

Cumbria Local History Federation

Report by Sandra Shaw of the annual convention held on 1st October 2011 - Landscape and the Local Historian

This year the convention moved to Higham Hall, a more familiar and convenient location for members of our society.

The Convention started with its AGM and discussions there concerning the future of CLHF bulletins have implications for our society – more on this follows. The rest of the morning comprised two major presentations from Dr Alan Crosby on Maps as a basis for Landscape History and Ian Tyler on Landscape History and the Extractive Industries; the example of the Caldbeck Fells. Alan Crosby showed examples of maps from the very earliest in the C16 up to the 6" OS maps familiar to Local Historians. He showed how these had evolved for naturalistic perspective drawings, to the standardised scales and symbols we are more familiar with today. He invited us to consider whenever studying a map, the purpose for which it had been drawn and whether that would have any implications for what it depicted. Ian Tyler illustrated the long history of mining in the Caldbeck area and the wide variety of different minerals extracted and the remains that can still be seen on the ground.



Lunch during the Convention

The afternoon comprised two workshops and two series of short presentations. The first workshop took the form of a presentation by Dr Michael Winstanley on Cumbria 100 years ago:

local history from the Edwardian Domesday property survey. This was an abbreviated version of the talk he gave our society in 2007 and the Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture in 2008. He included several Cumbrian examples. The second organised by June Hall involved participants in a hands-on practical exercise studying maps to see what could be learned about the historic development of the area in question. The short presentations covered estate markers on Dufton Fell, 2 small slabs of stone near Devoke Water, finding the Head Dyke, Renwick, Ulverston Railway Station, Paramount Amusements, Silloth and our own Derek Denman talking about the Lorton Yew Tree. In the closing session, Dr Richard Gulliver talked about trees in the historic landscape; the various species, growing them and the purposes to which they could be put.

Re-printing the Township Maps

by Gwyn Evans

The Society is reprinting the Historical Township Maps first published by them in 2003. They cover the old townships of Brackenthwaite, Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater (not including Mockerkin) and Whinfell in the 1840s.

The maps show all buildings, farm boundaries and fields with the old field names. Details of each house include a current photograph and the owner's name and list of occupants in the 1841 census.

The maps measure 112 cm (44 inches) wide and between 56 cm (22 inches) and 76cm (30 inches) high. They are professionally printed in full colour on 200gsm silk coated stock and packed in a tube. The cost is £24.00 per map and details can be viewed on www.derwentfells.com/publications or contact Gwyn Evans on gwynandjan.evans@hotmail.com tel 01900 85458 or Derek Denman. The maps will be ready in early December when payment will be due.

To order please contact Gwyn Evans as above or write to Palace How, Loweswater, Cockermouth, CA13 9UX.

The Derwentfells Wanderer

November 2011

www.derwentfells.com

Outing to Setmurthy Part 2 – 29th September 2011

by Sandra Shaw

The society's second visit to Setmurthy has now taken place.

We began again at Dunthwaite House and it was interesting to see the progress made towards getting the property ready to lease. Our attention was drawn to the large number of hooks among the rafters in two separate parts of the property. These were for hanging game and it has been estimated that there was sufficient for 600 brace of pheasants!

Again we enjoyed lunch at Higham Hall where John Hudson told us about the history of the buildings and the families who lived there.

Now we had a change and were able to visit St Barnabas, the parish church of Setmurthy which was opened specially for us. We had been supplied in advance with a leaflet on the history of the church and parish, so I was able to share some of this with the group. The earliest reference to a chapel here was in 1225. The present building dates from 1794; with the first burial ground being opened in 1835. In 1870 a substantial restoration and alteration was carried out, with the construction of the tower with belfry above and boiler house [later the vestry] below. In the 1880s, the misses Hoskins, sisters of the vicar George Richard Hoskins made some very fine pitchpine carvings. Several of the group found it hard to believe that these could be the handiwork of amateurs. The white stone baptistry was added in 1901 and houses a font dated 1661 given to the church about 1840. Electric lighting came in 1963, the restoration of the roof 4 years later and finally renovation and refurbishment by the Manpower Services Commission in 1985. The leaflet mentioned a fine silver alms dish given in memory of William Dawson, who served the church under five

vicars from 1859 to 1912. To our amazement, this was produced from the safe for our inspection. It is still in regular use in the church to this day.

The church also has a possibly unique document dated 1723 setting out the details of 'whittlegate', the ancient system for lodging and feeding the reader or schoolmaster. By this custom he was housed with each landowner in turn, taking with him his 'whittle' or knife and staying from 1 – 4 weeks according to the amount of land held by the farmer.



The group at Hewthwaite Hall

There are five families associated with the church and these linked us well to the other properties on our tour. First were the De Huthwaites who were at Hewthwaite as early as 1228. Then came the Swinburns, who gained Hewthwaite manor in the 14th century through the marriage of a Huthwaite heiress with Alan de Swynburne. A later Swynburne couple rebuilt Hewthwaite Hall in 1581. The Harrison family initially settled at Dunthwaite in 1696 and the last of that line was Daniel Harrison vicar of Setmurthy who gave Dunthwaite House to the National Trust in 1941. The Hoskins family came to Higham in 1827 and George Richard Hoskins was vicar of Setmurthy until his retirement in 1892. His brother Reginald sold Higham to Joseph Fisher in 1904 and when his son

George died in 1947 the Hall and 4 acres of land were given to the Crown in lieu of death duties.

Finally the group made its way to Hewthwaite Hall, to view the outside of the house including its famous inscription. The current owner Mark Phythian-Adams had supplied some notes concerning the history of the property, having carried out considerable research himself. He has offered a fuller account for the Journal at a future date.

All in all, a wonderful day viewing four properties whose histories were so well linked together through the church. Our thanks are due to John Macfarlane for the image and for organising this outing and for the co-operation of the landowners and our guides at the various properties.

Email and future CLHF Bulletins
by Sandra Shaw

The CHLF is changing the way they produce future editions. Up until now, this society has purchased sufficient copies of CHLF bulletins at a cost of 20p each to send to all full members. Additional copies of the bulletin may in future cost 70p each, which is too expensive. In addition to the cost of Bulletins, we have incurred extra cost to distribute the issue which does not synchronise with our mailings. The CHLF will continue to send two printed Bulletins to member societies and will place an electronic version in a members-only part of their website where it can be accessed by use of a password. We understand that the Events Diary will continue to be on an open part of the site.

Your committee proposes to cease purchasing the extra copies, to make the two hard copies available at talks, to publish the password in the Wanderer for those who wish to access it on the CLHF website and to send an electronic version to members for whom we have an email address. To facilitate this we shall be creating a group mailing list. Although our membership secretary has collected email addresses in the past and these have been held in the members' database they have only rarely been used to contact members. In addition to sending CLHF Bulletins, in future it will be possible to alert members

as a group should there be a last minute cancellation or change to our programme. There may also be other events notified to the secretary that might be of wider interest, but it is not the intention to bombard members with regular emails. The society will not let any third party organisation have your email address. If you provide the society with an email address, it will be assumed that you are happy to receive electronic communications from the society. If at any time you change your mind, you will need to notify the membership secretary. You will of course need to notify the membership secretary if you change your email address. It will be possible to review this procedure at the society's AGM in June.

The next Bulletin should be available on the CLHF website at www.chf.org.uk in early December, password - xxxxxx.

Village Walks

Does anyone want to create a village history trail for a new on-line guide?

Earlier in the year, this society received details of a newly launched website www.villagewalks.com which intends to be a collection of history trails around villages and small towns in the UK. It aims to record the 'hidden jewels' that would interest visitors and residents alike and which should be celebrated. The creator Christian Boulton is seeking contributions of about 500 – 1000 words from local people on village walks in their localities. He is looking for the kind of walk that produces a 'Wow, I didn't know that!' response. Your committee has considered this request and invites any member to contribute directly in their own right. The website contains all necessary information, sample trails and tips on compiling the perfect walk. There is no need to struggle to supply a map as this will be added when your submission has been received. It is also possible to send a photo as a separate submission.

A recent look on the website showed just two walks in Cumbria – in Staveley and Thursby, so there is plenty of scope for others to be added. Should anyone require assistance with this, please contact a member of the committee.

Our future programme for 2011 / 2012

10 November 2011	Lorton as it was 200 years ago: updating John Bolton's lecture of 1891	Derek Denman
12 January 2012	The Building of Keswick	Dr Alan Smith
08 March	The History of Alston Moor	Alastair Robertson
10 May	The People of Roman Britain	Lindsay Allason Jones
14 June	AGM + activity to be arranged	
12 July	Mosser: A Cumbrian rural community across 800 years	Dr Angus Winchester
13 September	The Baroness of Belsfield by Windermere	Ian Jones
08 November	An 1850 Sketchbook – Wordsworth and The Lakes	Jeff Cowton MBE

Talks are at the Yew Tree Hall at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Visitors £2.50. Please note that Lorton Parish Council and the Yew Tree Hall Committee have asked that visitors to the hall DO NOT park at the north-east corner – i.e. to the left of the door when facing the hall. Many thanks.

Officers and Committee 2011/12

President Dr Angus Winchester Financial examiner Les Polley

Dr John Hudson <i>chairman</i>	01946 861555	Anne Asquith <i>Membership</i>	01900 822969
Derek Denman <i>vice-chair,</i> <i>Journal and</i> <i>website</i>	01900 85551 <i>derekdenman@dsl.</i> <i>pipex.com</i>	Ted Gilbertson <i>Talks</i>	01900 85482
Sandra Shaw <i>secretary and</i> <i>Wanderer</i>	01900 829812 <i>Sandra.m.shaw@btopen</i> <i>world.com</i>	Dr John Macfarlane <i>outings</i>	01900 85289 <i>jtmacfarlane@</i> <i>mail.com</i>
Christopher Thomas <i>treasurer</i>	01900 822171	Roy Oxlade	01900 821883

In addition to the committee posts above, the following roles are held: Archive – John Hart 01900 823534, Historic Landscape Group – Bernie Ewels 01900 825732, House History Group – Sally Birch 01900 85680. There are vacancies on the committee. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact one of the existing members.

The Wanderer & The Journal

The next issue of the Wanderer will be published on 1st May 2012. Please send any short items to the Editor, Sandra Shaw by 9th April. The next Journal will be published on 1st February 2012 and articles should be sent to the Editor, Derek Denman by 7th January.

Derwentfells Wanderer is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, Pardshaw Hall, Pardshaw, Cockermouth CA13 0SP.

www.derwentfells.com

Diary Dates

Cumbria Industrial History Society

Autumn Conference – *Industries of Kendal*
Saturday 29 October 2011, 9.30 – 4.00
The Castle Green Hotel, Kendal, at £25 per person including buffet lunch. Further details and application form are on the

society's website www.cumbria-industries.org.uk or from 01524 762312.

CWAAS Kendal Group

Marriage and the Monarchy
Dr David Starkey FSA, CBE
Tuesday 8 November 2011 7.30
Kendal Town Hall, £5.00