

# The Journal

## Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite    Buttermere    Embleton    Loweswater    Mockerkin    Pardshaw    Wythop

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*Outside the Packhorse Inn, Low Lorton, in the late nineteenth century*

## **The Journal**

Welcome to issue 49 of the Journal. Legal professionals might wish to stop at page 9.

The next Journal will be our fiftieth, without any breaks, and I welcome contributions from all members for that rather special issue, particularly if you wish to write on our less well covered townships.

*Derek Denman*

### **Contents of Journal No. 49**

Oak Bank Farm, Loweswater, in 1941	2
A Walk through Mockerkin in the 1950s	5
Reflections on two architectural guides to Cumbria	6
The end of Kirkgate End	10
The Society's Programme	16

#### **L&DFLHS 2011-12**

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### **Lorton 200 years ago**

Following requests for the content of the talk on Lorton in 1811, given in November 2011, to be made available, the slides and text for the whole talk have been placed on the Society's website, together with John Bolton's lecture of 1891.

Please go to [www.derwentfells.com](http://www.derwentfells.com) and follow the links on the home page. Copies can be printed off, if wished, for personal use.

### **Correction**

In Journal No.47, p.26 it was stated that Thomas Burnyeat owned Birkett Cottage in the early C19th. In fact he only rented it from the the trustees of Joshua Lucock Bragg of Lorton Hall. Apologies, DD.

## **Oak Bank Farm, Loweswater, in 1941**

by Roz Southey

In 1941, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) undertook a survey of British farms, as part of a campaign to increase the amount of food produced at home during the Second World War. Every farm in the country was to be surveyed and categorised by district committees comprised of experienced local farmers; the plan was to produce a modern Domesday book, giving details of every farm as of 4 June 1941. The completed forms, compiled over the years 1941-43, survive in the Public Record Office, giving an unusually detailed picture of agriculture at this period.

At Oak Bank Farm, Loweswater, there was a new young tenant, Foster Hastie, who had taken over the land on 25 March 1941, after the previous tenants, the Swinburns, had occupied the farm for around 70 years; Hastie was so new at the farm that the forms sent to him still bore the Swinburns' names. The forms, therefore, paint a picture of the farm at the end of the Swinburns' tenancy.

According to MAF's Assistant District Officer (ADO), F. Mitchell, the farm consisted of a total of 197 acres of land: 137 acres under crops or grass, and 60 acres of rough grazing. In addition to the Hasties – husband and wife – there was one other labourer on the farm, an unnamed boy of between 18 and 21 years old. The water supply to farmhouse and farm buildings was from a well – the well in the grounds of the house next door (Oak Bank House, formerly Cold Keld), and there was no private power on the farm.<sup>1</sup> Power for working the farm came from one horse, a 'fixed or portable engine', and a Fordson tractor of 20 hp. Hastie paid an annual rent of £125 for the tenancy.

The first concern of the ADO, Mitchell, was for the quality of the land rather than the crops, presumably with a view to assessing what the farm might produce if farmed effectively. His report did not make good reading. The soil was, he considered, 50% heavy, 30% moderate and 20% light; the condition of both arable and pasture was only

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<sup>1</sup> The house and farm had both been known as Cold Keld until 1834; the house resumed its old name in 1956, but the farm retained the new name.

County. <u>Cumberland</u>			
1941.	Parish. <u>Lonsdale</u>		
Parish Number. <u>105/21</u>			
SMALL FRUIT		Statute Acres	
81	Strawberries	/	
82	Raspberries		
83	Currants, black		
84	Currants, red and white		
85	Gooseberries		
86	Loganberries and Cultivated Blackberries		
87	Total Acreage of Small Fruit (This total should equal the total of Nos. 24 and 25)		
VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. FLOWERS. CROPS UNDER GLASS.			
88	Brussels Sprouts	/	
89	Cabbage, Savoys, Kale, and Sprouting Broccoli		
90	Cauliflower or Broccoli (Heading)		
91	Carrots		
92	Parsnips		
93	Turnips and Swedes (not for fodder)		
94	Beetroot		
95	Onions		
96	Beans, Broad		
97	Beans, Runner and French		
98	Peas, Green, for Market		
99	Peas, Green, for Canning		
100	Peas, Harvested dry		
101	Asparagus		
102	Celery		/
103	Lettuce		
104	Rhubarb		
105	Tomatoes, growing in the open		
106	Tomatoes, growing in GLASSHOUSES		
107	Other Food Crops growing in GLASSHOUSES		
108	Flower Crops growing in GLASSHOUSES		
109	Crops growing in FRAMES (fruit, vegetables, flowers, and plants)		
110	Hardy Nursery Stock		
111	Daffodils and Narcissi, not under glass		
112	Tulips, not under glass		
113	Other Bulb Flowers, not under glass		
114	Other Flowers, not under glass		
115	TOTAL (this total should equal No. 26)		
STOCKS OF HAY AND STRAW ON HOLDING ON 4th JUNE			
125	Hay	/	
126	Straw		
Name of Farm or Farms:— <u>Lonsdale</u>			
Name and Address of Occupier:— <u>A. G. St. John</u> <u>Lonsdale</u> <u>Cockermouth</u>			
Form No. CS1, SSY. Prepared..... <u>AS</u> .....			
Checked.....			
M. 10719 (4/62) 5/41 (10-4917)			

Form MAF1

poor to fair. The field drainage was bad, the fences in poor condition, and the ditches not much better. There were, however, no 'derelict' fields, there was never any shortage of water, and when it came to vermin and other pests – rats and mice, rooks and wood pigeons, moles, insects etc – the only problem Oak Bank suffered was an over-abundance of rabbits. The farmhouse, outbuildings and farm roads were in a 'fair' state and the farm conveniently laid out.

As far as ease of getting produce from the farm to market was concerned, Mitchell classified the farm's position with regard to roads as 'good', and its access to the railway as 'fair' – the nearest railway station was, of course, at Cockermouth.

Mitchell then turned his attention to the crops the farm was actually producing at the time. The first page of the form was totally useless to him, listing as it did small fruit (strawberries, gooseberries etc.) and vegetables 'for human consumption, flowers [and] crops under glass' – none of which Oak Bank produced. He did, however, note that the farm had no stocks of hay and straw for the winter of 1941.

On page three, Mitchell noted the various crops the farm did produce. 18 acres of land were devoted to oats, a further 2¾ acres to main-crop potatoes. There were also 1¼ acres under turnips and Swedes, and 1½ acres under kale – both intended for fodder. Moving on, Mitchell noted that 2¾ acres of land were 'bare fallow', 7 acres were under 'clover, sainfoin, and temporary grasses' intended for mowing that season, and 20 acres was permanent grass, also for mowing that season. A further 83¾ acres were under permanent grass used for grazing.

This all came to 137 acres; a further 160 acres – well over half the farm – were 'rough grazing', described by the form, as 'mountain, Marsh, Moor, or Down Land, or other rough land'.

The livestock on the farm reflected the type of land available. The number of cattle was very small – there were two cows, and one calf intended for slaughter; this looks very much as if the cows were merely used to provide milk for the household. There were, however, a substantial number of sheep: 115 ewes and 3 rams for breeding, 22 'two-tooth ewes' (that is, ewes that would be put to the ram for the first time that year), and 90

sheep and lambs under one year old – presumably representing the sheep that had been born earlier that spring. This made a total of 257 sheep.

In addition, there were a considerable number of poultry on the farm: 50 hens over 6 months old, and 50 under six months old. There were also 25 ducks of all ages, and 6 geese. The only horse was the gelding used for agricultural purposes.

When it came to commenting on how efficiently the farm was run, the form and ADO Mitchell made few specific comments; presumably it was thought that the answers to the previous questions would be sufficiently instructive. Mitchell's sole comment on farming methods was to say that the use of fertilisers on arable and grass land was 'adequate'.

There was a section, however, which required the ADO to categorize the farm as A, B or C. This was technically supposed to be an assessment of the land but came to be used as an assessment of how it was managed; if a category of B or C was awarded, the assessor was required to comment on any 'personal failings' displayed by the farmer – inevitably a matter of considerable controversy.

In practice, therefore, a category of A meant that the farm was managed well, of B that it was managed fairly, and of C that it was managed badly.

Mitchell put Oak Bank in Category B, giving two reasons for his decision: firstly, the poor quality of much of the land, and secondly, the fact that there was a new tenant. He did, however, add that the new tenant was 'improving on [the] old'. It may be that the

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.			
THE DEFENCE REGULATIONS, 1939, AND THE AGRICULTURAL RETURNS ORDER, 1939.			
RETURN WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL LAND ON 4th JUNE, 1941.			
<b>CROPS AND GRASS</b>		Statute Acres	
1	Wheat	—	
2	Barley	—	
3	Oats	18	
4	Mixed Corn with Wheat in mixture	—	
5	Mixed Corn without Wheat in mixture	—	
6	Rye	—	
7	Beans, winter or spring, for stock feeding	—	
8	Peas, for stock feeding, not for human consumption	—	
9	Potatoes, first earlies	—	
10	Potatoes, main crop and second earlies	23 7/8	
11	Turnips and Swedes, for fodder	14	
12	Mangolds	—	
13	Sugar Beet	—	
14	Kale, for fodder	1 1/2	
15	Rape (or Cole)	—	
16	Cabbage, Savoys, and Kohl Rabi, for fodder	—	
17	Yetches or Tares	—	
18	Lucerne	—	
19	Mustard, for seed	—	
20	Mustard, for fodder or ploughing in	—	
21	Flax, for fibre or linseed	—	
22	Hops, Statute Acres, not Map Acres	—	
23	Orchards, with crops, fallow, or grass below the trees	—	
24	Orchards, with small fruit below the trees	—	
25	Small Fruit, not under orchard trees	—	
26	Vegetables for human consumption (excluding Potatoes), Flowers and Crops under Glass	—	
27	All Other Crops not specified elsewhere on this return or grown on patches of less than 1/2 acre	—	
28	Bare Fallow	23	
29	Clover, Sainfoin, and Temporary Grasses for Mowing this season	7	
30	Clover, Sainfoin, and Temporary Grasses for Grazing (not for Mowing this season)	—	
31	Permanent Grass for Mowing this season	20	
32	Permanent Grass for Grazing (not for Mowing this season), but excluding rough grazings	833 3/4	
33	TOTAL OF ABOVE ITEMS, 1 to 32 (Total acreage of Crops and Grass, excluding Rough Grazings)	137	
34	Rough Grazings—Mountain, Heath, Moor, or Down Land, or other rough land used for grazing on which the occupier has the sole grazing rights	160	
<b>LABOUR</b> actually employed on holding on 4th June. The occupier, his wife, or domestic servants should not be entered.			
<b>WHOLETIME REGULAR WORKERS</b>		Number (in figures)	
35	Males, 21 years old and over	1	
36	Males, 16 to 21 years old	—	
37	Males, under 16 years old	—	
38	If none, write "None"	—	
38	Women and Girls	—	
<b>CASUAL (SEASONAL OR PART-TIME) WORKERS</b>		Number (in figures)	
39	Males, 21 years old and over	—	
40	Males, under 21 years old	—	
41	Women and Girls	—	
42	TOTAL WORKERS	1	
<b>LIVE STOCK</b> on holding on 4th June. Including any sent for sale on that or previous day.			
43	Cows and Heifers in milk	5	
44	Cows in Calf, but not in milk	—	
45	Heifers in Calf, with first Calf	—	
46	Bulls being used for service	—	
47	Bulls (including Bull Calves) being reared for service	—	
48	2 years old and above	(a) Male	
49		(b) Female	
50	1 year old and under 2	(a) Male	
51		(b) Female	
<b>OTHER CATTLE</b>			
52	Under 1 year old—		
53	(a) For rearing (excluding Bull Calves being reared for service)	—	
54	(b) Intended for slaughter as Calves	1	
<b>TOTAL CATTLE AND CALVES</b>			
55	Steeers and Heifers over 1 year old being fattened for slaughter before 30th November, 1941	—	
56	Ewes kept for further breeding (excluding two-tooth Ewes)	115	
57	Rams kept for service	3	
58	Two-tooth Ewes (Shearling Ewes or Gimmers) to be put to the ram in 1941	22	
59	Other Sheep over 1 year old	—	
60	Ewe Lambs to be put to the ram in 1941	—	
61	Ram Lambs for service in 1941	—	
62	Other Sheep and Lambs under 1 year old	90	
<b>TOTAL SHEEP and LAMBS</b>			
63		257	
64	Sows in Pig	—	
65	Gilts in Pig	—	
66	Other Sows kept for breeding	—	
67	Barren Sows for fattening	—	
68	Boars being used for service	—	
69	Over 5 months old	—	
70	2-5 months	—	
71	Under 2 months	—	
<b>TOTAL PIGS</b>			
72		—	
73	Fowls over 6 months old	50	
74	Fowls under 6 months old	50	
75	Ducks of all ages	25	
76	Geese of all ages	6	
77	Turkeys over 6 months old	—	
78	Turkeys under 6 months old	—	
<b>TOTAL POULTRY</b>			
79		131	
<b>GOATS OF ALL AGES</b>			
80		—	
<b>HORSES</b> on holding on 4th June			
81	Horses used for Agricultural Purposes (including Hares kept for breeding) or by Market Gardeners	(a) mares	
82		(b) geldings	1
83	Unbroken Horses of 1 year old and above	(a) mares	
84		(b) geldings	
85	Light Horses under 1 year old	—	
86	Heavy Horses under 1 year old	—	
87	Stallions being used for service in 1941	—	
88	All Other Horses (not entered above)	—	
89	TOTAL HORSES	1	

Form MAF2

later Swinburns had allowed the farm to deteriorate a little, or, being elderly, may not have had the energy to make the best use of the land.

### Main source

The documents relating to the MAF survey of British farms can be found in The National Archives in Kew under the classification of MAF 32. The specific reference for Loweswater farms is TNA/PRO/MAF32/184/105.

## A Walk through Mockerkin in the 1950s

by Walter Head

Approaching Mockerkin from the direction of Ullock there was a choice of direction at the fork in the road. Bearing left, the first property on the right was TARN BANK Farm, farmed by the Wilson family. Opposite this on the left was MOCKERKIN HALL, occupied by Major Iredale, who was Managing Director and major shareholder of Workington brewery. Next to this was a derelict property known as BLACKIE'S.

Taking the road towards Pardshaw, STUBBS FARM was on the right where the Birkett family farmed. Adjoining the farmhouse was STUBBS COTTAGE, occupied by the Kendall family (Mr Kendall was gardener/handyman for Major Iredale).

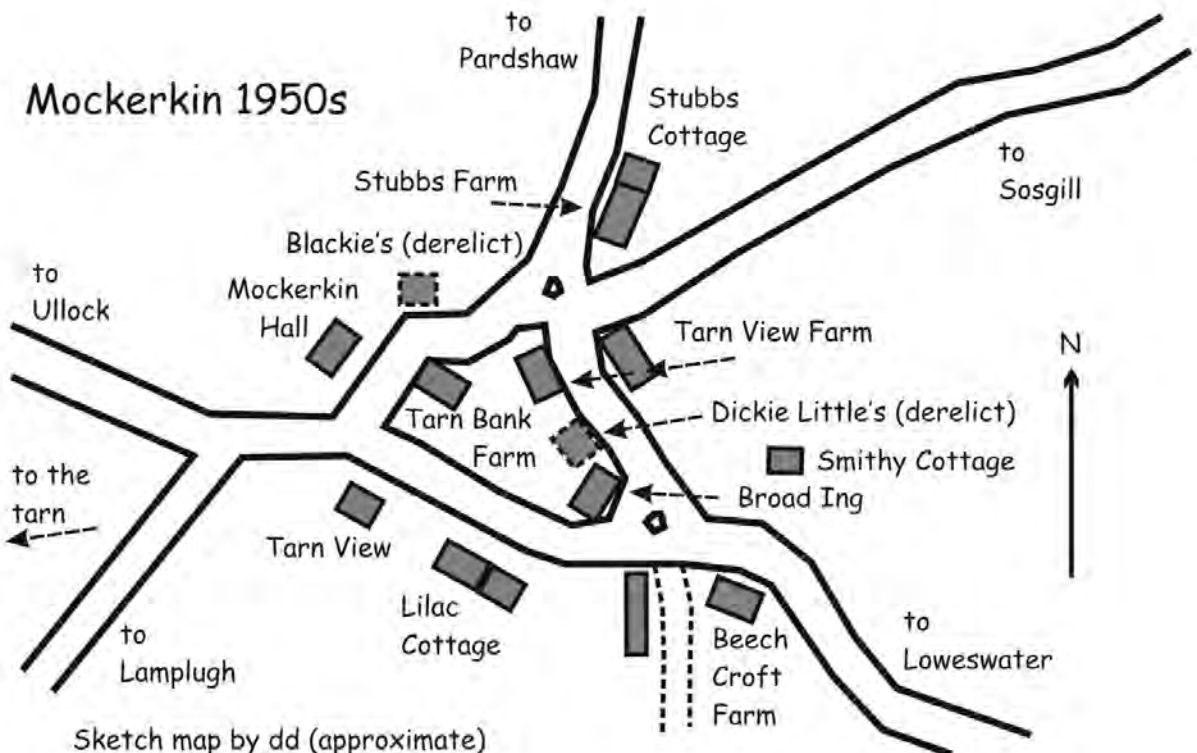
Retracing our steps back towards the village centre and just past the road junction for Sosgill, on the left was TARN VIEW FARM, with buildings opposite, farmed by the Salkeld family (before being named Tarn View this was called The Elms). Above

Tarn Banks Yard on the right was another derelict property known as DICKIE LITTLE'S, which in the late fifties was converted into a house. Next on the right was BROAD ING, farmed by the Armstrong family. Next above the green on the left was SMITHY COTTAGE, occupied by Rene & Bill Walker.

Turning back towards Ullock, on the left was BEECH CROFT FARM, farmed by the Birkett family. Below this also on the left was LILAC COTTAGE, with adjoining barn, lived in by the Tyson family. Then below that on the left was TARN VIEW, home of the Birkett family.

Rather unusually, none of the farms in the village had very much land adjacent to the actual farms. The land was fragmented with numerous small fields. Some as small as one or two acres and the largest of the arable ones was approximately ten acres in size.

My thanks go to Norah Forster, nee Wilson, for her help with this article.



## **Reflections on Two Architectural Guides to Cumbria**

*by Michael Baron*

In the early 1950s, when Nikolaus Pevsner (1902-1983) was Slade Professor of Fine Art at Cambridge University, undergraduates crowded his Saturday morning illustrated lectures on European art and architecture. His stellar performances from the lectern were notable for the quirky brilliance of his perceptive judgments on paintings sculptures and buildings. Nothing was unimportant:- history, art and literature were part of a seamless whole, second nature to this quintessential Central European intellectual. Leipzig, by way of Gottingen University and Adolf Hitler (Pevsner converted to Lutheranism but was nonetheless a Jew), brought to Cambridge the best of German education.

In 1945 Pevsner began work on what was to be, as one reviewer of *The Buildings of England* project, 43 volumes over 23 years, put it 'a work of manic diligence'. Travelling everywhere in a Wolseley Hornet, living off a diet of fish and chips, Britain was a vast building to be dissected and only a man like Pevsner could explore, see and note. In due course he got to Cumberland and Westmorland, between 1964 and 1966. This volume was published in 1967 and remained, until 2010, the handbook, the essential companion to any student or curious traveler eager to see what Pevsner saw.

Now, Pevsner's original place-by-place survey of our Cumbrian architectural inventory has been revisited by Mathew Hyde. *The Buildings of England: Cumbria-Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness* is published not by Penguin Books but by Yale University Press. Penguin's founder and guiding genius Sir Allen Lane backed the project when Pevsner suggested it to him during WW2. Respectfully, the title page acknowledges the authorship of 'Mathew Hyde and Nikolaus Pevsner.'

When the first series was completed in 1974, the critic Geoffrey Moorhouse, writing in *The Guardian*, enthused that there was 'nothing in the world [repeat the world, not just the country] to match these books'. To this challenge Mathew Hyde has risen magnificently. It was a pity that Words By



**Nikolaus Pevsner in the 1930s**

The Water could not find a place for Hyde at their 2010 Keswick Literature Festival, but it is good to find mentioned in his book, as helpers in his quest, the names of Mary Birkett, Steven Matthews, Andrew Lowe, Angus Winchester, Michael Winstanley, Denis Perriam and the late Robert Woof and John Todd among many other knowledgeable Cumbrian scholars.

So what did Pevsner find, see and write about some 45 years ago? Lorton boasts but two entries. The church is 'apparently early 19C'. He ventures inside and finds the stained glass window by Mayer of Munich 'really indefensible'. Both typical Pevsner judgments. And he is off to look at Lorton Hall. The living range is an 'impressive even display.' And then he is on the way to Loweswater. St Bartholomew 'appears to be of 1884 except perhaps the nave'. But he notices the 'Cup and Cover Paten of 1570'. And on to Cockermouth, though it may have been the other way around.

Once inside All Saints he is struck by the arcades, the capitals 'which are bands of nobbly foliage'. I could not find the word in my dictionary. Could he have meant



'knobbly'? Or was the Vicar in short trousers beside him, and his knees were not a pretty sight? But at least Hardman's stained glass is 'colourful'; and the plate is displayed and dated, the earliest being of 1639. It is worse at the South Street Christ Church. 'An extraordinary reactionary design ... the plate tracery on the other hand is 1860s all right'. But what was 'on the one hand', we shall never know, or what prompted the dismissive 'all right'.

Short descriptions of St Joseph and the Congregational Chapel (now the URC), and he and the Wolseley Hornet are puttering up Main Street to the Castle. That deserves a page and a half, and the spiral staircase in the Outer Gatehouse has a 'handsome umbrella' of eight ribs; and what is now the private residence of Lady Egremont is described as 'a pretty Gothic of c.1800'. No cup of tea here and it's up Castlegate Drive. The Derwent Secondary Modern School gets a sort of thumbs up as being a 'pleasant composition'. He notes it was designed by the County Architects Department.

Alas for the Gem Town! Not only does he not mention those two overused words but the town's perambulation is simple. 'It is virtually a walk along in one direction with a few sallies l. and r'. Still he finds the treasures; the best houses - Grecian Villa (now the Manor House Hotel) and 'the other best house, Wordsworth House where the bard was born' must be referring to the poet not the Bard. 'It is quite a swagger house for such a town'. When Pevsner is quoted on that house the deprecatory tone of the last few words is omitted. This is understandable since what please him about Main Street are the two rows of trees. Oh dear! 'The houses are mostly unremarkable, two- or three-storied ... the Victorian banks are more conspicuous'. Money ruled then in Main Street. Castlegate has a group of 'good houses. Castlegate House is Georgian', the first and only mention. He likes the trees in Kirkgate also, and notes the late '18C doorway of no 47'. 'Of Derventio on its Papcastle hill little is now visible'. Maybe if he had a cup of tea and cucumber sandwiches served in a silver dish at the Castle, instead of fish and chips in the unmentionable Station Street, he would not have been so critical of our town.

So after so much (or so little) and a note of acerbity in the pithy adjectives, 45

years on how does his successor Matthew Hyde see the best (or the worst) of our buildings. Does Keele via Bristol University give him a more generous glance, a master's in architecture and not a rigorous grounding in the classics at Gottingen? Another century, another pair of eyes.

No hint of a Wolseley Hornet here. When Hyde steps into Lorton's St Cuthbert's, he looks but has less to say than his master. The Munich designed stained glass has been upgraded to 'vulgar'. With that dismissal, parishioners will have to live. Whether it is a quiet show of sectarian allegiance or not, he actually notes the Methodist Chapel as 'cute'. Is that faint praise or an useful puff for an owner who has been trying to sell it for a few years? Lorton Hall gets four lines (two down on the old guide). But no compliments on the range facade which is 'long, even', but he is sufficiently inside Winder Hall to find 'Royal arms in plaster in an upstairs room'. Is Hyde a monarchist? Perhaps, but he has a real interest in industry as he pokes about Boon Beck Bridge and Jennings' malthouse, now the Village Hall.

And so to Loweswater. Pevsner's five lines now expanded to a 3/4 page. This man is a walker. He makes a clockwise circuit of the lake, for its houses are an illustration of the development of 'domestic architecture'. It could not have been raining. From Marshall (lord of the manor) and his school, the Millennium Monument, down to Watergate Farm that 'looks prosperous' to the 'handsome' three bay farmhouse of Hudson Place, he ambles past the 'new (Victorian) self consciousness' of Loweswater Hall with 'high maintenance valleys' and 'gloomy greenery'. A dekho at ruined Spout House; onward and Crabtree Cottage 'noses' into the hillside. He has the master's voice there and continues by contrasting Thrushbank, 'painfully smart with plastic windows and a uniform cover like marzipan'. Yummy? But contrast again High Cross, which 'approaches gentle-man farmer status'. Class, after all, is not wholly dead. But the church? This 'gaunt grey church composes ill with the splendour of its setting'. He has an eye for the hills. Keep that in mind when contemplating the four bay box of 1827-9, 'unattractively modernised in 1884' - Ooh that hurt! No time to see the plate. Low Hollins, with its 'plaster frieze of horses and doves', is the last stop.

At Buttermere, where the church is celebrated for 'its very lowliness', as at

Lowewater he has eyes for 'the superbly grand surroundings', - likes the bronze medallion of Cyril Catherall to his son, and the Haystacks view from the window 'appropriated' for the Wainwright inscription.

And time to go to Pardshaw. In the book under 'Dean' - a good photograph as Plate. 76 - the Friends Meeting House has 'every detail tried and tested for practical simplicity making the ensemble [of buildings] extremely attractive'. The description 'swagger' makes a welcome reappearance for the north front of Branthwaite Hall, 'if a rustic job'. Mockerkinn exists not, but Embleton does but briefly in St Cuthbert's, 'a rough cast box of 1806' and a 'tower porch with its funny bellcote'. Do the emerging worshippers laugh out loud on Sundays?

It is right to end with Cocker mouth and justice is truly done. Nine pages compared to Pevsner's three and a bit. No longer sandwiched between 'Coat House: see Wetheral' and 'Cold Fell'. Now accompanied by 'Clifton' and 'Colby', the entry has a map of the town for the perambulators. And a new and sensitive awareness of the place of industry in the town's history; 'now forgotten, by the mid C19 there were about fifty significant industrial sites'. This is a telling difference between the two texts - one fussily building skewed, the other very aware of siting and surrounding. And the rivers' confluence 'renders the town peculiarly liable to flood, most seriously in November 2009'. No paean to a Georgian town or to hyped 'gem' status.

Starting in conventional manner with places of worship, All Saints is 'an academic exercise owing nothing to the genius of the place - too tall, too solemn, too Dec'. Of the stained glass in the baptistery; 'Jesus walking on the water is particularly good'. Pevsner's 'nobbly' bits on the arcade's capitals are 'rich foliage'. True to Hyde's sense of place, the churchyard is both 'hilltop' and 'atmospheric ... with big trees and fine gravestones'. Christ Church is 'old fashioned', the interior 'barn-like' and the aisles' capitals resemble 'tyre-less car wheels'. Is this his not-so-gentle riposte to the once nobbly foliage or a nod to the icon of the 20th century? The Congregational Chapel, now the United Reform Church, has a 'spiky Gothic three-gable facade'. And so up to the Friends Meeting House which is 'like a bank'. An unconscious comment on

the connection between Quakerism and the early days of banking in England?

The Castle is spread over one and a half pages. I wonder whether he had tea in this 'the summer seat of Lady Egremont' whose 'unsuspected ... lushly exotic garden flourishes within the ruined walls high above the town'. He worries that the Bell Tower is 'leaning perilously', though as a certain Italian tower it has been a'leaning a damn long time. Down town Wordsworth House no longer swaggers. It is 'patrician'. And the National Trust gets plaudits for presenting 'very successfully, a living house of the period, without ropes or signs'. No longer the bard's birthplace, but that of William and Dorothy. Much more of this house history is known than in 1965, when it got three lines to today's 28. For example, that the carcass is that of 'William Bird's great house of 1690- and remodelled by Joshua Lucock in 1745'.

Free to perambulate, Hyde does so for almost six pages. He walks as far out as the Lorton Road cemetery. Not a man for simple sallying. Grecian Villa is 'distinguished'. He likes this 'neo-classical going on Victorian' of 1844. Up Main Street with its 'rendered and colour-washed buildings'. Lord Mayo 'his vice-regal stance looks a little awkward since he was discombobulated by a lorry in 1964'. Pevsner did not have any adjective for the assassinated Viceroy. On the Hyde stroll there are no Georgian gems, instead the Cocker mouth speciality; 'the window surrounds ... break out into ears, pediment shapes and continuous sills and lintels'. And the pubs enjoy 'these fancies' though these are not to be confused with the lightly clad maidens who frequent them at weekends.

'The culverted mill race from the Cocker served the mills of Waterloo Street'. So it was here, on the same side of the river as home, that the young Wordsworth bathed as joyously recollected in *The Prelude*. Today he would have been stopped by a policeman from the Police Station of a now uncertain future, but for Hyde, in a nice turn of phrase, 'a prime example of speaking architecture'.

Market Place has 'good three storey buildings' and No 35 is 'unusually grand'. Not a sentence about No 47. Pevsner did not sally far. He missed Percy House, an 'exceptionally early town house in the region', (1462-3). Banks Court with its industrial past is not missed out. Castlegate



is too 'narrow to linger' but has 'good 18C houses'; the ground floor of Castlegate House has 'delicate Rococo plasterwork'. I was disappointed not to find a reference to the artist, Percy Kelly.

And he would have agreed that the car park was 'nondescript'. Where is any 'descript' municipal car park? The Town Hall, then in 'poor repair', is indeed a 'fine building'. Across the atmospheric churchyard to Kirkgate, 'French in feel with pollarded trees and cobbles'. Cockermouth meets Marvejols? Down Cocker Lane and across the bridge to the 'well preserved 19C Croft Terrace. River banks and industrial buildings to Rubby Banks Mill complete the walk. And good to be reminded again that this was pre-eminently an industrial town, where hard working men, women and children had no spare time for dressing up and pretending they were other than they were. The Atlas Works employed 400 people in the 1880s. And the same goes for the suburban lands around the Gote. And Derwent Mills the town's 'most successful textile venture'. Death, and the evening of life, account for the cemetery and Hames Hall. Very oddly, while Hyde's index mentions Lord Bragg, he does not mention nor acknowledge Bernard Bradbury, whose *History of Cockermouth* Hyde seems not to have used. A shame since Bernard knew his town like no other and shared Hyde's interest in its industrial past.

On the Lorton side we are reminded that Strawberry How is like 'a barrack ... round a parade ground ... but a good and complete example of the type' of an Industrial School. Its successor among the very few buildings of our time, Hyde singles out the Eco Centre of Cockermouth School as 'eye-catching and colourful'. Pevsner approved, too, of the main school building and Hyde is of the same mind - it is 'typical and good'. The only 20th century buildings to receive any mention tell something of the conflict between conservation and building for the present. How lucky that the 18th century developers of Cockermouth pulled down, or substantially converted, all but two of its mediaeval dwellings. And thus supplied the stone and slate texts for Pevsner and Hyde to read and comment, even if the latter are



The cover of Matthew Hyde's book

designed not to please but to tell architectural, economic and social truths as these two historians saw it - from a middle-European and the other from an English perspective. Hyde's 774 pages is costly but worth it, not only for an exhaustive study of our buildings, but also for the 80 page introduction covering county history from earliest times to today.

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## ***The end of Kirkgate End***

*by Derek Denman*

Kirkgate End was a name in use by 1547 to identify the farmstead or farmsteads in Low or Nether Lorton, adjacent to the field road leading to the church. In 1578 there were two farm tenements of that name owned by the Peile family. By the early nineteenth century those farmsteads had joined the Lorton Hall estate held by Joshua Lucock Bragg, known as the Kirk Stile farm and the Packhorse Inn. The farm buildings were demolished by the Dixons in the 1890s, to be replaced by the Lodge of Lorton Hall. The Packhorse survives as a cottage, and the kirkgate itself continues to function as it probably did in the late twelfth century.

This article provides a case study of the relationship between farm properties and family ownership through a period of change. The study starts with the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries of Peiles and Winders, and reaches the Lucocks of the early nineteenth, but the focus is on the intermediate eighteenth century families of Fletchers and Barnes. The surviving records of manors, estates and families, allow a fairly complete picture to be created.

The history of Kirkgate End is not presented as typical of any general class of properties, but it does provide a practical illustration of the issues and circumstances affecting the aspiring property-owning classes at that time.

### **Kirkgate End and its place in Low Lorton**

Lorton's property was divided in two in 1158 by the creation of the manor of (High) Lorton as a gift to the Priory Church of Carlisle, including the high mill. It is most likely that both row villages existed at that time. It is probable that the formal division of the lands between the two manors dates to that time, and is marked by the headland or occupation road which was known as Crossgate Loane by 1649, and is Church Lane today. This is shown on Figure 1, which is taken from the plan of Joshua Lucock's Lorton Hall estate in 1803. The position of the church or chapel is of course important in establishing the position of Kirkgate End. 'Kirkgate' will be derived from the road or path (gata) to the church or the actual gate or opening (yeat). 'End' in a farmstead name usually refers to the last property in a row or a village, and fits well with being adjacent to

the demolished barn which used to stand where Fell View's entrance now is, but it would be unwise to assume that buildings never occupied Church Croft.

Lorton had a chaplain in 1198-9, and so it is reasonable to assume that it had a chapel at that time.<sup>1</sup> Mythology places a medieval chapel at Lorton Hall, but there is no evidence, either historical or archaeological, to suggest that Lorton Hall or a substantial precursor existed. We do not have a record of when and where the first chapel was built. An interesting question is when St Cuthbert's gained burial rights, in that burials tend to fix a chapel in place. Burials were taking place before the first surviving burial registers, because in 1544 Rycharde Windr of Lorton wished his 'body to be buried in the chappell of St. Cuthbert of Lorton'.<sup>2</sup> In his case the burial would be under the floor. The simplest proposition, that the chapel and its location were settled in conjunction with the division of the manors, to serve both villages, seems to fit the evidence well – including the aspirations of the pious Norman lord. The kirk gate in Low Lorton has probably not moved for over 800 years. The origins of the name, 'Kirkgate End' have not been sought through the manorial records, but the earliest name in the records to hand comes from the general fine of 1547, when John Peylle of Gaytend held the fulling mill at Tenters, which like Scales was property in Derwentfells manor which was developed by the Nether (Low) Lorton landowners.<sup>3</sup> The registers of St Cuthbert's identify Kirkgate from 1606.

For the purpose of this article, what we know of Low Lorton from the earliest records can be best understood from Angus Winchester's fine summary:-

*Low Lorton* appears to be the freehold estate described as the 'vill of Loreton' in 1230, when it was held by Thomas Marischal (*Cal. Docs. Re Scotland*, i. no. 1106). By 1305 it had been divided into three parts: the freeholds of Robert of Gosforth and Robert of Plumbland, each held at a rent of 3s.4d. can be identified with two estates, each described in 1385 as 'a third part of the vill of Lorton inferior'. The final third had been further

<sup>1</sup> Angus Winchester, *Landscape and society in medieval Cumbria*, p.146

<sup>2</sup> FA Winder, 'The Winders of Lorton', *Transactions CWAAS Old Series*, Vol.xii, pp.439-457

<sup>3</sup> CACW/DLec./314, 38

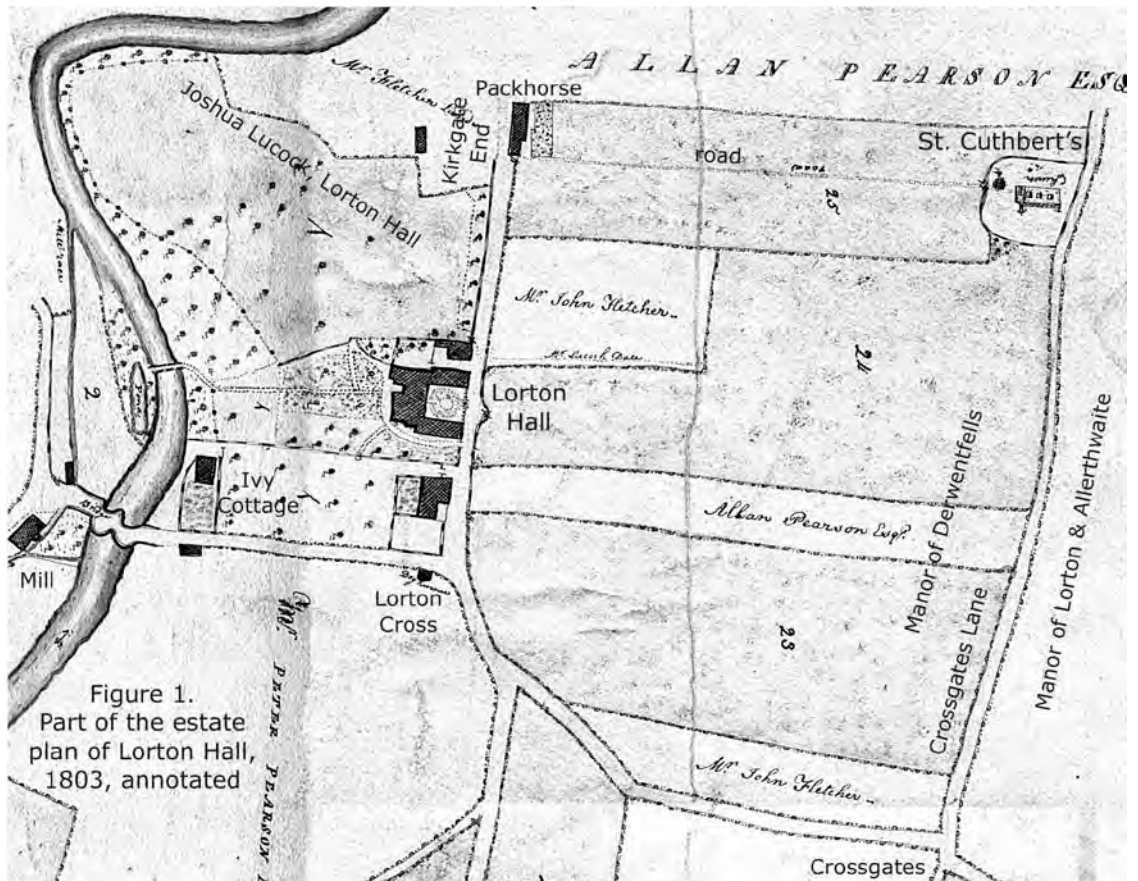


Figure 1.  
Part of the estate  
plan of Lorton Hall,  
1803, annotated

divided by 1385, when a freehold described as one-sixth of the vill is recorded, held at a rent of 20d. The last sixth had probably escheated to the lords of Cockermouth by 1437, when they had tenants at will in the township (C.R.O., D/Lec/29/1, m.3).<sup>4</sup>

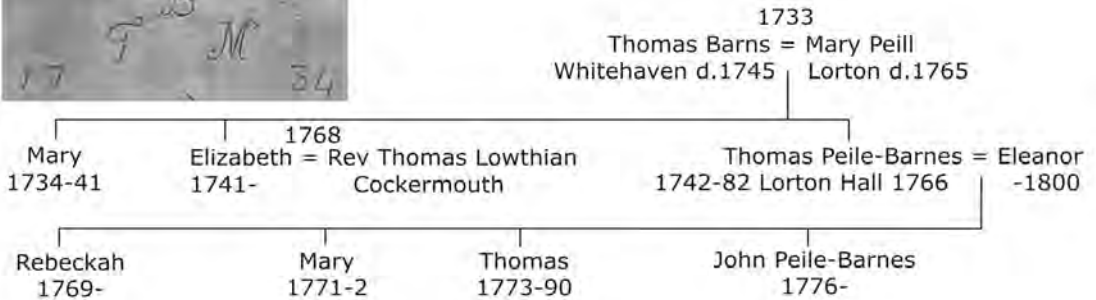
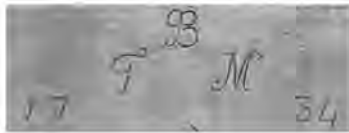
That last sixth turns out to include the two farmsteads at Kirkgate End, listed in the Great Survey of the lands of the Earl of Northumberland made in 1578. The third holding cannot be securely identified from the Great Survey alone, but can be identified as that tenement which now includes the Wheat Sheaf, from the enfranchisement in 1759 of a tenement of rent 3s 5½d. These three holdings in the village are shown in Figure 2, but the tenements of Kirkgate End included land holdings in Lorton Field to the south and in the meadows to the north. When they were parts of a medieval freehold, these three had paid no more than twenty pence as a free rent. Now let to

tenants at will, or customary tenants, they paid in total at least twenty shillings in customary rent plus fines according to custom. However, the two Kirkgate End tenements, of 9s 5d held by Cuthbert Peile to the west of the road (Lorton Hall Lodge) and of 9s held by John Peile to the east of the road (Packhorse Cottage and Fell view), have the feel of a divided older tenement. The road passed through the old farmsteads to the north, for example in the adjacent freehold tenement of Richard Peirson (Holme Cottage and Sunny Vale).

#### The Packhorse tenement

The farmstead to the east of the road, including the Packhorse Inn, will be addressed first because it was incorporated into the Lorton Hall estate first. John Bolton appears to have had access to old deeds: - 'In olden times the people had to travel long distances to services or to bring infants to be baptised or the dead to be buried. Thus arose the needs for Inns with stabling accommodation or stalls ... The old name of Kirkstyle at Loweswater is given in old deeds as Kirk stall and the Pack Horse is described as the Inn at

<sup>4</sup> Angus Winchester, *Landscape and society in medieval Cumbria*, p.146



Kirk style'.<sup>5</sup> The current Packhorse cottage is dated 1734, above, and Ron George thought that the initials were those of John and Martha Bowe.<sup>6</sup> He also decided that the cottage remains but the adjacent inn has been demolished. The old photograph on the cover shows that the cottage was the inn. The barn adjoining to the south has been demolished.

In 1733 Thomas Barns of Whitehaven, who may have come from the High Lorton family of the seventeenth century, married Mary Peill of Lorton. The dated lintel over the Packhorse door indicates their marital home, a T rather than a J. The first daughter, Mary Barns, was born at Scales in 1734, with the father given a gentlemanly title as Mr Thomas Barns. The other two children were born in Low Lorton. It is reasonable to conclude that Thomas and Mary were resident owners at the Packhorse from 1734, and that Mary Peill brought the Packhorse part of Kirkgate End to the Barns family in 1733. By 1758 the 9s rent had been apportioned to 5s, and so it is likely that Mary brought the farmstead, croft and just thirteen statutory acres of the customary land of Kirkgate End in the fields and closes. Thomas Barns died in 1745, again titled Mr, and his wife died in 1765.

At the general fine of 1749 the customary tenant was the young Thomas Peile-Barnes (1742-1782), who took the joint names as heir of both families. He did not enfranchise the Packhorse and its land when the opportunities came in 1759 and 1777, and therefore did not gain the freehold. Thomas Peile-Barnes had resources in addition to the Packhorse, and became no mere innkeeper. He married an Eleanor (1743/4-1800) whose maiden name is unrecorded, and in 1766, aged 24, moved

up by purchasing Lorton Hall. For this he paid £2060 to Christopher Richardson of Johnby, who still owed half of that to Jonathan Wilkinson for his purchase in 1759. By 1768 Thomas was Captain Thomas Peile-Barnes, when Isaac Fletcher of Underwood recorded in his diary a visit to Lorton Hall to deliver 'the papers and ... letters & cash from J. Wordsworth'.<sup>7</sup> This was part of the campaign to buy the votes of freeholders for Sir James Lowther in the parliamentary elections. By 1769 Thomas held the property which would be purchased by Joshua Lucock in 1800, including the Low Mill. He paid the one guinea which was required for his named seat to be marked on the Hodkinson and Donald map of Cumberland, surveyed in 1770-1. Having been born at the Packhorse, he was under thirty and the Squire of Lorton.

In Lorton Hall four children were born from 1769 to 1776, with Thomas Peile-Barnes sometimes designated as Esq. He died in Lorton in 1782, aged 39, and his first son and heir, also Thomas, died in 1790 aged seventeen. The second son, John Peile-Barnes, inherited aged thirteen but it is likely that the estate was financially unsustainable for him. Shortly after coming of age in 1797 he raised a mortgage of £720 on the freehold property, from John Nicholson of Hill in Brigham.<sup>8</sup> In 1800 his mother, Eleanor Barnes, died at Lorton Hall and her dower was thereby released The Lorton Hall estate, including the Packhorse farmstead and the land of Kirkgate End, was immediately sold to Joshua Lucock (1772-1809) of Cockermouth.

#### The Kirk Stile Farm tenement

In 1578 this other Kirkgate End estate, with its farmstead to the west of the road, had a customary rent of 9s 5d and was held by Cuthbert Peile. As with the other holding, the

<sup>5</sup> John Bolton, 'Lorton as it was 80 years ago', L&DFLHS archive

<sup>6</sup> Ron George, *A Cumberland valley*, p.193

<sup>7</sup> Angus Winchester, *The diary of Isaac Fletcher*, p.210

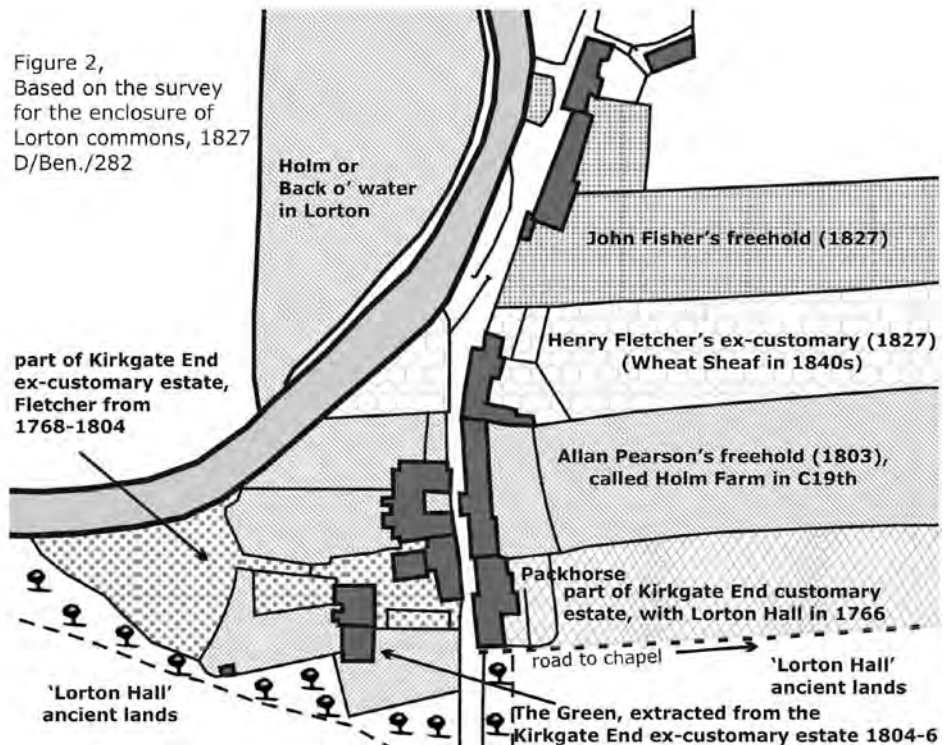
<sup>8</sup> Deed at Winder Hall

descent of this one through the Peile family has not been followed, but by the time of the general fine of 1723, the customary tenant was John Peile the younger. He held both this tenement and another parcel of a tenement of rent 13s 8d, apportioned to 5s 6d, which turns out to be land near Cass Howe. In 1749 he was listed as John Peile, Gentleman, and in deeds following his death in 1762 he was John Peile of Dearham, Gent. The settlement of two of his siblings in Dearham suggests that they were a Dearham family by the early eighteenth century, and that the Lorton holdings, which included some freehold land, had been let to tenants. In 1760 John Peile had raised a mortgage of £400 on the property from Jane Woodville of Cockermouth, widow. The inheritance of the property by John Peile's brother, Philip Peile of Dearham, merchant, had to take account of that mortgage and of the bequests to his two sisters, who had both made good marriages. In 1765 Philip Peile died, and the new round of executing wills and trust deeds and the disposing of the deceased's property by his trustees for the benefit of his two co-heir sisters, led to another round of fees for the local attorneys and land agents, who made a good living from proceedings of this sort.

John Fletcher was the purchaser of all this Lorton estate from the two sisters in November 1768, plus Horse Close in Loweswater. At that time he was a merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne, but he was later Captain John Fletcher of Whitehaven when he died, at some time before 1777, leaving a very young family. He seems to have paid £1575 in total, before fees. As part of this process, and no

doubt under the advice of his attorney, he appointed a trustee, Thomas Robinson of Pardshaw, as the customary tenant of the customary part of the property. This was becoming the standard recommended practice for these small estates because it got around the problem that customary property could not be devised in a will. Inheritance was defined and fixed by custom, and in 1768 John Fletcher had no son to inherit the customary tenancy. But a trustee installed as customary tenant of the manor court could dispose of the customary tenancy on the death of the owner/testator by alienation, according to his/her wishes. These arrangements required the property to be vested in the trustee and his/her heirs, for the benefit of the owner and his/her heirs. Wills and trust deeds had to be written and managed by the attorneys. This whole system of controlling customary property could become very complex, and a sequence of deaths of owners could ensure almost continuous expensive advice and writing. Disputes could easily end up with even more expense at the notorious Court of Chancery.

Thomas Bernard (1750-1818), later Sir Thomas, Bart., had trained as a barrister. Being unsuitable for the bar due to a speech defect, he grew wealthy as a conveyancer, and he noted in his lakes tour of 1780 that in



Cumberland, 'This minute Division of Property creates and nourishes an Abundance of Law-suits, which do infinite Honour to the County'.<sup>9</sup> Sir Thomas Bernard later repented and became an evangelical philanthropist in support of the poor, advocating self-reliance.

John Fletcher was probably unhappy with the level of his fees for those transactions of 1768, because in late 1771 he decided that he would write his own will, in his own plain words. He now had a daughter, Ann, and a son, John born in 1770. In the will he requested that any disputes should be settled without going to law because 'I know how I have got every shilling and I would not have anything spent in that bottomless Goulf that which ought to be the guard of our properties is in general the destruction of them'. In being his own attorney, of course he had a fool for a client, as the legal professionals used to say. The imprecision of the will and its contradictions, and the flaws in instructing its executor, instructing the trustees of the will, and in particular instructing the customary tenant in trust, Thomas Robinson, led to far more disputes and cost than a properly drawn will would ever have done. But John Fletcher was not troubled by that, because by then he was dead. However, he must have known that he was not up to the task, because soon after the will was signed and witnessed he added a codicil beginning 'Upon Revisal of what I have wrote there are some things may need a further explanation ...', which of course only made matters worse.

His wife Barbara was made executor and given 'absolute power', or perhaps none, over the inheritance of the young children, John, Ann and Isabella, when they came of age, or perhaps before, or perhaps after: -

... I give her the sole power of giving my Estate and Effects to my Children as she pleases she may give it to them when and in what proportion she pleases I give to my son John my Estate at Lorton if he prefers that to an equal division if not he may take an equal division But if any of my children do not behave well its in my wife power to leave them as little or as much as she pleases for I mean she should have an absolute power in the

disposal of all I die possessed of That she may do it according to my childrens deservings But I would have my Trustees to see she does not live above the income but as she is a very prudent woman I hope there will be no occasion If any of my children should turn out notoriously bad in conduct I give my Trustees power to deprive them of an equal share ... If any die before they come of age that share to go equally amongst the rest for I would not have my oldest son a gentlemen and the others much his inferiors ...

The home-made will failed to give Thomas Robinson any instructions on transferring the customary tenancy of Kirkgate End, thereby defeating the objective of his appointment. Had John Fletcher simply been customary tenant himself, then custom would have transferred the tenancy to his infant son, John. But having been ensnared by the Cumberland legal fraternity, there was no easy way to exclude their bread from the family's gravy. When Lord Egremont offered to enfranchise the Derwentfells tenants in 1777, Barbara, with her supposed absolute power, had to supply the necessary £505 from her own resources. Kirkgate End was enfranchised, with its timber trees, to Thomas Robinson of Pardshaw and his heirs. The freehold was now curiously split between Thomas Robinson and the trustees of John Fletcher's will (not Barbara), awaiting the children's coming into their inheritance.

Barbara Fletcher and her three children, John, Ann and Isabella, all moved to Lorton by 1790, and all three were married in St Cuthbert's. John (1770-1804) was a little older than the other two young gentlemen, the Peile-Barnes brothers at the adjacent Lorton Hall, but they had a similar mercantile origin and Whitehaven connections. They could practice bowing to each other in the appropriate manner. In 1790, aged twenty, John married Mary Nicholson of High Lorton, who was a daughter of William Nicholson, of what is now Graceholm. Nicholson was wealthy and was considered the gentleman of High Lorton at that time. He was growing wealthier by lending money locally and acquiring property. Ann Fletcher was married in 1797 at age 28 or 29, and left the scene with William Wright, a clerk of Warrington. In 1801, at the age of 28 or 29, Isabella Fletcher married Joseph Woodhouse, a merchant of

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Bernard, *Pleasure and pain (1780-1818)*, ed. J Bernard Baker, p.17



London and a gentleman. They had three children in Lorton by 1808.

When John Fletcher came of age in 1791, he rather liked the idea of being a gentleman in Lorton. He considered himself a gentleman, being called Mr. in the parish registers, and a gentleman in his will. Having apparently been given the opportunity of taking the Lorton property as his share of the estate, he 'possessed himself of the said Tenement and heredit, or entered into the receipts or profits thereof & continued in possession ... until his death ... about the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 1804'. It is most unlikely that he and his family worked the land personally. John and Mary Fletcher had seven children in Lorton from 1792 until his death, and the naming of daughters after his mother and sisters perhaps puts into context the legal dispute which followed his death.

Under the will of this younger John Fletcher, the Kirkgate End estate was to be sold in 1806 by his trustees, Rev. William Sewell of Lorton and John Dodgson of Shatton. However, the claims of Barbara Fletcher resulting from that £505 enfranchisement, and the claims of the two sisters, Ann and Isabella, arising from John Fletcher's peculiar will, prevented the completion of the sale of the large ex-customary part of the Kirkgate End estate. Joshua Lucock Bragg of Lorton Hall, with a new name and more funds, had agreed to purchase it for £3570 and he took possession of the rents, though Bragg paid only a minority of the money. Bragg died in 1809, before this mess could be resolved, and it was 1814 before Bragg's trustees finally completed the purchase and all the interested parties, or their heirs, right back to Thomas Robinson, could receive their benefits, less the legal expenses.

It seems therefore that the disputes started after the younger John Fletcher's death, when the proceeds of the customary estate at Kirkgate End had to be shared among his widow, Mary, and his children, his mother Barbara, his sister Ann in Warrington, and his sister Isabella and her Woodhouse family. All except Ann appeared to be living at Kirkgate End in 1804, and Barbara and Isabella and family wished to stay there. Mary and her Fletcher family would have moved out by 1806, since her interest was sold. Mary was William Nicholson's daughter and would have plenty of good advice on optimising her position.

Several of Mary Fletcher's daughters were later married in Lorton and thereby, if under 21, came into their inheritances.

By 1806 Barbara Fletcher had built a house at Kirkgate End for herself and the Woodhouses, and had staked out land which would represent the value of the claims of herself and Isabella on the property. Their part was chosen to adjoin the Lorton Hall grounds and the house was set back from the road, creating an oasis of gentility in the rustic scene. Isabella inherited this property from her mother in 1825. John Bolton noted in 1891: 'The house ... stood on what was called The Green, eighty years ago Mr and Mrs Woodhouse lived there ... They were gentlefolks, and Mrs Woodhouse was a terrible fine lady. She was the leading singer at the Church ... In 1813 I find Mr Joseph Woodhouse acting as Secretary and Treasurer of the Sunday School'.<sup>10</sup>

It is hard to say whether the apparent family dispute over the property was real or just a legal construct. While the beneficiaries were the family members, the ownership was in fact disputed and negotiated among the trustees of various wills, through their legal advisors. The parties in 1806 included the trustees of the wills of John Fletcher senior and John Fletcher Junior, the trustees of the will of Joshua Lucock Bragg and of course Thomas Robinson or his heirs as ex-customary tenant. Any split in the family over the division of Kirkgate End is probably most evident from the failure to mention John or Mary on the memorial inscription at St Cuthbert's, which started with the death of Barbara Fletcher in 1825:-

145. Sacred to the/ memory /of Barbara,  
relict of the late Capt./ John Fletcher of  
Whitehaven: She died/ March 9th 1825,  
aged 87 years./ Also their daughter Ann  
Wright of/ Martins Croft [Warrington] who  
died in May 1824/ aged 56 years. Also  
their son in law Joseph Woodhouse/ who  
died October 4th 1831, aged 55 years/  
Also Joseph Woodhouse the son of/ the  
above named Joseph Woodhouse/ who  
died on the 1st day of April/ 1848 aged 41  
years./ Also Isabella widow of the above  
named/ Joseph Woodhouse senr died  
March 5th/ 1855 aged 83.

<sup>10</sup> John Bolton, 'Lorton as it was 80 years ago', L&DFLHS archive

### The end of Kirkgate End

The above has followed the two Kirkgate End farmsteads up to their inclusion in the Lorton Hall Estate. It has been shown that the Packhorse farmstead, together with the croft behind and a proportion of the old land holdings, came with Thomas Peile Barnes when he purchased the hall in 1766, and the identity of the old tenement was lost. The Packhorse and land remained in customary tenure, within the Lorton Hall estate of the Lucock Braggs. In 1810 George Chambers had the lease of the Packhorse at £10 rent. The other Kirkgate End farmstead to the west of the road was enfranchised in 1777 and that old farm tenement, less The Green but together with other freehold land, was purchased as a large estate by Joshua Lucock Bragg in 1806, though it took until 1814 to complete.

To complete the story briefly, in 1810 John Bank took the tenancy of 'Fletcher's lands' from Bragg's trustees for seven years at £73 10s rent. This farm retained its identity as the Kirkstile Farm within the Lorton Hall estate until George Lucock Bragg took control of the estate in 1839, after the death of his mother, Rebecca. He built or rebuilt much of Lorton Hall to make it face the river, added the long carriage drive from Kirkgate End, and the folly pele tower, without windows. He purchased the Holm farm, north of Kirgate End, which had been the freehold estate of Richard Peirson in the seventeenth century and had been handed down through the Bridekirk Pearsons and their nephews to Henry Teshmaker Thompson of Bridekirk. Now holding two adjacent farmsteads, George Lucock Bragg was able to arrange that the Holm Farm held the land to the north of Lorton, and the renamed Churchstile Farm held the land to

the south. Through this the identity of the old tenements was finally lost. In the 1890s, after the purchase by Thomas Dixon of Rheda for his second son Anthony, the farmstead of Churchstile was redundant and was demolished, together with The Green, and replaced by Lorton Hall Lodge.

This article has attempted to see through the documents to the relationship between society and property in Low Lorton in the eighteenth century. There seems to be little difference from the general English development of the 'polite and commercial' people, and nothing peculiar to the district, other than the retention of old forms of land tenure. But these were the best connected and most aspiring people in a township which was close to the industrial and commercial centres of Cockermouth and Whitehaven. It is not surprising that the eighteenth century seems to be a period of social and economic transition in Lorton.

### General Sources

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TNA/PRO/C101/5337, schedules of accounts of the trustees of Joshua Lucock Bragg (in Chancery).

### The Journal

Journal 50 will be published for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012. Please send contributions by 7<sup>th</sup> July. Back issues of *The Journal* are available on-line at [www.derwentfells.com/journal](http://www.derwentfells.com/journal) Copyright remains with the individual contributors. Published by Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society. Beech Cottage, High Lorton, Cockermouth CA13 9UQ

<b>L&amp;FDLHS – Programme for 2012</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> January	<i>The Building of Keswick</i> , by Dr Alan Smith
8 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>The History of Alston Moor</i> , by Alistair Robertson
10 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>The People of Roman Britain</i> , by Lindsay Allason Jones
14 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>The Society's AGM</i> . Event to be announced
12 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Mosser: a Cumbrian rural community across 800 years</i> , by Dr Angus Winchester
13 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>The Baroness of Belsfield</i> , by Ian Jones
8 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>An 1850 sketchbook – Wordsworth and the Lakes</i> , by Jeff Cowton OBE
Talks are held at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton s at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.50 with refreshments.	