the other of which turned (the runner). Un-ground grain was fed in through a hole in the centre of the top stone, and meal was collected from the rim between the stones. Before the steam age, most mills were powered by wind or water, and the power was connected to the runner by a system of gears.

Shown here is a piece of one of the millstones used at Brackenthwaite corn mill. It is made from French burrstone which was imported from the Paris Basin or from western Belgium. The rough texture can readily be seen. This was a brittle material, so a complete stone was constructed from several smaller pieces of burr, bound within a wrought iron hoop.

Brackenthwaite mill was water powered, with a leat and wooden launder bringing water to an overshot wheel, where water flowed over the top of the wheel. According to Roz Southey, Brackenthwaite Mill was in existence in the 16th century. In 1652 a dispute is recorded concerning responsibility for its repair. It is labelled 'corn mill' on the Ordnance Survey map of 1867, and shown as a roofed structure, so had still not fallen into total disrepair. By the end of the 19th century, importation of hard Canadian wheat grains, which were more difficult to grind, had spelled the end of most small Cumbrian corn mills.

Before grain could be stored or milled, its moisture had to be reduced to a certain level and corn dryer kilns were constructed for this purpose. Grain was spread out across a porous surface (perforated iron or clay tile), with a furnace providing heat below, the warm air rising up through the grain thereby drying it. Because of the risk of fire, corn driers were often constructed away from the mill.

In the case of Brackenthwaite, a small building is shown on the opposite side of the road from the mill on the 1867 OS map. The field is named Kiln Field, on the 1840 tithe apportionment map for the area; this is likely to have been the corn drying kiln. However, this piece of tile was found in soil at the Brackenthwaite Mill site.

13. Cart-horse shoe from Watergate, Loweswater.

by Michael Baron

Once upon a time there was a farm at Watergate. There had been farmers there for centuries. When Cumbria was a real place and not the beloved destination for the retired from the towns and cities of England, it was common for ownership and possession to be in separate hands. So it was for the Watergate estate. The last farmer was James Chamley, tenant of a Carlisle paediatrician Edmund Carr-Saunders. Jill Perry reminds me that she was born at Watergate Farm in 1956. Jill's mother was the Land Girl the farmer married on his wife's death. Jim farmed at Watergate from the 1930s until 1963 and continued to live there after the Watergate estate had been sold in 1964 to Carr-Saunders. The owners now of the two parts of the estate are the National Trust and Dr and Mrs John MacFarlane.

Jill remembers a fine Clydesdale horse, stabled in what is now the garage and store at Watergate Barn. He is Joe. This is one of his shoes. It was lying, dusty and dirty, on the beaten mud floor of the old barn when Hetty and Michael Baron succeeded Edmund Carr-Saunders as owners in 1987. Alongside the shoe there were scraps of a leather harness and the

chains for pulling timbers out of Holme Wood.

The shoe is a mute testimony to the time when Loweswater farmers, at Kirkhead, Watergate, High Nook, Godferhead, Askhill, Waterend, and High Cross, used horses to till the arable growing fields where the furrows are still visible.

Watergate Farm is next to Holme Wood from which timber was once ferried on rafts across Loweswater to be loaded on to a lorry on the Waterend road. Jim Chamley used Joe to remove the felled timber from the wood. This was, in today's jargon, 'environmentally friendly'. The website of Simon and Katherine Lenahan of Witherslack (www.celtichorselogging) tells how today horses are used for 'low carbon timber harvesting'. At Watergate, using the horse whose shoe is here to take out the cut timber caused "minimal damage to the ground flora and no soil compaction". A video of horses logging can also be found on the website of the Irish Working Horses Association.

It is just like that today at Tarn Hows Wood, Coniston. There, in a project of the National Trust, horses continue to do what Joe did at Loweswater more than half a century ago. And that past is in a rusty horseshoe which once was the work of someone unknown like "Felix Randall" of Gerard Manley Hopkins's poem of the 1870's. Randall is the big boned farrier who 'didst fettle for the great gray drayhorse his bright and battering sandal'. When George Orwell discussed this poem in his article *The Meaning of a Poem* for The Listener of June 1941, he suggested that Hopkins's use of 'sandal' (which rhymes with Randall) somehow converted the cart-horse 'into a magnificent mythical beast'. That is another way of imagining Joe of Watergate Farm.

14. Scotch hands and roller from Low Hollins, Brackenthwaite

by Walter Head

These objects were used in the production and marketing of butter. In the early 1900s farms in this area were much smaller and more numerous than those of today. They were mixed farms with each tending to have cows, pigs, hens and growing both root and grain crops. One source of income for these farms, like the Head family of Low Hollins, Brackenthwaite, was producing butter both for home use and for sale at local markets.

The natural colour of the butter was due to the carotene and other fat-soluble pigments in the fat globules of the milk, the yellower the milk the deeper the colour of the butter. The flavour was produced by fermentation processes occurring in bacteria in the cream. The cream was separated from the milk, put into an earthenware crock, and allowed to stand for two to three days at a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit to ripen. During this time the cream was stirred frequently to prevent the growth of undesirable bacteria. Ripening (or souring) of the cream greatly assisted subsequent churning but this butter did not keep as long as butter produced from unripened cream.

Cold water was added to the ripened cream which was then put into a butter churn. The butter churn was barrel shaped with a removable lid containing air vents and a handle which allowed the churn to be rotated about its axis. Churning was the violent agitation and beating of the cream and was continued until the fat-in-water emulsion became water-in-fat emulsion. The churn was turned slowly at first with air being released frequently. When air was no longer exuded the rate of churning was increased and the first grains of butter appeared after approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

A little water was then added to the churn to prevent the formation of lumps and churning was continued until the required size of butter grain was achieved. The 'clunk' of the butter ball tumbling inside the churn could distinctly be heard. The buttermilk was drained off. Some was used to make scones, and the remainder was fed to the pigs. Wash water was added and washing continued until the water came out clean.

The butter was removed and spread over a *worker,* which was a cold flat surface. At Low Hollins the worker was a large piece of Honister slate known as 'the Butter Slate'. The butter was worked into a solid mass using scotch hands until no moisture exuded. It was then made into

the required sized shapes (or pats), usually weighing 1lb (454g) and marked using a stamp and/or roller to indicate the farm where it was produced. Surplus butter from Low Hollins was taken to Cockermouth market to be sold.

In March 1915 the price of butter at Cockermouth was one halfpenny (½d) per lb (0.21p per 454g). The price of butter began to rise as the effects of the war started to restrict the supply of dairy products. In July 1918 butter rationing was introduced with an allowance of 5oz (142g) of butter and margarine per head per week. By October 1918 the butter ration was reduced to 1oz (28g) per head per week plus an allowance of 4oz (113gm) of margarine per head per week. At this time milk cost 7d (3p) per quart.

15. Map of a portion of Cumberland, 25 inch scale

by Charles Lambrick

This is a single part of a single page from a large bound volume of maps. It contains 17 sheets from the Ordnance Survey's First Series of maps covering the whole of the British Isles. The survey to create the maps was carried out in west Cumberland during 1863 and 1864, one of the last counties in England to be covered in a national mapping project which had begun in the mid-18th century. The scale used for the maps is 1:2500 (approx 25 inches to 1 mile), the largest employed in the First Series. They cover two 'blocks' of land, one with Great Clifton in the west and Cockermouth in the east, the other centred on Mosser Fell.

Interestingly, a book plate displaying a coat of arms and the name Isaac Fletcher beneath is pasted on the inside of the volume's front cover, which suggests ownership by him when it was new. The book plate is probably that of the Isaac Fletcher (1827–1879) who served as MP for Cockermouth and lived at Tarn Bank, Greysouthen. He was the great-grandson of the notable Quaker of the same name who lived at Underwood, near Mosser.

With the publication of the Ordnance Survey's First Series sheets, landowners and others had for the first time very detailed maps of the area, created from a survey conforming to a national standard of consistency. Each sheet shows minute detail of the landscape and buildings. On some sheets industrial features such as mills, quarries, and coalmines are shown. On almost all of them the contrast between the old irregular field boundaries and the straight lines of those created as a result of the process of enclosure during the previous 50 years are plain to see. A unique snapshot of how the area would have appeared in the 1860s is therefore shown.

The book is likely to have been a working document, since on many sheets annotations in ink or pencil have been made. These refer to the names of landowners or tenants, to acreages, and to rents. And there are some areas of land that are coloured with various shades of ink-wash. It is noteworthy that on one sheet amendments have been made by hand to show the 444 acres of common land enclosed by an award of 1867, following a special report of the Inclosure Commission of 1863 which was the same year as the survey was carried out. One or two surnames written in ink are to be seen on the sheet. On other sheets, such as LIV 6 which has Tarn Bank near its centre, almost every field has an individual's name inked in.

The 25 inch OS maps would have greatly assisted in more accurately assessing acreage and other aspects of land management in the later 19th century, and one can speculate that this set of maps was used for professional purposes by a land agent in advising Isaac Fletcher, or after his death other landowners, on the management of land holdings in the area

16. Lorton main land-drainage scheme indenture, 1881

by Peter Kerr

This foolscap indenture is one of around twenty that were distributed in 1881 to all parties involved in a complicated and comprehensive Victorian land improvement scheme that transformed the farmland in the northern reaches of the Lorton Valley.

The drainage scheme – The Lorton main drain – was devised to allow the flat low-lying lands between Cass Howe and Stanger to be effectively drained for most of the year. Because much of this land lies

just above normal river level, it would have been impossible to lay ordinary field drains – there would not be enough fall to take the water away.

The solution was to lay a very large main drain, 36 inches in diameter, from a point around half a mile north of Low Lorton. The drain loops around the flat fields of the upper valley, and crosses under the river three times before finally emptying into the Cocker at Stanger. The length of the drain, 2500 yards, was necessary in order to create the fall needed to keep the drain water flowing (ideally the gradient needs to be around 1/100). The drain was dug deep into the ground – up to five feet – to give the joining drains plenty of fall. The landowners and farmers who collaborated in the drain could lead their own field drains in to this new main.

The drainage scheme was the brainchild of William Alexander, of Shatton. His lands would have been affected by the problems of fall and seasonal flooding. But he was also an archetypal Victorian improver and philanthropist. His money, vision and guidance have left a lasting impression on Lorton and the immediate area – he was involved in major projects like Lorton and Embleton schools, bridges, roads, and farm improvements.

William Alexander was successful at persuading all of the landowners in the area between Lorton and Stanger to agree on the construction of the drain. The cost must have been colossal – even in an age of relatively low wages! The indenture exists to ensure that the drain had a long term future – all parties signed up to a comprehensive maintenance regime. The thoroughness of the construction is amply illustrated by the fact that 130 years after construction the drain is still working perfectly – carrying, at capacity, around 8 million gallons of drain water a day away from the farmlands north of Lorton.

The drain appears to have been built by professional navvies – probably including many men from Ireland. As a footnote, a fragment of a clay pipe was recently found bearing the message 'Home Rule', as well as shamrocks. It is tempting to think that this was discarded by an Irish navvy building either the main drain or one of the many subsidiary drains that still serve the farms around Lorton.

17. 'The History of the Rise, Increase and Progress of the Christian People called Quakers' by William Sewell, 1722.

by Christopher Thomas

This book comes from the library of the Quaker meeting house at Parshaw Hall, which was built at about the same time as this book was published. The book was originally in private ownership, but after passing through at least three hands it was donated to the library at the meeting house. It describes how Quakerism traces its roots to Westmorland and north Lancashire in 1652. The following year a mission organised by George Fox was launched into the old county of Cumberland. Pressing into remote rural areas with little contact with the established church, the preachers found a ready audience among the independently minded yeomanry. "Hundreds were convinced" at a large gathering at Embleton and almost the entire congregation at Mosser Chapel went over to the Quakers.

The first regular meeting in Cumberland met at Peter Head's house at Pardshaw, and became the forerunner of large regular meetings in the hamlet. However he paid for his temerity – "for testifying to the Truth" – he was imprisoned for fourteen weeks in 1654. He was not alone in suffering for his new faith. From Richard Fawcett and John Fearon in 1670 "for meeting at Pardsay" (sic) were taken corn, cattle and other goods to the value of £35.11s". In 1684 six Quakers at Mosser were committed to gaol for refusing to pay church taxes, known as tithes, and in the same year Elizabeth Tolson and Mary Wilson suffered distress of goods for organising a women's meeting at Pardshaw Craggs.

From the early Quakers in the northern counties were drawn the "Valiant Sixty" who set out in the 1650s and 1660s to spread their faith to the rest of Britain, and then to Ireland, Europe and America. Among them were John Banks, the schoolmaster from Mosser, Thomas Stubbs, a former soldier from Rogerscale and John Burnyeat, a husbandman from Crabtreebeck, Loweswater, who is credited

with founding the Quaker meetings in Baltimore.

After the ending of persecution in 1689 most Quakers settled down to run their farms and businesses. By 1794 there was still strong evidence of their strength in the area – one-third of the households in Mosser and a quarter in Whinfell were Quaker. A detailed look at one hot-spot at Underwood is given by Isaac Fletcher in his diary where he describes the daily life of a farmer and lawyer from 1756-81 – though as a Quaker he was not allowed to appear in court.

The 19th century saw a loss of numbers as Quakers emigrated both to towns and overseas and began to assimilate with the general population after marriage with non-Quakers was permitted. John Wilson Robinson of Whinfell Hall, who was a pioneer of the new hobby of rock-climbing, became co-founder of the Fell and Rock Club in 1906.

By 1922 the large meeting house at Pardshaw Hall ceased to hold regular Sunday meetings. The last Quaker descendant of the indigenous farming stock emigrated to Cockermouth in 2013.

18. Scrapbook :'Embleton and Wythop School', c.1967

by Derek Denman

This daily school was started for the children from the townships of Embleton and Wythop in 1808. It was built on a commons intake at Wythop Bridge, but in Embleton township. Children would travel from as far as Stanger. It closed in 1978, being the most recent of our local village schools to close.

Though most of our village daily schools, for ages four to fourteen, were created in the nineteenth century, education had long been a priority in rural Cumberland, mostly from schooling provided through the church. Many of Cumberland's young people had to leave to find work, and numeracy and literacy helped. Cumberland villagers in the nineteenth century were far more literate than, say, the inhabitants of industrialising Lancashire.

In 1833 the state provided funding for schools and started to regulate factory children and their education, though of course rural children worked on farms and the land. However, legislation on compulsory schooling was delayed until 1870, mainly over the issue of the control exerted by the established church, a lasting area of disagreement in education and an issue referred to this 1960s scrapbook. In Loweswater in 1833 the daily school was still a small church-run building, replaced by the township school in 1839.

When local daily schools were surveyed in 1833, there was a surprising number, but there was no sign of separate schools for dissenters; rather there were additional 'dame' schools. For example in Lorton the first school would be the present one, built in 1809, and the second school, with more girls, would be Mary Borrowscale's school at what is now Dale House. However, in the townships to the west of the Cocker the many Quaker children would have attended the separate Quaker school at Pardshaw. The children of gentry would not attend village schools.

In 1833, there were ten schools serving our area plus Eaglesfield, The subsequent decline partly reflects the population fall, but a more significant factor is the changing demographic structure. The recent population of Embleton, at 300, is not dramatically below the 408 of 1841, but of those 408, only 33 were aged sixty or above while 134 were children of fourteen or under, using the local schools and replenishing the local population. Today the population is considerably replenished by incoming persons of more mature years, and village schools have been lost. Today only Lorton and Paddle schools remain from the original ten.

19. Oil can from the Cockermouth Keswick and Penrith Railway

by John Hudson

Machinery needs lubricating, and this oil can, about 85 cm long and of a design that enabled relatively inaccessible moving parts of a locomotive to be reached, was used on the railway which ran through our region. A railway line from Workington to

Cockermouth was opened in 1847, but it was not until 1861 that parliamentary approval was given to build a line eastwards from Cockermouth. The line proceeded via stations at Embleton and Bassenthwaite Lake (Wythop), before continuing along the western shore of the lake to Keswick and on to Penrith. There it connected with lines from the south and from the north east of England.

The line was opened to goods in October 1864, with the first passengers being carried in January 1865. The line had an immediate impact. At Keswick the sudden influx of day trippers from Carlisle, Penrith. Preston, Workington, etc. alarmed some of the inhabitants, and the Company decided "not to promote such [excursion] Traffic by Special Trains". It did however build a large first class hotel next to the station.

The railway certainly brought a superior class of visitor to Wythop, where the woods, moors and lake provided good shooting and fishing. New employment was created not only by the railway company, but in gamekeeping, woodland management, beating, and for staff at the Pheasant Inn and Peil Wyke Hotel. The coming of the railway reversed a previous declining trend in the population of Wythop.

Although passenger traffic was important, the principal reason for constructing the line had been the carriage of minerals. The blast furnaces of West Cumberland needed coke from the north east, and the north east needed iron ore and pig iron from West Cumberland. But once in operation, the line carried a significant amount of local freight. It handled granite from a quarry at Embleton, lead ore from a mine near Braithwaite, pit props from the woods near Wythop, cattle to and from the market at Cockermouth, and at Kewsick it picked up slate from the Honister quarries.

By the end of the nineteenth century, mineral traffic was in decline. West Cumberland had set up its own coking plants. Furthermore, improved technology meant that the iron ore mined in the north east could be used to make steel, and so the higher quality west Cumberland iron ore was no longer needed. Passenger traffic continued to be considerable. A strengthening of track and bridges in the 1930s enabled heavier locomotives to be used, and after WWII the Lakes Express ran between Cockermouth and Euston in 8 hours. But eventually passenger traffic also reduced significantly. Diesel trains were introduced in 1955, but the hoped-for revival of the line's fortunes did not occur. The Keswick - Workington section was closed in 1966, so after more than 100 years, our region lost its railway, with the Keswick - Penrith section also disappearing in 1972.

How many motorists realise, as they speed past Embleton, Wythop and Bassenthwaite Lake on the A66, that the road is built on the track bed of the old Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway?

20. Farm sale poster and printing equipment

by Gwyn Evans

Displayed with this printing equipment was an item for which it might have been used, namely a poster advertising the sale of Palace How Farm, Brackenthwaite, in 1855. Cockermouth printers would have supplied such local needs, and the typecase, blocks and woodletter are examples of printing equipment used in the 19th century.

During the 19th and 20th centuries Cockermouth had up to four printers at any one time. They often combined printing with other activities. They acted as booksellers, stationers, bookbinders, insurance agents, wallpaper warehousers and they even sold music and pianofortes. Keswick, Maryport and Penrith all had about four printers at any one time, whereas Whitehaven in 1873 had 11 printers and three newspapers.

T Bailey started his printing business at Cocker Bridge in 1808 and on his death it was carried on by his widow and later by his son's widow. The Company published the 'Cockermouth Advertiser' in the early 1900s and was still in existence by the 1950s. Daniel Fidler was apprenticed to Baileys and started his own company in Main St in 1836 which his son was still running in 1901. Isaac Evening was established in 59 Main St by 1861, later transferring to Station St and then Workington. Brash Bros was probably the largest printer in Cockermouth, occupying

the site of the current Oxfam shop. In 1874 it started publishing the 'West Cumberland Times' which has evolved into today's 'Times and Star'. Other printers listed in trade directories were; 1829 Pattinson Banks, Main St; 1834, Saml Jefferson; 1869, Edw Thwaites, Market Pl; 1901, and Fletcher, Corn Market, publisher of 'The Free Press'. John Naisbit was operating from Market St in the 1850s and printed the displayed poster about Palace How in addition to publishing 'The Cockermouth Miscellany' from 1854 to 1856.

Local shopkeepers and tradesmen would have needed letterheads, invoices, ledgers and business cards. Stationery items were 8x10" (large post quarto) or 8x13" (foolscap folio) and business cards came in a variety of sizes (smalls, thirds, extra thirds etc). Farm suppliers had simple catalogues of their goods and farming generated posters (usually 20x30" known as double crown) for farm sales and fairs. Church and public events such as concerts, bazaars, fetes etc also needed posters, window bills, programmes (often 5.5 x 8.5" known as medium octavo) and admission tickets. Some churches had a monthly magazine. Council minutes, company balance sheets and annual reports also provided work. There was some personal printing, visiting cards for the better off and mourning cards. National elections needed posters for meetings and banners but above all, pamphlets. These were often produced on a daily basis with a candidate replying to points made in an opponent's pamphlet.

Printing would not have given significant employment in Cockermouth. Brash Bros might have employed 15-20, others probably a handful. The approx ratio would have been three compositors (typesetters) to one machineman and two finishers. Finishers were usually female and did the folding, sewing, binding etc after an item had been printed. Compositors and machinemen would have served a seven year apprenticeship and been relatively well paid.

We now take colour printing for granted but before the advent of offset-litho in the late 1900s the main printing process was single colour letterpress, i.e. from moveable type with engraved blocks for illustrations as practised since Caxton's days. Each box in the typecase contains a specific letter, which is the same throughout the country. The case displayed has capitals on the right and non capitals on the left. If the case contains all capitals it is placed above the case of non-capitals on the compositor's frame (known as a random), hence upper and lowercase. Printing machines were hand-lever or treadle operated until the introduction of steam powered cylinder machines in the 1850s. These were hand-fed, often by a girl. Modern digital printing has many advantages but the traditions of literacy and accuracy inherited from letterpress printing should not be forgotten.

21. Tracheotomy set

by John Macfarlane and Brian Herd

This equipment, dating from the late 19th century, was in the collection of medical instruments that Dr Ashley Abraham acquired when he bought his practice in Cockermouth in 1931 from Dr Young. The following story is fictitious, but graphically illustrates how it would have been used.

Seven-year-old Thomas lived on a remote farm near Loweswater. In January 1894 he was gravely ill, and his condition was worsening rapidly. His throat was grossly swollen with a thick membrane of stinking mucus, making swallowing impossible. It was choking him to death. Dr Mitchell arrived on horseback from Cockermouth, 3 hours after Tom's father had set out on a borrowed pony for help. He confirmed advanced diphtheria *('the strangling angel of children')*. Tom was weakening fast and was semi-conscious, his violent struggle to breathe punctuated by awful gurgling gasps.

The doctor confirmed the parents' fears. Tom would die without an immediate hazardous operation to bypass the throat obstruction (*tracheotomy*). The operation would enable Tom to breathe and buy time for his body to fight the infection. They begged the doctor to give their only surviving son a chance of life, however small.

The instruments were boiled, the scalpel sharpened and the doctor scrubbed his hands. They laid Tom on his back on the kitchen table, his head over the edge, neck extended across a cushion. Steam from a boiling kettle eased his breathing.

Mother held the oil lamp, Father held Tom. Chloroform was too risky. Tom's throat was incised, the windpipe opened with the retracting forceps. Dr Mitchell guided the silver curved tube into the windpipe and promptly applied his lips to the tube, sucking out some of the choking membrane and spitting it out immediately. As if by a miracle, the boy began to breathe, air rasping through the tube, his natural colour returned and he smiled weakly. Tom might live.

At the time of Tom's illness, Cockermouth Dispensary provided medical and surgical care for poor people. It opened in 1785 as part of a national movement to provide medical care for paupers, and continued in service until the birth of the NHS in 1948. Originally free and financed by public subscribers, a weekly charge of 1d was introduced in 1874. Doctors gave their services free, their income coming from private practice. It was originally situated in Kirkgate, and later at 7 Market Place.

In those days, delays in getting medical help to the valleys were inevitable. The quickest way was to send a messenger by horse; the doctor also travelled by horseback. In bad weather, each 10-mile journey could take over one and a half hours over rough tracks

Apart from a few plant-derived drugs (morphine, digitalis etc), the doctor had very little with which to treat the patient. There were no antibiotics or other wonders of modern medicine. Traditional measures – such as bleeding, counter-stimulation and purgation were popular but could be harmful. A few simple operations were performed, often on the kitchen table, using basic pain relief, but complex surgery was unknown. But doctors were skilled clinicians. A doctor who was kind, who could advise on simple symptomatic measures, and who could predict the likely course of the illness, was highly valued and respected.

22. Nose cone of WWII training bomb from crash of Wellington Bomber at Buttermere, 16th June 1944

by Walter Head

The maiden flight of the prototype Wellington bomber took place on 15th June 1936. In subsequent years several variations from the Mark 1 to the Mark X were produced at Weybridge, Chester and Blackpool. The Wellington had a unique Barnes Wallis geodetic construction which made it very robust and able to continue to operate with severe damage. Powered by two 1675hp Bristol Hercules XVI engines it had a length of 64ft 7in (19.68m), a wing span of 86ft 2in (26.26m), a range of 2,200 miles (3540km) and a maximum speed of 235mph (410km/h). It carried a bomb load of 4,500lb (2041kg) and was armed with eight .303 Browning machine guns, two in the nose turret, two in the waist position and four in the tail turret.

At 1020hrs on 16th June 1944 a Mark X Wellington bomber registration number HZ 715 22 OUT with an eight man crew of the Royal Canadian Air Force lifted off from RAF Wellingbourne Mountford for a combined navigation and cross country exercise. At 1335hrs in conditions of low mist the Wellington flew head on into Ling Combe on the side of Red Pike above Buttermere, GR 159154. All eight crew members died. One body was found away from the wreckage on the scree, all the other crew perished in the inferno as the aircraft exploded. Members of the local Home Guard were called and climbed up to the crash site. They removed the bodies from the wreckage and stood guard until the arrival of the RAF recovery team, who in a two day operation carried the bodies off the mountain and removed most of the remains of the plane, although some was covered with scree and left on site.

In approximately 1992 two ramblers, John Nixon and Graham Brass, were walking on the scree when Mr Brass dislodged some stones and a bomb surfaced. This time the Cockermouth Mountain Team stood guard until the arrival of the RAF. The find was the nose cone of a training bomb which contained only a small amount of explosives.

The RCAF crew who died and were interred at Blacon Military Cemetery in Chester were:- Pilot Officer J18201 Albert Digby Cooper age 25 from Niagara on lake Ontario, Flying Officer J35425 Fredrick Allen Dixon, Flight Lieutenant/Navigator J16129 Emil Unterseber age 28 from Hilda Alberta, Flying Officer J38329 Daniel Titleman age 25 from Montreal, Sergeant Air Bomber R168378 George McCrimmom age 29 from Ontario, Flying Officer/Wireless Operator/Air Gunner J19182 Roy Edward Simonson age 23 from Moose Jaw Saskatchewan, Warrant Officer/Wireless Operator/Air Gunner R115256 George Richard Coathup, Sergeant/Air Gunner R266186 Campbell McRea Hodges age 34 from Toronto. In total Bomber Command lost 55,573 aircrew during the conflict.

The last Wellington Bomber was withdrawn from service in 1953. Only two intact Wellington Bombers survive in this country, one, MF628, a Mark X type, is on display at the R.A.F. museum in London.

The nose cone was kindly loaned by The Fish Hotel, Buttermere

23. An original key from the Yew Tree Hall.

by Walter Head

The Jennings family started their brewing operations at High Swinside Lorton in approximately 1809 and as they expanded they moved to premises in High Lorton. They occupied buildings currently known as Brewery House at the bottom of Tenters, and the building now known as Yew Tree Hall, which was used as the malt kilns. The latter had a concrete floor with arched heating facilities in the basement.

By 1872 Jennings had transferred most of their operations to new premises at Cockermouth, which they still occupy today, and consequently they were looking for alternative uses for the redundant malt kiln building. On 18th June 1909 a meeting held at Broomlands, chaired by Mr C. L. Burrows, was of the opinion that Lorton was in need of a room to use as a place of recreation and amusement. Discussions had already taken place with Jennings and an agreement was reached on 8th September 1909 to lease the old malt kiln at a rent of £3-10-0 (£3.50) per annum. In November 1909 the name was changed to the Yew Tree Hall and a five year lease agreed effective from 11th November 1909.

The first event in the hall was held on 25th November 1909 prior to the official opening of the hall on the 10th December 1909 with a concert followed by a ball which was to finish no later than 2.30am, attended by approximately 100 people.

Water was fed to the hall from a well on land owned by Mr H Pearson but the pipes were very corroded and in 1910 the water supply was connected to the supply in the old brewery at a cost of £9-12-3 (£9.63). Heating was provided by a Contessa stove size 3 and lighting was by oil lamps. In June 1910 a seven year lease was signed at the original rent and the Border Regiment used the basement as a miniature rifle range. The last event of 1910 was an old scholars reunion party which continued well past the 2.30am deadline. A meeting was held to discuss this and the finish time for dances was extended to 3am. The cost of using the hall for persons living within the boundaries of Lorton, Brackenthwaite and Whinfell was raised in 1911 to 4/- (20p) for a concert, 5/- (25p) for a ball and 7/6 (38p) for a concert and ball; liquor was prohibited on the premises. From 24th July to 18th August 1911 the hall was used as a base for the Royal Engineers who were carrying out a survey in the area.

The hostilities with Germany resulted in a recruitment meeting being held in the hall on 11th August 1914 and on the following day a meeting was held to enrol special constables for the district. Jennings reduced the rent by 50% for the duration of the war. In 1917 Mrs Dixon presented a large slow burning stove to the hall.

At a meeting held on 3rd October 1919 the following proposal was unanimously agreed. “That this meeting of the inhabitants of Lorton and district is of the opinion that the opportunity now occurring to purchase the Yew Tree Hall for the benefit of the district of Lorton should be taken advantage of and each person present pledges himself or herself to use their best endeavours to further the purchase so that the same may be completed at an early date.”

The hall purchase hall was completed in a conveyance dated 29th December 1920 and the deeds placed in the custody of Waugh & Musgrave, solicitors.

24. Lorton WI programme card, 1928/9

by Maud Vickers

The Lorton Women's Institute is one of the oldest in the Cumberland Federation, which had been set up in 1920. The Lorton WI dates from 1922, when twelve members formed a committee, with President Mrs Burrows (Lorton Park), Vice President Mrs Stanley Dodgson (Armaside), Treasurer Mrs Mitchell (Oakhill) and Secretary Miss Moffat (Corner House). A total of 40 members joined, including some from Loweswater and Buttermere who came by cycle and later in Miss Burns' car. This arrangement lasted until 1937 when Loweswater formed its own W.I.

The aim of the W.I. was to improve conditions for women in rural life. In the early years, talks and demonstrations included hatching and rearing chickens, slipper making, spinning and darning. Mrs and Miss Irwin from Buttermere always collected sheep's wool from the hedgerows, spinning it for knitting or weaving, and they wore homespun garments all their lives. There was a lantern lecture on Sunny Alberta where a collection was taken to help pay for repairs to the village lantern. Members were invited to garden parties at Armathwaite Hall and Woodend at Thornthwaite.

1924 seems to have been a memorable year, when Lorton won second prize, dressed as North American Indians in a pageant at Greystoke Castle. In September, Nurse Lawson gave a demonstration on bandaging and Ernest Conkey proved a good patient. Owing to an outbreak of smallpox a county meeting due to be held in Cockermouth had to be moved to Carlisle.

Also in these early years, a Garden Fete was held at Lorton Park, with farmer's stall, pound, girl guide, and rummage stalls. There was living whist, folk dancing, roulette, maypole dancing, hoopla and a treasure hunt.

In 1930 a field day was held in Broom Field (near the tennis court) in aid of a childrens' trip or Christmas party. Entertainment was a bran tub, hidden treasure, clock golf, cork bobbing, folk dancing etc. The total raised was £32. 0. 7d. January 1931 was crisis month when the W.I. was in danger of collapsing as no one was prepared to be president. However Mrs Burrows saved the day by saying she would try. Each spring eggs were collected and given to the hospital, the total being 239 in May 1939.

Wartime was a very busy time, with everyone working under petrol and lighting restrictions. Meetings were held in the afternoon until blackout could be arranged. A sewing party was organised to make garments for evacuees, soldiers, hospitals, etc. Khaki wool for forces' socks and scarves, and white for childrens hospital garments, was bought. Within a month, 150 garments had been given to evacuees and 98 sent to the Cockermouth depot. The 1940 Programmes were no longer able to be printed, so Miss Brown produced them by cyclostying on paper given by Miss Burns. W.I.s were invited to set up communal jam kitchens, which Lorton WI did in Lorton Hall; 4 cwt of sugar was applied for. A collection of sphagnum moss went ahead, dried in the vicarage loft, and sent for field dressings. Other herbs were required, including foxgloves, nettles and rosehips. A request was received for rabbit skins for Russia.

All these and many other activities were part of life until the war ended and the W.I. returned to its usual format which has changed very little until the present day.

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Designed by Derek Denman
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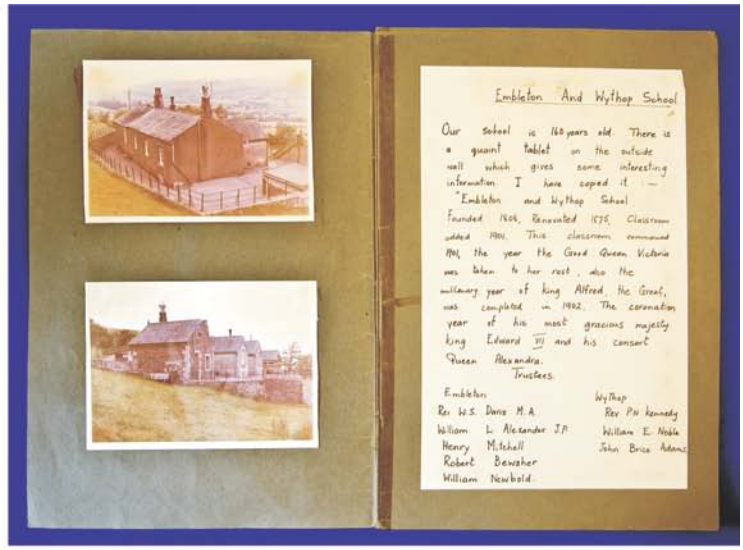
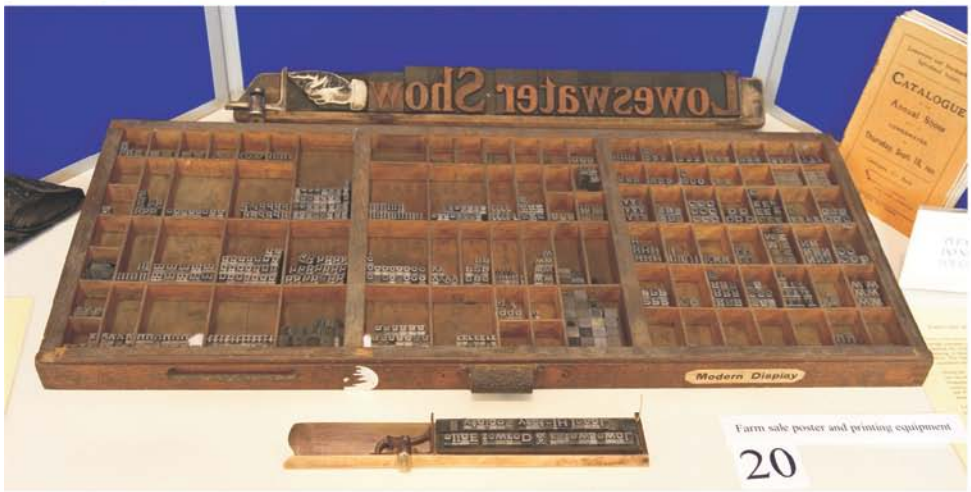
18. Scrapbook 'Embleton and Wythop School' c.1967



19. Oil can from the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway

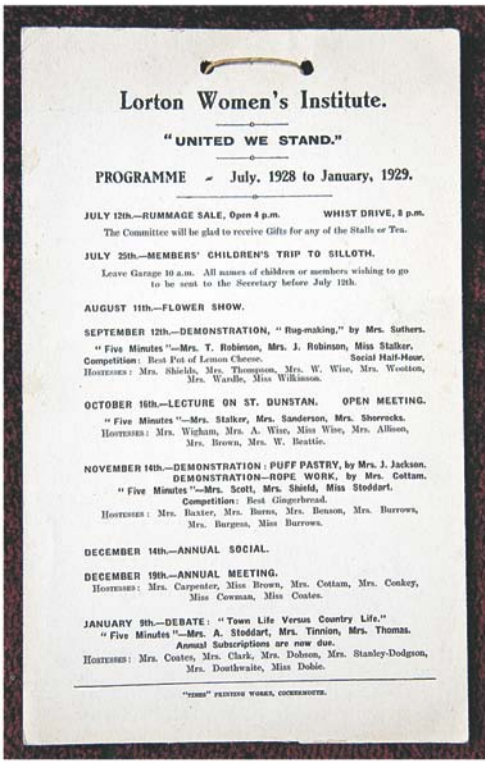


20.Printing equipment

21. Tracheotomy set

22. Nose cone of WWII training bomb from crash of Wellington bomber at Buttermere, 16th June 1944

23. An original key from the Yew Tree Hall



Lorton Women's Institute.

"UNITED WE STAND."

PROGRAMME - July, 1928 to January, 1929.

JULY 12th.—RUMMAGE SALE, Open 4 p.m. WHIST DRIVE, 8 p.m.
The Committee will be glad to receive Gifts for any of the Stalls or Tea.

JULY 25th.—MEMBERS' CHILDREN'S TRIP TO SILLOTH.
Leave Garage 10 a.m. All names of children or members wishing to go to be sent to the Secretary before July 12th.

AUGUST 11th.—FLOWER SHOW.

SEPTEMBER 12th.—DEMONSTRATION, "Rug-making," by Mrs. Suthers.
"Five Minutes"—Mrs. T. Robinson, Mrs. J. Robinson, Miss Stalker.
Competition: Best Pot of Lemon Cheese. Social Half-Hour.
Hostesses: Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. W. Wise, Mrs. Wootton, Mrs. Wardle, Miss Wilkinson.

OCTOBER 16th.—LECTURE ON ST. DUNSTAN. OPEN MEETING.
"Five Minutes"—Mrs. Stalker, Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Shorrocks.
Hostesses: Mrs. Wigham, Mrs. A. Wise, Miss Wise, Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. W. Beattie.

NOVEMBER 14th.—DEMONSTRATION: PUFF PASTRY, by Mrs. J. Jackson.
DEMONSTRATION—ROPE WORK, by Mrs. Cottam.
"Five Minutes"—Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Shield, Miss Stoddart.
Competition: Best Gingerbread.
Hostesses: Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Burgess, Miss Burrows.

DECEMBER 14th.—ANNUAL SOCIAL.

DECEMBER 19th.—ANNUAL MEETING.
Hostesses: Mrs. Carpenter, Miss Brown, Mrs. Cottam, Mrs. Conkey, Miss Cowman, Miss Coates.

JANUARY 9th.—DEBATE: "Town Life Versus Country Life."
"Five Minutes"—Mrs. A. Stoddart, Mrs. Tinnion, Mrs. Thomas.
Annual Subscriptions are now due.
Hostesses: Mrs. Coates, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Stanley-Dodgson, Mrs. Douthwaite, Miss Doble.

"TIMES" PRINTING WORKS, COCKERMOUTH.

24. Lorton WI programme card, 1928/9

L&DFLHS – Programme for 2014	
Date	**Event**
9th January	The Keswick Trespasses, by Roy Ellis
13th March	(programme changed) The Vikings in Cumbria, by Sheena Gemmell
8th May	Dry stone walls and landscape history, by Professor Angus Winchester
23rd May	Society visit to St Bees. Details from John Macfarlane
12th June	AGM and talk to be announced
10th July	Sunderland flying boats and Windermere in WWII, by Judith Shingler
5th September	The Bernard Bradbury memorial lecture. Andrew Lowe will speak on Lakeland architecture at the Kirkgate Centre. With the Cockermouth Civic Society and Cockermouth Museum Group.
11th September	St Bees man and St Bees lady, by Chris Robson
13th November	Cumbrian curiosities, by Brian Martland
Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 with refreshments.	