

Cumbria Manorial Records Project

Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society

A progress report from the Manorial Records Group; - March 2006

Introduction

During 2005-6 members of the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society (L&DFLHS) have been undertaking local and family history projects using manorial records. These projects have been selected to illustrate the use of some of the manorial records covered by the Cumbria Manorial Records Project (CMRP), which has been creating an on-line finding aid for the manorial records of Cumberland and Westmorland. We report here on our progress on the projects, some of which will continue, and our experience of using manorial records. We have worked mostly in the Whitehaven Record Office and wish to express our appreciation for the facilities and help that have been provided by the staff there.

Purpose

Manorial records have a reputation for being difficult to use, and the non-specialists who make up the membership of local and family history societies often under-use this valuable source. The CMRP will provide a valuable on-line finding aid to replace and improve the paper index in The National Archives at Kew, but this Heritage Lottery funded project intends to provide a facility that is usable by local and family historians. Our group of six members, representing various interests and levels of experience with manorial records, have taken the opportunity to pursue a few projects of our choosing, covering different project types and manorial record sources, supported by Eleanor Straughton and Angus Winchester. We proposed to illustrate the uses of manorial records in typical projects, to feed back into the main project our experiences and any difficulties, and to give local level support and visibility to a project which should provide an important new facility to local and family historians in Cumbria.

Our Group and Working Methods

L&DFLHS covers a rural area of the north-western lakes to the south of Cockermouth, though the membership is more widely spread. The members of our group are Joan Borrowscale, Sandra Shaw, Eric Cass, Jackson Hodgson, Nigel Mills and Derek Denman. The group started in March 2005 following a presentation in Lorton on the use of manorial records, and has since met several times at the Whitehaven record office. Whilst particular projects tend to be pursued by a particular person with the main interest, the group approach has been valuable in a number of ways. Mutual support and encouragement together with a common purpose to make progress is always beneficial, but we have found also that a group can be more efficient, in that only one person need go through a particular set of records to extract material relevant to all the projects. However, it must be acknowledged that finding and interpreting information from original untranscribed documents can be difficult and time



consuming, especially before 1730 when abbreviated Latin may be used. But often manorial records can give important information unavailable elsewhere, and are well worth the effort involved. A large part of our geographical area is covered by the Honour of Cockermouth and the Baronry of Egremont, the records for which are mostly within the Leconfield Archive in Cockermouth Castle. These estates were managed by stewards and good runs of manorial records survive. They can be obtained through Whitehaven; where the paper cataloguing is good and expert help is available in finding and transcribing (through the research service). Robert Baxter offers local societies a talk on the use of manorial records, which we recommend to other societies.

Our Projects

Whilst the requirement of the CMRP was for projects which used manorial records, in practice local and regional historians, after the medieval period, tend to pursue particular subjects of interest and to use whatever records are relevant and useful. The group has therefore studied subjects which are of interest to them, but used this opportunity to include manorial records in their studies. The way they are used and combined with other sources (e.g. parish registers or wills) varies from project to project, but the range of projects demonstrates a variety of ways in which manorial records can fill gaps, provide a new dimension to a study or indeed be the only source of the required information. The table below gives information on the projects in progress, and points to an Annex to this report which contain a report on a particular project.

Title	Description	Type of Study	Annex
The Tenters fulling mill and thread mill at Lorton	A whole life study of a rural textile mill site and its ownership.	Rural industry and property ownership	A
History of the Borrowscale family	A small name group with a medieval Cumberland placename origin.	Family History	B
Poundfolds and pinfolds of Cumbria,	A survey of remaining structures and study of their management	Heritage and communal resource management	C
History of Pardshaw Hall & Kirby.	A small hamlet and the people who lived and worked there	House and locality history	D
Water management in the Bassenthwaite Lake catchment	A study of water management, drainage and irrigation, linked to the Bassenthwaite Lake restoration project.	Environmental history	Starting in 2006

In summary

In the short period in which we have been working we have found manorial records to be a valuable resource for local and family history projects, and we intend to continue with these and other projects. Often manorial records have complemented other sources, for example in linking people to properties through tenancies. But in some areas manorial records are the only source; for example the existence and tenancy of the fulling mills in the 15th and 16th centuries, and the way in which pinfolds were used by the community. Manorial records have had two levels of difficulty for the non-specialist – finding and using. The CMRP provides a good top-level solution to the problem of finding, and particular attention is being paid, partly at our request, to user- friendly methods of finding records from common place-names. But finding now needs to be assisted at a detailed level by continued cataloguing of records on line through A2A, for example for our group the Leconfield archive would be of great value. We presume that the archive service plan to provide user access from the record offices to the Manorial Documents Register, and A2A, on-line. With finding much improved there still remain difficulties in using, and here our group approach has helped. Perhaps a role of local societies might be to make transcriptions that they have done more generally available to others.

Annex A.

The Manorial Records of the Tenters Fulling Mill and Thread Mill at Lorton, 1479-1912.

Introduction

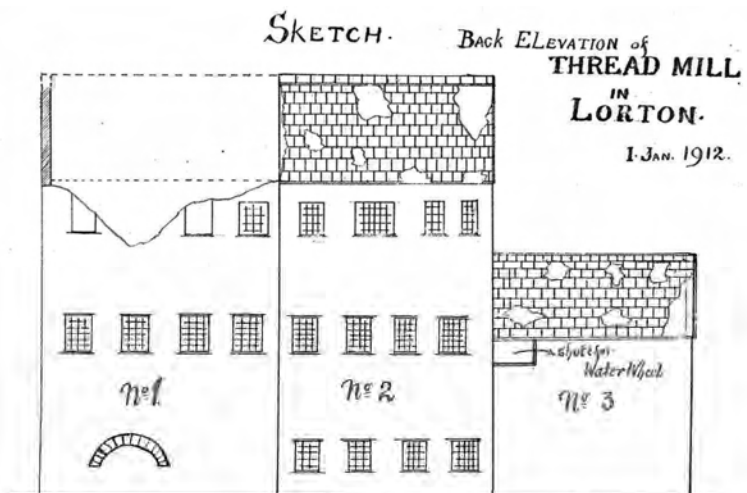
There exists in the local history society archives a photograph from 1898 of a large three-storey thread mill, situated in Lorton on Whitbeck, of which not a stone remains, nor are there local recollections of it.¹ The name Tenters, and previous records of a fulling mill, or walkmill, indicate that this was one of those ancient mill sites which was reused to spin imported flax when the local finishing of woollen cloth was no longer required. This paper traces the history of that mill site, and its people, from the first records of fulling mill construction in 1478/9, until the demolition of the thread mill soon after a roof collapse in 1911.² But the main focus is on the period to 1688 to 1760, ending in its enfranchisement to John Bowe, during which period it is possible to trace the family descents, the ownership and sales, and the manorial tenancies. Particular attention is given to the manorial records, the information and interpretation they provide and allow, and the way they combine with other sources.



Four acknowledgements must first be made. To the late Ron George, who in writing his history of Lorton selected and transcribed a large number of relevant manorial records and left those transcriptions in an archive for the use of others. To Dr Angus Winchester, whose doctoral thesis and subsequent book on medieval landscape and society covered this area, and who has allowed the use of his transcription and translation of early records.³ And to an anonymous clerk employed by Mitchells auctioneers of Cockermouth, who long ago lost, down the back of a cabinet, a bundle of records supporting the 1906 epitome of title to the mill site. Those records were destined to be found in 2000, on the move of the business, and are now saved for posterity at the Whitehaven Record Office, whose support for this project earns the fourth acknowledgement.⁴

The Jennings flax thread mill, 1830's to 1912

The origins of the thread mill are unknown, but the construction date lies between 1827 and 1841. A survey and plan, made in 1827-8 for establishing the rights to allotments on the enclosure of Lorton commons, shows a walkmill, rather than the thread mill. But the census of 1841 shows a few trades



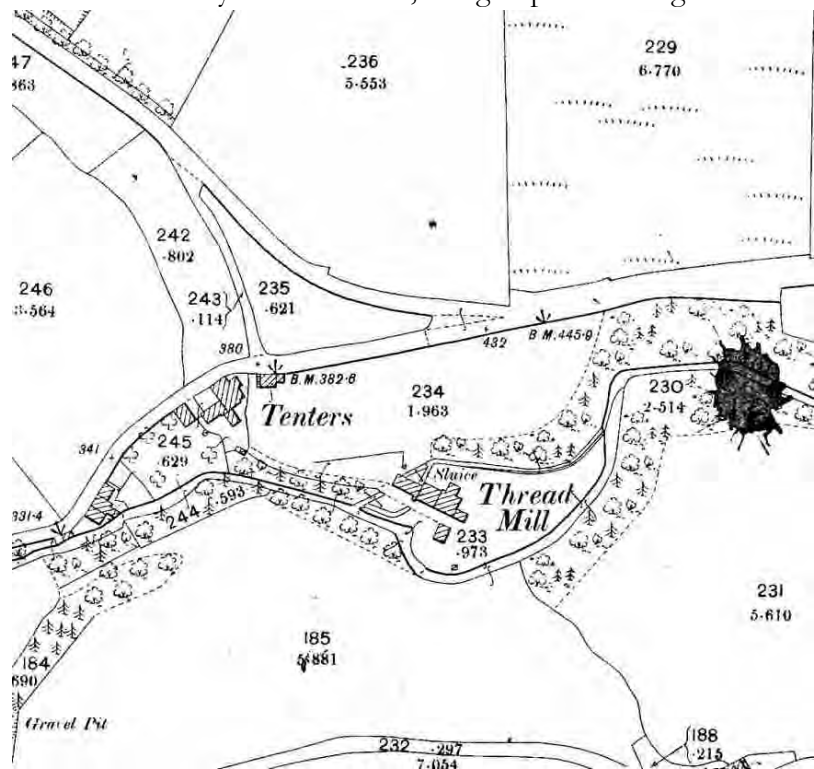
¹ L&DFLHS Archive/P1/49

² CRO/W/D/MG/190. Report 1st Jan 1912

³ Winchester, A. *Landscape and society in medieval Cumbria* Edinburgh, John Donald, 1987

⁴ CRO/W/YDX/392 Title deeds and manorial records relating to property in Lorton

associated with flax thread rather than with woollen cloth. The second-class tithe map of 1840 shows a walkmill, but this is simply the earlier survey reused with limited updating. The thread mill was the second major project of the Jennings family. William Jennings, the maltster, had malt kilns on Whitbeck and established a premises in High Lorton, now Corner House, in 1809. His son, John Jennings, established the Lorton Brewery on Whitbeck around 1828, which later moved to Cockermouth. John Jennings, a man of energy and enterprise, then established the flax thread mill on the site of the defunct fulling mill owned by John Bowe. At this time the rural processing of wool into cloth had declined and most fulling mill sites, once a feature of almost every township, were redundant. The Bowe family were related to the Dovers who operated the larger enterprise in Millbeck, Keswick. Arthur Dover took control of the Lorton Mill after the death of his uncle, John Bowe Jr., in 1814 and sent work to the Tenters mill, but soon after 1820 fulling work was concentrated on Millbeck, leaving Lorton redundant. The flax spinning industry was well established in nearby Cockermouth, using imports through Workington and Maryport, and it is likely that the availability of a water powered site, becoming hard to find in Cockermouth, made a Lorton flax thread mill viable for a period. The section of the Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 mile map, surveyed in 1899, shows the fullest development of the thread mill, under Wilkinson Jennings. Employment peaked at over thirty people in the census of 1871, though this business must have seemed alien in an otherwise rural agricultural village, but by 1906 the premises was disused and the associated buildings were rented out. By 1912 a survey showed that the roof had partially collapsed (see the first page), and it is assumed that the demolition and sale of material followed quickly. The industrial revolution had come, gone and left little trace.



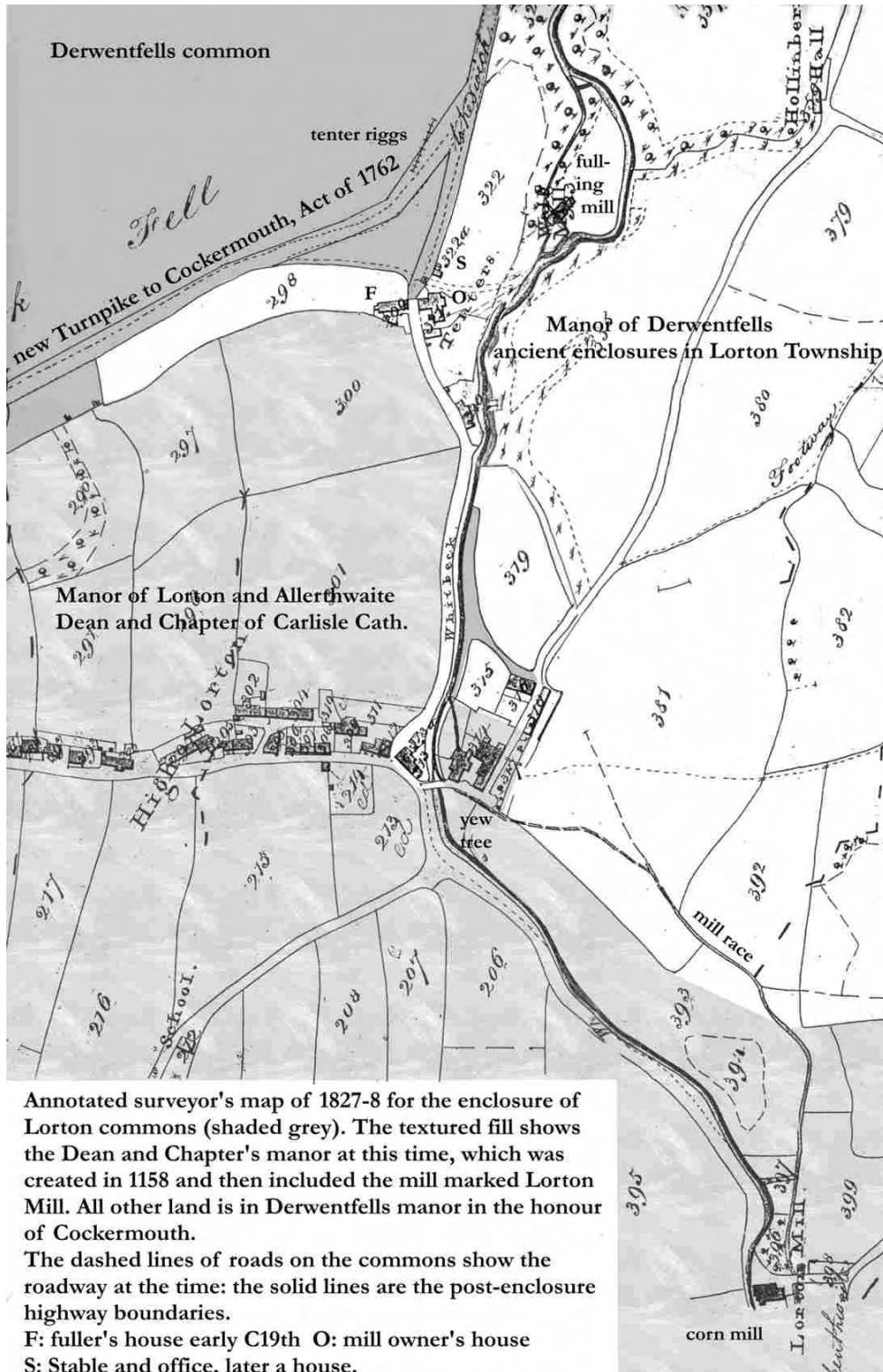
The earlier fulling mills, an outline history

In the early nineteenth century we know that the fulling mill, or walkmill, was thriving, but serving a large area. In 1891 John Bolton recorded the memories of people from around 1810, when the fuller was Frank Hunter⁵. Valuable work on the rural woollen industry has been done by Mike Davies-Shiel.⁶ Fulling mills were used to finish woollen cloth (and a smaller amount of linen), using a system of water powered hammers to pound the cloth in a bath of water and soap, often made locally from bracken burned in potash kilns. In earlier times much wool was spun within the farmhouse and woven into cloth on handlooms, often by a local specialist weaver. The woven cloth needed fulling to felt it, to make it reasonably waterproof and to preshrink it prior to making clothes or other products. Once fulling the cloth was stretched out on the tenter riggs to dry, before it could be made into products locally or sold. From the eighteenth century much more wool was sold for factory spinning, and the local rural industry declined.

⁵ Cumbria Family History Society. *Cockermouth Miscellanea* ISSN 0140-1912

⁶ Davies-Shiel, M. *A little-known Late Medieval Industry, Part II: the Ash Burners*. CWAAS Vol LXXIV 1974 p.33

The position of the old tenter riggs can be seen on the common in the map below, which is the 1827-8 survey for the enclosure, annotated to illustrate points in the text.⁷ Through the turn of the century, Frank and Fanny Hunter lived in the house marked 'F', purchased by John Bowe in 1803, and the Bowe family lived in Tenters House, marked 'O' which later was occupied by Wilkinson Jennings. There were two mill sites on Whitbeck. The Tenters fulling mill was in the township of Lorton and the manor of Derwentfells, a large forest manor in the Honour of Cockermouth which lay between the Derwent and the Cocker, and out of which several small manors were granted, or



Annotated surveyor's map of 1827-8 for the enclosure of Lorton commons (shaded grey). The textured fill shows the Dean and Chapter's manor at this time, which was created in 1158 and then included the mill marked Lorton Mill. All other land is in Derwentfells manor in the honour of Cockermouth.

The dashed lines of roads on the commons show the roadway at the time: the solid lines are the post-enclosure highway boundaries.

F: fuller's house early C19th O: mill owner's house
S: Stable and office, later a house.

⁷ CRO/C/D/Ben 282. Lorton inclosure

subinfeudated. The other mill, the corn mill for High Lorton, was in the small manor of Lorton and Allerthwaite, which was granted out of Derwentfells in 1158, with the mill included, and which became the property of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle. Therefore there is a good separation of the manorial records of these two sites, the fulling mill being covered by the Leconfield archive, the corn mill, sometimes used for fulling, being covered by the archive of the Dean and Chapter.

The fulling mill, buildings at Tenters, and a number of associated closes were enfranchised to John Bowe Snr. in 1760, that is he effectively purchased the freehold and the standing timber from the lord of the manor, the Earl of Egremont. The Bowe copy of this manorial document survives and this detailed enfranchisement is a key document which allows the history of the fulling mill to be taken forward and backward. Going forward the holdings can be confirmed with the tithe apportionment of 1840 and can be placed on the map. Going backwards in time the key information is the ancient customary annual rent of 6s 11d, which can be disaggregated and the main elements traced back through manorial records to the creation of the fulling mill in 1479. To a large extent it is also possible to see how the mill was passed down through a very few families, often through the female side.

But there is a complication for much of the period because there are two holdings of fulling mills at Tenters for much of the time, though sometimes held by relatives. The second holding appears in the sixteenth century records as a split tenancy of the Peil family and disappears from the record in the eighteenth century just before enfranchisement. It is likely that one or two co-sited mills were operated at Tenters at various times and that the tenancy of the second one, once it had been acquired by John Bowe, was allowed to be extinguished on the enfranchisement of the other.

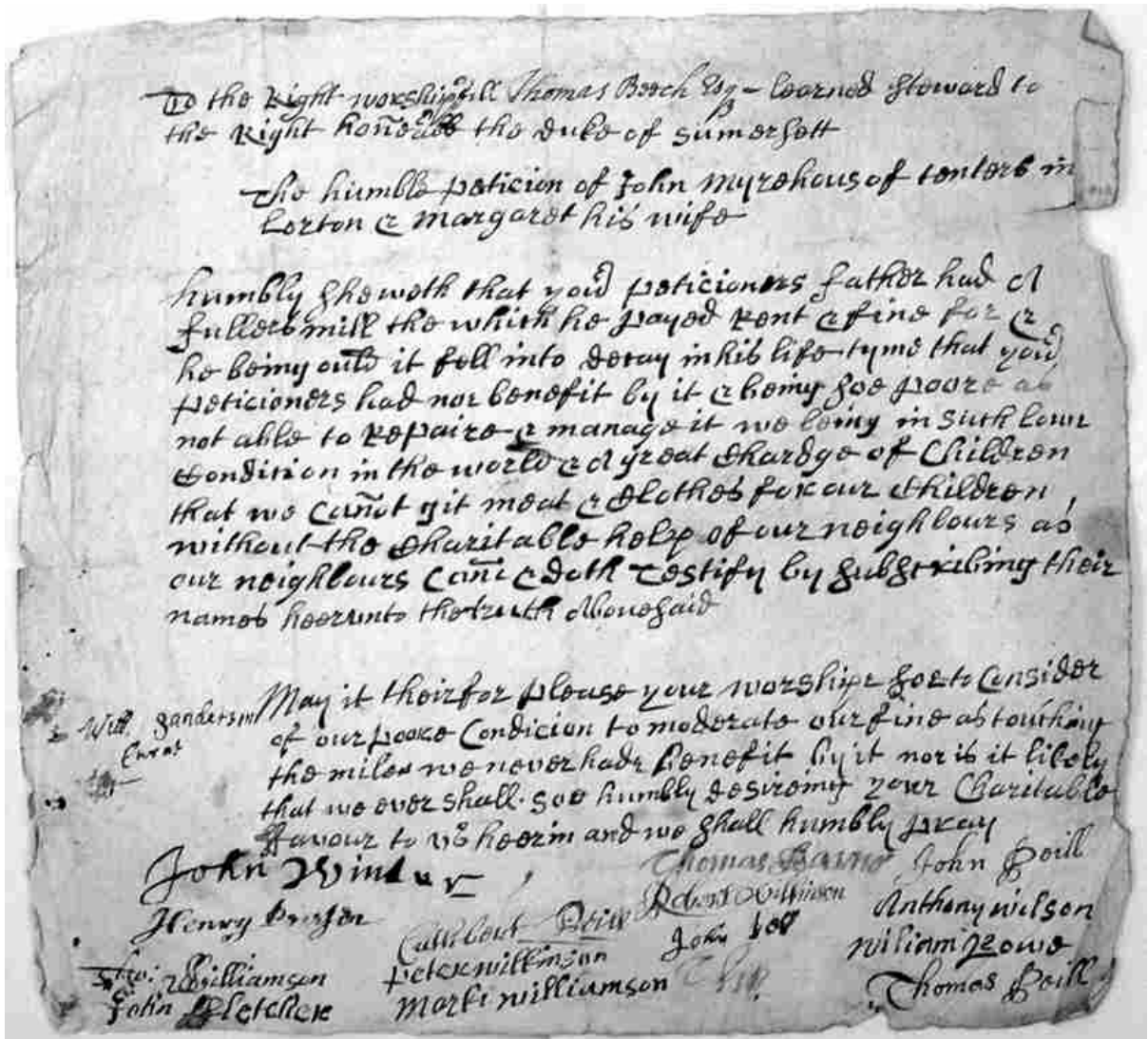
The Tenters fulling mills and manorial records as a source

Sources. The site of the mill is within the township of Lorton and the parish of Brigham, though Lorton was a parochial chapelry within Brigham and the records of St Cuthberts Church, Lorton, are those relevant to the mill occupants. The site is within the Manor of Derwentfells, a Percy (Northumberland) manor at the beginning of the mill records, which through marriage was later passed to the Dukes of Somerset and to the Earls of Egremont, who enfranchised most of the properties to the tenants from the 1760s. Most of the manorial records for Derwentfells reside in the Leconfield archive, held at Cockermouth Castle but accessible through Whitehaven record office.

Prior to enfranchisement, the properties were held as customary tenancies from the lord of the manor, the system being managed and records kept by a steward in Cockermouth. The nature and customs of the tenancies and method of management resulted in the various records being established. The customary tenancy was effectively a person to person agreement between the tenant and the lord of the manor. A new tenant on admission to a tenement, or other property, would pay an arbitrary fine to the lord and thereafter kept the tenancy indefinitely, paying a low and unchanging annual rent. Before the seventeenth century the tenants also had an obligation to do border service against the Scots, which was said by some to justify the low rents. The customary tenure allowed the tenement to be inherited in the normal descent, and also allowed tenements to be alienated, or sold, by the tenant to another person. That person could expect to be admitted as customary tenant on the surrender of the alienating tenant, again paying a fine on admission. These transactions were managed by the Derwentfells court of dimissions. Because the tenancy was a person to person agreement, the death of the lord of the manor cause the end of all the tenancies in the manor, and the tenants were then admitted to new customary tenancies with the new lord, paying a fine on admission, which was a general fine. General fines were paid in Derwentfells in both 1749 and 1750, as two distant Dukes of Somerset died in quick succession. In the Dean and Chapter's Manor of Lorton, adjacent to the mill, the lord was not an actual person and so the lord never died and never caused general fines.

The customary rights of the tenants to hold their properties at a small rent and to alienate the property created a market in property, because the rent did not reflect the value of the holding. For the fulling mill from 1701 there is a separate set of indentures of sale of the mill, outside of the manorial system but running parallel to it. This forms an additional and detailed source of information.

Three other manorial sources have been of value. Firstly, the accounts of the various officials in collecting rents and other payments provide the first record of the mill, in 1481/2, when the fulling mill was a new rent of three years standing. Secondly the petitions to the lord, which mainly cover requests for authority to do controlled activities, such as taking trees for construction, are fully indexed for the Leconfield archive. In these there is a detailed petition to be excused the 1688 general fine on the mill, shown below.⁸ Thirdly, various manorial surveys give information on holdings and rents. The Percy Surveys of 1569 and 1578 both give information on two holdings of fulling mills at Tenters. Additionally the parliamentary survey of the adjacent manor of Lorton, belonging to the Dean and Chapter and surveyed as church property in 1649, allows borders to be drawn (see page 3) and neighbours identified.

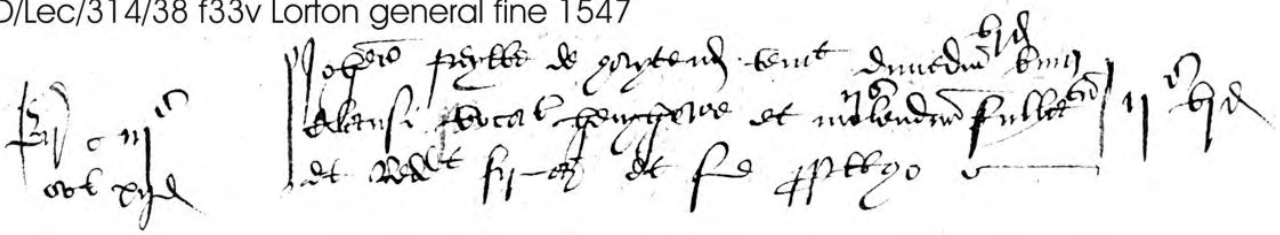


Descent through manorial records. The table on page 8 shows how the fulling mills at Tenters can be traced through the manorial records which have so far been found, and it is not of course essential to find every surviving record to establish a picture. It can be seen that the first known record is in the ministers accounts of 1481/2, in which a new rent of 2s is included for a mill constructed three years ago on land granted to John Williamson. By the time of the 1547 general fine this is in the hands of the Peylle family as a single holding, as illustrated in the single-entry extract on page 9, but in the 1569

⁸ CRO/W/D/Lec/265/32 Petition of John and Margaret Myrehaus

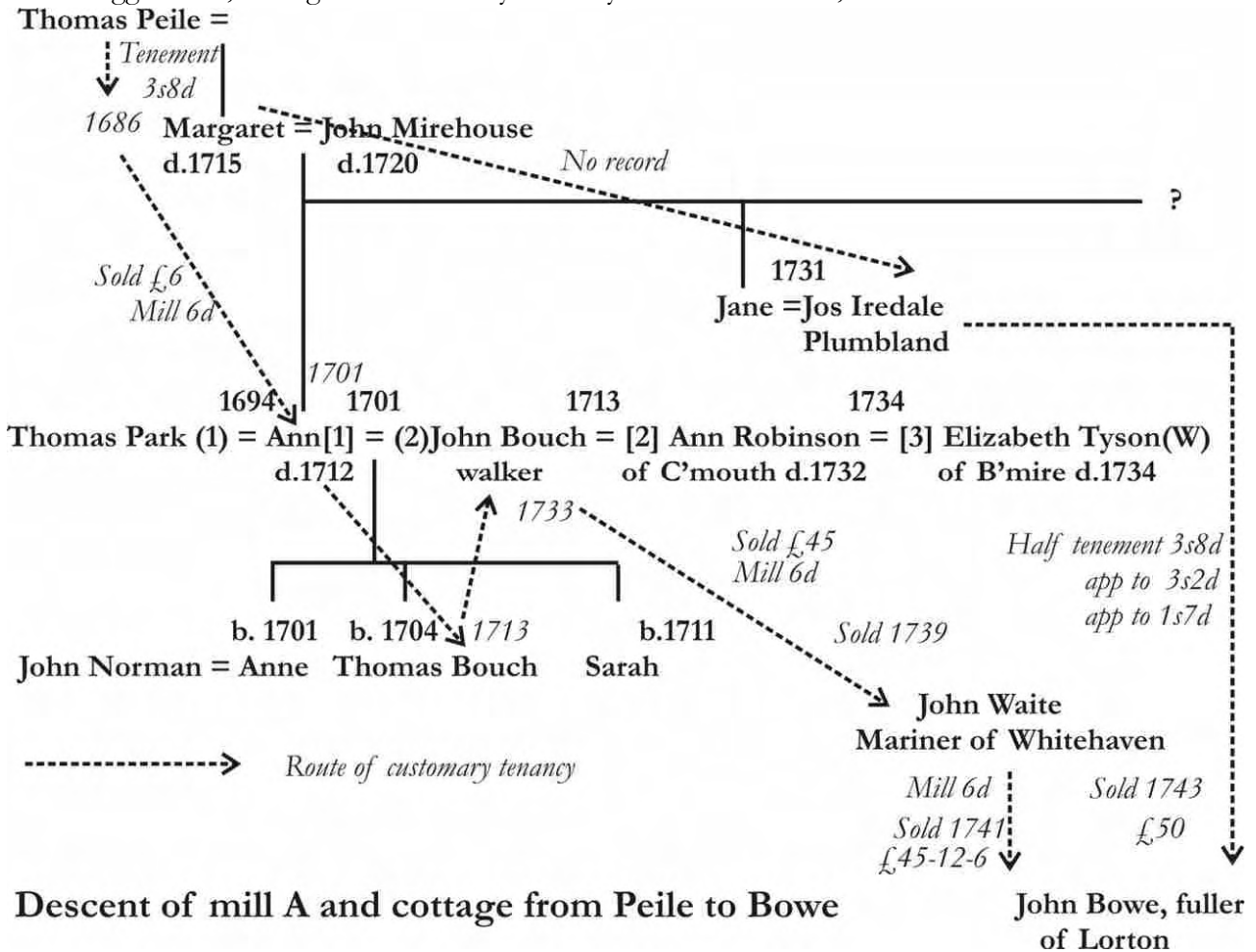
Date	Description			Rent	Tenant			Type	Reference
1481/2	Fulling mill erected on Whitbek three years ago			New rent 2s	Jn Williamson, or Thos Wilkinson& Jn Pele			Accounts	CRO/W/D/Lec 302 Acc: 1 Ric III
1547	Fulling mill and half close Heighowe			2s mill +close 6d	Jn Peylle of gaytend			Gen fine	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/38
	Mill A				Mill B				
	Description	Rent	Tenant	Description	Rent	Tenant			
1569	Fulling mill	Pt 2s8d	Jn Peele	Fulling mill	1s6d	Thos Peele	Survey	TNA/E/164/37	
1578	Walk mill	Pt 2s8d+1s close	Jn Peele	Walk mill	1s6d+1s close	Thos Peele	Survey	CRO/W/Percy survey 1578	
1649			Bouder of manor of Lorton adjacent to 'Peile of the Tenters'					Survey	CRO/C/D&C/8/8/8
1659				Walkmill&tenement	2s6d	Ptr>Tho Peele	S&A	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/7	
1686	Tenement	3s8d	Tho Peele>Mgt Mirus (dau)				Surrender & Admit	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/46	
1688	Tenement	3s8d	Mgt Mirehouse	Fulling mill	1s3d (app 2s6d)	Ewan Christian	Gen fine	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/46	
1688x 1701	Fullers mill		Jn&Mgt Mirehouse				Petition	CRO/W/D/Lec/265/32	
1697				Fulling mill	1s3d (app 2s6d)	Ewan>Rbt Christian	S&A	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/46	
1700				Fulling mill	1s4d	Wm>Thos Bow	S&A	CRO/W/D/Lec/314/18	
1701	Tenement	6d app 3s8d	Jn&Mgt Mirehouse > Ann Park				S&A	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/5	
1713	Tenement	6d app 3s8d	Ann Bouch>Thos Bouch&Jn Bouch				S&A	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/8	
1723	Fulling mill	6d	Thos Bouch				Gen Fine	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/10	
1733	Fulling mill	6d	Thos>Jn Bouch				S&A	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/11	
1739	Fulling mill	6d	Jn Bouch>Jn Waite				S&A	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/12	
1741	Fulling mill	6d	Jn Waite>Jn Bowe				S&A	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/13	
1749	Fulling mill	6d	Jn Bowe				Gen Fine	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/16	
1750	Fulling mill	6d	Jn Bowe				Gen Fine	CRO/W/YDX/392/1/19	
1750				Fulling mill	1s4d + 2d	Geo Bowes > Rbt Collin	S&A	CRO/W/D/Lec/EO/Derw entfells	
1758				Fulling mill	1s4d	Rbt Collin > Jn Bowe infant	S&A	CRO/W/D/Lec/EO/Derw entfells	
1760	Fulling mill	6d of 6s11d	Jn Bowe				Enfran	CRO/W/YDX/392/2/10	

Descent of the Tenters fulling mill property through manorial records only.



Percy survey, the family held two mills, which might be interpreted as two co-sited mills where there was once one. Examination of how the rents flow in future records suggest, though somewhat tenuously, that the 2s rental was apportioned into two parts of 1s6d and 6d, perhaps between two sons. However, the 6d element was not separated out from a larger tenement holding of 3s8d until the Mirehouses separated the mill from their cottage in 1701. By 1758, two years before enfranchisement, the tenancies of both mills had been brought into the family of John Bowe; one which he held himself and presumably worked as a fuller, the other through the tenancy of his young son, John Bowe Jr. Perhaps this arrangement was made before enfranchisement to remove any other claim on the property.

Family relationships and inheritance. The above analysis traces the history of the fulling mills and their ownerships from manorial records. However, the records, with other sources give more information about the way in which marriage and inheritance was used to keep such businesses viable and supporting the continuing family. Examination of the ownership of mill A just from surnames would suggest that, having been in the Peyle family since before 1547, it went from Peele to Mirehouse

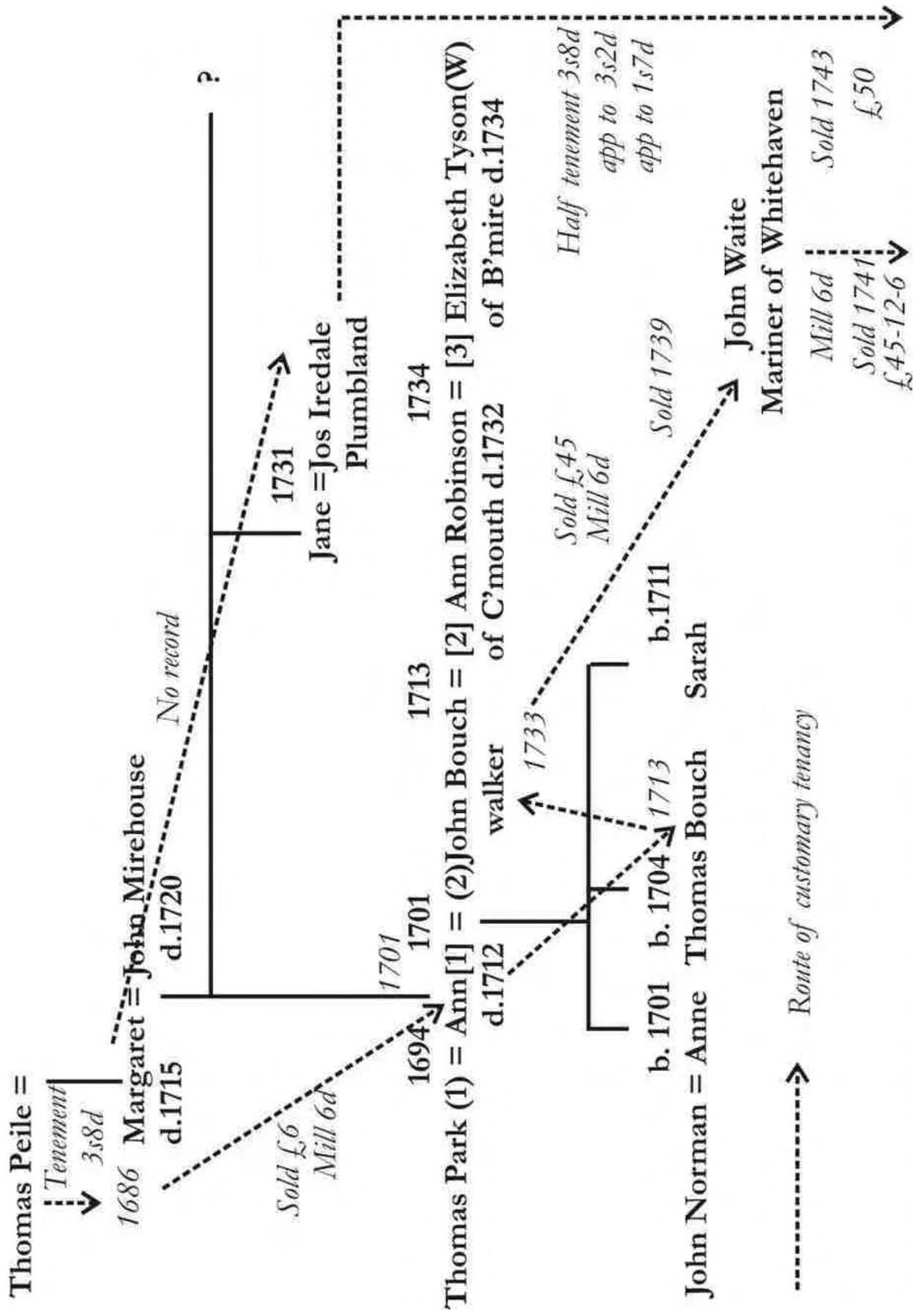


to Park to Bouch to Thwaite and to Bowe between 1686 and 1741. Closer examination, in conjunction with the parish registers and early indentures shows that extensive efforts were made to keep the business within the family. The petition shows how Margaret Mirehouse had inherited a decayed fulling mill (with two cottages) from her father, John Peile, and had not the means to work it. The solution found was to sell the mill for a nominal fee of £6, perhaps to pay an outstanding fine of £5-10s, to their widowed daughter, Ann Park, who in turn married a fuller, John Bouch. Ann attempted to keep the mill in her family, by moving the tenancy to her young son Thomas Bouch, rather than her husband, when she died in 1712. The tenancy was eventually moved from the son to the father, John Bouch, in 1733. John Bouch was remarried and was widowed twice more before selling the mill in 1739 for £40 to John Waite, a mariner of Whitehaven who had no known family or fulling connexions. He most probably rented the mill to John Bowe, whose family held the other co-located mill, for two years before John Bowe purchased it. The apparent complexity of the transactions tendsto obscure a long-term transfer of both mills, as opportunity and the human and financial resources permitted, from the Peile family of fullers to the Bowe family of fullers, two fulling dynasties which together cover three hundred years of fulling in Lorton.

Family holdings. Whilst the above attempts to show how businesses were retained in families, it is also possible to see through manorial records how rural industries were closely connected through family ties. The following chart on page 11 demonstrates, by rent analysis, how the complete package of property enfranchised to John Bowe in 1760, later known as the ‘Tenters estate’ was constructed through acquisition, inheritance and marriage.

Conclusion

The history of the Tenters fulling mill and later flax thread mill has been established from the record of construction in 1479, though of course the site may have been reused, until the demolition of the thread mill soon after 1912. The early part of this history, of the mill property, of the family ownership and descent, of the relationship with other rural industrial properties and the families involved, has made extensive and essential use of manorial records. To an extent the completeness is due to the prior work of other researchers and the fortunate survival of many documents, but the availability of extensive manorial records in this part of Cumberland means that, in many cases, manorial records are a valuable and practical source for property history.

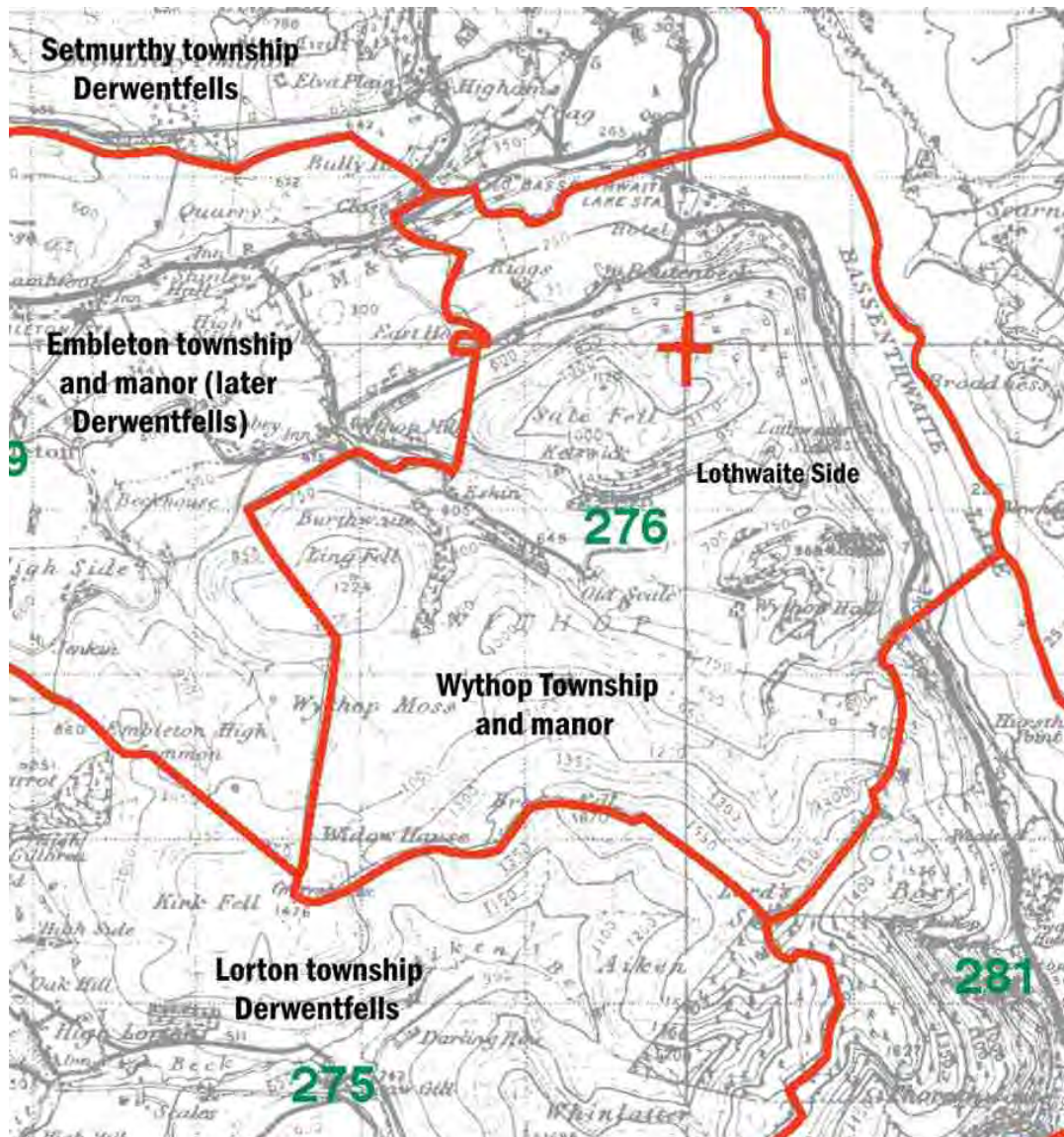


Descent of mill A and cottage from Peile to Bowe **John Bowe, fuller of Lorton**

Annex B. The Borrowscale Family of Lothwaiteside in Wythop

Introduction

The Borrowscale family history relates to a very small family, probably with Cumberland origins. The name is thought to derive from two words; 'burghan' the middle English meaning 'burial mound' and 'skali' Old Norse for 'huts' meaning the shepherds huts on the summer pasture. Medieval Borrowscale records are known to exist in Matterdale, where there was also a later Borrowscale place-name, but the Matterdale records are yet to be investigated. Joan Borrowscale, an experienced family historian who recounts her experience below, has taken the opportunity to investigate the manorial records of the Cockermouth area, to illuminate and take back the history of her own ancestors, who were, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, customary tenants the Vane family's manor of Wythop. Wythop was granted to John De Lucy out of (or subinfeudated from) the manor of Derwentfells in 1260, as in the annotated map below⁹. The Fletcher family of Cockermouth purchased the manor in 1606 and manorial records survive in the Vane (previously Fletcher) archive from the seventeenth century.¹⁰ The Borrowscale tenement of Lothwaiteside, in Wythop, has been studied and is covered by this report.



⁹ Kain, Roger & Oliver, Richard. *Historic Parishes of England and Wales*. An electronic map of boundaries before 1850. Colchester. History Data Service, 2001

¹⁰ Winchester, A. *Landscape and society in medieval Cumbria* Edinburgh, John Donald, 1987

My Introduction to Manorial Records – Joan Borrowscale.

As a member of the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society since almost its beginning, I was invited to continue my Borrowscale family history research within the project. I have during the past two years delved into the manorial documents in the Vane family archive documents at Carlisle Record Office, because the Vane family held Wythop manor, which was granted out of Derwentfells in the Medieval period.¹¹ When the group was formed I was keen to look also at the Leconfield archive, which is in Cockermouth Castle.¹² The boxes are ordered and brought to us by the staff of Whitehaven Record Office.

I started my research back in 1983 in Liverpool beginning with myself. I got to know who and where the Borrowscale family came from. Having exhausted the research in Liverpool and now knowing that my Gt/Grandfather Joseph was born in Northumberland, and his father was Francis who was born in Cockermouth. Francis was a stone mason and waller in Cockermouth according to census returns, and came to Liverpool in 1830 together with his parents, Joseph Borrowscale and Dorothy (nee Fearon) who were both in their 70s at this time. They died in Liverpool soon after; Dorothy in 1832 and Joseph in 1839, and are buried in St. James Cemetery where they have a memorial headstone. Most of the children of Joseph and Dorothy also came to Liverpool from Cockermouth, but that is another very interesting story.

From the early 1990s my research then took me to Cumberland and mainly to Carlisle Record Office, where I looked at the Parish Registers for the area and listed all the Borrowscale entries I could find. I searched the registers of St. Cuthbert, Lorton, St. Cuthbert, Embleton, St. Bartholemew, Loweswater, St. Bridget, Bridekirk, and St. Michael, Isel, and I made a search for local Borrowscale wills. As I went back in time I noticed that the spelling of the name altered, and I came across Borriskale, Borriskaile, Borranskell and others. I still have a file of the names I picked up from each register, and I still refer to it. I also looked at memorial inscriptions, the only one of interest being in St. Cuthbert, Embleton.

ERECTED
IN MEMORY OF SARAH BORROSHELL
DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH AND JANE OF WYTHOP
WHO DIED JANUARY 4th 1758
AGED 1 YEAR
ALSO THEIR SON WILLIAM WHO DIED
MARCH 10th 1774 AGED 1 YEAR
AND THEIR ELDEST SON JOHN WHO DIED
MAY 3rd 1775 AGED 22 YEARS
JOHN BORRASKELL OF LOTHWAITESIDE
DIED 2ndMAY 1779 AGED 77 YEARS
ELIZABETH BORRASKELL HIS WIFE
DIED 10th JANUARY 1779 AGED 79 YEARS
SON JOHN DIED 12 OCTOBER 1780 AGED 44 YEARS
THE 4th OF THAT NAME
ERECTED BY JOSEPH BORRASKELL

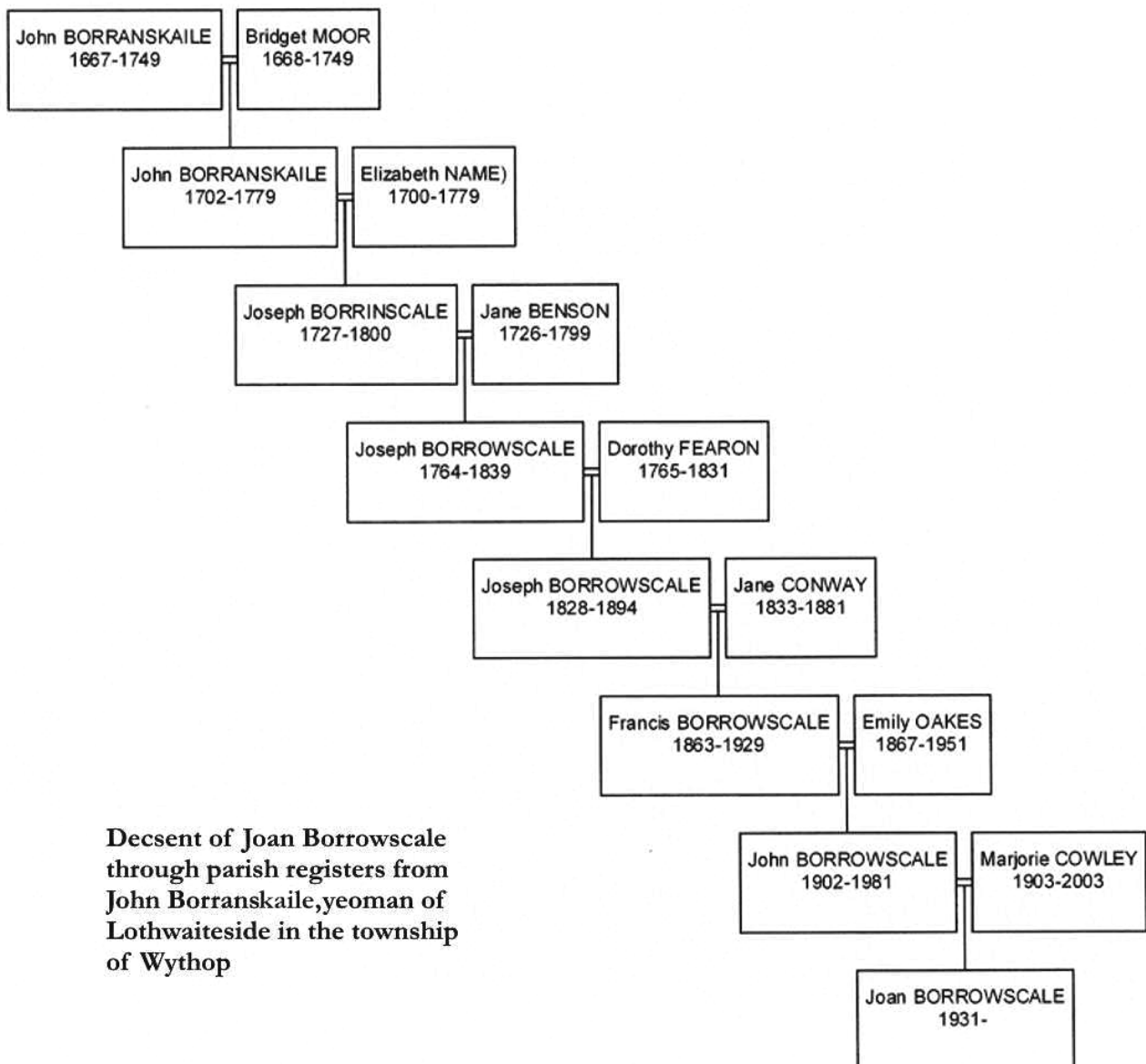
This I found in a booklet in Carlisle Library and I was sure that it referred to my direct ancestors. I visited the Churchyard, and found the stone. I was beginning now to set out a family tree for the Cumberland family of Wythop.

It was now time I thought to look at the manorial records for the tenement of Lothwaiteside in Wythop to see if I could put some flesh on the bones of the research I had done previously. This I did in Carlisle Record Office, and looked at the D/Van files and the result of this search was very exciting.

¹¹ CRO/C/D/Van. The Vane archive

¹² CRO/W/D/Lec. The Leconfield archive

I learned about John and Elizabeth mentioned on the stone and their son and daughter John and Bridget, and how they came into the property as manorial tenants in the 17th & 18th centuries, and much more. I came away from the library with many copies of these very old documents, authorised of course by the staff. It was in 1994 that I joined the Lorton & Derwentfells Local History Society, and I had a lot of help from them, in particular the late Ron George (Chairman) and Michael Grieve (past Secretary). Michael went to Lothwaiteside and took some photographs for me of the area and the old buildings there. I then continued further by looking at the D/Lec files from Cockermouth Castle since becoming a group member in 2005. Again I found some very interesting items relating to my project. The outcome of all my research into the Borrowscale family is that I am the only living descendant in the world. I have contacted a great many people doing their own research, but no-one else is researching my family name.



The manorial records of Lothwaiteside

The records. Lothwaiteside was a tenement in Wythop manor, which was purchased by the Fletcher family in 1606. This marks the start of known manorial records for the tenement, now in the Vane archive, to whom the manor descended through marriage via the Fletcher-Vanes (of Hutton Hall). The relevant manorial records, and other archive documents, are shown in the table below.

No.	Date	Record Type	Summary	Reference
1	3/8/1655	Surrender & admittance (Wythop)	Robert Peirson of Burthwaite surrendered parcels of land in Wythop, Willaim Borranskell admitted. [Customary] 3.5 acres. Rent 18p, fine 30s	CRO/C/D/Van 14
2	24/8/1657	Verdict (Wythop)	Resolution of a dispute between John Fisher of Wythop Hall and William Borranskell of Lothwaiteside, concernig B's access to common for stock and turbary over F's land.	CRO/C/D/Van
3	1697	Admittance (Wythop)	Admittance of John Borrongsill of Wythop on death of his father, William to two parcels in Wythop. Rent 13s1d. Fine £15	CRO/C/D/Van 4
4	/6/1712	Wythop general fine	John Borranskell admitted to messuage and tenement rent 11s7d plus parcel of land Woodside rent 1s6d. Fine £11 15s6d	CRO/C/D/Van
5	22/5/1727	Wythop Court Baron	John Borranskell was a juror.	CRO/C/D/Van
6	21/3/1755	Surrender & admittance (held at house of Jn Borranskaile)	John Borranskaile surrendered messuage and tenement at Lothat Side rent 11s7d and parcel Woodside rent 1s6d. Brigit Borranskaile admitted. Fine £6	CRO/C/D/Van 29&30
7	2/04/1757	Surrender & admittance	Wm Thompson surrendered messuage and tenement at Lothat Side of four enclosures. Rent 5s6d. John Borranskaile admitted	CRO/C/D/Van 28
8	13/10/1757	Surrender & admittance	John Borranskail surrendered messuage and part tenement at Lothat side, formerly held by Stubbs, rent 5s6d. Alexander Hoskins, gent, admitted. Fine £5 10s	CRO/C/D/Van 28
9	13/10/1757	Surrender & admittance	John Borranskail, Bridget France and Richard France surrendered messuage and tenement at Lothat Side rent 11s6d and parcel Woodside rent 1s6d. Anthony Hoskins, gent, admitted. Fine £11 11s8d.	CRO/C/D/Van 29

Interpretation. From 6 and 7 it is known that Lothwaiteside was in two parts with two messuages (or dwelling houses) in separate ownerships. One part, the long-term Borrowscale holding, was the major part of rent 11s7d. The other part was acquired by John Borranskaile in 1757. In 8 and 9, John Borranskail, his daughter Bridget and son-in-law Richard France have sold all their Wythop property to Alexander Hoskins. John Borranskaile had, in 1755 passed the family holding to his daughter Bridget, then unmarried. Bridget (her grandmother's name) does not appear in the Lorton parish registers and was found through these records. Separate records relating to Derwentfells show that in 1727 John and Elizabeth took a moiety (rent 4s) of a tenement at Highbarkhouse in adjacent Setmurthy in Derwentfells. This they surrendered to John Wilson in 1734, reserving it to their occupation during their natural lives, suggesting a 'retirement' property.

The old family holding comprised both Lothwaiteside, rent 11s7d plus land called Woodside, rent 1s6d, which, from 1, had been acquired in 1655, making 13s1d. Woodside can be found on the

tithe survey and map (below) and is arable land adjacent to Chapel Wood and adjoining the Lothwaiteside tenement.¹³ The 3.5 acres in the record will be customary acres using a perch of seven feet. The area in statute acres will be 60% higher or 5.6 acres, which agrees well enough with the tithe figure of 6.3 acres. Woodside had probably been taken in earlier from the wood. Record 2 places that William in Lothwaiteside in 1657. The hearth tax returns of 1644 list a William as the only Borranskail with a hearth in Wythop.



Record 3 confirms that William was the father of John and that the property at Lothwaiteside, identified by the rent, was passed on. This takes the family back a generation. No earlier records are available in D/Van, but the protestation returns of 1641 list only Thomas Borranskil. The parish registers record that Thomas Borranskell of Lothwaiteside buried daughter Jane in 1601, and so it is likely, but still to be proved, that a Thomas was the father of William.

Conclusion

Manorial records have in this case taken the family tree back a further generation and securely linked the family, as yeoman farmers, to property holdings from 1655 to 1757. Earlier manorial records for Wythop are not available, and so it is unlikely that family relationships can be taken back further, though more general information on the Borrowscalls and their holdings is expected from other manors.

¹³ TNA/IR30/7/188 Tithe map of Wythop

Annex C:- Poundfolds and Pinfolds of Cumbria

A Survey of remaining structures and study of their management.

1. Poundfolds and Pinfolds Research.

Poundfolds and pinfolds are structures usually built of stone and were used to impound straying animals. A Pinder collected the animals and drove them to the pound releasing them only on payment of a fee. They were in use in some form probably from the 14th century up until the general enclosure of land.

I had identified, from Parish Councils, local information and other sources, that some pounds and pinfolds still existed in the area covered by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society (L&DLHS) and Cumbria as a whole but it is also obvious that numerous structures had disappeared as most townships would have had a poundfold in the 15th and 16th century. See Appendix 1 for photographs of existing pounds and pinfolds in the area covered by the L&DFHS.

There are several different terms used for these structures in manorial records and elsewhere. The earlier references tend to be to poundfold or pinfold shortened to fold or fould. In later references pound or pinfold became the more usual term.

2. Manorial Records – Expectation.

Original records providing evidence of their use are difficult to find. Research using first edition Ordnance Survey maps together with other secondary sources provided some information but failed to provide any real sense of how pounds and pinfolds functioned in the mainly agricultural communities of Cumbria.

The expectation was that as poundfolds were a mechanism for land management introduced by the Lord of the Manor then evidence of their operation within the manor might be contained within the Manorial Records available through the Cumbria Manorial Records Project.

I was hoping to find evidence of how and when pounds and pinfolds were financed, built, maintained and managed. The appointment of the pinder, how he was paid and how he managed the pound was also of interest. The relationship between the manor court and the use or misuse of the pound and the resultant penalties imposed was expected to provide indications of the role of pounds and pinfolds in society during the period covered by the Manorial Records. I was also hoping that any references to pinfolds in a specific township might help me to locate the actual site or existence of the pinfold referred to.

3. Manorial Records – Pro's and Con's.

The use of Manorial Records for research into poundfolds and pinfolds through the Cumbria Manorial Records Project has been very successful in providing me with an original source of information about their use and the impact on the society that both used and misused them.

By their nature and custom at the time the records can be a challenge to read and interpret. Some of the earlier records examined for this research were in Latin on parchment scrolls. Fortunately a previous scholar had transcribed many of them.¹⁴ The later documents were in English but even these provided a challenge because of the legal terms, local vernacular and variable spelling. However this challenge was welcomed and suggested several new lines of historical enquiry.

4. Manorial Records – Findings.

I have so far examined transcribed records of Manor Court proceedings that were held regularly to appoint officers and impose fines for a large number of

¹⁴ CRO/W/D/Lec 299A, transcriptions of D/Lec 299

offences. (as well as those connected with pounds by far the most numerous were offences such as shedding the blood of someone, keeping scabby horses, breaking a bow and being of evil tongue. They reflect the culture in the 16C and could well inspire further research!). An examination was also made of Petitions to the Lord of the Manor and Submissions to Counsel.

My findings were:

Fines were regularly imposed for failure to keep fences in good repair. Poor fence maintenance resulted in straying animals and hence the need for pinfolds and pounds. Fines were imposed for “foldbreach or “foldbreach”. The unlawful freeing of animals from the poundfold to avoid the payment to the Pinder:

- Derwentfell Capital Court 8th October 1473 – “Brakenthwayt presents John Strib for his servant for 1 foldbreach against John Thomlynsion Junior”. Fined 13s 6p.
ref: CROW D/LEC 299a roll 8/10.
- Deyn Court 1488 – John Rogerscale for 1 foldbreach and mowing the grass contrary to the penalties. Fined 2d. CROW D/LEC 299a.
- Papcas Court 10th October 1533 – “Also they present Thomas Lamplughtt of Doven for 1 foldbreach (fined 40d) and for 12 pigs, 16 sheep and 30 geese on cow pasture of the neighbourhood at the several season” (fined 2s).
ref: CROW D/LEC 299a roll 19/20.
- Court Leet 26th October 1635. For a rescue of a fould break Thomas Wells and a servant of Thomas Dobson fined 12d
ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/8*

Fines were also imposed for “rescue” where the animals were “rescued” or forcibly taken from the Pinder or bailiff as they were driven to pound:

- Derwentfell Court on the Feast of St Denis 1488 – “John Bank Keld is presented for 1 rescue made on the township bailiff Thomas Blaykthwayt near the gate for the keeping of 2 stots(?). Fined 10p.
ref: CROW D/LEC 299a.
- Loweswater Court on 13th October in the 19th year of the reign of Henry 7th (1504) – “Thomas Williamson underbailiff presents Richard Piell for a rescue on the said Thomas when he levies the execution of the court against the wife of Thomas” Fined 40d.
ref: CROW D/LEC 299a.
- 1636. Thomas Coulton for a rescue made on William Marshall fined 2s
ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/8*
- September 29th 1640. Two rescues made by the servants of John Marshall from the servants of John Richardson. Fined 3s 4d.
ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/11.

Pounds and pinfolds had to be maintained and in some cases re-built. The responsibility for this was decided by the Manor Court and also included petitions to the Lord of the Manor:

- A petition “To the right honorable George O’Brien, Earl of Egremont and Baron of Cockermouth” from “the tenants of your Lordship’s Manor of Caldbeck Upton and Underfell in the County of Cumberland” . The petition appeals to the Lord Egremont to contribute to the rebuilding of the Pound or Pinfold, as is the custom, and in order to preserve their Right of Pasturage on a large tract of un-enclosed Common in the Manor.
The full text provides an insight into the need for a pound, its use and the cost of rebuilding it of £21:10s in 1816
ref: CROW D/LEC
- Court Leet 1629 April 29th. “We order that the pinfould at Gleaston shalbe made able by all the towne before the 6 daie of maie next upon paine of 6^s 8^d”.

ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/8*

- Manor of Deane petition 22nd October 1699. “now a mercy for tenants of Deane for the punfould wall being out of repair the sum of six shillings and eight pence and the same to be levied of every man as is concerned of...before the

Other entries of interest to be carefully interpreted seem to include the stealing of the poundloose (ie.the charge for letting cattle loose from the pound) and alleged use of the pound to cause mischief:

- Wigton Court 23rd May 1533 – “Thomas Lamplughtt, Richard Briscow and William Mertindale, free tenants of the Lord of Dondraw and Whirig did attach foreign cattle and take the poundloose otherwise than they ought and are accustomed” They were fined 40s. ref: CROW D/LEC 299a roll 19/20.
- Five Towns Capital Court 30th April 1519 – “John Jakson of Clifton complains of William Hayne of Graystone in the plea of trespass to wit for that same defendant did unlawfully impark a cow of the said plaintiff of the value of 12s in the Inclosure (pound) of Graysothen whereby the same plaintiff did lose his cow aforesaid from which his damage is 40s. Defendant denies wherefore an Inquisition plaintiff recovers nothing because defendant is not to blame therefore plaintiff in mercy
ref: CROW D/LEC 299a

As the pounds and pinfolds became obsolete with the Enclosure Acts or through general neglect responsibility for them became problematical. This can be seen in a submission on Manorial Pounds to Counsel made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England. The main points of advice sought were:

- a, Whether the Commissioners are at liberty to pull down existing pounds.
- b, Whether they can pull down existing pounds if they substitute them for other pounds.
- c, Whether if pounds are fallen into decay the Commissioners can be compelled to reinstate them.
- d, Whether any distinction exists between the pounds in lifehold Manors and those in Manors of inheritance as regards any of the above mentioned questions.

Counsel’s opinion is recorded at great length and is subject to ongoing study.
ref: CROW D/LEC 293/35

5. Manorial Records – Work in Progress.

In further work examining Manorial Records I hope to identify:

- more examples of pound management
- evidence of fines and a reason for their variation
- references to the pinder and his appointment
- evidence to link manor record references to still existing pounds and pinfolds
- the role of the Lord in their construction and management

There is one other known study of pounds and pinfolds being undertaken in North Lincolnshire whose findings are not yet known. In the Furness area of south Cumbria a study of the manorial records of the Manor of Muchland has provided some evidence of pound breaches and rescues, see para 4, which support the findings of this study.

** I thank Vivien Hudson for these references and extracts from her transcriptions of manorial records of the Manor of Muchland (Michelland), held at Barrow-in-Furness Records Office.*

6. Conclusion.

Manorial Records are proving to be a valuable, and perhaps singular, source of information about how Pounds and Pinfolds featured in the life of the countryside from the 16th to the 19th century. Although only brief details of their construction, upkeep and use can be found, these references do recur regularly and a good picture is beginning to emerge.

This first exploration of Manorial Records has consisted mainly of gathering material and this will continue. The next stage is to compare different sources, search for more and hopefully build a good understanding of this historical aspect of our culture and countryside.

Images of Pinfolds



Greysouthern pound



Lorton poundfold



Loweswater pinfold

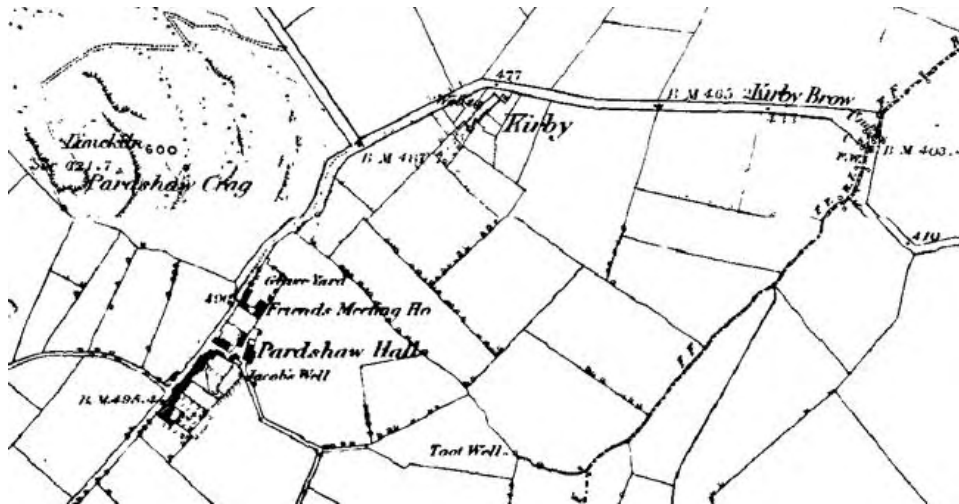


Brigham pound

Annex D. The Hamlets of Pardshaw Hall and Kirby

Introduction

Pardshaw Hall and Kirby were two tiny hamlets in the township of Pardshaw, in the parish of Dean, situated about 3 miles south-west of Cockermouth. Nothing now remains of Kirby but Pardshaw Hall still exists, comprising sixteen dwellings. It is where I moved in 2000. My historical researches began because [for reasons I won't go into here] I wanted to change the name of my house and hoped to find a historical name to use. It didn't take me long to find that until the middle of the twentieth century, separate addresses were not used. References in Parish Registers [and the like] are simply to 'of Pardshaw Hall'. I decided to research the history of the whole hamlet and included Kirby as it very close and because there is nothing left. Having started, I have become hooked. What I particularly like is finding two or three references to the same person. This begins to fill out the picture of them, their lives and where they lived.



Pardshaw Hall and Kirby, from the Ordnance Survey first series map, 6" to 1 mile, surveyed 1867

Previous Research

I am not the first to have looked at the history of the area. Pardshaw Hall is the home of the Pardshaw Meeting and two books have been written with this as the primary focus.

- *The History of Pardshaw Meeting and Meeting House* by Margaret Irwin published by the Society of Friends.
- *Pardshaw, Quakers and Others* by J Bernard Bradbury.

It also features in

- *Quaker Meeting Houses of the Lake Counties* by David M Butler

Finally Isaac Fletcher, a yeoman who lived on the other side of the valley in the 18th century, kept a diary. This has survived for the years 1756 to 1781 and been transcribed and edited and turned into a most wonderful resource by Angus JL Winchester as

- *The Diary of Isaac Fletcher of Underwood, Cumberland 1756 - 1781*.¹⁵

¹⁵ Fletcher, Isaac, d.1781. *The diary of Isaac Fletcher of Underwood, Cumberland, 1756-1781* / edited by Angus J.L. Winchester. Kendal : Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, 1994

I have studied as many sources as I have been able to lay my hands on in the time available so far and I am still looking. I have noted all references to people of or at Pardshaw Hall or Kirby. I may have missed some references because I now believe that on occasion, when the record says of Pardshaw this may include people of Pardshaw Hall.



Kirby around 1875, attributed to Joseph Adair; Jackson collection, Carlisle Library

The Manorial Records Project

I was pleased to accept the challenge of getting involved with this project, seeing it as a way of looking at records I hadn't previously encountered with some expert assistance. I hoped I might find earlier references to extend my knowledge back in history, as well as additional information to fill in gaps.

I haven't found a great deal. Many of the records use names alone with no indication of the residence of the players. Occasionally I came across a distinctive name I recognised and occasionally Pardshaw Hall or Kirby was named. Reading the old handwriting was tricky and there are an awful lot of documents to plough through! This was where being part of the project was helpful as we were able to spot references for each other.

Findings.

I am going to concentrate on one family that I already knew quite a lot about - that of John Usher. I found two separate references to him in the Manorial Records.

- A petition by him in 1726 to the Manor of Five Towns, supported by a dozen of his neighbours, to enclose part of the common to make a cabbage garth (or enclosed garden). An image of the original and a full transcription are at the end of this annex.
- A plea of trespass by him in 1759 to the Manor of Five Towns with Eaglesfield, against another neighbour, Pennington Hutchinson to the damage of 39s 11d.

John Usher was a waller, sometimes described as a slater or stonemason. Generally he was of Pardshaw Hall, but once, of Kirby. He was married to Ann and I am aware of three sons: John Junior, Thomas and Joseph. Thomas and Joseph died as children, but John Junior went on to marry Sarah Head and have two daughters: Ann and Elizabeth. I have nothing after 1812.

The Dean parish registers contain many details.

1726 Sept 18 baptism of Joseph son John Usher of Pardshaw Halt

1736 Oct 1 burial of Joseph son of John Usher of Pardshaw Hall

1769 Sept 9 burial of John Usher [senior] of Pardshaw Hall, waller aged 80

1770 April 1 burial of Ann Usher, widow of Pardshaw Hall, aged 79

1770 Sept 16 marriage of John Usher and Sarah Head both of Dean

1771 July 13 baptism of Ann daughter of John Usher of Pardshaw Hall, waller

1777 Nov 20 baptism of Elizabeth daughter of John Usher of Pardshaw Hall, waller

1797 May 20 burial of John Usher of Pardshaw Hall, waller, aged 77.

In addition, John [junior]'s will survives.¹⁶ Although it was written in May 1797, it was not proved until February 1812. He described himself as 'of Pardshaw Hall' and left his house, garden, shop and effects to his widow Sarah whom he appointed as executrix. In the deed of administration, he was described as a mason and his goods were valued at not more than £20. The John Ushers are mentioned several times Isaac Fletcher's diaries [referred to above] and have their own entry in the Biographical Notes.

***Usher, John.** There were several families of Usher in the Dean area in the eighteenth century. The John Ushers mentioned in the diary appear to have been father and son and to have lived at Pardshaw Hall.*

***John Usher, senior (c.1689-1769)** was a waller or stonemason. He was paid at a rate of 1s per day in 1760-1. He was described as a slater, living at Kirby, in 1720 and as a waller at his death. He was buried at Dean 9 Sep 1769 aged 80 years*

*His son, **John Usher, junior (1720-1797)** was baptised at Dean 13 Mar 1720. He was buried at Dean 20 May 1797, when he was described as a weaver of Pardshaw Hall. He was probably the John Usher who owned an old smithy near the meeting house at Pardshaw Hall in 1775.*

The two John Ushers carried out work for Isaac Fletcher during the time of his diaries including work on his house, on walls elsewhere on his land and on the construction of his lime kiln which can still be seen in Pardshaw Hall and is marked on the map shown above. John Usher, junior, was also taken on as mole catcher at the rate of 5s per year for 5 years in 1775. In addition, Isaac Fletcher, in his capacity as a lawyer, drew up three indentures of apprenticeship for the Ushers. Finally one of them owned a smithy adjacent to the Friends burial ground where Isaac Fletcher had been charged by Friends to build a schoolhouse. The Manorial Records have therefore helped me in the following ways.

In his petition John Usher describes himself as a poor man, with a wife and three small children. It is dated 1 January 1726, the year of baptism or the third son. He says he has 'lately' been given an old barn to turn into a cottage – a barn conversion. Maybe this is when the family first moved to Pardshaw Hall. His wish to make a cabbage garden is an additional human detail.

The mention of the location - in a corner of the common adjoining to the lands of John Ullock of Pardsey and Samuel Robinson of Kirby - helps pinpoint the spot near to Kirby. Of further interest is the list of local residents who supported John Usher's petition. I already had information on several of them but for my purposes it is a pity the exact place of residence of each signatory is not given. However this helps to confirm who was in the area at that time.

The plea, again helped build a picture of the lives of villagers of the time, I already knew something of Pennington Hutchinson whose finances were in considerable disarray when he died. Here we can learn something of his creditors.

Conclusions

Manorial Records can be of use to the local historian in confirming links between people and building a fuller picture of their lives. However it is probably useful to have some background knowledge of the area in question before looking at this type of record.

¹⁶ CRO/W/MF/COP.98

The Petition of John Usher of Pardsey for a small parcel of common for a cabbage garth.¹⁷

To the Worthfull John Christian Esq^r Just^{ice} of the Peace
and sole Com^{missioner} for the Most Noble Lord
Charles Duke of Cornwall, set at his Graces Audits
held at Wehermouth the 1st Day of January
Anno Domⁱⁿⁱ 1726

The Humb^{le} Petition of John Usher of the Township
of Pardsey Hall within the Manors of Three Towns

Humbly sheweth That your petition^r being a poor man and hath
a wife and three small children lately had an Old Farm give
to him at Pardsey Hall before which he hath erected in the
Collage, and there being a little parcel of the common about
forty yards broad and four thirty yards long in a corner of the
common adjoining to the lands of Mr. John Ullack of Pardsey
and John Ullackinson of Kirby (two of the Defendants here under
subscribing) Do most earnestly request and humbly begg
your Excellence, That your poor petition^r may take up the said
small parcel of land in Old to improve it into a Cabbage
Garth which will be an Act of great Charity.

And your petition^r is in Duty bound shall doe
Wth the names are hereunto subscribed Freeholders Tenants and
inhabitants of Pardsey pardsey hall and Kirby (being all Neighbours
hereunto Do unanimously consent and humbly joyn to request
your favour on the behalf of the above named petition^r. Witness
our hands this day and year above mentioned.

John Robinson
Jacob Hatcher
George Wood
Peter Wood
Thomas Pearson
Peter Robinson
John Stecher
Thomas Robinson
George Robinson
John Robinson

John Nicholson
Joseph Wood

¹⁷ CRO/W/D/LEC 265 No 2

**To the worshipful John Christian Esq chief steward and sole commissioner for the most noble
Lord Charles Duke of Somerset at his grace's audit held at Cockermouth Castle the 4th day of
January Anno Dom 1726**

The humble petition of John Usher of the Townshipp of Pardsey Hall within the Mannor of Five Towns humbly showeth you're your petitioner being a poor man and hath a wife and three small children, lately had an old barn given to him at Pardsey Hall which he hath erected in to a cottage and there being a little parcel of the common about ten yards broad and near thirty yards long in a corner of the common adjoining to the lands of Mr John Ullock of Pardsey and Samuel Robinson of Kirby (two of the persons hereunder subscribing) doe most earnestly request and humbly begg your lycence that your poor petitioner may take upp the said small parcel of common in order to improve it into a cabbage garth, which will be an act of great charity.

And your petitioners in duty bound shall ever pray etc.

John Usher

We whose names are hereunder subscribed, freeholders, tenants and inhabitants of Pardsey, Pardsey Hall and Kirby (being all neighbours unto) do unanimously consent and humbly joyne to request your favour on the behalf of the above named petitioner, As witnessed our hand the day and year above menconed,

Sam[ue]ll Robinson

Jacob Fletcher

John Ullock

Peter Head

Thomas Pearson +

Peter Robinson

Isaac Fletcher

Jacob Fletcher

Thomas Robinson

George Robinson

John Robinson

John Nicholson

Joseph Wood

[Endorsed in the margin]

I do allow hereof so that the quantity of ground to be improved do not exceed the quantity of ground above mentioned.

GS Christian

End of Report

