Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Wanderer

February 2021

Contents

Society News

Articles

Society News

A Talk via Zoom, on 25 February at 7.30 pm

'From Roundhouse to Shieling: archaeological settlement surveys in the Loweswater and Buttermere valleys' by Peter Style

Peter is a locally based archaeologist, an author of papers on archaeology, and a Society member. Members are invited to 'attend' the above Talk from the comfort of their own homes, delivered using 'Zoom'. To participate, Members are asked to register their interest with Derek Denman, Secretary, by emailing by 11 February at: *derekdenman@btinternet.com* .

Members who register their interest will be sent by email details of how the evening will be conducted, and they will subsequently be provided with the necessary details to enable them to activate the Zoom link.

It is hoped that facilities will be in place for Members to raise questions about the subject following the conclusion of the Talk.

Reconstruction of an iron-age round house

Message from the Chair

I write this immediately following a committee meeting during which various decisions were made as regards the Society's potential programme for 2021. I am pleased to report that the Society will shortly be obtaining a licence for using Zoom for Talks and possibly for other purposes such as the AGM, and that a Talk for Members to be delivered via Zoom by Peter Style has been arranged for 25th February, as above. … p2

Our programme for 2021

Because of the current emergency, events below will take place by Zoom and we expect to arrange other events. Please see the Message from the Chair in this issue

25 Feb 21	*From Roundhouse to Shieling: archaeological surveys of early settlement sites in the Loweswater and Buttermere valleys*	Peter Style
15 Apr 21	*The Border Reivers –Romance and Reality*	Max Loth-Hill
10 Jun 21	The Society's AGM	

Officers and Committee 2020/21

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Events from Lancaster University, RHC. 20 Feb: Alan Crosby Study Event, 'Premarital sex and illegitimacy'. 6 March: 48th Annual Archaeology Forum.

The next *Wanderer* will be published on 1 May 2021. Please send items to Derek Denman, by 31 March.

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http://www.derwentfells.com *https://www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety*

A Talk via Zoom has also been arranged for 15 April when Maks Loth-Hill will address members on the Border Reivers, the subject he was to have spoken about in July last year. Further Talks are envisaged for later in the year, whether 'virtual' or at a physical meeting of Members depending, of course, on prevailing circumstances. Details will be communicated to Members as soon as they have been arranged. It is also envisaged, at present, that the AGM will be held via Zoom in its usual June slot in the Society's calendar.

Turning to other activities, it is inevitably difficult in the present ongoing emergency to make plans with regard to visits and walks. So, I regret not having anything to report on those fronts, but I can assure Members that the committee has not abandoned hope that such activities will become possible in 2021.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the late Maud Vickers who was one of the, sadly now diminishing, founding members of the Society. She was a fount of knowledge about Lorton and the surrounding area, having lived in the neighbourhood all her life. She recorded some of her reminiscences for the oral history project that took place in the millennium year, and she was made an honorary member of the Society when it celebrated its quarter-centenary in 2018.

Charles Lambrick

Nursery rhyme characters at Lorton School c.1932.
In memory of Maud Vickers, nee Irving, 1926-2021, the Knave of Hearts.

Donation in memory of Stella and Ron George

The Committee was recently surprised and delighted to receive a donation of £500 from Debbie and Ellen, the daughters of the late Stella and Ron George, in memory of their parents and their attachment to the Valley and the Society.

The debt that the Society owes to Ron and Stella is beyond value, because without them the Society would not have been created. We hope that we have measured up to their original intentions. The Committee expects to find a way of using the funds on a particular item or project.

Local History Course from Lancaster University

It is very pleasing that Lancaster University is offering a Post-Graduate Certificate in 2021-2, starting this Autumn. It was last offered in 2011, since when there has been a lack of any academic course for those who wish to take their interest further.

It was, in essence, this course which Ron George took before founding the Society in 1993. He and his successors had to make the 150 miles round trip to attend the weekly seminars. This course usually attracts a mature set of students living at home and seems perfectly suited to distance learning. We also have, within the Society, people and resources which could provide any additional local support needed.

This is highly recommended and may be a one-off opportunity. So please consider taking part and contact Lancaster University for a Prospectus. The course overview is printed following.

Derek Denman

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/regional-and-local-history-distance-learning-pgcert/

Regional and Local History (Distance Learning) PgCert - 2021 Entry.

This new twelve-months online programme offers the opportunity for those interested in regional and local history to gain an award from a top UK university that is renowned for its expertise in this field and has significant experience in delivering high quality distance programmes.

Regional and local studies offer a well-defined way to approach important historical themes and techniques. Whether you are interested in rural areas or urban centres, counties or kingdoms, uplands or lowlands, this programme will equip you with the skills, knowledge and confidence that you need to conduct primary research of your own in this vibrant and varied field.

You will build up your knowledge and skills through two taught modules, one rooted in medieval history and one at the dawn of the modern era. These modules will enhance your understanding of a broad sweep of history, develop your critical awareness in dealing with historical scholarship, and improve your ability to interpret various types of historical sources. You will then have the chance to put these skills into practice, with the guidance of a tutor, in an independent research project.

The programme will appeal to anyone who is enthusiastic about History, particularly those who wish to deepen their awareness of the importance of local experience in shaping our understandings of national and international trends.

Programme focus and modules

The programme consists of three modules which are focused on the history of the North of England, ranging from the Viking Age to the Victorian industrial era. However, the skills and contextual knowledge that you should develop through this course are applicable to regional and local studies more widely. The final module is a substantial independent research project with

individual support and supervision from your tutor. You can find out more about the modules in the programme structure section.

How will I study?

You will access a range of fascinating learning materials online and will be able to study at a time and place to suit you. A wide variety of primary sources will be introduced and discussed, for example:

- medieval texts, including chronicles, legal material and manorial records;
- later written records such as: parish registers; census tables; tithe records; enclosure awards; agricultural statistics; farm surveys; agricultural reports and commissions;
- other kinds of sources and evidence such as oral testimonies, place-names and medieval buildings including castles, abbeys and pele towers.

You will be able to discuss the different elements of the programme with other students via text-based discussion through the online learning platform. The online learning platform hosts the learning guidance for each week, links to online reading lists, and a wide range of other resources such as videos. You will be in frequent online contact with your course tutors and other students, and you will receive one-to-one supervision for your independent project.

The flexibility of this programme and the learning format is ideal for people who want to pursue their historical interests around family or work commitments, and is suitable for learners accessing the programme from different parts of the world.

We provide guidance on accessing the materials and using the platform, and technical support is available for anyone who is new to this way of learning.

There may also be the option to take part in seminars at the Lancaster University campus, which are organised around the Regional Heritage Centre's Study Days. These days are useful and informative, but they are not a core part of the course and you will not be disadvantaged if you are unable to participate. There is a small additional fee for attending study days.

Regional Heritage Centre

The programme is based in Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre, which is part of the History Department. The Regional Heritage Centre promotes and celebrates the rich social and cultural heritage of North West England by engaging with the regional community through a range of events and projects.

Lorton and Loweswater Memorial / Monumental inscriptions updated.

The inscriptions on grave markers and the church memorials at St Cuthbert's, Lorton, and St Bartholomew's, Loweswater, have for some years been published on our website, as a service to family historians.

The Lorton document has now been updated with the corrections and additions noted by the late Ted Gilbertson, together with more explanation in the introduction.

The Lorton document was already accompanied by a plan of the graveyard, drawn originally by Heather Thompson, but that for Loweswater was not included. The plan of Loweswater graveyard, also by Heather Thompson, has now been located and is included on the website. These can all be found at:

http://derwentfells.com/sources.html

Further work needed

We have some partial information for St Cuthbert's, Embleton, but we would appreciate this work being completed in the same manner. Anyone who is interested in a project to record the inscriptions and graveyard layout at Embleton should contact me for further information, please. It is also likely that Loweswater could be updated with the later interments.

Derek Denman

Articles

Hassness in Buttermere:- after the Edwardian Inebriates left

by Liam Newell

William Hibbert Marshall of Patterdale Hall, who had extensive interests in land and property in Buttermere, acquired the Hassness Estate in 1900 and let the house to Dr James Woodman Astley Cooper. He was a Doctor of Medicine who sought, and was granted, a licence to use Hassness 'for the reception of male persons being habitual drunkards' and renamed it the Ghyll Retreat, later the Ghyllwoods Sanatorium. (See the article entitled 'The Edwardian Inebriates at Hassness, Buttermere,' by Derek Denman, *Wanderer*, August 2019*)*

The lease agreement between Dr Astley Cooper and William Hibbert Marshall was terminated on 25 June 1919 and the following year Hassness was put up for sale. To be included in the conveyance were the house, two annexes, pleasure grounds and the right of the owner, in no more than two row boats, 'to fish and capture fish in Buttermere Lake by fair rod and line angling only and in a proper and sportsmanlike manner'.

A Gentlemen's Sporting Retreat

Hassness was bought in 1921 by Sydney O'Hanlon who wanted the property as 'a gentleman's sporting retreat'. Sydney was a merchant, who had followed his father into the family firm of William O'Hanlon & Co. Ltd, of Dale Street Manchester, a manufacturer of cotton and linen goods, and produced *Sunlover* furnishing fabrics.

As early as 1920 Sydney was in discussions about demolishing Hassness House and building a new one elsewhere on the estate, using the materials from the original house. Following his purchase of the estate in 1921 he made arrangements to get additional stone from a nearby close of land and to pay sixpence for each cartload of stone taken away.

The building known today as Dalegarth, built as an annexe in 1909 by Dr Astley Cooper, following a financial agreement with William Hibbert Marshall, would remain, as would the cottage and stables known today as Birkness. In 1922 the plans for the new house were passed and Jack Cowper of Keswick commenced the building work.

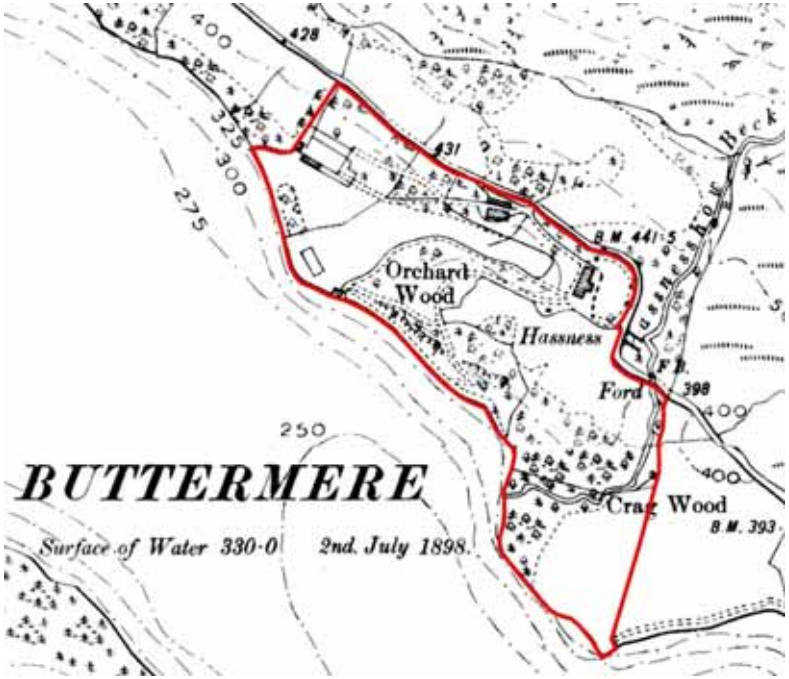
Sydney was a keen sportsman and an excellent fisherman and was for a number of years a member of the England Angling Team, who competed annually against Scotland Ireland and Wales at Loch Leven in Scotland. He was also highly regarded as a breeder of poultry. The Southern Reporter, 27 August 1931, said 'the special for best bird in the section was won by Mr S O'Hanlon, Buttermere, who was very successful throughout, with a brown Leghorn cockerel. It was well-developed with a big rangy body, a nice eye, good hackle, and excellent in top colour'.

Buttermere Scheme

During Sydney's time at Hassness the previous owner of the Hassness Estate, William Hibbert Marshall, died and his extensive portfolio of property around Buttermere, Loweswater and Crummock Water, was put up for sale in 1934.

It was bought jointly in 1937 by the National Trust, Balliol College (Oxford University), and others as the 'Buttermere Scheme' for preserving the Buttermere Valley. Professor George Macaulay Trevelyan, social historian and chairman of the National Trust's estates committee, made a substantial contribution towards the Trust's fund for buying the Marshall Estate. In addition, by 1935 he had bought Gatesgarth Farm from the estate, including much of Buttermere Fell.

Under the scheme, purchases of all the farms, cottages and land from the Marshall estate in Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater, would be subject to a restrictive covenant in favour of the National Trust. They may not build upon



left
The Hassness estate, as advertised for sale in 1920. OS second series map, 25 inch

below
Plan submitted for the building of the new Hassness, 1922. Cumbria Archive Service SRDC/3/2/894

the land or otherwise 'develop' it without the Trust's sanction. The owners of some properties that lay outside the Marshall Estate, including Sydney O'Hanlon at Hassness in 1937, also agreed to bring their properties into conformity with the covenant.

Music and Custard

By 1938 Sydney had commenced preparations to sell Hassness to Hubert Foster Clark, a sale which was completed in 1939. Hubert was the second son of George Foster Clark, a manufacturer of grocery goods trading as Foster Clark Ltd. The family business was founded in 1891 and the company went on to produce custard powder, blancmange powder, jellies, soups, and lemonade products. By 1910 it had become one of the most famous and up to date food manufacturing concerns in the country. Later the company expanded into the canning of fruit and vegetables and was one of the first companies to do so. With a public shift to fast and frozen foods the company went into decline. The Foster Clark name was sold to Oxo Ltd who later, as a joint venture, set up a company in Malta which has become one of Malta's largest food producers, Foster Clark Products Ltd.

Hubert did not go into the family business but, having been inspired by one of Sir Henry Wood's concerts at Queen's Hall, he went to the Royal College of Music and studied under Dr Adrian Boult and Sir Malcom Sargent. In the 1930s he joined the BBC and became Director of Music. He conducted the BBC Midland Orchestra and later the Northern Orchestra. These regional orchestras specialised in light music, which could be heard on the radio several times a week.

The 1939 Register records Hubert at Hassness as an Orchestral Conductor and a sheep and dairy farmer. The Register also records that there was a housekeeper and two gardeners. While Hassness Cottage was inhabited, the annexe (Dalegarth) was empty.

After buying the property, one of the first things Hubert did was to build a garage block on the site of the original house. He re-clad Dalegarth with elm weatherboarding and he later made an application to convert Birkness into a tearoom and dormitory.

Hubert had a black and gold Sunbeam motorcycle and drove what the villagers described as a 'flashy sports car'. He kept a motorboat in the boat house on the lake shore below Hassness.

During World War II Hubert was a cadet at the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) on the Isle of Man, and then a second lieutenant in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 13 ITC Maidstone, the county where he was born and grew up.

It is not clear what Hubert intended to use the property for but whilst he was away doing his military training in 1941, Hassness was advertising for gardeners, cooks and maids. In 1945 they advertised for a 'lady' wanted to run a 'select guest house'.

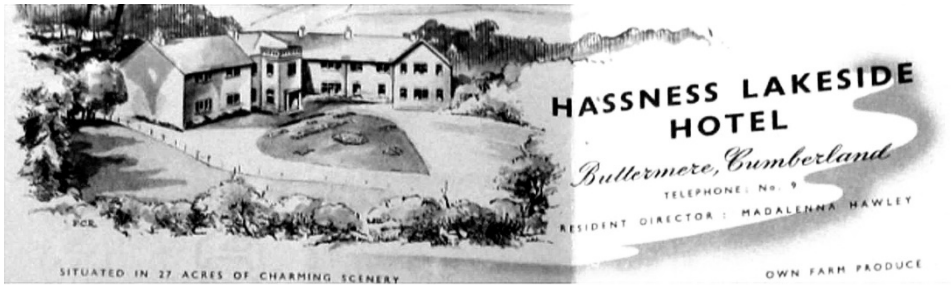
By 1947 Hassness was being run as a hotel and advertisements described it as a 'First Class Hotel on the shore of the Lake standing in 27 acres of lovely grounds, ideal for climbing, walking, or a restful holiday'.

A Touch of Cornwall in Buttermere

Hubert sold Hassness to Madalenna Hawley in 1948 and shortly afterwards he toured Australia and New Zealand with the ballet Rambert and conducted orchestral performances to critical acclaim.

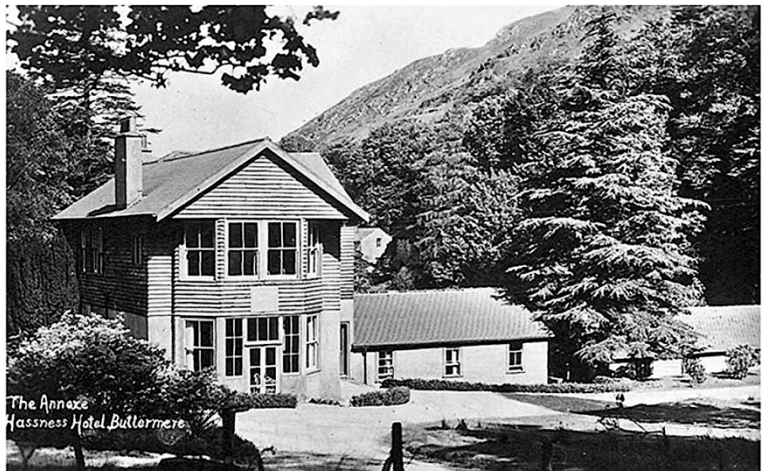
Madalenna traded as Hassness Lakeside Hotel using 'Dalegarth' as an annexe to the hotel. Before coming to Buttermere she had experience in the hotel trade in St Ives, Cornwall, at the Karenza Hotel and the Treloyhan Manor Hotel.

Shortly after moving in, the hotel was burgled, and items were stolen having a value of £185. Just down the road at the Buttermere Hotel (now Buttermere Youth Hostel) the same man was accused of fraud by Mrs Size. At his trial, reported by the Dundee Courier, the accused, John Leslie Rayner, said 'I have been a



Letterhead – Cumbria Archive Service

The Hassness Hotel circa 1950 – postcard by Abrahams, Keswick



The Hassness Hotel Annexe, circa 1950 – oldukphotos.com

thorough rotter and a fool and I am offering no excuses. I was decently brought up and I know what is right and what is wrong. When I was released from prison in 1948, I made a fresh start and kept out of trouble for six months. Then I had a mental breakdown and went off the rails again.'

The maximum sentence for the crimes was fourteen years penal servitude but the court showed leniency sentencing him to twelve months imprisonment. The prisoner said, 'I have had a very fair trial, the fairest I have ever had, and I thank you'.

After two years Madalenna tried unsuccessfully to sell Hassness Lakeside Hotel and then, in 1951, she sold what was once the old cottage barn and stables of the Hassness Estate to the Fell and Rock-Climbing Club. The buildings then became known as Birkness.

Desirable Hotel for a National Park

The Lake District Planning Board (LDPB) started to take an interest in the property as early as 1953 and finally purchased Hassness in 1955. The Lancashire Evening Post stated 'this was the first accommodation to be provided under the National Parks Act by any park authority in the country … and it is to be let to Ramblers Association Services Ltd (RAS)'. Lord Strang, chairman of the National Parks Commission, said it was 'an example of positive action for the promotion of public enjoyment of the National Parks … the hotel would be open to others besides ramblers, and conducted in keeping with the ramblers' code and spirit of preserving the countryside'.

Ramblers Holidays

RAS, (now Ramblers Holidays), was formed in 1946 and was effectively the commercial arm of the Ramblers Association (now Ramblers), with the responsibility of organising walking tours both at home and abroad. To this day Ramblers Walking Holidays offer tours on six continents from ambles and sightseeing to challenging long distance trails. Social enterprise and a not-for-profit ethos is at the heart of the organisation with part of the income being channelled back into outdoor charities and initiatives for conservation projects through the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust.

Hassness has been the Lake District base for Ramblers Holidays for 65 years and continues to provide excellent guided and self-guided tours. Being so wonderfully located on the shores of Buttermere and so popular with guests, that when the opportunity arose to buy the house in 2016, it was snapped up. Refurbished in 2018 it offers the modern conveniences you would expect such as WiFi, a licensed bar and en-suite rooms, yet still retaining its country house charm.

General Sources

- Cumbria Archives (various documents)
- British Newspaper Archives (various articles)
- Grace's Guide
- Derek Denman, 'Edwardian Inebriates at Hassness Buttermere', *The Wanderer* August 2019
- *Cumbria Magazine*, August 1989
- *Ancestry.co.uk*
- Irene Hales, 'George Foster and the Eiffel Tower Works, Maidstone'. in *Bygone Kent,* Vol 10 No 5.
- *www.fosterclark.info*
- Sheila Richardson, *Tales of a Lakeland Valley, Buttermere*.
- Ramblers Holidays records
- Bruce Thompson, The Lake District and the National Trust, Titus Wilson, Kendal, 1946

The Author

Liam Newell. is one of the leaders of walking tours for Ramblers Holidays. Hassness House is owned by Ramblers Holidays, who offer guided walking holidays in the UK and abroad.

Lost and found in Lorton

by Sandra Shaw and Les Turner

Back in September, the Society was approached by Les Turner, a local metal-detectorist, (not metal-detector; that is the piece of kit used to find hidden metal objects in the ground). Les had made some interesting finds in Lorton that he wished to share with our members. This article gives some background information and looks at the finds. The images are all from Les and the copyright remains with him. The text is provided by Les and Sandra jointly.

Background

Metal detecting is a hobby which has had a bit of a chequered past; its reputation ruined by a small number of irresponsible individuals looking to profit from 'treasure' removed from its context and sold for the highest price. Conducted responsibly, according to the code of conduct, detectoring has the potential to add enormously to our collective understanding of our past. Key points of the code of practice are that permission is required from the landowner, protected sites should be respected, no damage should be done and any 'finds' should be reported to the correct authorities.

The relevant legislation for England, Wales and Northern Ireland is the Treasure Act of 1996, which aimed to establish a mechanism for recording archaeological finds which went beyond the previous requirements concerning simply 'treasure'. Treasure is defined as gold and silver objects over 300 years old, groups of coins from the same find, and prehistoric base metal assemblages. Members of the public were making discoveries beyond these narrow confines and in the absence of a comprehensive recording scheme, much knowledge was being lost. The Treasure Act established the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) which is run by the British Museum as part of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The local contact for the PAS is the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who can advise on best practice for each 'find' and organise professional investigation, including excavation, where necessary.

1 The junk finds

Further information, including the code of practice, can be found on the PAS website: finds.org.uk.

The PAS has been a huge success and the preliminary figure for treasure alone for 2019 was 1,311 cases, up on the previous year's figure of 1,267. The 2019 total includes a stunning gold arm-ring containing 300g of pure gold found at St Bees. The total number of objects recorded for 2019 was 81,602, almost 90% of which were reported by metal-detectorists. The finds.org.uk website now has more than 1.4 million finds on its database, which is available for the public to explore.

The finds

Although Les has submitted details of twelve finds from Lorton, he explained that his search had taken 'a heck of lot of hours in all sorts of weather to uncover the nice and interesting pieces'. The usual results are shown in image 1 - about '90% of what a detectorist will uncover'.

Image 2 is the earliest find, a Philip and Mary silver shilling of 1554, somewhat worn, but it is just possible to make out the images of Philip on the left and Mary on the right. A search online will reveal a clearer example. Mary I became Queen on 19 July 1553**,** and married Phillip II of Spain on 25 July 1554, so this coin was produced soon after their marriage. Their reign was brief; both died in 1558. Mary came to the throne replacing Lady Jane Grey, known as the Nine Days Queen. Mary's half-brother Edward VI died on 6 July 1553 and Lady Jane Grey was queen from 10 to 19 July, being removed by force and executed. Mary's reign is often backdated to 6 July, effectively airbrushing Lady Jane Grey out of history.

Image 3 shows a hammered silver sixpence dated 1567 from the reign of Elizabeth I (reigned 1558 – 1603). Derek Denman has advised that the man responsible for the re-coinage under Elizabeth, of which this coin is a part, was Sir Thomas Stanley, master of the mint 1560-71. At this time he was also the lord of the Manor of Loweswater – see Journal 60.

Image 4 shows two coins, both bent deliberately. Such coins were love tokens and would have been given by a young man to the object of affection. If his feeling was reciprocated it would have been kept. Love tokens could include specially made discs of silver, copper or bronze. Sometimes they were engraved or punched with holes. Often a regular coin would be used, sometimes with the relief obliterated and again sometimes engraved or punched. The copper coin below is too degraded to be dated, but that above is a William III (reigned 1689 – 1702) silver sixpence dated 1690.

Image 5 is a little ornate silver piece, possibly the decoration from a gentleman's cane.

Image 6 is a copper Victorian love knot brooch.

Image 7 is of what Les first thought (as I did before I read his notes) were two keys for winding a clock but having carried out further research, he learned they are both barrel tap keys. The barrel tap or spigot is hammered into one end of a barrel to allow the beer to be dispensed by gravity. The key would be turned to open the tap and allow the beer to flow. Having a removable key prevented illicit drawing of beer. It was a common sight until comparatively recently to see a row of barrels behind a pub bar, all tipped forward slightly to allow beer to be drawn off without disturbing the yeast sediment which would settle at the bottom. Beer festivals still use this method. It was also necessary to allow carbon dioxide to leave the barrel, being replaced by air. This was achieved with use of a small wooden plug known as a spile in the top of the barrel. Of course it is the ingress of carbon dioxide that will ultimately spoil the beer.

Image 8 shows both sides of what is often known as 'a ship ha'penny'. Les said this is probably one of the most common coins he digs up around the area and normally they are pretty unremarkable. This one, however, he found more interesting. It's dated 1939 and looks to have been used for target practice or to set the sights on an airgun.

2. A Philip and Mary silver shilling from 1554

3. An Elizabethan silver sixpence from 1567

4. Two coins bent as love tokens

5. A decorative silver piece, probably from a cane

6. A copper love-knot brooch

not to scale

Image 9 is a couple of interesting little badges – the one on the right is a Lake District National Park warden's badge. As the LDNP was established in 1951, the badge cannot predate that.

The image on the left is a souvenir from the blacksmith's shop at Gretna Green. Gretna Green is just over the border in Scotland and has become synonymous with runaway love. Hardwicke's Marriage Act, which required young people under 21 who wished to marry, to have their parents' consent, came into effect in England in 1754. Scotland did not follow suit straight away and allowed marriages to be conducted by anyone, anywhere, between parties over fifteen. Gretna Green therefore became a popular place for young lovers to marry, being the nearest place over the border where they could do so. However, they were often keen for a little more of a ceremony, conducted by a person of some status. The blacksmith in his forge fitted this bill and became the destination of choice for runaways. Even when there was no legal pull to cross the border, Gretna Green continued as a popular wedding venue and has become a tourist attraction, with the obligatory souvenir industry.

Image 10 – is the best and most recently found, which Les said he was still in shock over finding, when he sent me the image in mid-December. He described it as follows - This is a very ornate little piece and the pictures struggle to do it justice. It's probably 18ct and is a Georgian cannetille brooch with a citrine stone. It is not hallmarked so has been reported to the PAS as treasure, although they have already confirmed Les's initial assessment that it is less than 300 years old, so won't go through the treasure process. Nevertheless, it will be recorded on the PAS database. Cannetille is related to filigree and typically features fine gold wires and thinly hammered sheets, often containing motifs of tendrils, scrolls, coils and rosettes. Jewellery featuring this style was popular in the 1820s and 30s and it is worth noting that the original Lorton Park dates to the late 1820s, as detailed by Derek Denman in Journal 45.

Conclusion

Drawing conclusions from the finds is not easy, but some deductions can usefully be made. The finds all came from three fields in Lorton. The Philip and Mary sixpence came from the church croft field (the one with the church in the corner) and the very fine brooch and the beer tap keys came from the Lorton Park field, to the south of the house. All the rest are from the field to its north, the one with the footpath across it between High Lorton and the Church.

The Lorton Park field, where the fine Cannetille brooch was found, was agricultural land until the 1850s. From that time, for about 30 years, it was used as 'park' grounds and one could imagine one of the ladies connected with Lorton Park taking a stroll beyond the garden, in the park land and losing it during that stroll. The brooch is likely to have been something of an antique by that time. The keys suggest the regular dispensing of beer, closer to that field than the Wheat Sheaf; possibly a public house. The items of high status and sentimental value found in the field between High Lorton and the Church could well have been lost when Lorton residents were in their best attire, crossing the field to Church. Others could have slipped from a pocket during a working day.

Please note that apart from the public footpath, these fields are private land and not open to the public.

We are grateful to Les Turner for drawing these objects to our attention, supplying the images and descriptions of the finds. Further thanks are due to the landowners and farmer – Ian (Seth) Armstrong and George Hughes.

Sources

Website of the PAS – finds.org.uk
Current Archaeology Issue 365 August 2020.
L&DFLHS *Journals* 45 and 60.
Various internet searches.

7. Two barrel tap keys

8. A 1939 ha'penny, damaged by shooting

not to scale

9. Two badges, one from Gretna Green, the other of a National Park warden

10. The brooch as found

10. A Georgian gold cannetille brooch with a citrine stone

Joseph William Hardisty 1875-1966, joiner of Low Lorton

by Derek Denman

In November I was sent an image by Tony Calvin showing a rather smart enamelled maker's label, by J W Hardisty of Low Lorton. This provides an opportunity to examine his life and business in Lorton.

From the 1911 census, Joseph William Hardisty was a 'joiner & cartwright etc' and an employer, at Lime Tree Cottage, Low Lorton. He was established as a master craftsman with his own business. He was aged 35, born in Lorton Parish, and married to Mary Ann Hardisty, 36, who had been born in Lamplugh. Mary and Joseph, propitious names in carpentry, had been married for three years and had had one child, who had died. From the parish registers, this was Mary Isabel Hardisty, born 8 March 1908, baptised 2 April and buried 3 December. Despite this setback they had two more children, Stanley Wood Hardisty born 10 September 1912 and Gladys Irene, born 17 November 1913. The 'Wood' name was probably nothing to do with carpentry because Mary Ann was a Wood of Lamplugh, daughter of a master shoemaker of Brook House, and in 1901 she was a dressmaker working from home. The Lorton parish registers show that John William Hardisty was born at the Brow, in Whinfell township, and was baptised on 7 February 1875.

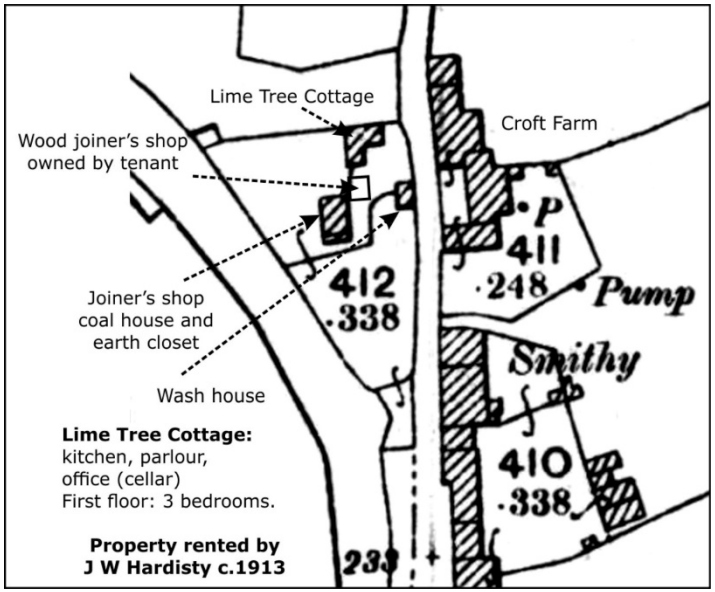
In 1901 Joseph William was a joiner/carpenter, living with his mother, Sarah Hardisty, in Low Lorton and was working on his own account, as a self-employed tradesman. Going back to 1891, he was an apprentice joiner living with his grandmother at Scales. Perhaps he was apprenticed to Joseph Burns at High Lorton, who had established a substantial business in joinery and building based on the re-built Red House, now Dale House. He specialised in finding odd parcels of land on which to build speculative, good quality, late-Victorian

cottages, with fancy names such as Yew Tree View, Holemire House, and Fernwood.

In 1911 Joseph and Mary Hardisty lived and worked at Lime Tree Cottage, which remains today and was built between 1827 and 1863. Neither lime trees, aka linden trees, nor beech trees occur naturally in Cumbria but were planted as part of the gentrification from the eighteenth century. Such house names are not old, even if the buildings were. Lime Tree Cottage might be an Edwardian naming, maybe as an address for the Hardisty business.

The survey for the proposed land tax, following the 1910 legislation, gives more information about Lime Tree Cottage in 1912 or 1913, as shown in the figure. The house and main workshop still stand. The property was rented from Robert Pearson, owner of Croft Farm, for £8 per annum plus rates and taxes. Water was obtained from a pump behind the Smithy. The proximity to the Smithy was no accident because many of the products made, tools, carts, gates, would require parts of wood and parts of iron. Cartwheels were the classic combination, and the metal tyres were fitted at the riverside, belonging to the smithy. Similarly, in High Lorton in the nineteenth century, the blacksmith and cartwright were adjacent in Smithy Fold.

In 1914 J W Hardisty was listed in Kelly's Directory, but to know how long he continued in business requires later directories, which are currently inaccessible. They retired to Whinfell Hall. Mary Ann Hardisty was buried in Lorton on 11 January 1948, aged 72. Joseph



Hardisty lived on until 1966, when he was buried on 22 December, aged 92.

The Hardisty family

From the above, one would expect Joseph Hardisty to have come from a tradesman family, but this was not the case. His grandfather, Joshua, was born in Thornthwaite circa 1822, and by 1841 he was an agricultural labourer at the Dover's farm in Newlands. In 1842 he married the farmer's daughter, Sarah Dover, and they had daughter Mary circa 1844. By 1851 Joshua was a quarryman at Birkrigg in Newlands, and by 1861 a miner. Joshua and Sarah had at least seven children in Newlands over eighteen years, with daughter Sarah, Joseph William's mother, being the middle child, born 1853.

By 1871 the family in Newlands had been joined by a grandson, Walter Hardisty, born in 1868. He was probably the son of the elder daughter, Mary, who was a servant in Buttermere, but Sarah, eighteen, was at home and probably looking after Walter. Walter died in 1876, aged eight, but by then Sarah had her own child, Joseph William Hardisty, born in 1875, father unrecorded.

By 1875 the family had moved to Whinfell, as leasehold farmers at the Brow. This was a significant step, requiring both skills and capital. The skills presumably came from the parents' time in the 1840s as an agricultural labourer and farmer's daughter. The source of the working capital is a puzzle.

In 1881 the family still farmed the Brow, with Sarah at home looking after Joseph William. Sarah's elder brother, with wife Esther and child Sarah (what else?), had moved to Boon Beck in Lorton as an agricultural labourer. In April 1881 Joshua Hardisty died, age 60, and by 1891 the family had dispersed from the Brow. Sarah and her grandson Joseph William had moved to Scales in Lorton, where she was a farmer and he a joiner's apprentice. John and family had moved to Cockermouth.

Sarah, Joseph's mother, was a children's nurse in Bassenthwaite in 1891. In 1901 she lived with Joseph before his marriage to Mary. After that, in 1911 and 1913, 'Miss Hardisty' was the tenant of the rather smart Oak Lodge, at £7 per annum, living on her own means with a gamekeeper lodger. She never married and died at Oak Lodge in 1921.

Illegitimacy did not ruin lives in Cumberland villages, and both mother and son did well. In 1875 a mother had direct recourse for maintenance from the father at Petty Sessions, but it was more usual to make a private arrangement. One wonders if Joseph William's father was a man of means, and supportive of Sarah and Joseph William?

Robert Eaglesfield and the foundation of the Hall of the Queen's Scholars

by Hugh Thomson

Illustration from a fourteenth-century manuscript showing a meeting of doctors at the University of Paris.

On 18 January 1341, Edward III signed a royal charter authorising Robert Eaglesfield to establish a collegiate hall in Oxford, to be named, in honour of Edward's Queen Philippa of Hainault, the Hall of the Queen's Scholars (*aule scholarium Regine*). Eaglesfield was, at this time, a royal clerk, serving as one of Philippa's chaplains.[1]

Eaglesfield's vision

The statutes which describe Eaglesfield's vision for the new Hall, a vision which, in the event, would never be fully realised, were approved by Edward III in January 1341. The document drafted by Eaglesfield is 'full of minute directions, the fruit certainly of much care and thought'.[2]

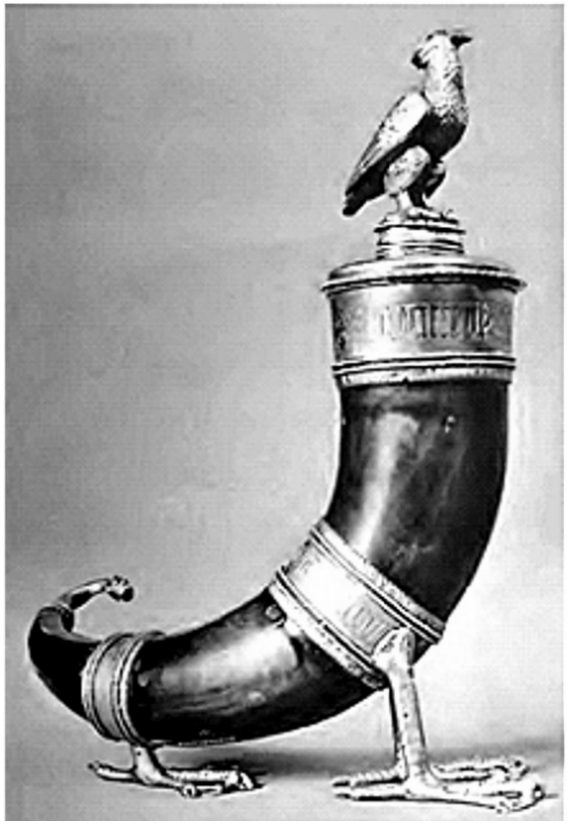
The study of theology 'the first rule of truth, ... the first form of equity... the first standard of holiness', was to be central to the academic objectives of the new Hall.[3] Theological studies, as pursued at Oxford In the 1330s, were 'highly sophisticated, requiring very advanced knowledge of Latin, logic and mathematics'.[4] In the first half of the fourteenth century, it was English masters who led the way in the development of logic, mathematics and natural philosophy.

[1] Eaglesfield's early career is described in an article in the *Wanderer* of November, 2020.
[2] J R Magrath, *The Queen's College*, 1921 vol.1, 25. Magrath was himself Provost of Queen's College (as the Hall became) for more than 50 years, until his death in 1930, at the age of 91. He became reclusive in the last 10 years of his provostship, seeing only the servant that brought him his meals.
[3] Magrath, 26 note 1. The other subjects covered by the University at this time were Arts and Law. Eaglesfield's Statutes provided that all the Fellows of the new Hall were to take priest's orders within a limited time – one in seven might proceed in canon law, all the others were to proceed in Theology. (Magrath, 39).
[4] William J Courtenay, 'The Effect of the Black Death on English Higher Education', *Speculum* Vol.56 no. 4 (Oct 1980), 706.

The College was to consist of a Provost, elected for life, and Scholars or Fellows 'distinguished in character, poor in means, and apt for the study of Theology'.[5] A preference was to be given – on account of the waste, desolate and illiterate condition' of those provinces - to natives of Cumberland and Westmorland'.[6] The Scholars were to be assigned accommodation, two to a room, in the new Hall. Eaglesfield suggested that they should be 'honest, chaste, peaceful, humble, considerate, poor persons, fit for study and anxious to improve, ... duly obedient and submissive to their superiors, placable and gentle to their associates, patient and self-restrained to their inferiors and servants and, above all, devoted to their studies and common worship'.[7] They were not to keep horses, harriers, hounds or hawks within the premises of the Hall, and were to abstain from gambling, taverns and places of ill fame, and bad company.

The Statutes also provided for the Hall to accommodate Poor Boys (*pauperes juvenes*), limited in number to no more than twice the number of Scholars. The Poor Boys, in some cases less than fourteen years old, were to be 'chosen like the Scholars, but with a preference for the poor kindred of the founder' or from places where the new Hall had property. [8] They were expected to serve as choristers under two choir masters, and the Hall would employ a grammarian and an artist to further their education. [9]

Scholars and Poor Boys were to be summoned by trumpet to twice-daily meals in Hall. During meals the Fellows, wearing purple robes, were to sit in a row behind the High Table; talking in French or Latin or paying attention to a chaplain, in white, reading from the Bible.[10] Rudeness (*turpiloquia*) and telling jokes (*derisoria*) were discouraged.



Eaglesfield's trumpet

[5] Initially, there were to be 12 Scholars, with the provision that the number would be increased as the means of the College allowed (Magrath, 34/5). Ten marks (£20) was set aside for the maintenance of each Scholar.

[6] Magrath, 33.

[7] Magrath, *33.*

[8] Boys aged 14 or over were to swear on admission to observe Eaglesfield's Statutes (mea statute); if younger, they took the oath on reaching the age of 14. Magrath,48. Magrath, 45.

[9] The accounts suggest that, as late as 1371/2. There were only four Poor Boys enrolled, one being a relative of John Wyclif.

[10] The Statutes provided special offices for 7 chaplains, from a total number not to exceed 13. Magrath, 43.

Medieval Hall, Magdalen College

The Poor Boys, in sleeveless garments coloured differently for each grade, had their meals in the body of the Hall, together with thirteen poor persons brought in from the Oxford streets.[11] Except on feast days, each Scholar, in order of seniority, was expected to summon a Poor Boy to the High Table to debate *sophisma* during the meal.[12] These public debates of students with senior academics were a key element in medieval university education.

The possessions of the new Hall were to be marked with a flying eagle, and three eagles appear on the Hall's first seal, recalling the family of the founder.

Eaglesfield's seal

[11] The leftovers from these meals were to be distributed to the poor in the street outside the Hall.

[12] *Sophisma* are logical problems, set out sentences which have odd or puzzling logical consequences.

Staffing

The new Hall needed academic staff with reputations capable of attracting both students and additional funding. Eaglesfield's Statutes suggest that he had, in 1341, secured the promise of adherence to the new Hall from a number of established academics in the existing colleges of the University.

The intellectual powerhouse of Oxford in the 1330s was Merton College, 'founded in 1274 specifically to house scholars who had completed their Arts course and wanted to proceed to the higher faculties of Theology or Canon Law'.[13] The Merton School of the early fourteenth century originated a new approach to the solution of physical, logical and philosophical problems, which led, ultimately, to modern mathematics, science and philosophy.

Dissension within the faculty of Theology at Merton in 1338 and 1339 may have helped Eaglesfield to recruit six members of the Merton faculty for the new Hall, including William Heytesbury, author of '*Rules for Solving* sophismata*',* a book of sufficient importance to be 'printed at Pavia, at Venice and at Bologna'. Also John Dumbleton, a few years Heytesbury's junior, who ended his career working on the '*Summa logica et philosophiae naturalis*', 'perhaps the best single existing exemplar of fourteenth-century Oxford natural philosophy'.[14]

Funding

Anthony Lucy, Lord of Cockermouth, had provided Eaglesfield in 1341 with what amounted to a bank account when he issued a note recording that he would accept liability for £500. This was a very substantial amount. The note, made out to Eaglesfield and to a 'banker', Thomas Hardegill, enabled Eaglesfield, as a beneficiary, to draw on Hardegill when he needed cash.[15] Eaglesfield was enabled, in 1341, to complete the purchase of a property in the Oxford parish of St. Peter's in the East, which he transferred, together with his Cumbrian manor of Renwick (*Ravenwyck*), to the new Hall.

Although, in July 1341, Edward III added the advowson of Eaglesfield's parish of Brough under Stainmore to the endowment of the new Hall; in 1342 Robert Achard, a courtier, gave the hall the advowson of his Hampshire village of Sparsholt, valued at £80; and, in 1343, Edward added the advowson of Blechingdon, in Oxfordshire, these trifles were altogether insufficient to ensure that the new Hall had a future.

A substantial property portfolio was needed to finance the operations of the new Hall. This was secured when, in March 1344, Edward III agreed that the wardenship of God's House in Southampton would be transferred to the new Hall when the current Warden, Gilbert de Wygeton, resigned or died.[16]

God's House, founded in 1197 by Gervase le Riche, was a hostel for pilgrims travelling abroad and an alms house for the people of Southampton. It had been endowed, by Gervase and by King Richard I and King John, with extensive property in Southampton, the Isle of Wight and Dorsetshire. The value of these holdings had increased greatly during the thirteenth century.

Although much of the House's property in Southampton itself had been damaged or destroyed during the French/Genoese raid of 1338, its income greatly exceeded the needs of its occupants.[17]

It seems more than likely that Anthony Lucy promoted this crucial transaction. Since 1323, Wigton had been a dependency of Anthony's moiety of Cockermouth and Allerdale.[18] In 1336, after much litigation in which both Anthony and Robert Parving were involved, the manor of Wigton was settled upon John de Weston and Margaret de Wigton.[19] When Margaret died without male issue in 1349, her manor passed to Anthony's son Thomas Lucy 'and was extinguished by merger in his superior lordship'.[20]

Gilbert held on to his post until 1347, when this 'most valuable of the endowments which accrued to the Hall during the life of the founder' came into effect.[21] Eaglesfield himself, described as Provost in an indenture of January 1347, was confirmed as 'Warden of God's House in a charter of 1348.[22] By then, Robert de Retteford and all but one of the six Scholars from Merton named in the Statutes had lost interest in the project. William of Muskham, one of the executors of Eaglesfield's uncle Adam, acquired the tenement next door to Eaglesfield's Oxford property and this had become the site of the main residence of the new community.[23]

The new Hall's earliest surviving financial records, in 1348, record payments to only four Fellows, Hawkesworth and Cundale from Oriel, Polmorva from University College, and Colingham from Merton, and payments to two chaplains, (one, Hermann de Gelria, apparently a foreigner).[24]

The Queen's College, Oxford
The front quad, built between 1709 and 1759

[13] Weisheipl, *The Place of John Dumbleton in the Merton School*, Isis vol.50 no 4, (Dec. 1959).

[14] Magrath, 93 note 3. Edith Sylla, in *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*.

[15] This important transaction (roughly £800,000 in today's money, according to the Bank of England) is, I believe, misinterpreted by Magrath (6 note 1). In the absence of a banking system, the only practical way to hand over such a large sum to a clerk was by issuance of a note acknowledging a debt.

[16] Gilbert, like Robert Eaglesfield a royal clerk, had been rewarded with the wardenship for acting as one of the executors of the second wife of Edward I, Margaret of France, who died in 1318. He is recorded in 1320 as 'going beyond the seas in the king's service, and was, in 1322, 'assigned by king and council to pay 6,793 footmen in the king's army'.

[17] In 1347, when the king repeated his former charter, he provided that 'in consequence of so much of the property of the hospital having been damaged by foreign invaders he would remit to the hospital and all its lands for ever 'every kind of toll, pontage, murage, passage, etc.'.

[18] *Cal. Charter Rolls*, 45 2, referenced by T.H.B.Graham, 'Margaret de Wigton', CWAAS_*Transactions* 1929, 87.

[19] Her father, John de Wigton, had died in 1315 leaving no male heir. When Margaret died, much married,in 1349, her manor of Wigton passed to Anthony's son Thomas. (Graham, CWAAS *Transactions* 1929, 89).

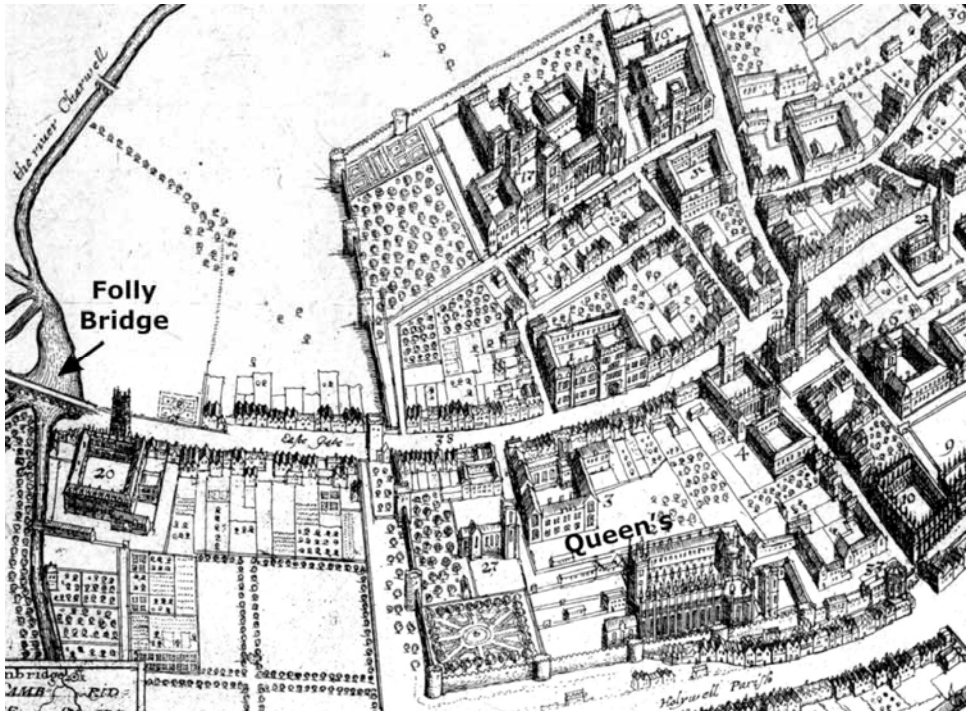
[20] *Transactions*, 1907., p. 236.

[21] Magrath 19-20.

[22] Magrath, 90. Richard de Retteford's name 'is not found in any connexion with Queen's College except in the Statutes and in a copy of a probably spurious grant' - In 1340, he received £8 in wages for services to the king 'in parts beyond the sea'. (Magrath, 88).

[23] in November 1341

[24] William Hawkesworth, a Fellow of Oriel in 1341, went on to become Provost of Oriel in



Oxford, from Hollar's 1643 map

The plague arrived in Bristol late in the summer of 1348 and reached Oxford in the autumn.[25] Eaglesfield died, aged 54, on 31 May 1349; his death may have been associated with the pandemic, although he did not die in Oxford. William Muskham briefly assumed responsibility for the Hall, before John Hotham was confirmed, on 20 July 1350, as the next Provost.

The Hall's finances remained in a precarious condition until 1384 when, in response to appeals from his Queen, Anne, and an appeal from the then Provost, Thomas Carlisle, and Scholars, Richard II 'took into his hand the College and all its interests'.[26]

Today, Eaglesfield's foundation has an endowment of £291 million, making it the fourth wealthiest college in Oxford. It hosts 360 undergraduates ('Poor Boys') and 192 post-graduate students. Its annual income exceeds £11 million and its financial assets exceed £300 million - quite a remarkable monument to the efforts of a country boy!

1348, Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1348 and Chancellor in 1349. He died on 8th April 1349. William Cundale, described in 1331 as of the diocese of Carlisle, in 1349 seems to have been the Bursar of the College in 1350; when he died, in 1352, leaving the Hall 46s 2d, a third of the residue of his estate. William de Polmorva, from Cornwall, had been Rector of Exeter College in 1336/7. He succeeded Hawkesworth as Chancellor of the University in 1350/1. When he died in 1362, he left a legacy to Exeter College. Magrath,98.

[25] William J Courtenay, The Effect of the Black Death on English Higher Education, *Speculum* Vol.56 no. 4 (Oct 1980).

[26] Magrath, 120

The Robinsons of South Lodge, Cockermouth

by Lena Stanley-Clamp

The South Lodge mansion, built in 1831 on the outskirts of Cockermouth, stands hidden from view, its history entirely forgotten. This article continues the story after the deaths of Jeremiah Spencer the Elder and of his son Jeremiah Junior in the summer of 1865.[1]

The South Lodge estate and the entire Spencer fortune were bequeathed by Jeremiah the Elder to his married daughter Mary Ann Bell, who grew up at South Lodge. Married women had no independent legal status at the time so control over their property was assumed by their husbands. It was therefore James Bell who instructed the auctioneer R. Mitchell to sell the livestock, the carriage and other property of Mary Ann's late father at auction in November 1865.[2] An advertisement the following year reveals the extent of the land attached: '100 acres of good grazing land being portion of the South Lodge estate' to be let in lots. The mansion house with its 'excellent fishing and shooting' was advertised for rent:

TO LET with possession at Candlemas next, earlier if required, the MANSION called SOUTH LODGE, near COCKERMOUTH, which will be let either Furnished or Unfurnished, with or without the Farm […]. The House is every way fitted up for the residence of a gentleman. The land is all in grass, and lays compactly together, and within few minutes' walk from the town of Cockermouth, where there are some of the best markets in the North of England, for any kind of agricultural produce'.[3]

However, it was not until 1873 that a long-term tenant settled there with his family. The 1871 census records that Jane Shepherd, aged 48, lived at South Lodge with her children, Mary, 14, and John, 12. Jane Shepherd was probably a caretaker, judging by the modest circumstances of the family recorded in the previous census of 1861, when they lived in St Bees. Her husband was a railway porter and her eldest daughter a servant.

After inheriting the Spencer fortune James Bell and his wife Mary Ann adopted by royal licence the name Spencer-Bell.[4] The South Lodge mansion remained in the ownership of the family for two generations.[5]

South Lodge became the home of Robert Alleyne Robinson and his wife Jessie, who settled there in 1873 following his appointment as the chief land agent of the Whitehaven Castle Estates, which belonged to the immensely wealthy earls of Lonsdale. Although his work was based in Whitehaven, the couple chose to live near Cockermouth. Perhaps they fell in love with South Lodge and the privacy it offered them. A detailed furniture order dated August 1873 came to £836 and shows that no expense was spared to bring the furnishings up to date and make South Lodge a fitting home for a prominent family.[6]

R. Alleyne Robinson (as he signed himself) was born on 17 September 1839 in Barrington, Cambridgeshire where his father, Rev. John Matthews Robinson, was a vicar. The father died in 1852 leaving his widow Margaret and their four young children in straitened circumstances. The family had to move to Storey's Almshouses in Cambridge, which housed widows of clergymen. From 1852 to 1858 Robert Alleyne and his twin

[1] See 'From Antigua to Cockermouth: The Story of South Lodge and its Residents', *Wanderer* August 2020.

[2] *Carlisle Journal*, 17 November 1865.

[3] *Carlisle Journal*, 20 April and 23 November 1866.

[4] *London Gazette*, 2 February 1866.

[5] The history of the Spencer-Bells in London and in Keswick will be published in a separate article.

[6] The Robinson family archive is the source of much information for this article. The sources for vital data and residence are: England & Wales Quaker BMD Registers; Civil Registration BMD Indexes; England censuses.

Jessie Robinson

Robert Alleyne Robinson

brother Haynes Sparrow Robinson were boarders at the Giggleswick School near Settle, where they were probably awarded bursaries. Robinson's string of educational achievements set him on a path to social and professional success. He gained a BA from Cambridge University (Jesus College) in 1862 and an MA in 1865. The same year he was admitted to the Middle Temple Inn of Court in London and in 1866 was admitted for further studies in Oxford.

It was while still at university that he became a private secretary to William Lowther, the second Earl of Lonsdale, through an introduction by a Cambridge friend, Francis William Lowther, an illegitimate son of the Earl. In later life, Robinson recalled with affection his Grand Old Chief, Earl William.[7] In 1869, Robinson married Jessie Sophia Master, who was born on 4 February 1849 in Norwich and was a daughter of Alfred Master, a doctor and a surgeon. The families used to live next door to each other in Norwich. The young couple lived in London but their first child, Jessie Evelyn (1870-1919), was born in Norwich. A telegram addressed to R.A. Robinson at Lowther Castle near Penrith conveyed the news that the mother and child were safe and well. Their second daughter Ethel (1871-1946) was born in London. Three more children were born at South Lodge: Eileen Lenoel (1876-1961), Josslyn Alleyne (1878-1966) and Claud Alleyne (1885-1953).

[7] *Maryport Advertiser*, 8 October 1892.

Robinson's appointment as chief land agent dates to 1872. He served four successive Earls of Lonsdale: William Lowther, second Earl of Lonsdale (1787–1872); Henry Lowther, third Earl of Lonsdale (1818–76); St George Henry Lowther, fourth Earl of Lonsdale (1855–82) and Hugh Cecil Lowther, fifth Earl of Lonsdale, also known as the Yellow Earl, (1857–1944). They were all absentee landlords who spent most of their time in London and made only fleeting visits to Whitehaven. Their ancestral home was Lowther Castle near Penrith. Robinson was responsible for the business affairs of the Whitehaven estate: matters relating to land holdings, tenants and the lucrative exploitation of mineral resources, coal and iron ore. His job was to ensure the flow of a steady income from the estates that would finance the Lonsdales' expensive lifestyle.

Robinson worked hard at his job. Rents were paid promptly, and the fifth Lord Lonsdale was appreciative of the good feeling that existed between him and the tenants. He paid a tribute to Mr Robinson at one of the half-yearly rent dinners given to the Whitehaven tenantry at the Castle: Lord Lonsdale 'had never, throughout his life, met with a more straightforward man than Mr Robinson, one who was a better judge of character, or one who would more readily do what was right, and what he conceived to be his duty. Whether to the advantage of the landlord or the tenant, whatever he [Lord Lonsdale] might say, if the tenant were right, nothing would turn him.'[8]

Management of the estates was not always as trouble free as this tribute suggested. In 1884, R.A. Robinson brought an action for libel at Liverpool courts against G. Windross, a proprietor and publisher of the *Northern Counties Gazette*. An article titled 'Colliery Office Terrorism' published on 21 June in Whitehaven reported that a large number of colliers employed on the estate had received notice to quit their cottages because they had held a meeting about forming a union. It was alleged that 'the colliers took this step because they had been subjected to reductions of wages without reason, and had been cheated by their employers by a system of unfair deductions of quantities of coal sent up the pit shaft. The officials were also said to have used despotic power in political matters, and generally rule with a rod of iron'.[9]

As chief land agent, Robinson was responsible for the general direction of the collieries, while their management which was entrusted to his deputies. The counsel for the defence argued that the words 'responsible representatives' used in the article did not apply to Mr Robinson. He also argued that the comments about political coercion to which the colliers were subjected referred to matters of public interest published for the benefit of the public, without any malice. He also pointed out that some good had come out of the alleged libel article after its publication. The notices to quit were withdrawn before they were due to come into effect. However, the jury's verdict was for the plaintiff. R.A. Robinson was awarded costs and £150 in damages.[10]

Business affairs and public life

The Robinsons settled in Cumberland during the agricultural recession of 1873–96 which was caused by a fall in world grain prices. However, this had less impact in West Cumberland where the economy was founded on industry and trade. Mineral resources and a well-developed railway network kept the economy going.

There are many mentions in Cumbrian papers of Robinson's attendance at meetings of company boards where he wielded much influence. Shortly after taking up his post, he was

[8] *Cumberland Pacquet*, 14 November 1889.
[9] *Wigan Observer*, 21 November 1884.
[10] *Liverpool Echo*, 14 November 1884.

The Robinson children with Nanny Puggles and the butler, at Ramsey, Isle of Man

appointed Lord Lonsdale's deputy on the Whitehaven Town and Harbour Trust.[11] He was a member of the West Cumberland Conservative Registration Committee and, in the 1880 general election, was involved in the campaign for the return of the Hon. Percy S. Wyndham and Josslyn Pennington [Lord Muncaster] as Conservative Members of Parliament for West Cumberland.[12]

R. A. Robinson's role in public life was closely intertwined with his position as the agent of the Lonsdales. He was a director of the Cleator and Workington Junction Railway from its very beginnings. The C&WJR was mainly used by the local industries for the transportation of coal, iron ore and limestone. The line served the two towns and intervening villages with an extension to a junction with the London & North Western Railway at Siddick. A Northern Extension was also built to join the Maryport and Carlisle Railway.[13] Almost the entire length of the Railway was on Lowther lands.

In the summer of 1877, Robinson was given the honour of cutting the first sod of the new railway track, as a senior director. We get a glimpse on this occasion of how resentment at the Lowthers' dominance in the county's affairs sometimes spilled over onto his agent. Some of the directors stayed away from the ceremony in protest. At the celebratory lunch that followed, Robinson paid tribute to Lord Lonsdale and his predecessor: 'Forty years ago … landed proprietors set up the greatest opposition to the introduction of railways and no argument could persuade them of the benefits to be derived from them'.[14]

The railway opened in 1879. A few years later the company commissioned ten locomotives. The name plate on the locomotive No 3 was 'South Lodge'– they were all named after the residences of the company directors. The 0-6-O saddle tank locomotive had an inside cylinder and was built by Robert Stephenson and Company, Builders No. 2553. It remained

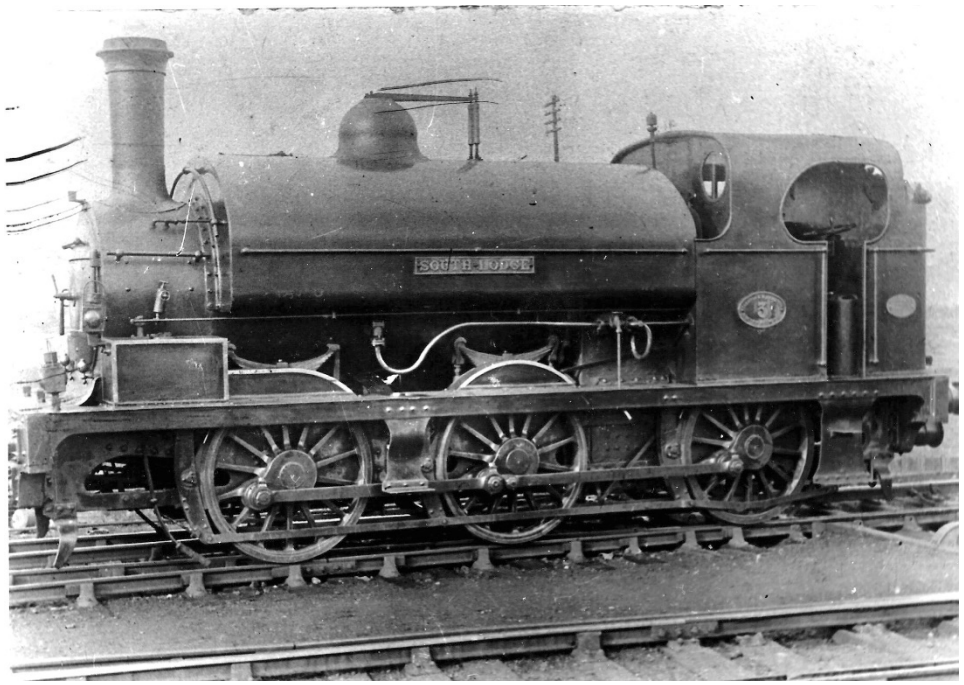
[11] *Whitehaven News*, 14 November 1872.
[12] *West Cumberland Times*, 15 August 1874; *English Lake Visitor*, 3 April 1880.
[13] *en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleator and_Workington_Junction_Railway* .
[14] *Times and Star*, 27 November 1992.

in service from 1884 to 1920.[15] In the Robinson family lore, R.A. Robinson used the locomotive to commute to his home in Cockermouth.

Robinson's involvement as a director of the Solway Junction Railway proved less successful. The railway opened in 1869 and was built to transport iron ore from Cumberland to the furnaces of Lanarkshire and Ayershire and, to a lesser extent, passenger traffic. The line joined Brayston on the Maryport and Carlisle line to the Caledonian Railway near Kirtlebridge via a 1.8 km viaduct on the Solway, built at great cost. The viaduct had to be repaired in 1875 and reconstructed in 1882-3 following serious damage from built-up ice in the Solway. Meanwhile, a fall in the value of iron ore and competition from cheaper Spanish ore, shipped directly to Scotland, brought a decline in traffic and revenues.

In 1889, as the company faced increasing financial difficulties, a faction of the board removed other directors and secured an agreement by shareholders for a rescue deal with the Caledonian Railway.[16] Correspondence published in the press shows that Robinson put up a fight against the secretary of the board, but he was among those ousted.[17] The defective viaduct eventually became unsafe and all stations south of the Solway were closed in 1921. Before the viaduct was dismantled in 1933, it was used on Sundays by trespassers from

Locomotive 'South Lodge', 1884



[15] *wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleator and_Workington_Junction_Railway* .
[16] David Joy, *A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain, Vol.XIV, The Lake Counties; wikipedia.org/wiki/Solway_Junction_Railway* .
[17] *Carlisle Patriot*, 12 April 1889 and *Cumberland Pacquet*, 27 June 1889.

Scotland who walked over to Bowness in search of alcoholic drinks. Unsurprisingly, there was occasionally loss of life on the way back.[18]

In 1889, when the West Cumberland Iron and Steel Company got into difficulties, R.A. Robinson was appointed a director under a reconstruction scheme, as a representative of the shareholders.[19] The revival of the company was short-lived and the company wound-up in 1894**.** Robinson was also an active director of the Cumberland Union Bank and served as a magistrate on the local Petty Crime Courts for a number of years.[20]

In addition to the demands of work and his other public roles, R.A. Robinson had wider interests, judging by his attendance in April 1878 of the annual meeting in Cockermouth of the Cumberland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science. The Association's president for the year was Isaac Fletcher, MP for Cockermouth, a scientist and a Fellow of the Royal Society. His address touched on the controversial project to supply Manchester with water from Thirlmere. The programme included lectures on Wordsworth, on astronomy, and on the history of Cockermouth Castle.[21]

Social life and community work

The Robinsons led a busy social life and made long-lasting friends in the area. Their names appeared in the papers as invited guests among the great and the good of Cumberland at countless social events, ceremonies, agricultural shows, and charity bazaars. The garden party they attended at Muncaster Castle, on the occasion of the Royal Visit to Cumberland by Princess Louise in October 1877, was a particularly splendid affair. The royal party travelled to Muncaster from Isel Hall through Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere and over Scarf Gap to Wasdale Head. The journey over the pass included six miles of rough mountain walking.[22]

Mrs Robinson (Jessie) was involved in charity work and it is in this context that we come to know her. She entertained the children from the Cockermouth Workhouse at South Lodge on a number of occasions. Reports under the headings 'Another treat for the Cockermouth Workhouse Children' describe teas with entertainments, games and prizes when Master Robinson and the Misses Robinson played with the children. Sixty-four boys and girls were received on another such occasion. 'Mrs Robinson and family most assiduous in attending to the children who stayed until 7 o'clock'.[23]

A visit of the Cockermouth Workhouse recorded in the West Cumberland Times in 1881, when 80 men, 76 women and 97 children were living there, provides some context, however. It paints a grim picture of the institution: 'All is bare, blank and barren; tidy but cheerless. … But if to the old and the world-weary it be a dismal place in which to sit down and patiently 'shuffle off this mortal coil,' how much more unsuitable must it be as the home of childhood'. Praise was, however, given to the work of the schoolmaster, Mr Hudson, and the exceptional results of the annual examinations by the inspector of schools. The report noted that Mr Hudson, 'whose heart appears to be in his work, his sympathies with the boys', when not teaching, would also assist them in their play. On the day of the visit, there were no lessons for the girls, the schoolmistress being ill.[24]

[18] *www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49675863* .
[19] *Workington Star*, 30 August 1889.
[20] *Carlisle Journal*, 6 February 1885 and subsequent annual reports; *English Lakes Visitor*, June 26, 1880 and subsequent court reports.
[21] *English Lakes Visitor*, 27 April 1878.
[22] *Cumberland Pacquet*, 2 October 1877.
[23] *Cumberland Times*, 9 July 1884 and 21 August 1886.
[24] *West Cumberland Times*, 16 April 1881.

In January 1892, Mrs Robinson hosted a lavish tea in the All Saints' Mission Room for the Mothers' Meeting. The guests were waited upon by her, the Misses Robinson and the maids from South Lodge. They were entertained with a programme of readings and song in which the young Josslyn Robinson, Rev. E. Walker and Tom Brown, gardener at South Lodge, also took part.[25] Tom Brown was the longest-serving member of the South Lodge staff and an interesting character. He had a talent for writing verses which he deployed on various occasions such as royal weddings and anniversaries, for which he received thanks from Queen Victoria's secretary. In 1892, he composed a heart-felt tribute to Mr Robinson. A bundle of Brown's papers is kept at Whitehaven Archives.[26]

Robert and Jessie Robinson

Social gatherings for the members of All Saints Mothers' Meetings were also hosted at South Lodge. In July 1892, Mrs Robinson provided 'a capital tea' and the guests enjoyed strolling about the grounds. The following day Miss Ethel Robinson entertained at South Lodge the girls from her Girls' Friendly Society class. 'Tea and amusements were enjoyed and all appreciated the hospitality of their Teacher'.[27] The GFS was a country-wide charity founded in 1875 with the aim of empowering girls and young women to develop their full potential through education.[28]

A favourite destination for the Robinson family's holidays was the bay of Ramsay on the Isle of Man. In June 1881, the *Northern Weekly News* noted the arrival from Maryport of a specially chartered steamer with Mr Robinson, his wife and extended family with their furniture and servants on board. A few years later, on 26 June 1886, the enterprising Mrs Robinson organised a grand bazaar at South Lodge to raise funds in aid of tricycles for Ramsay. No effort was spared for this event: the poster mentioned that 'a suitable train will leave Whitehaven at about 3 o'clock'. A

[25] *Cumberland Times*, 30 January 1892.
[26] CASW/DWM/524/72.
[27] *Cumberland Times*, 30 July 1892.
[28] *wikipedia.org/wiki/Girls%27_Friendly_Society*

photograph of the Robinson children on tricycles with Nanny Puggles taken at Ramsay in 1886 confirms that the project was a success.

The Robinsons' daughters, Evelyn, Ethel and Eileen, were most likely educated privately at home. Their son, Josslyn, was sent to Harrow and the youngest, Claud, went to Shrewsbury School. It was an affectionate family, where children were called by their nicknames: Witty, Nutto, Bee, Dandy and Bunch. During their years in Cockermouth, the family also had a home in London at 10 Margaret Street. There would have been frequent occasions when Robinson's presence in London was required by his employers. Neither of the parents was present in Cockermouth at the time of the 1881 census. The children were left at South Lodge under the supervision of the servants. In the 1891 census, Jessie Robinson and her two eldest daughters, Evelyn and Ethel, were staying in their London home, probably being introduced in London society.

The approach of Queen Victoria's 50th Jubilee was very much on everyone's minds in 1887. A proposal to build the Jubilee Bridge in Cockermouth as a fitting memorial was enthusiastically adopted at a crowded public meeting in April that year. Robinson played a role in moving the proposal forward, encouraging generous subscriptions and suggesting who should lay the foundation stone. There was much laughter and applause when he referred to himself as 'a squatter some time now living on the outskirts of the town, but perhaps a little while longer he would have got a right to stop there - hear, hear and laughter'.[29] One can tell he felt at home in Cockermouth.

Twenty years after his appointment to the post of chief land agent R.A. Robinson received a handsome testimonial from the tenants of the Whitehaven Castle Estates as a token of the esteem in which he was held. They raised a considerable sum to present him with a beautiful eight days' chiming clock which showed the time at nine different parts of the world (valued at £800), a silver salver, a cup, a punch bowl and an album containing the names of the subscribers, and a watercolour sketch of Whitehaven Castle. The articles were on view at the Grand Hotel and were greatly admired. The presentation on 6 October 1892 took place in the ballroom of the hotel with the Robinson family and a large company assembled. The newspapers reported the proceedings in great detail.

William Fletcher of Brigham Hill, former Liberal MP for Cockermouth, made the presentation. 'I know that to a mind of Mr. Robinson's robust nature anything approaching to 'soft solder' would inspire him with horror, and I therefore shall touch very lightly on his title to our good-will. I have already said that the office he holds is a responsible one; it is also a most onerous and difficult one. I can hardly imagine a situation in which it must be more hard and embarrassing to the manager of a great estate like this than to discriminate fairly between the interests of the landlord and justice to the tenants. (Cheers) It is my belief, and I am sure you will all agree with me, that Mr. Robinson has always honestly endeavoured to hit the true mean. (Hear, hear.) I think we shall also be equally unanimous in giving credit to Mr. Robinson for his uniform frankness, outspokenness, and straight-forwardness. (Cheers) This is not a man who thinks and says one thing and means another (cheers) but his word, according to the old saying, is as good as his bond (Cheers).' Mrs Robinson was associated with this testimonial when William Fletcher presented her with a diamond brooch in recognition that 'when a married man distinguishes himself by his good deeds, his good qualities, the credit is probably in a measure due to his wife (hear, hear, and cheers)'.[30]

[29] *West Cumberland Times*, 16 April 1887.
[30] *Maryport Advertiser*, 8 October 1892.

The fatal accident

Barely six weeks later dramatic news broke all over the national and local press: 'Fatal Accident to Lord Lonsdale's Agent. On 24 November, Mr Robinson was fatally injured on the railway bridge in Cockermouth when driving home from a shooting party in an open carriage. The horse, frightened by the steam from a passing train, bolted and threw him out of the carriage against a stone wall, fracturing his skull. He was immediately attended by the doctors but died within the hour'.[31]

R.A. Robinson was buried in the Cockermouth Cemetery a few days later. His funeral was attended by more than 2000 people. The Robinson family was joined by Lord Lonsdale and his son Lancelot, who were both visibly affected during the ceremony. The whole of West Cumberland was there. The papers carried a long list of names of people from all classes of society including the servants at South Lodge and Whitehaven Castle. The service was conducted by clergy from All Saints and Christ Church, with the choir of All Saints singing.[32] The inscription on the grave read 'To the loved and cherished memory of Robert Alleyne Robinson who entered into rest Nov 24th, 1892'.[33]

R.A. Robinson did not leave a will. The probate granted to Jessie Robinson valued his estate at £16,546. Hugh Cecil Lowther (the fifth Earl of Lonsdale) paid Josslyn's and Claud's school fees. The family remained at South Lodge until 1894 when they moved to Bolton-Le-Sands near Carnforth in Lancashire.

A notice in the West Cumberland Times of 27 January 1894 provides a post-script to the Robinsons' life in Cockermouth: **'**In the shop window of Mr George Irving, watchmaker, there is on view a remarkable marble timepiece which was this week presented to Mr Thomas Brown, gardener, **'**as a mark of respect after twenty years of faithful service by Mrs Robinson and family, of South Lodge. Mr Brown, we understand, will not be required to relinquish his appointment consequent on the departure of the family.' His services as gardener would be retained by the next residents of South Lodge.

After the marriage of her daughters Evelyn in 1896 and Eileen in 1904, Mrs Robinson moved to Harrogate where her close friend from Cumbrian times, Elizabeth Lumb, lived. Jessie Robinson died in Harrogate on 27 February 1911. She was buried in Cockermouth next to her husband. Her daughter Ethel Robinson lived independently as a woman of private means; she visited her friends in Cockermouth on at least one documented occasion.[34] Josslyn became a land agent like his father and Claud became a mining engineer.[35] They both served in the First World War in Lancashire volunteer regiments[36].

Conclusion

This part of the history of South Lodge focused on a very affluent family whose story provides a tangible link to the Victorian era. Their lives unfolded during a time when the country was transformed by rapid industrialisation. In its wake came legislation on elementary education, women's property rights and on extending the franchise, although women and forty per-cent of men were still denied the vote by the 1884 Reform Act. At the dawn of the new century South Lodge passed into the custody of new owners and residents.

The author wishes to thank Gerry Robinson for sharing the documents and photographs in the family archive.

[31] *Manchester Gazette*, 26 November 1892.
[32] *Maryport Advertiser*, 3 December 1892.
[33] Cockermouth Cemetery memorial inscriptions, *www.cockermouthheritagegroup.org.uk/*
[34] 1901 census
[35] 1911 census
[36] *London Gazette*, 22 September 1914 and 6 January 1917.