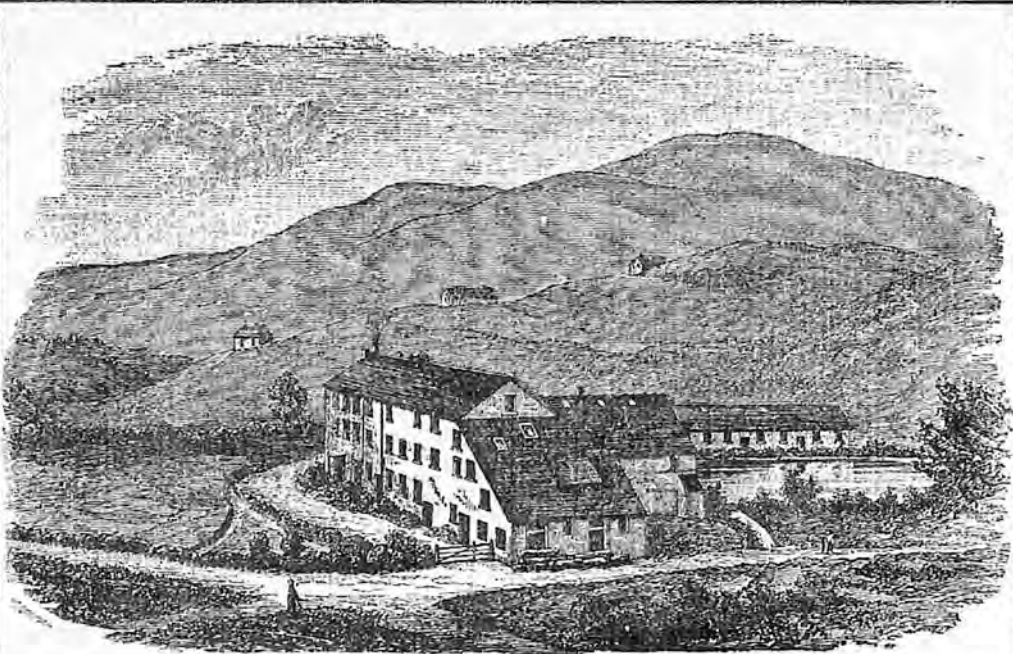


The Journal

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop

www.derwentfells.com



"To the majestic
Cedar joined!"
Cymbeline.

COLEDALE ✦ PENCIL ✦ WORKS,
✦ ✦ ✦ *The* Manufactory of *ye* Old ✦ ✦ ✦
Genuine Cumberland Lead Pencils.

An advertisement for the pencils of Robert Wilson & Co., 1884

The Journal

To my surprise a crop of fine articles has been offered for this issue of the Journal and I find that its format has been stretched to a record of 28 pages, which is our limit. There is plenty of space in the August issue for new contributors.

The major article in this issue, by Roger Asquith, travels just outside of our territory to Keswick, though Braithwaite and Coledale were in the manor of Derwentfells. A history of the important pencil industry of Keswick has been lacking and the Journal is very pleased to accommodate it. Keswick had the triple advantages of something to draw, something to draw with, and visiting people who wanted to draw. But those who made the pencils have long been unnoticed.

Derek Denman
Editor

Contents of Journal No. 47

A Walk through High & Low Lorton in the 1950s	2
16 th & 17 th Century Families at Cold Keld in Loweswater	5
The Characters and Events that shaped Keswick's Pencil Industry	10
The Thomas Burnyeats of High Swinside & the Lamb Inn at Scawgill	23
The Society's Programme	28

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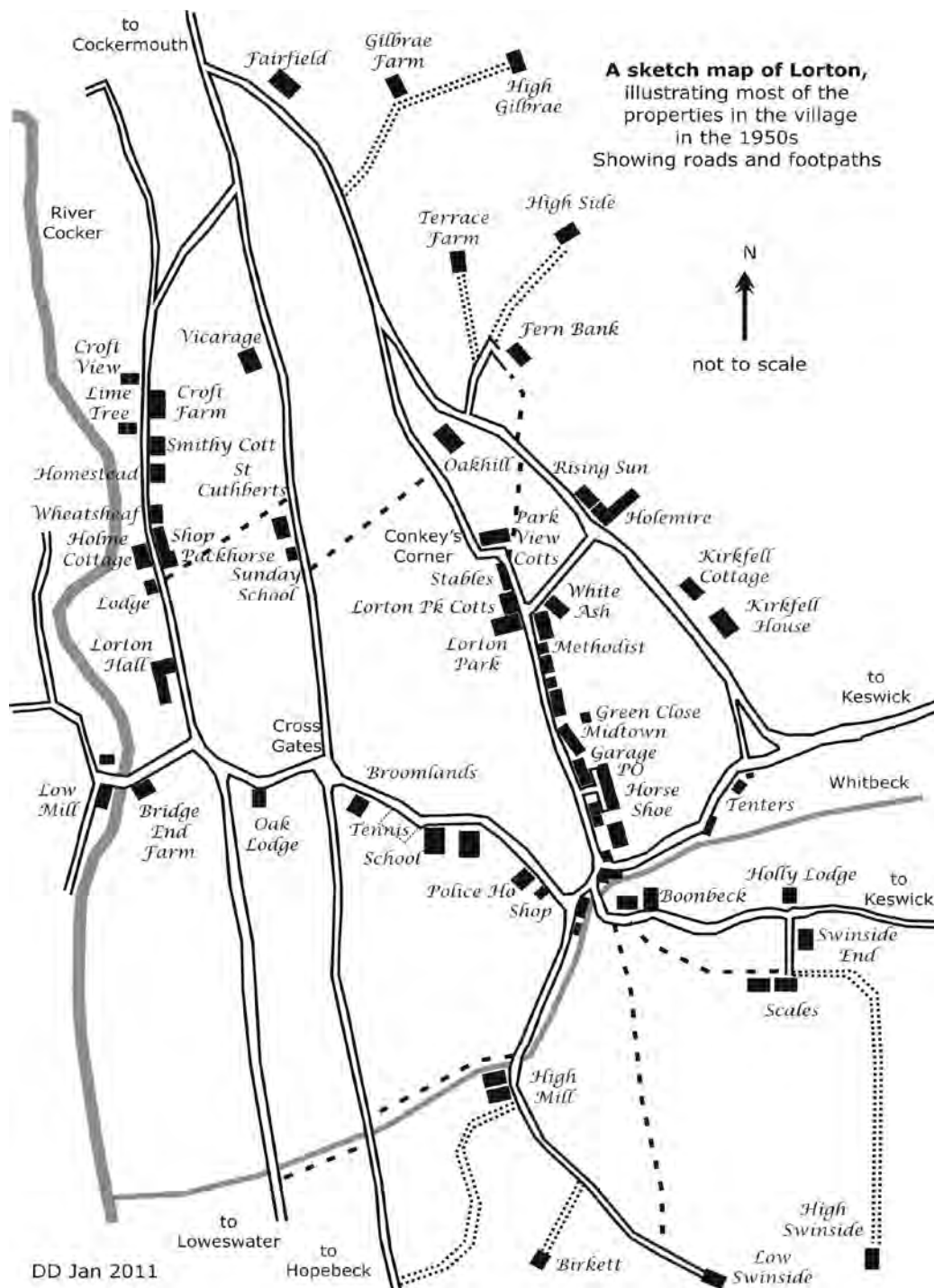
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A Walk Through High & Low Lorton in the 1950s

by Walter Head

The walk through High Lorton starts as we enter the village from the direction of Cockermouth and follows the road through the village, with a short detour to High Mill, before going down to the cross gates junction, then another short detour along Church Lane before continuing down to Low Lorton. Another detour down to the bridge over the river Cocker before following the B5289 through Low Lorton to the 'Y' junction of the B5289 and B5292 then right up the Whinlatter Road, down Tenters then over the bridge up to Scales

As we approach the village the first property on the left was OAKHILL, home of the Mitchell family, Next on the corner were PARK VIEW COTTAGES Nos. 1, 2 & 3. The Conkey family lived in No 1. On the right was LORTON PARK home of Mr & Mrs Kingsley Burns, and LORTON PARK COTTAGE, home of Mrs Adams. There was also an unoccupied flat above the garage. Past this at the junction on the left was WHITE ASH where Mr Stoddart, the village joiner, lived with his family, and next to this was LAMB FOLD home of the Holdsworth family. The next building on the left was THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL, built in 1840. Further on, again on the left, was ROSE COTTAGE occupied by Miss Wise, then came SPRING GARTH home of the Walker family and then PARK VIEW home of Miss Hope. (This was the collection centre for rose hips). Still on the left the next property at Midtown was THE GARAGE and petrol pumps run by the Scott family. Just behind the garage was GREEN CLOSE, recently built by Tom Walling. The next property was KENT COTTAGE home of Miss Sampson, next came CAUSEY COTTAGE, the home of Miss Herbert, and then BEECH COTTAGE where Hubert Wells lived. In the cul-de-sac on the left, Smithy Fold, was THE POST OFFICE run by Miss Wilson and THE HORSESHOE INN (formerly known as The Blacksmiths Arms) where the Geldart family lived. Back on the through road on the left was RED HOUSE occupied by the Jackson family, next was YEW TREE COTTAGE home of Mr & Mrs Rothery, then GRACEHOLME (formerly known as The Cedars) lived in by Major Coburn, retired from the army. Next just before the Tenters



Junction was CORNER HOUSE, home of Ann and Hannah Moffat. Past the junction on the left was CORNER COTTAGE occupied by Mr & Mrs Alf Thomas. Next to Corner Cottage was NUTSHELL, where the Lister family lived, and next to this at No.3 cottage was the home of Miss Girdman. Between these cottages and the bridge was No.1 HOMESTEAD home to Mrs

Fernley, sister of Miss Moffatt, and at No.2 HOMESTEAD lived Mrs Robinson. Past the junction to Scales on the left was the YEWE TREE HALL. Taking the road to the left the first property was No 1 YEWE TREE COTTAGE home of the Lister Family and then No 2 YEWE TREE COTTAGE home of the Beattie family. Further down the road and over the bridge was HIGH MILL COTTAGE occupied

by Mr & Mrs Adams and adjacent to this was HIGH MILL occupied by Miss Stalker. Further along down a track on the right was BIRKETT COTTAGE where Betsy Millican lived, and finally at the end of the road stood LOW SWINSIDE FARM farmed by Mr & Mrs Jack Ullock.

Returning to the Yew Tree Hall junction the next property on the left was THE VILLAGE SHOP where Leslie Milburn was proprietor. Past this on the left was THE POLICE HOUSE where P.C. Cowan and family lived. Next again in the left was THE SCHOOL HOUSE occupied by teachers Miss Clulow and Miss Watson. Below the School House was LORTON SCHOOL and next to this the LORTON TENNIS CLUB PAVILION. The next property was BROOMLANDS home of the Moorhouse family. At this crossroads a short detour along Church Lane led to firstly on the left THE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL, next to this was St CUTHBERTS CHURCH and then past the churchyard THE VICARAGE home of Rev William Farrer, who was followed in 1954 by Rev A W Johnston. Back at the crossroads continuing down to Low Lorton the next property on the left was OAK LODGE, home of Mr & Mrs Clark. Straight across at the junction led to BRIDGE END FARM on the left owned by Mr Simpson after it was sold by the Dixons of Lorton Hall in 1947 but farmed by the Jackson family, who supplied milk to a number of properties in Low Lorton. Just over the bridge on the left was the deserted LOW LORTON MILL, while on the right was BRIDGE END COTTAGE occupied by Johnnie & Ida Porter, followed by Mr & Mrs Vickers.

Back at the B5289 on the left hand corner was LORTON HALL occupied by the Edwards family. Mrs Edwards was a doctor who looked after children with cerebral palsy. Past the hall on the left was LORTON HALL LODGE home of the roadman Jacob Tyson. The next property on the right was PACK HORSE COTTAGE where Jack Bowman the joiner lived. Next on the left was HOLME COTTAGE home of the Allison family. On the opposite side of the road was THE SHOP run by Dora and Joe Kennon, who was a builder by trade. Adjacent to this was THE WHEATSHEAF INN where the Norman family were licensees. Upstairs between these two properties was; The VILLAGE BILLIARDS

CLUB ROOM. The next property on the right was HOMESTEAD occupied by Mr Gibson, then SMITHY COTTAGE, home of Alf Johnstone the blacksmith. Then on the left was LIME TREE COTTAGE, home of the McClune family, and CROFT VIEW, where the Pearson family lived. Last on the right was CROFT HOUSE FARM farmed by Mr Tosh Pearson.

Travelling on to the junction of the B5289 and the B5292 and turning right the first property on the left was FAIRFIELD, occupied by Mr & Mrs Watteworth. Next on the left up a farm laning was GILBRAE FARM, farmed by the Marston family, and above this at HIGH GILBRAE COTTAGE lived the Gaunt family, landlords of Gilbrae. Still on the B5292 on the left was TERRACE FARM farmed by the Nicholson family, and also No.1 FERN BANK, the home of Alf Wise, the local cobbler who had a workshop above what is now Brewery House. Then came THE RISING SUN home of Mr & Mrs Percy Hall, who was driver/handyman at Broomlands. At the road junction on the left was HOLEMIRE home of Ada Cass, and just past the junction on the right was WHIN GARTH, home of Norman and Betsy Brown and family. Beyond this on the left was KIRKFELL COTTAGE, occupied by Joe Cuthill, and then KIRKFELL HOUSE, home of the Wigham family.

Further on, a road on the right led downhill to TENTERS, occupied by Courtney Hodgson and below this was No 1 TENTERS COTTAGE, home of the Norman family and No 2 TENTERS COTTAGE, home of tile Tyson family. Turning left at the end of the road and over Whitbeck bridge on the left was BOONBECK FARM farmed by Ronnie & Isa Gill, who supplied milk to the village and village school. Next on the left on the roadside was BOONBECK COTTAGE, home of Mrs Craig, and behind this and joining on was BOONBECK HOUSE, occupied by Mr & Mrs Sowerby and then Mr & Mrs Robinson. Further on at the junction was HOLLY LODGE home of the Walker family. Taking the road to the right was SWINSIDE END FARM farmed by Mr & Mrs Pearson. Then came SCALES FARM farmed by Mr & Mrs Shield and next to this SCALES FARM farmed by the Hall family.

During this walk we encountered no second homes and a maximum of five motor car owners.

Acknowledgment My thanks to William Hall for his help with this article.

Sixteenth & Seventeenth Century Families at Cold Keld in Loweswater

by Roz Southey

To attempt to reconstruct the history of a house and the families living in it during the 17th is something of an act of faith and must necessarily to some extent be speculative. In the case of Cold Keld, the only documents available are parish registers, wills and their associated inventories, and legal documents for the sale of land. Apart from a brief mention in Manor Court records relating to 1525, which mention a James Robynson living at Cold Keld, these documents represent the earliest information surviving about the property. However, all these sources are fragmentary and sometimes confusing, and this article therefore represents work in progress.

A will dating to 1594 is the first document that can tentatively be associated with Cold Keld; this was made by a Peter Wilkinson. The will does not specifically mention Wilkinson's place of residence as Cold Keld, but family members mentioned can be matched with people known to have been associated with the house.

Wilkinson was plainly a young man, and may possibly have been a widower – no wife is mentioned in the will. A young son, also called Peter, is the main beneficiary; the guardianship – and apparently the custody – of this son is left to Wilkinson's own father, yet again Peter, and to his mother-in-law, Margaret Allason. (It is possible that the terminology of the will is confusing here. A stepmother was frequently referred to as an 'in-law'.) Wilkinson stipulated that they should ensure the child should attend school for three years, or possibly three *more* years – the will is not entirely clear.

The property belonging to this child, however, was left in the care of Wilkinson's brother-in-law,



Cold Keld on the Donald map 1770-1

Cuthbert Fearon. Fearon was to farm the land and pay the child a yearly maintenance. In addition, Wilkinson made small bequests to the curate of Loweswater, William Burnyeat, and to a friend, Richard Fisher of Greysouthen; he also made a donation towards the decoration of Mosser Chapel and left a blue jacket to his brother, Thomas.

A second will, from nine years later, in 1604, also refers to a Thomas Wilkinson and to a Cuthbert Fearon, who can tentatively be identified with the men mentioned in the earlier will. The maker of this will, Margaret Wilkinson, was definitely identified as living at Cold Keld and must have been a widow. She had only her personal possessions to leave; her principal beneficiaries are named as Thomas Wilkinson, Gabriell Wilkinson, Jenet Woodlee



Cold Keld farm and barns, 1980s

(most likely all her children) and Elisabeth Fearon, the daughter of Cuthbert Fearon. Gabriell was also married – his wife inherited Margaret's best clothes; a Thomas Fearon who was left three hogs may have been related to Cuthbert and Elisabeth. Given that Peter Wilkinson in 1594 refers to a Thomas Wilkinson as his brother, and Fearon as his brother-in-law, it seems possible that Peter was also Margaret's son or, in view of the terminology of the earlier will, her stepson.

As Peter and his brother-in-law were having children in the early 1590s, his brothers may have been doing so at much the same time; it is likely therefore that the very first entry in the parish registers, which in 1626 refers to a Thomas Wilkinson of Cold Keld, does not refer to the Thomas of the wills but to the next generation – a son or nephew, perhaps. The entry records the baptism of John, son of Thomas Wilkinson of Cold Keld; this child lived only five months but two other children of Thomas are also recorded, Robert and Jenet, baptised in 1627/8 and 1629/30 respectively. Unfortunately, the registers then cease and do not resume until 1660.

From 1658, a third will of an inhabitant of Cold Keld survives, that of Thomas Wilkinson – possibly the Thomas whose family was baptised in the 1620s. This document is not a will as such but an application for the administration of the estate by Thomas's widow, Jane or Jenet; attached is an inventory both of Thomas's goods and his debts. The goods include clothing, household furniture such as pots and pans, earthen vessels and a bedstead; farming produce listed includes barley, oats, pigs and poultry. (See inventories below).

The inventory also lists debts both owing to and owed by Wilkinson. Many wills of this period include lists of such debts; in days before banks or similar institutions for the safe keeping of money, it may be that lending out money and borrowing it from other farmers spread the risk of loss. Wilkinson's inventory lists at least 22 people who owed him money (a total of £80 16s 3d) and four people from whom he had borrowed (a total of £30), including his sister, Jenet Wilkinson. These totals are very large sums and the

overall impression of the will is that Thomas Wilkinson was, if not prosperous, at least well off.

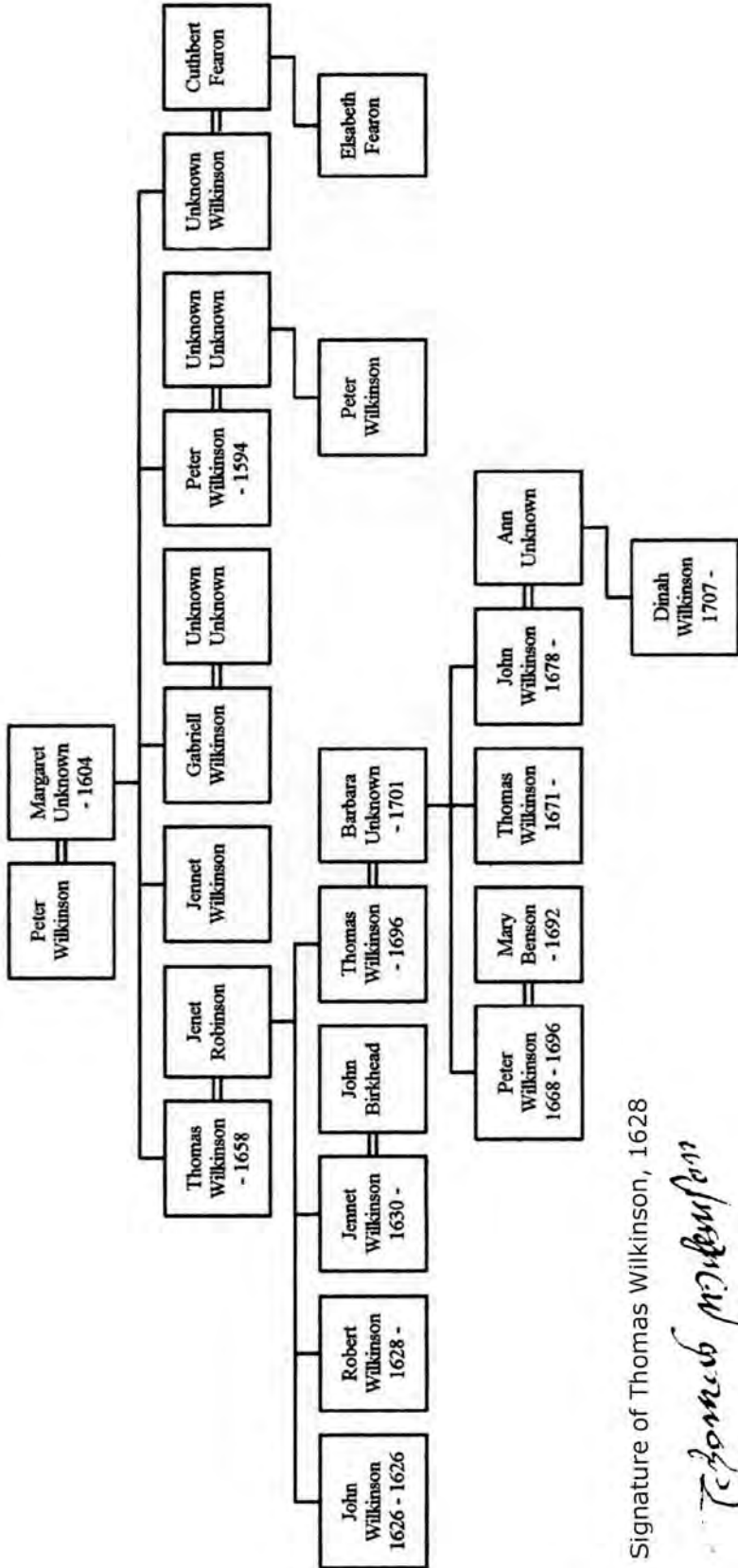
Amongst those who owed Wilkinson money are Henry and Thomas Robinson, described as his brother- and father-in-law respectively, and John Birkhead, described as his son-in-law. Birkhead cannot at the moment be traced, but Thomas Robinson was also clearly living at Cold Keld. A bill of sale for arable land at High Iredale from 1628 refers to Thomas Robinson of Cold Keld and a document of 1667 names him as possessor of one half of the property there. The descendants of James Robynson clearly still lived in the house, or at least part of it, and Thomas Wilkinson had found his wife very close to home.

The Robinsons may have had financial problems; the 1667 document refers to a mortgage taken out by Thomas Robinson on his half of the property with John Fisher of Hollins in Brackenthwaite. Thomas Robinson had apparently just died, for the document is a bill of sale of his property on behalf of his son, Henry, who was now living at Park. A much later document, connected with the sale of the house in the twentieth century, suggests that this half of the property at Cold Keld was sold to the Wilkinsons.

After the death of Thomas Wilkinson in 1658, there is a twenty year gap before the next record of the family – the death of an Isebell Wilkinson who cannot be precisely identified. There is then a reference in 1676 to the baptism of a son, John, to another Thomas Wilkinson. The inventory made of this Thomas's possessions when he died in 1696 reveals that his wife was called Barbara and it is probable that a Peter Wilkinson referred to in the registers is another son. Peter married a Mary Benson in June 1691 but she died only nine months after the marriage, in March 1691/2, and Peter himself died four years later, in November 1696; no children are recorded of this marriage. Barbara Wilkinson, Thomas's widow, died in 1701.

The Wilkinsons and Robinsons were not the only families living at Cold Keld during the seventeenth century. Although the document of 1667 suggests that the Robynson part of the property was transferred to the Wilkinsons, other documents suggest that the Robynson half

Descendants of Peter Wilkinson



Signature of Thomas Wilkinson, 1628

of the property may have come into the hands of a family called Burnyeat. Very little is known of the Burnyeats but the registers indicate that they had been living at Cold Keld since at least the late 1670s. In 1679, John Burnyeat of Cold Keld married Ellinor Iredell from Thackthwaite – a marriage that lasted only three years before Elinor's death in 1682; there is no evidence of any children. A Thomas Burnyeat of Cold Keld died in 1683/4. Shortly afterwards, in 1685, a bond survives between a John Fisher and a Peter or James Burnyeat, together with an indenture of sale of the house. It is not clear whether Fisher is the same man, or a descendent of, the man who had dealt with Thomas Robinson in 1667; there are several John Fishers in the surrounding area and no place of residence is mentioned. More research is needed as to the exact nature of these transactions. A John Wilkinson, who may be the child baptised in 1676, plainly inherited the property on the death of Thomas Wilkinson in 1696, for two documents survive detailing the sale of some of the property. In 1702, John Wilkinson and his wife, Ann, are recorded as selling a field called High Ruddings; five years later, the baptism of their daughter Dinah is recorded in the registers. In 1710, they were apparently not doing well financially as they mortgaged the property to obtain the sum of £45. The mortgage was again taken out with a John Fisher – the Fisher family, it seems, was accumulating an interest in the property, with a likely view to acquiring the entirety. In May 1711, Fisher bought a parcel of land called Rough Close from Peter Burnyeat; in September of the same year he acquired a lease on John Wilkinson's part of the property. A little over a year later, in October 1712, he bought the Wilkinson part of the property and began living in the house himself.

Farming practices

The survival of the Wilkinson wills allow some tentative conclusions to be drawn about the farming practices of the time and the conditions under which the families lived at Cold Keld in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Clearly, some owners were more successful than others; Thomas

Wilkinson's will in 1658 seems to suggest a man comfortably off with more debtors than debts; on the other hand, the taking out of mortgages on the land by several occupants suggests more difficult times.

The size of the property, and the division of the buildings and land between the two households living there, is at present impossible to discover. It is possible that the present arrangement of two houses on the site was already in operation; the existence of two threshing barns, one in the same block as the present farm and the other standing on its own alongside the farm track close to the present Cold Keld house, suggests two completely separate farms in close proximity. It should be noted too that the families living there also probably owned land elsewhere in the valley; Thomas Robinson certainly bought land at High Iredale in 1628, consisting of a mixture of arable and 'waste' land.

The Wilkinson wills of 1658 and 1696 list basic furniture in the house: bedding and linen (1658) and bedsteads and bedding (1696); arkes and chests (both); a cupboard (1658); pots, pans and earthen vessel (presumably pottery) (1658); wooden vessels (1696); a table frame, forms [benches] and stool (1658); and a table, chairs and forms (1696). The 1696 will also lists a spinning wheel, and Thomas Wilkinson in 1658 possessed books worth together one pound – the only suggestion of goods other than the essentials for everyday living.

Both wills mention 'iron and husbandry gear' for farming without being more specific. Peter Wilkinson's will of 1594 clearly indicates that sheep were considered the most valuable part of his property and the largest part of his son's inheritance. The 1696 will also refers to sheep, but surprisingly the 1658 will, which is more precise in its inventory, mentions only four sheep. At this time 'beasts' – cattle – seem to have been more important; the Wilkinsons had 17 head of cattle. Poultry are mentioned in 1658 and also two pigs – Margaret Wilkinson's will of 1604 had also mentioned three pigs. Interestingly, none of the wills mention horses.

The property was not merely used for grazing animals, however; Peter Wilkinsons' possession of a culter in 1594 –

part of a plough – indicates that there was some arable land in use on the property, and the later inventories list corn and hay (1696) and barley and oats (1658).

There is also some evidence to show that, at some point in the early modern period, there was industrial activity on land belonging to Cold Keld, with the recent discovery of a bloomery, in a field leading down to the River Cocker. In 2008, the erosion of a bank laid bare the remains of the bloomery, together with fragments of iron, slag and burnt charcoal.

WILKINSON POSSESSIONS AT COLD KELD, AS INVENTORIED IN THEIR WILLS

Margaret Wilkinson 1604

Clothes
Three hoggs
Other goods and chattels

Thomas Wilkinson 1663

Apparel
riding furniture
bedding and linen
arks, chests and cupboard
pots and pans
earthen vessel
bedstead
table frame, forms and stool
Books
iron and husbandry gear
Bigg and grotts [barley and groats]
Bigg and oats
Four sheep
17 heads of beasts
2 hoggs or swine
sacks and pokes
poultry

Thomas Wilkinson 1696

Apparel
Riding furniture
Bedsteads and bedding
Arks and chests
Pewter, iron and wooden vessels
A table, chairs and forms
Spinning wheel
Husbandry and iron gear
Sacks and pokes
Corn and hay
Beasts and sheep

DEBTS OF THOMAS WILKINSON 1658

Money owing to Thomas Wilkinson

	£	s	d
Thomas Iredell of Waterend		13	0
Peter Hudson of Kirkhead		10	0
George Peirson of [?]waite	10	8	0
Peter Fisher of Rigbank	10	0	0
John Robinson of Mirehouse	4	6	0
Robert Robinson of Askill	3	0	0
More without specialtie	1	0	0
Payed for him to Robert Stubb	7	0	0
Robert Fisher of Gillerthwaite		4	0
Edward Johnson's wife		3	0
William Byrbyead of Boradell		5	0
John Rud of Turner How		5	0
Henry Jackson's wife		1	0
Henry Robinson his brother-in-law		15	0
Thomas Robinson of green		1	6
Edward Clark for [?]		3	0
Thomas Robinson his father-in-law	39	0	0
John Walker's wife of [?]		3	9
Peter Burnyeat's wife of Cornclose		5	0
William Burnyeat of Millhill		2	0
John Birkhead his Sone in law		2	0
More promised to John ffearon of Eggesffield		7	0
William Harryson of [?]croft	2	2	0

Total	80	16	3
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Debts owed by Thomas Wilkinson

Thomas Allayson of ffoulsyke	13	0	0
Thomas Peall taylor	5	0	0
William Woodell	6	0	0
Jeneat Wilkinson the Testator's sister	6	0	0

Total:	30	0	0
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Family details have been drawn from Loweswater parish registers; the wills of Peter Wilkinson (1594), Margaret Wilkinson (1604) and the two Thomas Wilkinsons (1658 and 1696) are in Lancashire Record Office. Documents relating to the sale of the house are in the Cumberland Record Office under the designation D/WM/11/1388.

The Characters And Events That Shaped Keswick's Pencil Industry

by Dr Roger Asquith

Some background

While the mining of graphite (known locally as 'wad') at Seathwaite in Borrowdale and its links with early pencil making has received considerable attention in the local history literature (1,2,3), the period of transition from cottage industry to factory production of pencils in the modern era (say 1830 to 1930) has received little. In the existing accounts there are many inconsistencies and omissions, commonly excused with 'the records of the early pencil industry in Keswick are now lost'. Given that this period is covered by censuses, trade directories and newspapers, it is surely not impossible to put together a reasonably complete and coherent account.

Whether or not it is a worthwhile exercise depends on personal perspective. 'Keswick: The Story of a Lake District Town' (1) gives 'chapter and verse' on the often obscure literary figures with any local connection, however it can be argued that the pioneers of the local pencil industry have done far more to sustain and develop the town and are worthy of their place in the local history.

Keswick's involvement with the production of 'black lead pencils' obviously stems from the nearby mining of a form of graphite eminently suited to the purpose. The purity and size of the solid lumps was such that thin narrow strips could be sawn and fitted into a wood encasement to give pencils similar in outward appearance to their modern counterparts. At the time Borrowdale graphite was a unique resource, highly regarded for the purpose, in particular demand for artists' pencils, not only in Britain but in France, Germany, USA, etc. Officially the output of the mine was distributed through London merchants, giving the Keswick pencil makers no privileged or exclusive access to the raw material. Unofficially the reality may have been a little different due to 'black market' activities. The value of the material being extremely high, mine and transport security was an on-going issue.

Borrowdale graphite mine could clearly not meet the wide demand for pencil production purposes (and other uses) indefinitely. The need for pencils increased hugely due to improving literacy and the industrial revolution. Around 1836 production at the Seathwaite mine declined, though substantial stocks remained in the warehouses and in the hands of pencil manufacturers. The need to produce artificial pencil quality graphite was met in different countries in various ways depending on the need and resources available. In 1795, since the export of Borrowdale graphite to France ceased during the Napoleonic wars, Nicolas-Jacques Conté successfully mixed up ground graphite with pottery clay and fired it, establishing the basis for the ceramic 'lead' still used today (4). The clay and the inferior graphite ingredients had to be refined to remove impurities. Other processes involved mixing ground up graphite with binders and compressing. The extrusion of graphite paste through dies to produce circular leads of final diameter was a later development in Germany (4). Up until the early decades of the 19th century pencil making in Keswick relied on woodworking skills and experience of the natural lump graphite – a material of variable quality and hardness as well as limited size (meaning a number of part strips could be needed for one pencil). Pencils were, in the early days individually handmade and expensive. The vastly increasing demand for pencils at home and abroad and competition between manufacturers resulted in the development of mass production methods. The rapidly advancing engineering and technical capability in the USA, post civil war, led to the development of automated machinery in the 1870s.

Thus the pencil industry was advancing rapidly in all respects after the early decades of the 19th century and the Keswick manufacturers had no real advantage other than the lasting association with, and reputation of, Cumberland graphite. This was a dwindling resource being replaced by deposits (usually inferior) discovered in Ceylon, Mexico, USA, Peru, Siberia. The prime raw materials, cedar wood and, increasingly, the graphite, had to be imported.

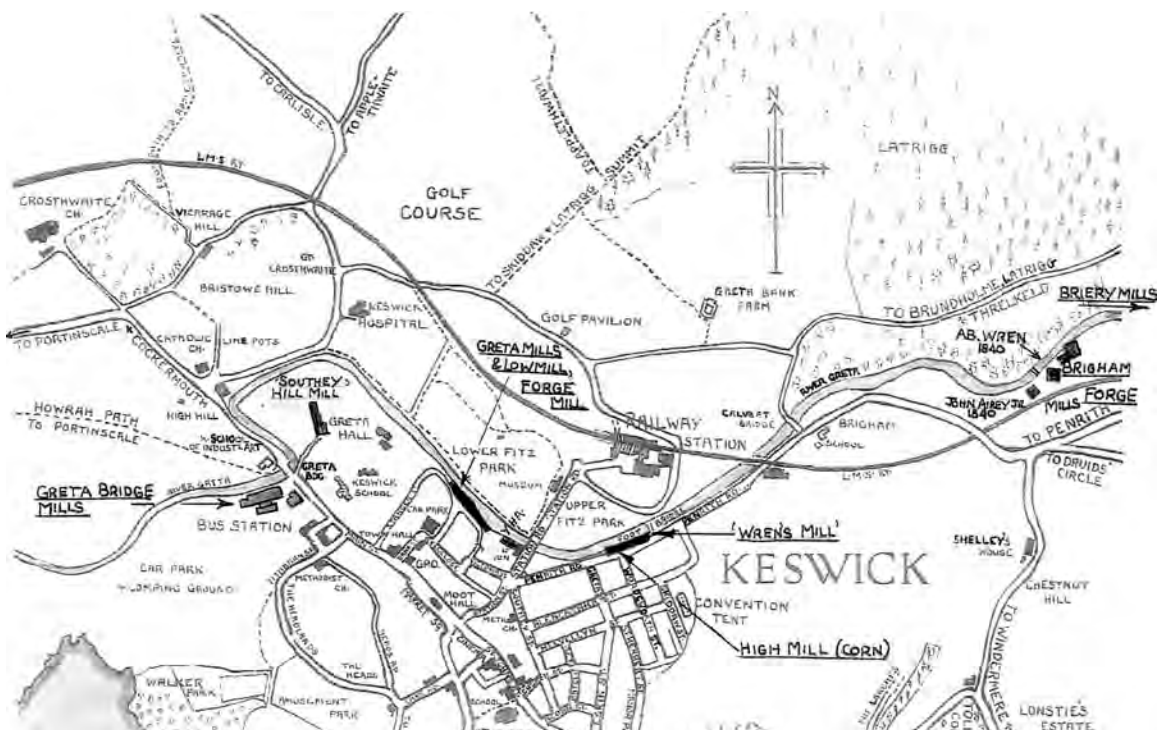


Figure 1. Map of Keswick with pencil mill locations.

An informative article in *The Cumberland Pacquet* Sept. 4th 1866 concerned the statistics of the Keswick pencil trade.

The number of black-lead pencils made in Keswick was computed for us at 250,000 per week, that is about 13 million per annum. Some of these pencils are 48s per gross, and some are sold as low as eighteen pence per gross, a sum they were sold for each before the era of mass machinery. The cedar annually consumed amounts to 12000 cu. ft. and yellow pine in due proportion. We could not ascertain the value of the plumbago (i.e. graphite or 'wad') that is annually consumed; but it is partly the produce of the Borrowdale mine and partly from Mexico and Peru. The number of hands employed, including men, girls and boys, in all amounts to 200, and their highest wages vary from 15s to 20s per week. The gross sum of wages actually paid amounts to about £4000 per annum. The trade has doubled, or nearly so, in the last twenty years; and strange to say, it began to rise just at the very

time we might have supposed it would begin to fall, that is when the Borrowdale mine was exhausted, and the local supply had stopped. But the causes of this economical paradox are not far to seek; indeed they lie on the surface. In the first place, the manufacturers, although resident in the neighbourhood of the mine, had become accustomed to the mineral being supplied from London, and as the foreign lead began to come into the market at about the same ratio in which the Borrowdale lead began to disappear, they never really felt the loss.

(The quoted number of workers, 200, contrasts with the 80 or so pencil workers in the 1861 and 1871 census returns. The inclusion of under age children in the higher figure could be part of the explanation.)

In typical Victorian manner, pencil manufacturers were secretive and economical with the truth regarding the materials in their products. Claims to hold stocks of Borrowdale graphite were made decades after mine production ceased. As late as 1901 a local pencil co. advert claimed its pencils were 'made from the finest Cumberland lead.' By whatever means necessary the pioneers of the pencil industry managed to survive the major changes and, occasionally to prosper,

through the latter half of the 19th century and into the 20th. So who were these characters, what is known of their lives and where did they carry on their businesses? Information is to be found in trade directories (from 1811), census returns and the usual family history sources, newspapers (reports, adverts and obituaries) gravestones and, of course, the county archive.

The Early Years

While a substantial number of 'pencil makers' appears in the Crosthwaite Registers from 1800 onwards, Jollie's Guide of 1811 (5) lists just three as 'pencil manufacturers' – John Airey, Jacob Banks and Joseph Ladyman. (In later years, as production developed from small workshops, possibly involving only one or two men, to water-mill manufactories, the distinction became clear with a 'maker' being the skilled worker, while the 'manufacturer' manages the operation.) Pigot & Co's 1828/9 directory adds Gates and Coupland, Joseph Graham and George Rookin to the list. At his death aged 75, in 1846, the Cumberland Pacquet (7) reported 'Mr Airey sen., late pencil manufacturer, conducted a highly respectable and successful business for a great number of years'. 'Seathwaite Wad' (3), quoting from an 1810 document, mentions 'John Airey, pencil manufacturer of Keswick', in connection with illicit graphite dealings in 1806. He clearly could have been in the business before 1800.

Jacob Banks presents something of a puzzle since there were two gentlemen by that name, both 'pencil makers' in the Crosthwaite Registers. One was married to Ann (Robinson), the other to Margaret (Newby). The latter Jacob's will dated 1824 describing himself as 'gentleman, late black lead pencil maker' divided his estate between his wife, daughter Margaret and sons John and Jacob. As well as houses and cottages the estate including 'shops, warehouses, outhouses' in Keswick, provides no explicit link to pencil production. Jacob died in 1830 when his eldest son John would have been 18. 'Jacob Banks' was listed under 'Black Lead Pencil Manufacturers' in Pigot's Directory of 1834 (also under 'Booksellers and Stationers') (8). Exactly who was

conducting this business is not apparent – a successor or the other Jacob Banks.

Pencil Manufacturers in Keswick 1834

(ref. 8): *John Airey, Jacob Banks, Robert Coupland (late Gates and Coupland), Harrington and Dover, Joseph Ladyman, Timothy Ladyman, George Rookin.*

Ref. 2 maintains that Joseph Banks (a key figure in this history) was the son of Jacob Banks and wife Ann (Robinson), hence continued his father's pencil business. The relevant Joseph Banks was however the son of William Banks, woollen manufacturer, and Sarah (née Pearson). The baptism entry (Crosthwaite) is correct, 1807, and Joseph's own family includes daughter Sarah Pearson (Banks). William's and Joseph's gravestones are adjacent and of identical distinctive style in Crosthwaite churchyard.

In 1829 Joseph married Ann Raven (also to play a significant part in her own right). Ann was baptised in Lorton church in 1811 (9), the daughter of William Raven and Ann (née Hetherington) of New House. William being a husbandman/farm labourer (i.e. a hired man) the family will have moved on a regular basis (borne out by entries only for Ann and her sister Mary in Lorton church records), though by 1829 Ann and Joseph were both 'of this parish' of Crosthwaite.

In view of the fact that the firm Banks & Co. and others (right down to the present Derwent Cumberland Pencil Co.) make much of being founded at Greta Mill in 1832 it is noteworthy that Joseph Banks does not appear as a Pencil Manufacturer in 1834 (8). 'Banks, Thomas & Joseph, and Co., Greta Mill', are listed as woollen manufacturers in that year. 'William Banks (woollens) and Thomas Banks (Fancy waistcoating), Greta Mill', are trade directory listed in 1829 (10). An article in the Carlisle Journal, 1865 (11) states that 'Mr (Joseph) Banks and Mr (William) Foster commenced the pencil making business at Keswick upwards of 30 years ago'. An entry regarding William Foster 'pencil maker' appears in the Crosthwaite Registers pre 1830, so this partnership which ended in 1850 may have been Joseph Banks introduction to pencil making. Fifteen years appears to have been typical for a partnership agreement, hence 1835 has credibility as Banks, Foster & Co. start date.

'1832' however, has been quoted and repeated extensively as the start of factory pencil production in Keswick (without any source reference).

When, in the 19th century it became essential to employ water power for the purpose of making pencils is not clear. A saw mill will have been the initial requirement, later progressing to use of more refined power saws, planes and sanders as well as mill stones to grind up the raw graphite. Not all eleven manufacturers in Keswick in 1847 (12) would necessarily have had a dedicated mill. It is quite feasible for sawn wood and prepared graphite to have been bought in from others, for final fitting up in a small workshop. The Tithe Maps (survey 1840) show a full range of industrial activities, cheek by jowl, competing for the available mills along the river Greta. These would have been, in the main, leased rather than owner occupied, hence usage could readily change. Banks, Foster & Co. had workshop premises at Greta Bridge Mill (see fig.1), near to Robert Coupland's mill and to the main operation at this site, the dye works and fulling mill of William Elleray. The picture at Greta Mills (seven water wheels) was of a congested 'industrial estate' with Joseph Ladyman's pencil mill, the Banks, Foster & Co. pencil mill, Thomas Adamson's corn mill, Thomas Crosthwaite's thread mill and Isaac Sealby's edge tool works butted up against each other.

Pencil manufacturers in Keswick in 1847 (ref. 12): *John Airey; Apps & Harrison; Banks, Foster & Co.; Robert Coupland; Crosthwaites, Lancaster & Co.; William Guy; Christopher Harrington; Thompson Jefferson; Samuel Ladyman; Henry Powley; Abraham Wren. Also: Adair & Co. Ellen Grove, Maryport; Peter Thompson, Senhouse St., Maryport; Horsley, Mann & Co., Braithwaite.*

Several members of the Ladyman family appeared amongst the pencil manufacturers in the first half of the 19th century. John Ladyman is identified as a 'pencil maker' pre 1820 in the Crosthwaite Register; Joseph Ladyman is in the 1811 Jollie's Guide (5) and appears to have continued through 1840 (Tithe survey). Samuel Ladyman (in the above list for 1847), according to his obituary (13), was

grandson of a Joseph Ladyman and succeeded his cousin Joseph Ladyman in his pencil business (when that gentleman emigrated to Australia) by the time of the 1841 census. Shortly after the 1851 census (when he employed 5 hands) Samuel Ladyman left pencil manufacture in order to succeed the late Samuel Wickham in his business as a wine merchant. It is reasonable to assume that neighbours, Banks, Foster & Co. at Greta Mill (by this time employing 64 people -1851 census), will have taken over the business of Samuel Ladyman.

The gravestone of 'Peter Wren of Littleton, Newlands, and Ann his wife' in Crosthwaite churchyard provides information on a further Ladyman. 'Also Abraham Wren their son who died at Coleraine Aug. 26th 1866 aged 64'. 'Also Elizabeth affectionate wife of Abraham Wren, Pencil Manufacturer of Keswick and daughter of Timothy and Julia Ladyman, who died March 4th 1843 aged 23years'. Timothy Ladyman, previously an ironmonger, was listed as a pencil manufacturer in 1834 (8). Elizabeth, Abraham's wife may have died in childbirth, daughter Julia Wren having been born in 1843. Timothy Ladyman does not appear as a pencil manufacturer in subsequent sources after 1834. Abraham was, by 1837, established with partners at Penrith Road (ref.3 – source not given), whether or not he succeeded to his father-in-law's business remains as speculation since no obituary (1866) is available to clarify the matter. (The English Lakes Visitor & Keswick Guardian was published from 1877, prior to which Keswick local news is not well covered in the Newspapers.)

The 1840 Tithe survey shows Abraham Wren's pencil mill at Brigham Forge, just upstream from Hardisty's bridge, with John Airey Jr.'s mill just downstream. On the first series O.S. map (1861) 'Wren's Mill' is on Penrith Road, with Wren's Villa and Wrensville Cottages close by. Abraham's will ('not over £5k') suggests his small pencil business (5men and 2 boys in 1861) and his property development must have prospered. His death at Coleraine (NI) illustrates an essential requirement of the manufacturing business at this time – the commercial traveller. With the small concerns it appears often to have been the lead man who travelled

throughout the kingdom with a case full of samples.

Of the remaining 'manufacturers' listed in 1847, (Edward) Apps & (Daniel) Harrison were still in business in 1851 (census returns), employing just four men, with no record thereafter. Robert Coupland, having been in business for over twenty years, died in 1850 leaving his wife Elizabeth as a 'black lead pencil manufacturer' (employing 7 men in 1851) until post 1855/pre 1858 (14, 15). Thompson Jefferson, pencil manufacturer at Keswick Forge, son of Joseph Jefferson (wine and spirit merchant, Cockermouth) had been a 'chemist' at the time of the 1841 census, possibly indicative of the textile dyeing trade. Jefferson married Jane Dover in 1841, suggesting he may have been employed at John Dover's fulling mill and dye works at Brigham Forge prior to a brief career as a pencil manufacturer. Slater's 1848 directory (16) gives 'Niagara Mills' as his place of business! Christopher Harrington, a 'pencil maker' pre 1830 in the Crosthwaite Register, was a pencil manufacturer over a period of at least fourteen years at Brigham Forge – as 'Harrington and Dover' in 1834 (8) and as 'C. Harrington' in 1847/8 (12, 16). A 'Dover' had therefore been previously manufacturing pencils at Brigham Forge.

The 1840's appear to have been a boom ('gold rush') period in pencil manufacture in (and around) Keswick, with several short-lived, opportunistic operations where there were the necessary facilities and skills. Henry Powley, with a long career as a joiner, cabinet maker, boat builder and millwright, was also manufacturing pencils for a time around 1847 (12) at High Forge. Crosthwaites Lancaster were briefly in the business at Low Forge Mill (next to Greta Mill), presumably involving Abraham and Robert Crosthwaite, Joseph Lancaster (time serving and time served pencil makers at the 1841 census) working at Thomas Crosthwaite's thread manufactory. To show that pencil making was not confined to Keswick, Horsley Mann & Co. were in business in Braithwaite at this time (no information to be found), also Peter Thompson in Maryport. Adair & Co., making pencils at Ellen Grove, Maryport, was a longer lived

enterprise – around thirty years in total. Robert Adair of Crosby St. was a bookseller, bookbinder, stationer, printer, publisher of the Maryport Advertiser, auctioneer, stamp distributor and black lead pencil manufacturer, employing a total of 11 people in 1861. Robert Bromley, a Keswick pencil maker journeyman was working for Adair & Co. by 1851. Sometime after 1861 it became 'Robert Bromley & Sons, Ellen Grove Works, Maryport'. In 1871 his employees were two sons and three women. Robert Bromley senior died in 1880. According to the 1881 census Robert Bromley & Sons was no more, with Robert junior in Carlisle gaol (a career path he was to continue) and Robert senior's second wife as a 'public mangle keeper' – rather a step down from being the wife of a pencil manufacturer!

Flowing into Ullswater at Watermillock is 'Pencil Mill Beck' – a clue which can hardly be ignored! The Pencil Mill occupier, William Huddleston was, in 1841, a pencil manufacturer employing three. By 1851 his wife Eleanor was 'farmer of 73 acres and pencil manufacturer employing 5 men and one boy', including sons Hiram and Amram. Of the four pencil-makers resident at the mill the name of Robert Thwaite stands out, being a pencil maker journeyman in Keswick ten years earlier. The term 'black lead' is frequently used to prefix 'pencil' to distinguish between normal and slate pencils. Ref. 15 in 1858 lists Amram Huddleston & Co. as 'cut round British timber merchants, bobbin turners and slate pencil mills'. The previous employment of Robert Thwaites, however, would suggest that black lead pencils had been made. Thereafter farming was the sole activity.

William Guy, son of Charles Guy, a Keswick nurseryman, ran a successful medium-sized pencil manufacturing business, first appearing in the 1847 directory (12). Information on him is sparse and he proves elusive in census searches. Not to be found in 1841, he turns up in Oxfordshire in 1851 as 'William Gay, commercial traveller, mfr of...?', born Keswick'. He's transcribed as 'William Gary, black lead pencil manufacturer (employing 12 men, 4 boys and 4 girls)' in 1861 and, finally, as 'William Guy, pencil manufacturer (retired)' in 1871. He died in 1873, but the business was continued until 1879 after

which it became part of Hogarth & Hayes. The location of the William Guy premises is unclear – the early address appears as Penrith Road (adjacent to Wren's Mill?), later it is 'Keswick Pencil Works'. This name is associated with Ann Banks at Greta Bridge Mill and with Hogarth & Hayes at Southey Hill, so occupation of one of these sites seems likely. Looking through the early census information, boys of ten years, and even one of nine, were pencil maker apprentices. Often the need for them to work is evident, there being a widowed mother with several young children. William's son, Hutton Guy, was highly unusual in still being a 'scholar' at sixteen. In 1901 he was a solicitor in Nottinghamshire.

Hogarth & Hayes

Richard Hogarth's father, also Richard, a husbandman died in 1839, his mother Mary was already dead. The 1841 census shows 13 year old Richard as a pencil maker apprentice living in the Keswick boarding house of Mary Scatchard. Robert Hayes was born, the son of a Keswick coachman, in 1832. Messrs. Hogarth and Hayes formed a very successful partnership, summarised by their obituaries.

Mr. Hayes was a pencil maker and served his apprenticeship to the trade under the late Mr Guy. He lived through the development of the industry from hand-work to rapid machinery, from the sawing and 'reaping' of the Borrowdale 'wad' to which has taken its place. After his apprenticeship he entered the service of the late Mr. A. Wren, to whose business he and Mr. R. Hogarth succeeded as partners some thirty years ago, and that partnership was continued until towards the close of the last century.

ELV&KG, February, 1902.

Through the death of Mr. Richard Hogarth, Keswick has lost one of its oldest tradesmen. He was in his 78th year and able to say he had not 'missed a journey' (he did the travelling for his firm) through ill health for thirty years. A lead

pencil maker by trade, serving his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Samuel Ladyman, he has witnessed the vast changes which have been made in pencil manufacturing. He would be one of the very few remaining who could show the tattooed finger and thumb which resulted from the method of cutting the Borrowdale lead to fit in the grooved wood. As a man he worked for the late Mr. Abraham Wren and was joint foreman with the late Mr. Robert Hayes. These two succeeded their old master, and business so prospered that they were obliged to seek more convenient premises. They removed to the mill at Southey Hill, and this has been extended twice or more times. Within recent years they bought the business and plant of Ann Banks and Partners. A short period after this Mr. Hayes sold his interest in the works to Mr. Hogarth, who still traded under the style of 'Hogarth and Hayes'. In the earlier part of his manhood he became an ardent temperance reformer, and his

Figure 2. Advertisements for Hogarth & Hayes from 1878 (above) and 1899 (below).

zeal for this cause grew upon him that his energies were quite as much applied to the spread of temperance as the sale of lead pencils..... In religious persuasion he was a Wesleyan of the strictest type, and he did not hesitate to find fault with minister or member who, according to his ideas, was guilty of breaking Wesley's strongly worded rule against the traffic in, or use of intoxicating liquors.....

ELV&KG, June 1905.

From the small business to which they succeeded around 1870 (it had employed 5 men and 2 boys in 1861) Hogarth & Hayes employed a total of 12 by 1871 and 36 in 1881 (then having recently taken over W. Guy). (Numbers employed were not quoted in later census returns). The development of Hogarth & Hayes is reflected in the advertisements in the ELV&KG from 1878 and 1899 (fig.2) – taking over Ann Banks Ltd. in about 1894 and also acquiring the 'branch works' at Stair woollen mill. 'Established 1832' is an addition to the 'corporate image' claimed via Ann Banks Ltd.

Following the death of his first wife, Mary (the mother of his son, George), Richard married Letitia Webster (née Ashbridge) from Caldbeck in 1876, a grocer and the widow of a local blacksmith. Latterly, in 1897, aged 70, he married Elizabeth Till, a spinster of 43, who thereby made the journey from 6 Leonard St. to 7 Leonard St. Keswick. Richard Hogarth died in 1905 leaving the pencil business of Hogarth and Hayes to son George, (also leaving two houses and shares in several railway companies, banks and the Keswick Gas Co.) George Hogarth thus took over as manager of the Hogarth & Hayes business, while continuing as a stockbroker and as director of Keswick Gas Company. Hogarth & Hayes seems to have been less successful after Richard's death and, shortly after George died suddenly in January 1912, the West Cumberland Times of August 10th carried the following notice:

For sale as going concern, old established Pencil Making business with the buildings & c as now carried on at Southey Hill, Keswick.

Offers in writing will be received up to 4pm on Sat. Aug 24th 1912 by JH Brodie Acct., Keswick.

It would seem no acceptable offer was forthcoming, for Charles Greenwood, ironmonger of Keswick and manager of the Cumberland Pencil Co., acquired Hogarth & Hayes, in lieu of repayment of money owed to him.

Robert Wilson & Co. / Cumberland Pencil Company.

The major contribution of Robert Wilson in the development of Keswick's pencil industry is very largely overlooked, (1-3, is it permissible to reference sources on the strength of their omissions?). The 'Cumberland Pencil Co.' was 'Robert Wilson & Co.', renamed upon the transfer of business from Braithwaite to Greta Bridge Mill, Keswick, in 1899. The Derwent Cumberland Pencil Co. in its company history (www.pencils.co.uk) makes no mention of this phase of the company's existence.

The 1841 census identifies Robert Wilson as a pencil maker apprentice, the son of Joseph Wilson, a Keswick nail maker. Having been born in 1824 Robert could have worked for perhaps seven years at this point. Younger brother Edward was a 12 yr. old pencil maker apprentice in 1841. The following extracts are from Robert's obituary in 1901 (18).

He served his apprenticeship under the late Mr. George Rookin, but it was as traveller for Banks & Co. that he made his mark in the pencil trade, with which, except for a brief interval, he was connected up to the close of his life. Through his business aptitude and tireless zeal he became a great favourite with his employers, the late Mr. Gibson and Mr. Banks. When reproving the younger generation for lack of energy he would recount to them how, in the early days of railways, he had walked to Wigton (carrying his samples, too) in order to catch the morning train.

He commenced business on his own account in part of the premises now occupied by his second son (i.e. Greta Bridge Mill) and later started the Coledale Mill at Braithwaite.

Mr Wilson was three times married. By his first wife he leaves three

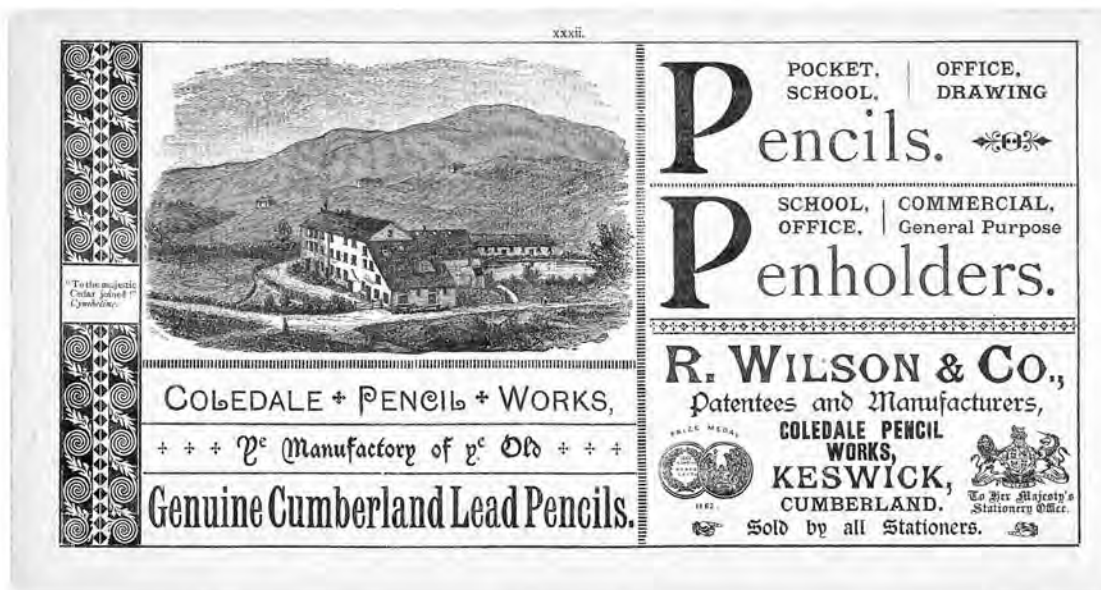


Figure 3. Advertisement for R. Wilson & Co., 1884

sons... his second son Thomas is the responsible proprietor of the Cumberland Pencil Co. at Keswick...

In 1858 (15) Robert Wilson was a 'commercial traveller', living at Underskiddaw. He is listed as a black lead pencil manufacturer of Main St. Keswick in 1861 (19). The census of that year indicates a sizeable workforce of 9 men, 3 women and 6 boys – could this mean he took over an existing business at Greta Bridge Mill? (Elizabeth Coupland's perhaps?) The chief business at Greta Bridge at this time was wool, with the tenters shown on the 1862 O.S. map. Perhaps it was the need for room to expand which in 1867 led Robert Wilson to take over the Coledale Bank Mill at Braithwaite, latterly Joshua Sims' woollen mill. An indenture agreement with the Lord of the Manor of Egremont (20) for 'taking water out of the mill race at Braithwaite to a pencil mill (late a carding and woollen mill) and an improvement built over the race with the liberty of using the tenter ground on the common near his mill at Braithwaite', specified a sum of £2-12-6d for the half year to Michaelmas 1867.

In 1871 '20 hands' were employed including Robert's son, 24 yrs. old Thomas. Fourteen pencil makers can be identified as residing in Braithwaite. In 1881 the management comprised Edmund

Foster, 51 (son of William Foster, the old partner of Joseph Banks at Banks Foster & Co.), Thomas Wilson and William Keenlside (56). Each is described 'pencil manufacturer'; William Keenlside is the nominal employer of 14 men and 4 boys, his address being: Barytes Mill, Braithwaite, Black Lead Pencil Works. Latterly used to mill barytes from the Force Crag mine (1871 census and ref. 21), this mill was close to Coledale Mill, by the common, and marked on early O.S. maps as 'Corn Mill'. This must indicate an extension to the Coledale pencil mill facilities, rather than any separate enterprise (as the number of pencil mill workers is sensibly constant and no new manufacturing firm appeared in the trade directories). Numerous Keenlside's worked in the Keswick pencil industry for many years, the family having moved from Alston (lead mining) when William, and his brother Thomas (in 1881 a manager at Banks & Co., Greta Mill), were small. Robert seems to have been 'taking a sabbatical' in 1881, living in Keswick, though still by occupation a black lead pencil manufacturer. By 1891 he was back in Braithwaite, himself and Thomas shown as 'employers'. Edmund Foster was one of the 21 pencil makers resident in Braithwaite. Fig. 3 shows a rare 'R. Wilson & Co.' advertisement from 1884.

The following vivid account is from the ELV&KG of Dec. 24th 1898: -

*COLEDALE PENCIL WORKS
DESTROYED BY FIRE*

The pencil works of Messrs. R. Wilson and Co. Ltd. were destroyed by fire on Saturday night. Mr Shadrach Barnes, when returning to Braithwaite at a little after six o'clock, noticed a light in the sorting room above the saw mill, at the north-west end of the building. When he reached the corner of the road he saw the flames leaping and at once ran to the manager's house to give an alarm. Arthur Wilson rushed down to the village for help, and to the post office so that the Keswick fire brigade might be summoned by telegraph. Mr. Thos. Wilson, secretary and manager had just arrived by the 6.30 train from Glasgow and called in at the post-office through having heard some of the conversation which passed between the post-mistress and Mr. Barnes, and was naturally much distressed at the casualty which thus met him on his home-coming. Meanwhile the villagers were doing what they could with buckets from the mill dam, but their efforts availed nothing since there was a strong wind blowing from the west and, confined as it was between the hills on either side of the Coledale Valley it was like a blast upon the fire which burned furiously. The fire spread rapidly because of the combustible material stored in the mill. Not only was there manufactured stock which readily ignited, but there was also a large quantity of wood cut and packed for seasoning, varnishes, spirit, shellac, show cards, cardboard boxes, and light packing cases, all of which were easy prey to the devouring element. Some consternation was caused by the report of a cylinder of compressed hydrogen gas which was used to heat the gilding presses. So quickly did the fire progress that before the Keswick engine could arrive the roof of the main building had fallen in; but before the middle part of the works had become wholly enveloped in the conflagration the account books of the firm were secured at some personal

risk by helpers who, unable to get to the office by the stairs climbed upon the roof of an outhouse and entered through the window. A sluice was cut from the dam and water was poured on to the floor of the mill, but the effect was nothing. The fireman realised that the good they could do would be to save the manager's house, which they were fortunate enough to do through the willing aid given at the engine by the people.

The loss to the Company will be heavy, notwithstanding that the building and stock were insured by the Caledonian Co. of which Mr. Thomas Wilson holds the local agency. It will be difficult to replace some of the wholly destroyed rare woods which were used in the manufacture of fancy penholders for which R. Wilson & Co. have a high reputation. The stock included rose, ebony, zebra, satin wood, etc.

The news of the catastrophe reached Keswick about 6.45p.m. and in a very few minutes the fire engine (horsed by a pair of good animals and driven by John Nelson of the Blencathra hotel), was on its way to Braithwaite; but not without some misgivings as to the safe accomplishment of the journey. Capt. Hall gave orders for the men to dismount at the damaged bridges - because of the possibility of their falling in.

Much excitement was caused in Keswick by the occurrence, and while many went on to Braithwaite to see the sight and help in the work of extinguishing the fire, many more sought situations from which they could catch a glimpse of the flame or watch the lurid reflection of the clouds. The place was largely visited on Sunday, and it presented a pitiful sight. There was but the shell of the building, the floor of which was a mass of debris. Expensive machines were utterly spoiled, shafting and pulleys twisted and broken. The only thing which seemed to have escaped irreparable injury was an old screw press used for the compression of graphite paste, and the turbine.

For Braithwaite the fire is little less than a calamity so many of the hands being resident in the village. It will mean a time of sorrow rather than of gladness and sympathy not only extends towards them but also to the firm, whose brief career as a limited company has been hampered by injury through storm, and who, at the time of this last accident, had seemed on the verge of more prosperous times.

A meeting of the shareholders was reported in the ELV&KG in February 1899. Notable attendees were Charles Greenwood (Ironmonger, Keswick), Robinson Mitchell (of Mitchell's Auction, Cockermouth) Rev. Cannon H.D. Rawnsley, Thomas Wilson (secretary and manager) and Robert Wilson.

Thomas Wilson had 'seen the best American, German and English (pencil-making) houses' concluding that 'pencil making could not exist in a small way'. With investment in modern machinery it was believed 'they could work one third cheaper than before'. The issues of the merits and the cost of rebuilding at Coledale were debated, as were the benefits, regarding tourist visitor sales, of central location in Keswick. They had 'had the offer of Mr. Elleray's mill' (i.e. Greta Bridge Mill) which had previously housed, amongst others, Elleray's dye works and fulling mill, Anne Banks Ltd. and Robert Wilson's early mill (1860-67). It was resolved that the company be reconstructed with a capital of £6000.

The ELV&KG of July 22nd 1899 reported the restarting of R. Wilson & Co. in the old mill by Greta Bridge. The same paper the following week carried the first advertisement (fig. 4) for the Cumberland Pencil Co. (R. Wilson & Co.). Coledale mill house and the remains of the pencil mill were sold by auction on August 6th as were the Gilbert & Gilkes turbine and a large quantity of scrap iron! The old mill was bought by Mr. Skelton of Workington, who built what is now the Coledale Inn (21, 22).

Charles Greenwood (Keswick ironmonger and shareholder of Cumberland Pencil Co.), took over the

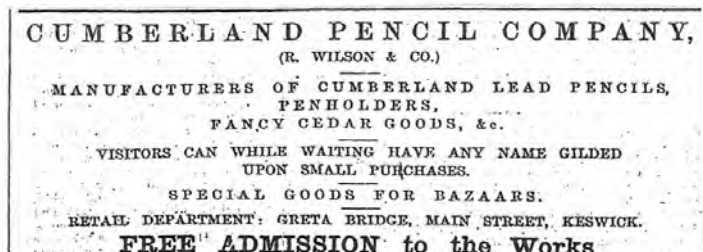


Figure 4. The first advertisement for the Cumberland Pencil Company, 1899

management of the company from Thomas Wilson, prior to Nov. 1907. Subsequently, the latter had, according to his obituary (23), been engaged in preparing an update of the well known 'Guide to the Flocks of Cumberland and Westmorland' for the Shepherds Association. While attending a shepherds meet he had been taken ill and died where he was staying at the Dun Bull Hotel, Mardale (now submerged under Haweswater).

Mr. Greenwood's obituary (1927, ref. 24) tells us that he started in business in Keswick, Main St. as an ironmonger and plumber circa 1882. As noted above, by November 1907 he was managing the Cumberland Pencil Co. and, in 1912, he acquired Hogarth & Hayes. Thereafter he 'restored pencil making in Keswick where it had become nearly extinct and built it up into its present flourishing condition'. Charles Greenwood's will dated March 1916 makes it clear that, while he was one of a number of partners in the business known as the Cumberland Pencil Co., he owned the mills. On his death the surviving partners were to be given the option to purchase 'the Southey Hill Mill and the Cumberland Pencil Mill (in which the said partnership business is now being carried on)' at the price of £1600.

Somewhere between 1912 and 1916, therefore, the Hogarth and Hayes business was incorporated into the 'Cumberland Pencil Co.', which had existed under that name previously since July 1899.

Banks & Co. / Ann Banks

To recap briefly, Joseph Banks was, with Thomas Banks, manufacturing woollens in 1834 at Greta Mill (8). He was, by 1835, manufacturing pencils in partnership with William Foster, as Banks

Foster & Co. (11). In 1842 the Greta Hall estate, which included the Greta Mill premises occupied as tenants by Joseph Banks and William Foster, was bought by Robert Gibson of Whitehaven. William Foster left the concern in 1850 – this could have been at the end of the 15yr. partnership agreement – and in the 1851 census William is listed as an independent black lead pencil manufacturer, employing 19 men, 8 boys and 3 girls. (The Banks Foster & Co. business could have been divided at the end of the partnership term). William Foster, Son & Co. is listed in 1855 (14); there is no record in 1858 (15).

The Carlisle Journal (11) tells us that Joseph Banks carried on the business, in partnership with the above Robert Gibson from 1851 until Joseph's death in June 1860. The trading name of the company in 1855 was 'Banks, Son & Co., Greta Mills' (14). In 1858 it was listed as 'Banks, Son & Co., Greta and Royal Saxony Mills' (15) inspired undoubtedly by the visit to the works of the King of Saxony (just one of a succession of distinguished visitors - see Ann Banks

advert, fig.5). Where was the Royal Saxony Mill? It would appear that Robert Gibson was part of the '& Co.' living in Whitehaven – he was for many years proprietor of the Cumberland Pacquet.

An article in 'The Illustrated Magazine of Art' in 1854 (pp 252-4) entitled 'Pencil –Making at Keswick' describes in detail the processes observed during a visit to the works of Banks, Son & Co. This was the leading factory in Keswick (if not in the UK) employing half of the Keswick pencil making population and producing 5-6 million pencils per year. What had previously been a skilled craftsman's work was accomplished by the use of circular saws, cutters, etc. powered by belts, pulleys and shafts from the water wheels. The tools were set up with the correct spacing, depth and profiles in order to facilitate high throughput, consistent quality, mass-production, though requiring much manual handling and feeding of machines. On the black lead (graphite) side the process of cutting thin strips to fit the sawn slots in the wood cases is outlined, also the process whereby undersize and inferior quality (including imported) graphite was crushed between rollers, sifted, cleansed, ground, heated in closed retorts and compressed into oblong slabs,

for subsequent cutting as per the quality Borrowdale graphite.

On the subject of the supply of Borrowdale graphite the article comments that it had been some years previously that the mine failed, with very little obtained from it since.

Reserves though, were still in existence. Banks, Son & Co. were part proprietors of the mine, their share at the last and final division of the produce being about 500 lbs weight.

In June 1860 Joseph Banks died suddenly, in his 53rd year.

Figure.5 Advertisement for Ann Banks, 1869

1st CLASS MEDAL

LONDON EXHIBITION, 1861.

ANN BANKS,
(Widow of Joseph Banks, deceased, founder of the late firm of Joseph Banks & Co.)
BLACK LEAD PENCIL MANUFACTURER,
"KESWICK PENCIL WORKS,"
Keswick, Cumberland.
(Only "BANKS" in the Trade.)

ANN BANKS begs to return her sincere thanks to her Friends and the Public for the liberal patronage she has received since commencing business.

BLACK LEAD PENCILS in every description for Artistic Business or School purposes, made from the best materials and at the lowest remunerating profits.

The late Mr. Banks had the honour of receiving and showing over the Manufactory of the late Firm, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and suite, the late Queen Adelaide, the late King of Saxony and other Royal and distinguished personages.

The late Firm of Banks & Co. were the original makers of the celebrated "Fire Proof Leads" suitable for Lund's, Mordans', Perry's and other Pencil Cases, warranted to any size or length; being Fire Proof is a sure test of genuine quality, and Ann Banks has secured the services of the working manufacturer who gained for the late Firm the Exhibition Prize Medal for such Fire Proof Leads.

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION:
LONDON WAREHOUSE—5 Barge Yard, Bucklersbury, London.
L—58



**Figure 6. Greta Mill in the early 1900s.
From the Banks & Co. letterhead**

This lamented gentleman was the senior partner in the firm of Banks & Co., the most extensive black lead pencil manufacturers in the kingdom. By his energy and business talents he has raised the firm to its present high position and contributed largely to the prosperity of Keswick. He was a large hearted and benevolent man and was kind and considerate to his workmen, who were much attached to him. (25)

In the manner of the time, his estate was bequeathed to his wife, Ann, 'for as long as she remained his widow'. 'Robert Gibson of Whitehaven, gentleman' was one of the nominated executors. In line with the provisions of the partnership Ann Banks continued the business with Mr. Gibson. In April 1864 at Ann Banks request the partnership was dissolved, the subsequent events were reported in detail, in the Carlisle Journal in 1865 (11). The stock in trade was divided and the rest was taken by Mr. Gibson at a valuation. The fixed machinery belonged to Mr.

Gibson and the labels, stamping wheels, etc. with the Banks & Co. name were destroyed at the insistence of Mrs. Banks and her advisors. Mrs. Banks took another mill (at Greta Bridge) and commenced the pencil business on her own account under the name 'Banks & Co., Keswick Pencil Works'. Robert Gibson continued in business under the name 'Banks & Co. Greta Mills, Keswick'. Legal action commenced in July 1864 to prevent Robert Gibson using the 'Banks & Co.' name. It concluded eventually in the Rolls Court, Chancery Lane, London in July 1865, in favour of Mr. Gibson on the grounds that the company name was a trademark, part of the assets, and should have been considered as such when the partnership was dissolved. This not having been done each partner was entitled to use the name. Ann Banks had to pay all the costs. It must have been seen as hard and an unexpected decision at that time, especially when the point had clearly been made during the dissolution of the partnership regarding the labels, stamping wheels, etc.

Attached to one of the Greta Pencil Works Ledgers (no. 5) in Carlisle Archive is a note written by, or on behalf of, Robert

Gibson as a foreword to a copy of the above court proceedings for distribution to vindicate himself. It starts as follows:

'It having been frequently represented to the travellers of Messrs. Banks & Co. of the Greta Pencil Works Keswick, in almost every town they visit in Ireland and Scotland, and in various parts of England that the widow of Mr. Joseph Banks, the late partner in the above named firm, had been very harshly and unfeelingly treated by the surviving Partner and that she had been removed from the Works in the most heartless and cruel manner ...'

The impression given is that although he won the case he will not have had much support or good will! His death notice in the ELV&KG, thirteen years later, referred to him as Robert Gibson 'the proprietor of Ann Banks's pencil mill!'

Thus the firm of 'Ann Banks' was born in 1864 at Greta Bridge and 'Banks & Co.' continued at Greta Mill. It has been repeated in articles on the pencil industry in Keswick (e.g. ref 2) that 'no connection existed between the two firms, indeed there was a distinct rivalry between them!' A typical 'Ann Banks' advertisement, from ref. 26, illustrates the strength of feeling (fig. 5). Just as the two companies were entitled to the Banks & Co. name, so they were both entitled to claim 'founded in 1832', and to display the exhibition medals. After Hogarth & Hayes succeeded to Ann Banks Ltd. in 1894 they claimed the same foundation date. Ultimately this is the justification for the present Derwent Cumberland Pencil Co. date of origin, rather than that given in the Co.'s literature, i.e. the date Abraham Wren (H & H's predecessor) started in business.

Ann Banks died in August 1871, stipulating in her will that son William Banks should 'not be allowed to interfere in the management or carrying on' of her pencil business and that son-in-law John Dennis Wivell (husband of her daughter Jane Hodge Wivell) should have the option to buy. Her estate was to be shared between two sons, five surviving daughters and the children of a sixth, Dinah Hetherington Cochran. She further stipulated that her daughters' bequests should be 'for their sole use, free from marital control of husbands'. (Would this be sustainable in an era when a wife and her assets automatically became her

husband's property?) Five further daughters had previously died, making a total of thirteen children. Ann Banks would appear to have been a formidable character who packed a lot into her sixty years.

John Dennis Wivell took up the option to buy, managing the business in addition to his involvement in the Keswick hotel trade, until his death in 1879. Thereafter Jane H. Wivell daughter of Joseph and Ann Banks became the proprietor and 'Ann Banks' was referred to as 'Mrs. Wivell's pencil works'. The ELV&KG reported Mrs. Wivell's demise in March 1890, she was said to have continued her 'close connections with the trade until two years ago (i.e. 1888) when she disposed of her interests in the present company Ann Banks Ltd.' The business seems to have been in good shape at this time, ref. 27 reported that

'to meet the great demands of their customers Ann Banks Ltd. have found it necessary to increase their plant and several new machines with all the latest improvements are expected daily. Owing to the uncertain power to be derived from the river the directors are contemplating the adoption of other means for driving the machinery.'

It went on: 'the orders in hand are so numerous as to require overtime work, although the number of hands has been increased by one half.'

Presumably to address some of these problems, in May 1889 Stair woollen mill was purchased.

The involvement of Joseph and Ann Banks' family in Keswick pencil mill management thus came to a close in 1888. Ann Banks Ltd. continued until 1894 (28) shortly after which its assets were bought by Hogarth & Hayes. (Joseph and Ann's grandson, Joseph Banks Wivell, and his sons continued the involvement in the Keswick area for many years, as proprietors of The Keswick Hotel and of Armathwaite Hall.)

In 1863 before the Banks & Co. partnership was dissolved, Robert Gibson saw the need to bring in an external manager. A stalwart of the Primitive Methodist movement, Mr. Henry Birkbeck, moved from Stainmore in 1863 recommended by Mr. Gibson's cousin, Rev. Bailey of the Silloth PM church (29). Given the pencil industry experience available in

Keswick it is hardly likely to have met with Ann Banks' approval. Henry Birkbeck, however, did manage the business successfully for many years. Some two years prior to his death (in 1878) Robert Gibson passed on Banks & Co. to his niece, Margaret Gibson of Whitehaven, with Henry Birkbeck continuing to run the business thereafter (2). In her will in 1907 Margaret Gibson's many legacies included £525 to Henry Birkbeck - and £140 each to his children (30). The Greta Hall estate was auctioned in 1907 enabling Henry to purchase and thereby become proprietor of, 'Banks & Co.'. He was followed by his son, Simon Alderson Birkbeck. (A picture of the mill from the company letterhead from this time appears in fig. 6). 'Keswick Pencil Mill Blaze – Blow to Old-Time Industry' proclaimed the headlines of the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald, Dec. 21st 1940. 'The whole of the mill, the stocks of pencils and pen holders and the large amounts of wood used for these was destroyed, the machinery ruined, the sluice burnt out and only the iron framework of the old water wheel, which provided power for the mill was left'. The business had been in the hands of a new owner for some years, trading as H.J. Billinge & Co. Ltd. (listed in Kelly's Directory 1925). 'About 30 people were employed and of late the business had grown owing to the demand for home produced pencils and pen holders due to foreign supplies being cut off by the war. The destruction of the mill is a serious blow to Keswick'.

This left just one – the Cumberland Pencil Co. - to survive and prosper in Keswick into the 21st century.

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The Thomas Burnyeats of High Swinside, and the Lamb Inn at Scawgill

by Derek Denman

The Lamb Inn at Scawgill, or Scogill, was a rare thing in Lorton; one of those properties that fell out of use and was not replaced. Avid readers of the Journal will immediately know that this was the property on the Whinlatter Road, just below Darling How, which was described in an article by Michael Winstanley on the land tax records of 1913, and which is now represented by a bricked up doorway in the roadside wall.¹ In an article on the turnpike road and its consequences, I could not fix a date on the building, nor say if the building was built on the turnpike road around 1770; or whether it was much older.²

Too often the answers to such questions are unavailable when they are wanted, but then appear unexpectedly a while later. This is such a case, and provides the opportunity to tie up the loose

¹ Journal 40 pp.5-9

² Journal 42 pp.12-19

ends and to cover the Burnyeats of High Swinside, who turn out to have been the builders at Scawgill.

Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside

Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside, 1710-1800, has one of the most luminous memorials in Lorton Churchyard; 'whose honesty and fidelity benevolence, and simplicity of manners through the whole period of a long life were truly exemplary.' The Burnyeats held High Swinside by 1695, when a manor court verdict specified the control and use of water, but they had come from outside of Lorton parish not long before. The property is much older. Land was enclosed there by 1259, and in the Percy survey of 1578, well before the Burnyeat's ownership, both High and Low Swinside existed as separate farmsteads, High Swinside being on the commons boundary, as today.

The Burnyeat family were tanners, and so High Swinside was a tannery for much of the eighteenth century. Thomas' grandfather, the first Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside, was described as tanner when he died there in 1705, but was also a substantial yeoman farmer leaving a gross inventory of £121, of which £50 was stock in trade.³ His son and heir, Peter Burnyeat, was a tanner in 1718 when he married his second wife, the widow Anne Fisher from the prosperous Wythop Hall family. Peter's first wife, Mary, had died in the year of Thomas' birth in 1710, and may have died in childbirth. Thomas' step-mother, Anne, lasted only four years at High Swinside, and his father, Peter died in 1740. Thomas spent his ninety years at High Swinside, and with wife Mary had a family of seven; one of the younger sons was the Rev. Joseph Burnyeat, 1756-1811.

In 1758 a surveyor named Browne was given the job of making a new survey of the customary properties in Derwentfells and elsewhere belonging to Sir Charles Wyndham, Lord Egremont, managed by his steward at Cockermouth, Robert Baynes. The intention was to offer the freeholds to the customary tenants, who were effectively the owners of the properties but who had to pay the ancient rent, and larger fines on a change of

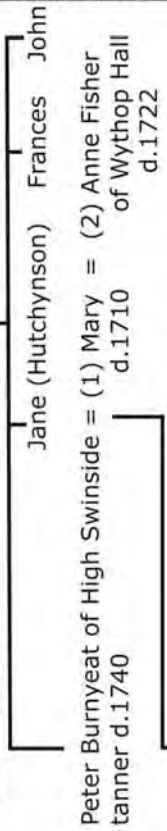
tenant or the death of the lord of the manor. Under Lord Egremont's offer of 1759, based on Browne's survey, the freehold would cost about 30% of the market value of the farm, the other 70% being the value of the customary tenancy. Additionally the tenant would have to purchase the wood on the estate, which was the property of the lord. The mineral rights would be retained by Lord Egremont.

Mr Browne's survey involved visiting each property and identifying the customary parts which lay within Lord Egremont's manors. There had not been a full survey since the Great Survey of 1578, and so the steward's records might have been out of step with the position on the ground. Maps were not available. To a large extent, the success of his survey depended upon the co-operation he received from the person who would show the tenement. Sometimes that person might claim that land was freehold, or in another manor (in the Thornthwaite, Wythop and Setmurthy area) or might fail to show lands that they held – hoping to improve their position. John Birket of Portinscale, who held just a cottage and barn, was 'a very impertinent fellow and to have no favour'. At Great Braithwaite Browne 'had little or no assistance in the manor' and was convinced that he had not seen all the lands. But he reserved his most unfavourable comments for Quakers, who perhaps had less appreciation of ancient lordly rights than other tenants. At Jonathan Bell's in Embleton, 'the owner is a Quaker in London and one Fearon is his manager – a worthless fellow ...'. John Hudson of Craghouse, Setmurthy, was 'an obstinate Quaker, says its part in Mr Fletchers [Wythop] part in my Lords and part free, that he knows which is my Lords but will not discover it'.

In Lorton and Buttermere, Browne had better co-operation, judged by the absence of such comments. Perhaps that reflected the greater certainty of boundaries, the better defined freeholds and very few Quakers, who tended to occupy lands west of the Cocker. But at High Swinside he had actual praise for 'Thos. Burnyeate of Butter Mire' who was 'a very candid open man' and by implication might be treated favourably. This praise is unique in Browne's surveys of Braithwaite & Coledale and Derwentfells manors, and

³ WRWC Thomas Burnyeat 1705. L&DFLHS W.050

Thomas Burnyeat of Swinside (by 1695) = Frances tanner d.1705

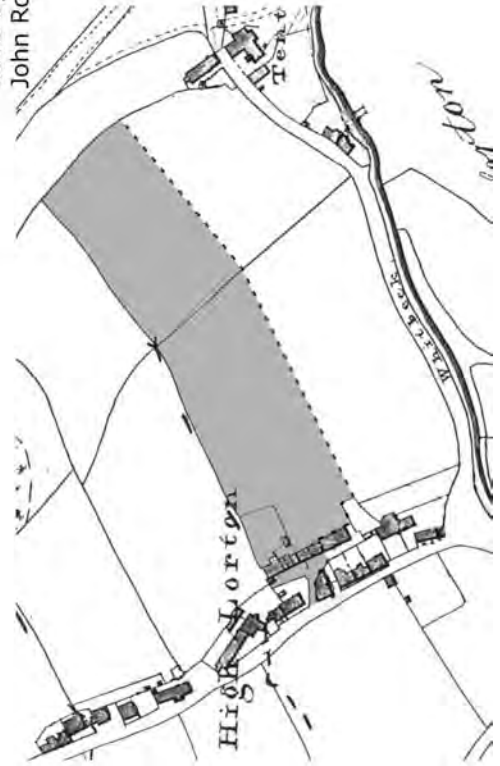


Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside = Mary 1710-1800 d.1773

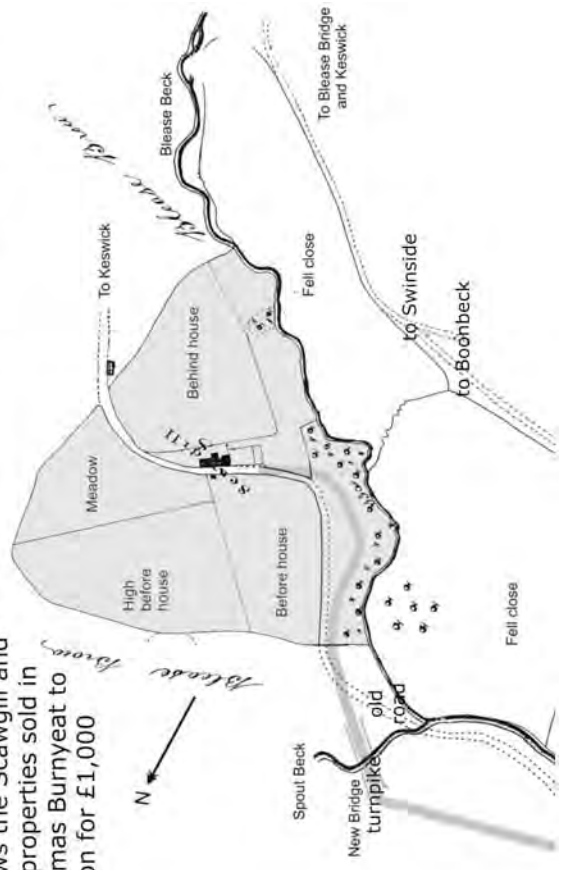


Thomas Burnyeat of High Swinside = Jane Peill 1745-1816 1779 no issue 1738/9 - 1825

Shading shows the Scawgill and High Lorton properties sold in 1803 by Thomas Burnyeat to John Robinson for £1,000



Scawgill and the road to Lorton seen from Whinlatter around 1900



provides corroboration for the gravestone inscription noted above. It is also interesting that a tanner should have such a high appreciation, because tanning, like fulling, was a nasty smelly rural industry which was kept downwind of other habitations, which is why these were at High Swinside and Tenters.

Thomas Burnyeate of Butter Mire? The 100 acres of High and Low Swinside were in the township of Buttermere, even though Swinside was adjacent to Lorton and separated from Buttermere-proper by the township of Brackenthwaite. The reason for this has been proposed by Angus Winchester. When Swinside was enclosed from Derwentfells common in the thirteenth century, the common was in two ownerships, divided approximately at the Whinlatter Pass. The new customary rent for Swinside had to be collected by someone, and was combined with the rents of Buttermere, which was under the same ownership. This manorial attachment was followed in the civil attachment of Swinside to Buttermere township, and lasted until the late nineteenth century, when Swinside became part of Lorton and when poor Brackenthwaite township was devoured by its larger neighbours.

When Mr Browne came to survey Thomas Burnyeat's property in 1758, he found that Burnyeat had two holdings at Swinside and one in Lorton. At Swinside he had 39 acres of the 100 and a 'good house, barn, stable and tanyard', at a total customary rent of 11s 9d. There is no mention of tanpits, but these would be required in the tan yards, for the hides to be soaked with oak-bark. At High Swinside the bedrock would not be far below the surface, and tanpits would be difficult to excavate. It does appear that the farmstead at High Swinside was in two parts. The other, with 23 acres, had belonged to the Iredale family, but had passed in the 1740s to the Langcakes, through the marriage of Jane Iredale.

The property at Swinside was placed in Browne's survey of Braithwaite and Coledale, because Buttermere was within the jurisdiction of the local manor court at Braithwaite. Thomas Burnyeat's property in Lorton was in Browne's survey of Derwentfells, the head court, and was described as 'six fields the uppermost on

the fell' of twelve acres. These were the lands at Scawgill, and no buildings were recorded. In 1759 Thomas Burnyeat purchased the freehold from Lord Egremont for his property at High Swinside and Scawgill, paying £138 for the enfranchisement of High Swinside and £32 for Scawgill, valuing them at £460 and £107 respectively. But there was also wood on these premises and he paid two guineas for wood on Swinside and three for Scawgill. The access to oak bark was most important to a tanner, and it can safely be assumed that the wood in the ravine below Scawgill, above the future New Bridge, provided bark for High Swinside. Thomas Burnyeat may have held additional freehold property in 1759, because in the first decade of the nineteenth century his son owned Birkett Cottage, which was then one step up from a woodsman's hut. He also may have held customary property in the separate manor of [High] Lorton, which did not belong to Lord Egremont.

By 1777 Thomas Burnyeat had customary property in High Lorton, held under the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral as lords. These messuage houses and the closes Above House and Ing, can be located within Thomas Peale's tenement of 1649. This is the tenement, or farm, which was broken up by Michael Peile in or before 1741, to form the two rows of cottages and workshops separated by Smithy Fold. His heir, Richard Pearson, then held the row in Smithy Fold, which became the carpentry business of the Robinsons, and the blacksmiths and Blacksmiths' Arms/Horse Shoe, plus the land above called Above House and Ing. In 1796 Thomas Burnyeat transferred the customary tenancy of the buildings that became the blacksmiths and the public house to James Sergison, presumably following a sale.

Scawgill and the turnpike

The turnpike Act covering Whinatter dates from 1762, nearly three years after Thomas Burnyeat purchased the freehold of Scawgill. At that time the old highway went through the Scawgill fields taking a different, higher line than the current terrace that now leads down to New Bridge. But this was the lesser road, because before New Bridge there was no bridge; the normal route into Lorton being through

Scales and Boonbeck using two county bridges. The new road was being considered well before 1762. In 1748 the board of Directors of the Greenwich Hospital, lords of the manor of Castlerigg and Derwentwater, received 'a petition from several of the Derwentwater Tenants & others Inhabitants at Keswick setting forth, that an Act is intended to be applied for this Session of Parliament for a Turnpike Road between Cockermouth and Keswick, that being apprehensive it will be attempted to be carried by Ousebridge which is the furthest & the worst way & not over Whinlatter, to the great detriment of the petitioners; they therefore pray the Governors of the Hospital, will interpose their good offices in their behalf ...'⁴ The Whinlatter route was much shorter between Keswick and Cockermouth, but it also improved the route from Keswick to Whitehaven, via Lorton and Loweswater, bypassing Cockermouth. This was important to the people of Keswick, but not to the people of Cockermouth. If the Cockermouth plan had been followed then Lorton would not have had a new road, and the course of Lorton's development would have been very restricted. The route over Whinlatter was agreed by 1755, and completed by 1770.

Although it is not possible to quote the exact year when the new road and the Scawgill buildings were built, it does seem that they were approximately contemporary with one another and certainly co-ordinated, because the turnpike trust would have agreed the route with Burnyeat though his land and had to purchase the extra land needed, as far as the new bridge. The buildings were constructed in time to be included on Donald and Hodkinson's map surveyed in 1770-1 and labelled as New Orchard. The Gordon family, previously of High Lorton, moved into Scawgill between 1774 and 1776 and remained until at least 1782, three children being born there.

In 1783 Thomas Burnyeat the elder, now 73, transferred 'several tenements', including Scawgill, to his son Thomas, but with various encumbrances which might have included other family members' portions, and perhaps some mortgage debt. Thomas Burnyeat, the son

(1745-1816), was also a respected person. Thomas Birkett, the younger, married Jane Peill in 1779 but they do not appear to have had children, perhaps because she seems to have been over 40 when they married. Jane was the daughter and heir of John and Mary Peill, who owned White Ash farm, as described by Ron George in 'A Cumberland Valley'. Jane was admitted to the customary tenancy of White Ash in 1796, and so Thomas Burnyeat, the younger, effectively held another valuable property.

The sale of Scawgill

In 1803, after the death of his father in 1800, and having discharged the encumbrances on the estates, Thomas Burnyeat and his wife, Jane, sold the Scawgill property, with the remaining Smithy Fold property in High Lorton, to John Robinson of Hexham Brewery, an indication that Scawgill was being used as an ale-house. John Robinson paid £1,000 for property including 'All that Messuage and Outhouses ... lately erected on the South side of the Turnpike Road ... upon part of a certain Tenement there called ... Scowgills otherwise Scogills and all those several lands ...'.

After the sale of this property and Scawgill to John Robinson in 1803, Thomas Burnyeat had £1,000 and White Ash in his wife's name, in addition to the freehold of High Swinside. This made him a substantial inhabitant of Lorton/Buttermere. Now 58 years old, and without an heir, it seems likely that at Thomas Burnyeat had long ceased tanning and may have let his two farms of High Swinside and White Ash. John Bolton noted that in the early nineteenth century 'Thomas Burnyeat lived in his own place at High Swinside and one of his brother's daughters lived with him. Peter his brother lived at Birkett's house and was a retired exciseman. ... Thomas was Church Warden in 1800 and was a noted man in the Parish and acted as will maker and executor in many cases'.

By 1811 Thomas Burnyeat had let the farming of High Swinside to Isaac Harrison and in 1812 he was admitted jointly with Jane to White Ash. After his death in 1816 his estate was in the hands of trustees. When the claims for a share of the Lorton commons were made in 1827-8, his trustees Jonathan Stainton and John Dodgson held no property in Lorton but,

⁴ TNA/ADM/67/261 p.225. 28th Dec 1748

with nothing to lose, applied for an allotment in respect of his estate of 55 acres in High Swinside. Of course Swinside was in Buttermere and they received nothing. The patch of common between the two gates on Swinside Terrace was retained as the open Buttermere common for the use of Swinside; that is why the upper gate is there, erected in about 1832. By this time the land was farmed by Peter Philip Burnyeat as a tenant farmer, not as owner.

Scawgill, a marginal property

John Robinson did not own Scawgill for long after 1803, because in 1811 it was owned and occupied by John Brough, when he was assessed for income tax of £1-6s to support the French wars. Before purchasing Scawgill, John Brough was a tenant farmer at Whinfell Hall with wife Sarah (born Stagg) and their two children, Joseph born 1802, and John born 1805. Scawgill allowed them to own their own property and possibly to combine a small farm with an ale-house. John's elderly mother came with them and died in 1812; John himself died before 1828 leaving Sarah and two sons at Scawgill. They expanded the farm to 55 acres, through the enclosure of Lorton commons in 1831-2, but in 1833 Joseph died. Sarah and remaining son John moved to Cockermouth where John married and became a tenant farmer. They let Scawgill to John Willis as a farmer from 1833 to 1840, where he and wife Mary had four children. From 1841 Scawgill was occupied by Thomas and Ann Robinson, who came with one child and had two more there. Thomas was the first there to be listed as an innkeeper or a publican.

The coming of the turnpike through Lorton greatly improved its communications and perhaps the Burnyeats' venture at Scawgill was one of

the first consequential enterprises, later to be followed by the brewery and the flax mill. But Scawgill was small with poor land for a farm, and not well positioned as an ale-house. It had competition from the Rising Sun in Lorton and the Traveller's Rest in Thornthwaite, both of which were built as early inns on the turnpike, and were more successful. The Lamb would miss the travellers from Keswick to Whitehaven, as well as the tourists, who would usually take the left fork to Swinside Terrace and would not pass the Lamb. It remained a marginal property, suitable for young energetic families starting out.

In 1803, when Thomas Burnyeat took £1,000 for Scawgill plus the small property in High Lorton, he probably made a very wise decision.

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The Journal

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L&DFLHS – Programme for 2011	
Date	Event
10 th March	<i>John Ruskin: the Eye and the Pencil</i> by Dr David Cross
12 th May	<i>From Peasant to Estatesman</i> by Christine Craghill
9 th June	The Society's agm and a talk to be announced
14 th July	<i>Carlisle Records Office and its relevance to Local History</i> by David Bowcock
8 th September	<i>Mardale – the Drowned Valley</i> by John Falshaw
10 th November	<i>Lorton as it was 200 years ago :- updating John Bolton's lecture of 1891</i> by Derek Denman
Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton s at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 with refreshments.	