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May 2022

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## Society News

### *Message from the Chair*

In February I drew to readers' attention that the Talk in March to be delivered by the Society's President, Angus Winchester, was to be the first Society 'hybrid' event. This duly took place as planned and, overall, this was successful. Professor Winchester took the live streaming in his stride and delivered a most interesting and instructive Talk.

The hybrid format, which is planned to be used for all future Talks, places some limitations on the speaker, who needs not

only to address the audience in the hall, but also to consider the broadcasting microphone and their position in front of the camera. There is the added complexity of requiring the images to be both projected to the screen in the hall and streamed simultaneously with live voice and camera image. Very considerable thought and care went into the planning of the first hybrid Talk, and several rehearsals took place. Thanks go to James Lusher and Clare Round for managing the live streaming, and to Chris Mills for technical support.

Despite the careful preparation, it was unfortunate that a problem arose with showing the first image that accompanied Angus Winchester's excellent Talk. Happily, this was overcome. But, as a Member sagely remarked to me after the Talk, it has to be accepted that technology is fallible. At the risk of using a hackneyed phrase, lessons have been learnt and it's hoped that with the building of experience in using this mode of delivering Talks the format will be improved, refined, and in due course perfected – technical gremlins excepted!

Apart from the Talks programme arranged for the second half of the year, including the Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture to be delivered at the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth on 17 September, an historical Walk around Lowswater led by Derek Denman (accompanied by a booklet for participants) will take place on Sunday 21 August. Please note that booking a place in advance is essential.

Membership of the Society currently stands at 206. I understand that this is a record number, the first time that *p.3*

## Our future programme 2022

<b>12 May 22</b>	'Cumbria and the Jacobites'.	Dr Bill Shannon
<b>9 Jun 22</b>	The Society's short AGM followed by 'World War Two: Earning a Crust'.	Ambleside Oral History Group
<b>14 Jul 22</b>	'Early Naturalists in Lakeland'.	Professor Ian D. Hodgkinson,.
<b>21 Aug 22</b>	Historical walk. 'Exploring Early Loweswater' 2pm-5pm (provisional date).	Dr Derek Denman Contact James Lusher LDFLHSzoom@gmail.com
<b>8 Sep 22</b>	'Harriet Martineau, writer, social theorist and abolitionist who made her home at Ambleside'.	Dr Christopher Donaldson
<b>17 Sep 22</b>	Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture 'Cumbrian Artists: Fells, Mists and Waterfalls', Dr David A Cross.	Joint with Cocker mouth Civic Trust. Kirkgate Centre. See this issue for details
<b>10 Nov 22</b>	'The impact of motor transport in Cumberland and Westmorland 1900-39'.	Dr Jean Turnbull

Talks are at 7.30 pm in the Yew Tree Hall and, excepting the Bernard Bradbury lecture, are included in membership and open to visitors at £3. Talks are also live-streamed to members using Zoom, but are not recorded.

## Officers and Committee 2021/22

President Professor Angus Winchester	Financial examiner Peter Hubbard
Charles Lambrick <i>Chairman</i>	Lena Stanley-Clamp <i>Membership</i>
Tim Stanley-Clamp <i>Vice-chair, talks</i>	Derek Denman <i>Wanderer, website and archives</i>
Christopher Thomas <i>Treasurer</i>	Hugh Thomson James Lusher – <i>walks, data controller</i>

The next issue of the *Wanderer* will be published on 1 August 2022. Please send any short items to the Editor, Derek Denman, in early July.

The *Wanderer* is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cocker mouth CA13 0GU.  
<http://www.derwentfells.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety>

From p.1 membership has topped 200. It seems there's been a small but significant benefit stemming from the pandemic as regards membership numbers: 'enforced' use of Zoom has enabled a wider number of people to participate in the Society's Talks. In addition, the Society's Facebook presence, created thanks to the initiative taken by Lena Stanley-Clamp, has undoubtedly widened the number of people who become aware of the Society and its activities.

Accompanying this edition of *The Wanderer* you'll find the papers for the Society's AGM which takes place on 10 June. It is very pleasing that the Society is a thriving one, but I must draw to readers' attention the fact that it will only be possible to continue this state of affairs if new people join the committee to replace existing members when they step down. As you will see from the AGM papers there are several vacancies to be filled.

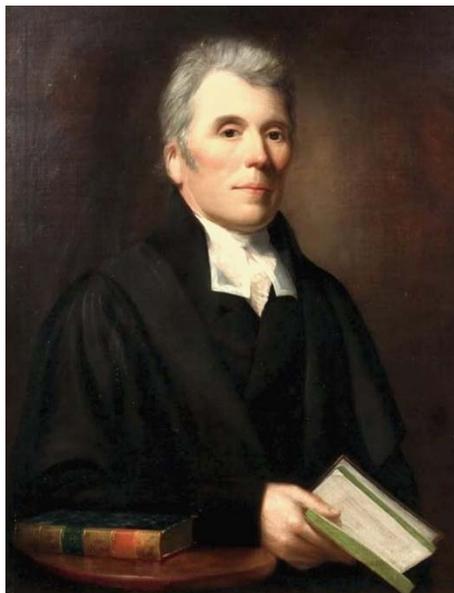
So, I therefore urge every member to give careful thought to volunteering for a committee role. It is not an onerous one given that there are only four meetings each year, and every effort is made to spread the work so that no one person is unduly burdened. The committee is particularly keen to recruit someone who will take on the role of Secretary, which is an important and central one to enable the Society to continue to be a thriving and successful one.

Please show your support for your Society's continuing good health by offering to join the committee!

*Charles Lambrick*

### **'Cumbrian Artists: Fells, Mists, and Waterfalls', 17 September 2022**

This will be the title of the Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture, organised this year by the Society, also on behalf of Cocker-mouth Civic Trust. We are delighted that Dr David Cross, the eminent Cumbrian



art historian, has accepted our invitation to give this lecture. Dr Cross will be speaking principally about the prominent Cumbrian artists whose work conveyed the landscape and its atmospheric to a national audience, through the earlier period of discovery and tourism growth.

The stimulus for the talk, and its Cocker-mouth dimension, comes from the two hundredth anniversary of the building of his painting house, at Rogerscale in Whinfell, by Joseph Sutton, the best-known artist of the Cocker-mouth school. Sutton's subjects, however, were the portraits and prized possessions of the local aristocracy and gentry, such as the Reverend Lancaster Dodgson, captured here by Joseph Sutton in 1831. Dodgson was the curate of Embleton and then Loweswater, before becoming the Vicar of Brough.

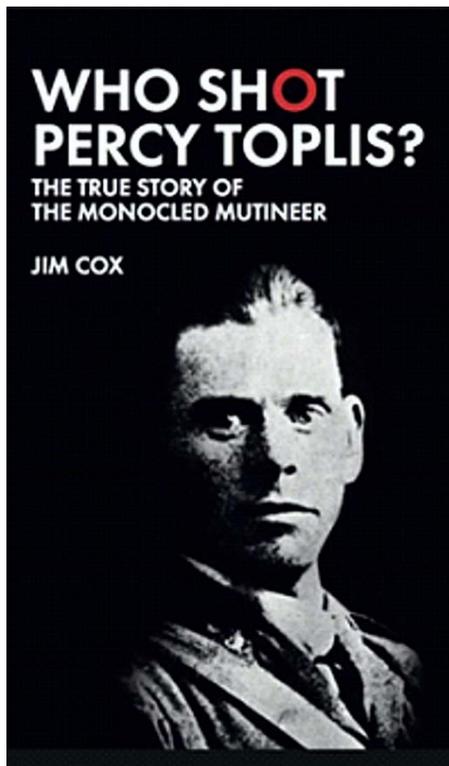
The lecture will be given at the **Kirkgate Centre** on Saturday 17 September, starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm. Tickets will be £6 and will be available online from Kirkgate Arts, or at the box office, from early May.

## Meeting Reports

***Talk: 'Who killed Percy Topliss? The true story of the monocled mutineer'. 13 January 2022***

Dr Jim Cox's lucid, skilfully presented talk told the story of Francis Percy Toplis' final hours as he met his end on the A6 a few miles north of Penrith in the summer of 1920. He had been on the run for some weeks, pursued across the country in a blaze of publicity for the murder in Hampshire of taxi driver Sidney Spicer. Toplis had led a disruptive, violent life, imprisoned on suspicion of rape, with convictions for assault and finally of murder, but he had a knack for self promotion which got the attention of headline writers and tabloid journalists. Some fifty years later a book seeking to whitewash him led to a BBC series written by Alan Bleasdale which blamed his death on an establishment cover-up. At the time, the public was fully convinced of his guilt, however, and his death at the end of the manhunt, shot, it was said, by police officers as they apprehended him, was greeted as a victory for law and order.

Dr Cox's talk described the twists and turns in Toplis' final hours in careful detail. Eventually three officers were involved and in the official account he was shot by one of them after an exchange of gunfire. However, building on the many doubtful elements in the official account, Dr Cox offered the theory that the man responsible for ending Toplis' life was in fact none of the police officers present. The actual 'executioner' was not Ritchie, Bertram, or Fulton but a well-known local man. It was Norman de Courcy Parry, son of the local Chief Constable, who fired the shot that killed Percy. It seems very likely that he had been tipped off about the unfolding drama by his father, who had personally approved the use of firearms when appealed to earlier in the evening.



Later, Norman would deny having used the Army pistol he took with him to the scene, but he freely owned to having taken it there with him. The haste with which the post-mortem was carried out and the furtiveness of the way the funeral arrangements were made attest to anxieties on the part of the officials dealing with Toplis' death. They certainly provided material for the kind of conspiracy theories avoided in this talk but taken up so enthusiastically several decades later.

Dr Cox provided an interesting piece of social history by revisiting a story which deserves to be remembered. His forensic scrutiny of contemporary records and accounts impressed and entertained the members who heard it.

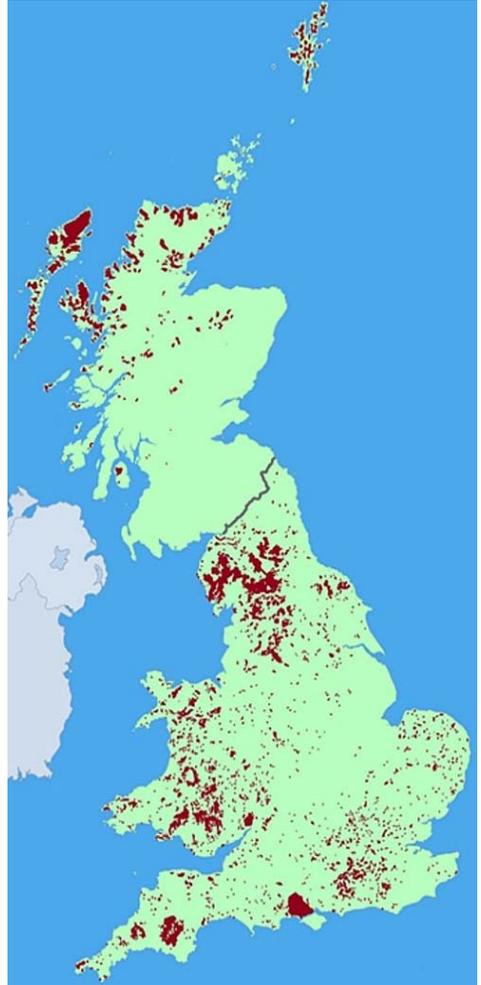
*Tim Stanley-Clamp*

***Talk: 'Common ground: the history of common land', 10 March 2022***

It was fitting that our President, Professor Angus Winchester, should present our first talk at the Yew Tree Hall for two years. This was our first experience of a 'hybrid' talk, that is one which is given to an audience at the Yew Tree and simultaneously streamed using Zoom to members who did not attend due to distance or other reasons. Angus's talks are always popular, but even so it was pleasing to welcome an audience of just over forty in the hall, making for a sociable but not over-packed event, plus some forty-five links, thereby creating an audience around a hundred.

The new format is far more complex to set-up. Despite careful rehearsal, one gremlin delayed the first image, and we were fortunate to have a speaker with the ability and experience to re-order the presentation to suit. Overall, the new format worked well for both audiences, except that the refreshments cannot be streamed at present.

The subject, common land, has been a developing interest for Angus throughout his career, and this talk marks the completion of a personal project to research and write the general history of the Common land of Britain, in a book which is now ready for publication. Despite the work and the talk having such a wide coverage, the Cumbrian examples in the talk were many, as one would hope and expect. Expected because from a perusal of the map of common land today, shown here, Cumbria still retains large tracts of England's common land: a consequence of being upland grazing land rather than arable land. The agriculturally productive Midlands and East Anglia show a lack of surviving commons. That contrast with the upland areas was more marked in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when the productive regions retained just 10-20% of land as common, compared



**Map of common land in Britain, by Graham Bathe**

with around 70% of the uplands. In an age of agricultural improvement, 1760-1860, some two million acres of England and Wales were enclosed, mostly in the upland areas and principally to improve livestock grazing. Curiously, although this process removed common land, in some cases such as Bassenthwaite and Castlerigg & Derwentwater, commons were reduced to

stinted pastures without fenced divisions. This perpetuated the use and appearance of a common, without being one.

The talk took a wider view of common land than just the legal definition of 'private land over which third parties possess the rights to take produce from the land', which is more than just the right of access or roaming or passage. Angus considered additional ecological and cultural definitions. These became more important in the third of the three phases into which the history was divided, which were:

**1550-1750**, when the commons, belonging to lords of the manors, were managed by custom through the manor courts. The resource of the commons was valuable to the whole agricultural population, and elaborate rules, described by Angus, were put in place to control the use of the resources and to conserve them.

**1750-1860**, during the agricultural and industrial revolutions, when the surviving commons were no longer valued by the community as a common resource. The upland commons were greatly reduced by enclosing and, usually, dividing among the rights-holding landowners, through Acts of Parliament.

**1860-present**, being a period in which the commons had an increasing role in public recreation and conservation, and became valued as a national resource, increasingly supported by legislation.

Non-agricultural uses of commons had a long history. Angus discussed the historical use of accessible commons as assembly places for pleasant activities, such as fairs and horse races, and unpleasant events such as hangings and military musters and battles. Plus religious and political agitation and much more.

But it is public recreation and ideas of conservation, as a national resource, which drives present perception of what commons and other semi-wild places are for and how they should appear. While the ancient agricultural use of the resource is still the basis of the definition, the

interests of public recreation and conservation are in the ascendancy, supported by public and private funding. While the grazing and recreational uses are generally harmonious, conflicts can arise for example through those seeking re-wilding and greater biodiversity. The increasing public use of the New Forest provides challenges to the ancient rights and practices of managing stock. The history of the common land has not yet ended.

*Derek Denman*

*Common land in Britain*, by Angus J L Winchester will be published by Boydell and Brewer in September, see <https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783277438/common-land-in-britain/>

## From the bookshelf

### **The Price and Pain of Migrant Poverty, by Allan Sharman**

I started this review many times in the course of considering several aspects of *The Price and Pain of Migrant Poverty*, the title of Society member Allan Sharman's eloquent study of nineteenth century poverty in the far north of England. It is an essential book on what life in raw detail means in graphs and statistics and of how things really were. Sadly, there are parallels which kept presenting themselves to this reader. How can one not be sensitive to inequality, to migration, to social structures, to the poverty that is there to be seen?

The sight of Cockermonth's well-sized fifty-bed workhouse is not in Gallowbarrow today; Fairfield School occupies the place it stood. Where are the fifty guardians who once made decisions on welfare that may have decided a family's future? Where are the commissioners, and the solemn reports on conditions and the journalists who tried to summarise and colour the scene for

readers? Where, for example, is the Mendicity Society, the Gaelic League, the Carlisle Patriot, the Report on the condition of the Handloom Weavers of 1841, and Appendix G of the 1836 State of the Irish Poor in Great Britain? The reader will find these matters reported, cited, or quoted from in this book.

We have long forgotten the often trying hard but callous way the poor law was applied, and we fortunately have no memory of a Mr Robert Rawlinson who reported to the General Board of Health in 1849 on 'Conditions of life of the Inhabitants of the Town of Whitehaven'.

Writing this in a week when the House of Lords began a process that might lead to the repeal of the antiquated 1824 Vagrancy Act, there are so many references to vagrants that their presence must have been a common sight. The index has more than thirty citations, excluding the Act itself.

And how much is the average reader of today troubled by 'uncontrolled migration, student debt and the National Debt, by welfare fraud and the neglect of and underinvestment in the North, as well as weakening social cohesion'? One will

## THE PRICE AND PAIN OF MIGRANT POVERTY



Allan Sharman

not find that catalogue of shortcomings in this study, but it is a quotation from a shortly to be published book of essays *Who Are We Now*. Who remembers Mrs Gillian Duffy of Rochdale on her view of the general election of 2010? Apart from student debt, has much changed since the nineteenth century? And who will remember the lives which were blighted in Cleator Moor, or what Wordsworth would have seen and discussed - maybe - over lunch at Rydal Mount once he was well established and enjoying the sinecure of Westmorland's Collector of Stamp Duty?

Over and over again the reader is struck by what must have been a common sight. In March 1817 reported the Carlisle Patriot a huge crowd of 'sailors, Irish, and poor persons' marched from Maryport to Allonby to attack a warehouse. There were Irish and Scots flags on marches. In 1827 we learn that possibly two per-cent of the inhabitants of Carlisle were Irish, and many worked for the Dixon weaving empire, making for middle-class and upper-class prosperity.

The consequential social and economic divisions of the age, and hostility to migrants, were very evident and the cry then as now was often about job competition, with Catholics being the equivalent of job-stealers from Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. Even this writer remembers children in hand-me-downs begging at railway stations.

The packet-boats that arrived twice a week at Whitehaven, often in hulls owned by the comfortably-off residents of South Lodge in Cockermouth, brought people that were often, according to the local media, 'idle and unsettled' with 'one fixed idea ...we are compelled to support them ... to elicit money from parish funds'. That was the editor of the *Carlisle Journal* in January 1817. Even in 1908, in *Autobiography of a super tramp*, the writer W. H. Davies reminded his readers that one had to 'keep looking something like a working man'.

Sharman reminds us of the importance of respectability and that reception by the clergy could be problematic! If not a huge task of identifying need at the workhouse entrance. John Curwen (of Workington Hall) writing his report to the Poor Law commissioners in 1847 had no doubt that 'it will be found in all the principal towns ... we may assume that one third of the whole charge on the county of Cumberland is paid to the Irish who have no settlement and who have surreptitiously intruded themselves upon us'. Sharman says these are extravagant claims. They are, but we ought to be

aware that prejudice against minority populations runs in the blood stream of the established, and that it does not take long to be made manifest.

This study provides an important picture of another England. As the cover summary says 'the way the Poor Law was applied to the management of the migrants has implications for all those who are in any way responsible for our current social management policies'. And that includes the prisons. What was said of these then does not bear repeating. Nor does the eldest amongst us need to be reminded of the once prevalence of domestic service, the relative cheapness of the railway system, the capacity of the economy to absorb and then expel casual labour. These were the safety valves which prevented gross social upheaval but fell, when times were bad, upon mostly migrant itinerant labour.

I commend this analysis of extensive material gathered over some six years in research and travel. One has to note some 26 pages of references to newspapers, reports, speeches and like material, and many pages of bibliography. It opens our eyes a little wider to see that the material related to us then is still alive and active as inflation bites and the cost of living rises inexorably. Social services struggle with the same or similar issues as the poor law commissioners, guardians and workhouse staff did in the nineteenth century.

*Michael Baron*

Allan Sharman, *The price and Pain of Migrant Poverty: Nineteenth century Irish and Scots poverty in the far North of England*, 292 pages, 35 illustrations. Published December 2021. ISBN-13, 979-8495225893

Available from *Amazon.co.uk*, price £15.

Note:

Michael Baron served as the Chair of the Society from 2006-8, and as a committee member for many years, Ed.

## Articles

### ***Surveying Brackenthwaite Hows***

*by Sandra Shaw*

The Society was advised back in January that The National Trust had commissioned a Level 1 archaeological survey of Brackenthwaite Hows from the Lake District National Park Archaeology Volunteer Network. We were invited to participate. Because of my previous involvement with the NT in Level 1 surveying in 2008/9, the invitation was passed to me to arrange society involvement. There was just time to send out a notice to members with the electronic version of the Wanderer; it had already been printed ready for distribution at the end of January. Surveying was to take place over 21 and 22 March, with a further day set aside on 24th in case of bad weather, or over-runs. Within the first week, I had received six names and although some later pulled out and others came forward, eventually eight members (Mike Bacon, Peter Battrick, Dorothy Hemingway, Judy Hudson, Sandra Shaw,

Joan Warren, Leslie Webb and Jane Worthington) participated over three days.

The National Trust interest in conducting this survey was occasioned by their purchase in 2019 of the grazing rights on Brackenthwaite Hows. Land ownership covers a multitude of technical layers. Following dispute about ownership at the time that the Hows was registered as Common Land under the 1965 legislation, it was determined by the Commons Commissioners in 1982 that the freehold ownership of the soil should be vested in the Public Trustee. The NT now wished to assess the archaeology present in order to inform its management plan for the area.

#### **Surveying**

The Archaeology Volunteer Network was represented by supervisors, Kevin Grice, Jeremy Rowan Robinson, and Jackie Fay. Early in March I attended a site meeting with Kevin and Jeremy at which various logistical decisions were made and the overall scope of the job was discussed. Although Brackenthwaite Hows is probably well known to many society members, we

**Members of the team in a sheep-fold,  
photo Sandra Shaw**



would generally access it by established routes on relatively clear footpaths. The challenges of covering the entire site became clear. Underfoot, the ground was uneven, steep and covered with deep, though dead, bracken.

### Day 1

A team of seven; three NP archaeology volunteers and four society members surveyed the western part of the Hows. The process is that the team spread out in a line, each member 10m from the next, the first being 10m from a boundary. The person at the other end marks their progress by attaching bright tags to convenient vegetation. The first person follows the boundary, and everyone looks out for anything which appears to be 'man'-made. When something is spotted, the team gathers at the spot, leaving a marker at the point they had reached, so they can return to it. A decision is made as to whether the feature is natural or not. If not, it is fully recorded – GPS position, description, photographs, sketch, measurements, age. The team then return to their positions and continue until the next shout. This sounds straightforward until you realise how steep and knobbly the

terrain is, such that it is not always possible to see even the next person, never mind the whole team. Having done a sweep up to a convenient junction, the whole team turns round and comes back the other way, removing all the tags as they go, and placing new ones on the further side.

Our first 'find' happened almost before we had set off, as a wall smout, also known as a hogg hole, was spotted behind us. This is low opening in the wall to allow animals to pass through, sometimes lambs or small sheep, or, sometimes, rabbits that would be caught in a net the other side. The one identified here was of intermediate size. Further finds, comprised a possible levelled platform, with one side raised with a line of stones, quarries, gate stoups and a sheep-fold, constructed with large stones standing to 6 or 7 courses.

### Day 2

The team this day comprised six; two from the Archaeology Volunteer Network and four from the society. As I was not present, I am grateful to Leslie Webb for supplying this report: "We surveyed the rigg and furrow system to the north of the Brackenthwaite top, counting around 30 riggs/furrows in 4 sections. There was some uncertainty as to the method of construction due to the steepness of the ground, ie probably not horses. A boundary dyke was identified cutting across the riggs/furrows. On the south side of the top, mapped quarries and one unmapped depression (maybe



**General view of the area of rigg and furrow, photo Sandra Shaw**



**Members of the team surveying,  
photo Leslie Webb**

an attempted quarry, which had no useful rock) were found in a sweep search.'

I discussed these findings with Kevin and Jeremy on the third day, as we had spotted and discussed the rigg and furrow and the dyke on our preliminary site visit. I was interested to learn how the preliminary thoughts we had on that visit had developed into more clear-cut identification. Rigg (sometimes called ridge) and furrow is the striped marks left on soil that has previously been ploughed. In some places this is only visible in low light, snow or dry conditions. This area is interesting as it appears to be in such an unlikely site to have been of use for growing crops. It is thought it may have been brought into operation around the late eighteenth, or early nineteenth centuries, when a series of bad harvests and the Napoleonic Wars combined to bring considerable areas of marginal land under cultivation. It was probably only useful for a limited period.

Its orientation, facing north, or even slightly NE, would have made it a challenge for growing. However, on the day of the survey, there was a strong wind blowing and it was thought that this orientation might have afforded some shelter from the prevailing south-westerly wind. The dyke had left us scratching our heads on the earlier visit as it appeared to start and stop in the middle of nowhere, and so it was not thought to be a boundary. The ditch was on the wrong side of the bank for it to have been useful for drainage and, in any event, it did not respect the upper and lower limits of the rigg and furrow, and clearly cut through it. It was only with the detailed sweep survey that the full length of the dyke was established, reaching from one wall to another, leading to its identification as a boundary.

### **Day 3**

This was a smaller team, just the three NP people and two from the society. There was a small, steep area left to survey, made particularly necessary due to a reference by Ron George in his book *A*

Cumberland Valley, to 'a small bloomery ... on the north side of Brackenthwaite How'. We duly searched, but no sign of this could be found. All we recorded was another wall smout, this with a particularly deep lintel extending right through the wall.



**The wall smout being measured, photo Sandra Shaw**

### **Conclusion**

Although the finds were limited, apart from the very extensive rig and furrow and the boundary dyke, I think everyone who participated had an interesting and enjoyable time. This was the first occasion on which the National Park Archaeology Volunteer Network has worked alongside a Local History Society, and it was a relief to hear that the experience has not put them off. I thank all those who participated, Leslie Webb for his account and photos, and especially Kevin, Jeremy and Jackie for providing us with such a rewarding experience.

## **The return of a Medieval Bell to Loweswater Church**

*by Fiona Lambrick*

The Reverend Geoffrey White began his ministry at St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater, at the very end of 1945. Some time after his arrival his attention was drawn to a bell standing on a windowsill in Crosthwaite Church at Keswick, which was known to be from Loweswater. It weighed about two hundred-weight and was inscribed "*Sanctum [sic] Maria, Ora Pro Nobis*" ("St Mary, pray for us").

In an article on the Pre-reformation Church Bells of West Cumberland by Mary C Fair published in the CWAAS Transactions for 1948 she recorded an entry for Loweswater as follows: - '(Inventory of 1552: *ij Prche belles, iiii littell Belles*). *Treble (?)*; diameter at mouth 16", height 14"; no initial cross or interval stops. '*Sancta Maria, Ora Pro Nobis*'.<sup>1</sup> The ratio of height to diameter suggests an early date, possibly fourteenth century. The dedication of Loweswater is unknown.

In a second article by Mary Fair in the CWAAS Transactions for 1951. She records that the bell was one of two medieval bells which lay about neglected.<sup>2</sup>

For about 70 years the whereabouts of this historic bell had been unknown. It was discovered on a scrap heap in Maryport at the end of the nineteenth century by Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, one of the founders of the National Trust and Vicar of St Kentigern's Church, Crosthwaite. He rescued it and took it to Crosthwaite where it hung in the parish hall before being placed on a windowsill in the Church.

The photograph on page 13 was taken in about 1951 by Brian L Thompson for Mary Fair. To take the photograph the

<sup>1</sup> Mary C Fair 'The pre-reformation church bells of West Cumberland', *Transactions CWAAS* 1948, pp.108-13

<sup>2</sup> Mary C Fair 'Three West Cumberland notes', *Transactions CWAAS* 1951, pp.92-5

bell was taken out of the church and placed on a tombstone in the churchyard with the help of the vicar and sacristan.

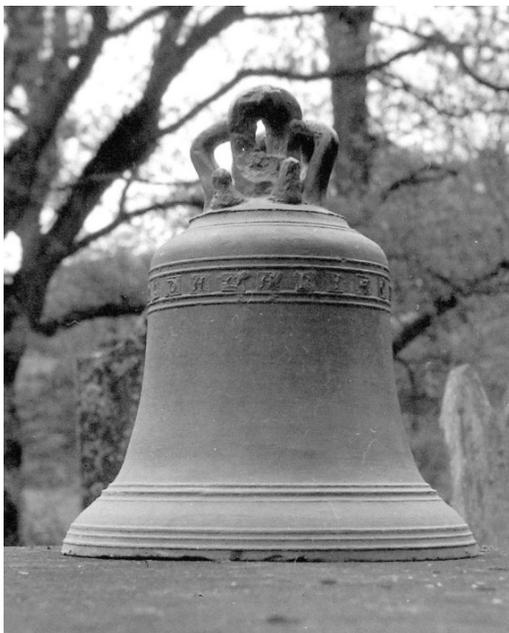
In her second article Mary Fair records that she consulted Mr Frederick Sharpe for his opinion on the bell and he reported: 'Judged by its shape, the Loweswater bell appears to me to be of the normal late fourteenth century English type. It may well be by some very early fifteenth century North Country founder because the shape of bells developed later in the north and west'.<sup>3</sup>

There had been a chapel in Loweswater in circa 1138 when it was granted to the priory of St Bees. Probably from the thirteenth century the chapel served not just the village of Loweswater, but the Manor of Balnes which also contained Thackthwaite and Mockerkin/Sosgill. The de Multons were the resident lords of Loweswater at the time. Either Alan de Multon or his son Thomas (who had changed his name by taking his mother's name of de Lucy) purchased the Manor of Thackthwaite. The raising of Loweswater to the status of a parochial chapelery with a graveyard, which probably served the area of today's parish, didn't take place until 1403. Mary Fair places the date of the medieval bell as about 1404, so its casting and hanging may have been associated with greater status and dedication of the chapel.<sup>4</sup>

Bells played a significant part in daily life before the Reformation especially in rural areas where there were no clocks. Typically, the bell for matins would be rung at dawn for people to wake in time, at least an hour, before attending matins. It would also be rung at different times during the day to announce subsequent services, and for marking deaths and funerals. In the evening it would ring

for the curfew ('cover your fire') signalling the end of the day and time to go to bed. Significant ringing was done in Rogation week, the sixth week after Easter, when clergy and parishioners toured the parish praying for deliverance from evil and blessing on the fields. Bells were often given nicknames either of saints or the donors. Like other objects in worship, they were holy and a new one was solemnly consecrated by a bishop. Holy water was cast on it, oil and chrism were applied to it, and then censed with incense.<sup>5</sup> The Loweswater bell was probably well-used in medieval times, and would therefore have played a significant role in parish life.

**Loweswater's Medieval Bell when at Crosthwaite Church** - by permission of Cumbria Archive Centre (Kendal) ref. WDBLT 1/6/21



<sup>3</sup> Fair, 'Three West Cumberland notes', p.94

<sup>4</sup> Derek Denman, L&DFLHS *Wanderer*, May 2018

<sup>5</sup> Nicholas Orme, *Going to church in Medieval England*, Yale University Press, 2001 (with grateful thanks to Hugh Thomson for drawing to my attention the passage from the book).

The chapel at Loweswater was demolished in 1827 and the bell was removed.<sup>6</sup> Allegedly, it was sold for half a crown to a scrap merchant in Maryport.<sup>7</sup> The present, much larger, church was built in place of the chapel at the time when it was thought the population of Loweswater would rise significantly due to prospective lead mining in the area.

Not long after the Rev'd Geoffrey White had become vicar of Loweswater he contacted Crosthwaite Church and asked for the bell to be returned. At the meeting in July 1952 of the Loweswater Parochial Church Council, the minutes record that 'the vicar read out a letter from the vicar of Crosthwaite who stated that there would be considerable opposition to its removal from Crosthwaite Church'.<sup>8</sup>

Among papers left by my late mother, Mrs R E Thom-Postlethwaite, I found a note she had written about the history of the bell. She takes up the next part of the story.

*In 1953 when Mr St George Curwen aged 78 decided to get married again [to Miss Claribel Walker] his daughter Barbara Daniels [they later changed their name to Wetenhall] and her family had to move out of his house in Papcastle and came to live at Shatton Lodge [a house in Embleton between Lorton and Cockermouth]. Barbara's husband, Roger Wetenhall, was a keen campanologist. He had been trying to revive the art in West Cumbria and told us that Lorton church should have a "ring o' bells". I said we could not because we had no bell.*

*Some time later, at a party in Shatton Lodge, [probably in the early 1960s] a man I had not met before was talking to me and suddenly said, "would you like a bell for your church at Lorton? There is an old one lying about on the floor in Crosthwaite church at Keswick and it*

*would be nice if it could be hung in a church". I was surprised and said it was a lovely idea. I would put it to the PCC [i.e. Lorton Parochial Church Council, of which my mother was secretary from 1950/1 for a long period before becoming Treasurer, a post she held for many years. She was a member of the Lorton PCC continuously for about 45 years.] When I did so the answer went like this: "Oh no, we don't want any of that. We have a bell of our own anyway and there are no bell ringers in Lorton." I asked why no-one knew about our bell and why we did not use it. "Oh no, they said, the fittings will be rusted up and probably the bell is cracked. Anyway, we don't want another. Noisy things, bells".*

*I was rather sad and decided to offer it to some of our neighbours who might be glad of a bell. When I rang Geoffrey White he was ecstatic and said he would love the bell. There had been lost for over a hundred years, when the old chapel was pulled down and the new church built. He decided to go over to Crosthwaite and see it. When he did so he was even more ecstatic because he found an inscription on it which proved it to be pre-Reformation, so it could be the original Loweswater bell which had been lying on a rubbish tip at Maryport and was discovered by Canon Rawnsley, a previous vicar of Crosthwaite, founder of the National Trust, who took it back to his church. There it had remained on the floor for at least sixty years. Geoffrey [had previously been] to the Crosthwaite PCC and asked if Loweswater could have it. They had refused, saying it was their heritage, found by their famous Canon Rawnsley.*

*Geoffrey had hung on for years, hoping to get it back. I am not sure whether in the end it was sold to him, because a rumour went round that he was*

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<sup>6</sup> Geoffrey White & Rosemary Southey, Ed, *A Dash of White: The memoir of the Reverend Geoffrey Howard White Vicar of Loweswater*, Forster Davies, 1990

<sup>7</sup> Carlisle Diocesan Guild Bell Ringers Spring Newsletter 2021

<sup>8</sup> Cumbria archive service (Whitehaven), YPR 41/43

*spending quite a bit of time in the Scalehill Hotel chatting up rich Americans who gave him money for the church, and that may have been the reason. In the end he won and had the bell refurbished after all its adventures and now it rings sweetly in its real home a much nicer sound than Lorton's own bell which was rescued by Mr Woodhead-Dixon [Vicar of Lorton] and is now used every Sunday. Our Lorton bell is more raucous and seems to be saying "hurry up, you're late". It was so lucky that our Lorton PCC rejected the Loweswater bell because if it had been hung [in the tower of St Cuthbert's church, Lorton], there would have been no significance, whereas it is precious to Loweswater.*<sup>9</sup>

The minutes of Crosthwaite PCC for their meeting held in June 1965, record that 'the vicar announced that Loweswater would like the Bell, which has been in Crosthwaite for many years returned. Miss Hill proposed and Mr Coward seconded the successful motion that the Bell be returned'.<sup>10</sup>

Loweswater PCC minutes for a meeting held in August that year record that 'the vicar said he had been in touch with the vicar of Crosthwaite, who informed him that the Crosthwaite Council had agreed to return the ancient bell belonging to Loweswater at present on view at Crosthwaite'.

Later, in December 1965, it was reported at the Loweswater PCC meeting that 'Crosthwaite Church had sanctioned the removal of the ancient bell to Loweswater. A motion was proposed by Mrs Milburn and seconded by Mrs Anne Style and carried that a donation of £20 was to be given to Crosthwaite church and that it was to be used for whatever fund they desired'.

At the next PCC meeting in January 1966, it was reported that the bell had

now been received from Crosthwaite and was in Loweswater Church. After discussing its permanent position, it was agreed that a steel or iron bar was to be erected in the belfry arch and the bell was to be hung from this with the clapper attached. 'This is a pre Reformation bell, one of the first to be cast in Cumberland – inscribed "Santa Maria – ora pro nobis"'.<sup>11</sup>

The Crosthwaite PCC minutes for the same month record that 'A gift of £20 and a letter of thanks for the Return of the Loweswater Bell to Loweswater church was received'.<sup>12</sup>

The November 1971 Loweswater PCC minutes record that a detailed report on a visit by a foundry representative had been received. They thought the present bell hanging was dated 1827, and that the pre-Reformation bell was not cracked but the tone was poor. It would be suitable to hang this bell with new fittings to chime gently on the swing. The cost would be £97 plus transport costs. Mrs Bessie Tattersall proposed that we take down the present bell and belfry tower and rebuild the belfry tower and hang the medieval bell on modern fittings'.

The PCC minutes for March 1972 refer to a report on the belfry, arch, and bell, recording that 'the vicar reported that the necessary forms had been sent. Lang's had quoted £300 but this did not include the weathervane being cleaned or cleaning down the stones of the tower. There was the travel to Loughborough to pay and the bell would be insured for £500. The old bell (1827) would be sold if possible and it was hoped it would be taken back to Loughborough when the medieval bell was returned. The Registrar had been informed. Mrs Garner proposed that we accept the contracts outlined and wish the weathervane work to be added, and we know the weathercock and transport are extra.' Mrs Salkeld seconded this proposal and it was left to

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<sup>9</sup> Note by the late Mrs RE Thom-Postlethwaite, in the possession of the author

<sup>10</sup> Crosthwaite PCC, Church Archives

<sup>11</sup> CAS(W)/YPR 41/43

<sup>12</sup> Crosthwaite PCC, Church Archives



Geoffrey, 3rd right, with a Clutch of local Children and Clerics at the dedication of the Loweswater Church Bell, 1966: Back row, left to right – Rev. John Marsh; Dr Bloomer (retired Bishop of Carlisle); Rev. Mark Green, Bishop of Aston; Geoffrey Sale, retired headmaster of Rossall School; Cyril Bulley, Bishop of Carlisle.

above

**Photograph taken in the Churchyard after the dedication of the Bell in August 1972<sup>13</sup>**

the vicar and secretary to get the bell sent to Loughborough.<sup>14</sup> This would have been to John Taylor & Co, the renowned and historic bell foundry in that Leicestershire town.

The Bell had come back to Loweswater church in 1966 but was not hung until it had been refurbished. It was then ready for its dedication service at Loweswater on Sunday 13 August 1972, the first time it had been heard ringing there in 145 years.<sup>15</sup>

It was noted at the subsequent September 1972 PCC meeting that 'The opinion had been expressed by the builders that there was no need to take

down the bell tower. The architect was brought over, and several

PCC members consulted, and the decision was taken not to take down the bell tower. The bill was not much different, but the weathervane had been cleaned very well. The

decision taken was confirmed. A memorable service had

been held to bless the bell. This was taken by the Bishop of Carlisle helped by the retired Bishop of Carlisle, Dr Bloomer'. And at the PCC meeting held on 24 November 1972– 'The vicar announced that the total given voluntary [sic] for the installation and repairing of the Bell was £166. He regarded this as very satisfactory'.<sup>16</sup>

It had therefore taken Geoffrey White most of the period of his ministry at Loweswater to reunite the pre-Reformation bell with the place of worship where it had originally been rung, although not of course in the same building. Geoffrey retired in 1973 due to ill health, but he continued to live in Loweswater. In 1980 he married Joan Robinson (formerly of Foulisye), and he died in January 1990.

<sup>13</sup> From *A Dash of White* – photographer probably Cyril Allday; the date should be 1972

<sup>14</sup> CAS(W)/YPR 41/44

<sup>15</sup> Carlisle Diocesan Guild Bell Ringers Spring Newsletter 2021

<sup>16</sup> CAS(W)/YPR 41/44 Loweswater Minute book

## Aikbank Mill Farm, Mosser, and its People

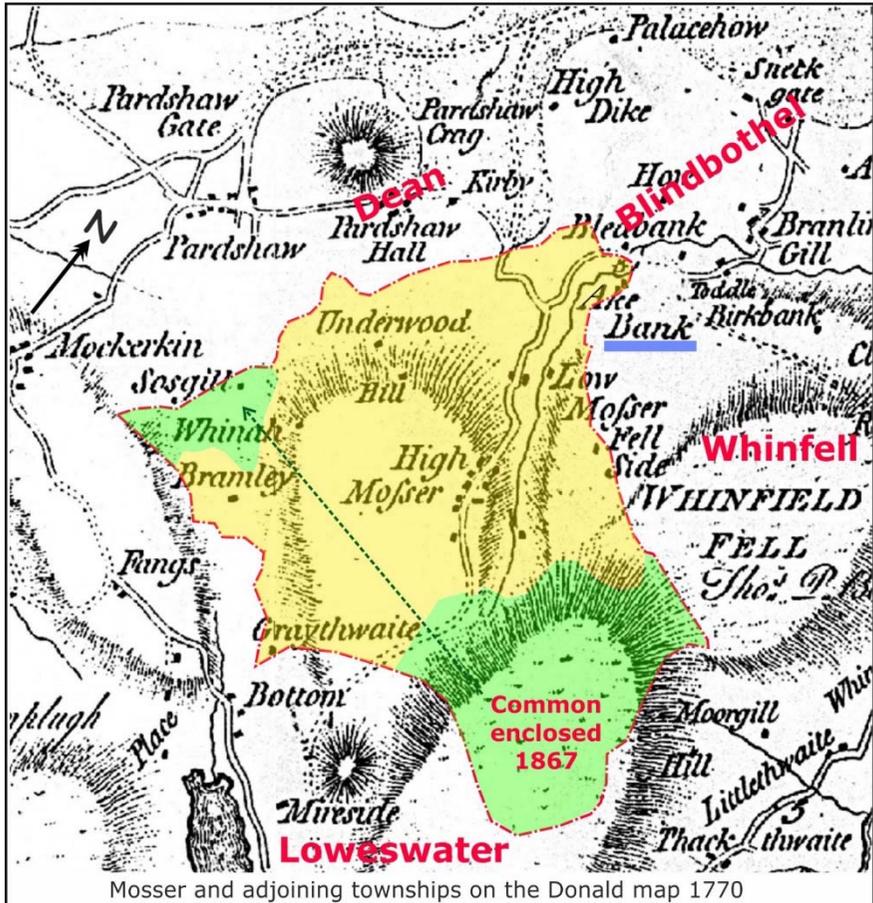
by Lena Stanley-Clamp

Unlike many corn mills in remote rural locations which fell into disuse in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, Aikbank Mill served the communities of Mosser and the surrounding area until the first decade of the twentieth century. The

name has been preserved and the buildings still stand today but few signs remain of its former activity.

### Mosser and its history

Aikbank Mill is in Mosser as outlined on this map surveyed in 1770.<sup>1</sup> The history of Mosser is comprehensively described in Angus Winchester's draft history of Mosser for the Victoria County History, Cumbria.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Joseph Hodkinson and Thomas Donald, *The County of Cumberland surveyed anno MDCCLXX and MDCCLXXI*, 1774

<sup>2</sup> Angus Winchester, *Mosser*, draft article on Mosser township, Victoria County History: Cumbria, 2011, <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/>

Mosser's agriculture was mainly pastoral. Cultivated land was limited to the vicinity of the farmsteads while pastures were on higher ground. In the mid-eighteenth century, the farmland was mainly under rotational grass and the crops included oats, barley and potatoes. In 1801, only 7.5 per cent of the township acreage (112 acres) was under crop increasing to 138 acres in 1920.<sup>3</sup> The population of Mosser remained small over the centuries: 23 households in 1662; 22 families in 1801 numbering 101 people; 100 in 1841, declining to 75 in the later part of the nineteenth century. In 1931, the population numbered 56 people.<sup>4</sup> The reduction in arable land led to a decrease in population and the amalgamation of farms. By the mid-twentieth century several farmsteads had been deserted.

The manor was granted out of the barony of Egremont, or Copeland, to Adam de Mosser circa 1200-3. The farms became manorial tenancies of Adam and his successors as lord of Mosser. The tenants, including those of Aikbank gained their freeholds when 'Thomas Salkeld (1567-1639) of Corby enfranchised his tenants in Mosser in a series of sales' in the early seventeenth century.<sup>5</sup>

#### **The corn mills of Mosser**

There were two corn mills in the township. One, close to Mosser Mains at Milldam (a name recorded from 1602), was known in 1736 as Briscoe's Mill, and is perhaps to be identified with the mill which formed part of the endowment of Mosser chantry in the 1540s. The mill had gone out of use before 1840.<sup>6</sup> It is Aikbank Mill which is shown as a working mill on the Hodskinson and Donald map surveyed in 1770-1.

The location of the tenement at Milldam at Low Mosser on Mosser Beck, which Angus Winchester suggests as the vicinity of the Manor House, may indicate that this, and not Aikbank, was once the lord's mill.<sup>7</sup> On 22 December 1658 John Spencer and Lancelot Briscoe released John Fawcett from the 'moulters, towles, suite bound sucken and services to Mosser Mill charged upon John Fawcett's tenement in Mosser', which appears to link the lord's mill with Briscoe.<sup>8</sup>

'According to local tradition its stones and machinery [from the mill at Milldam] were taken to Aikbank, on the northern edge of the township, where a mill, recorded from 1698, remained in use until the twentieth century. The mill dam immediately above the farmstead at Aikbank drew water from three streams: Catgill Beck (which was dammed under an agreement of 1713), Mosser Beck and Kirkby Beck. In its latter days the mill had two pairs of stones and also ran a saw, thresher and grindstone'.<sup>9</sup> These records, identifying the superior water supply of the Aikbank location, indicate that there was a period of co-existence of the two corn mills, although the needs of Mosser alone would probably have neither required nor sustained two corn mills.

The location on the hillside allowed for the grain to be driven up around the back of the mill to the level of the drying kiln, and put directly onto the kiln floor. This had the advantage that the mill could be worked by one person.<sup>10</sup> From field observation in 1968, Angus Winchester notes that 'In its latter days the mill had two pairs of stones and also ran a saw, thresher and grindstone'.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Winchester, *Mosser*, p.5

<sup>4</sup> See Winchester, *Mosser*, p.2

<sup>5</sup> Winchester, *Mosser*, p.3

<sup>6</sup> Winchester, *Mosser*, p.6

<sup>7</sup> See Winchester, *Mosser*, p.3

<sup>8</sup> Cumbria Archive Service, CAS(W)/DWM/11/405, case and plea, p.4

<sup>9</sup> Winchester, *Mosser*, p.6

<sup>10</sup> Mike Davies-Shiel, 'Corn Mills', [www.cumbria-industries.org.uk/a-z-of-industries/corn-mills/](http://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk/a-z-of-industries/corn-mills/)

<sup>11</sup> Winchester, *Mosser*, p.6



© MD-S collection, Cumbria Industrial History Society

**Aikbank Mill Farm, photograph by Mike Davies-Shiel, 1980,  
by licence from Cumbria Industrial History Society**

#### **Aikbank's owners and the mill – the Fletchers**

The earliest known record of the property at Aikbank comes from a list of deeds made in 1827 for a dispute with Loweswater over the common called Water-in-wood. '8 December 1575. Conveyance from Richard Salkeld Esq, George Salkeld and Barbara his wife to Christopher Fletcher of Aikbank in Mosser yeoman of messuage and tenement [house and land] called Aikbank in Mosser of the yearly rent of 4s 4d. Consideration £16'.<sup>12</sup> This purchase of rights from the lord would not be for the freehold, but probably for fixed fines and other rights. No mill or miller was mentioned.

The earliest known original document relating to the property at Aikbank dates from 11 November 1610. It

is a grant of the messuage and tenement at Aikebancke, rent 4s 4d, from the resident owner, Henry Fletcher, a yeoman, to his eldest son John.<sup>13</sup>

Aikbank remained a manorial tenement until the 1620s. On 7 June 1623 Thomas Salkeld sold the residual manor of Mosser plus Water-in-Wood in trust to two yeomen, Richard Norman, formerly of Buttermere, and John Hutchinson. Those two then sold the tenants their freeholds, plus a share in Water-in-wood.<sup>14</sup> The abstract of the example release document records that the messuage and tenement at Aikbank was conveyed to John Fletcher of Aikbank, yeoman, together with one twenty-sixth share of the common of

<sup>12</sup> CAS(W)/DWM/11/405, List of deeds, p.1

<sup>13</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2, no.23(red)

<sup>14</sup> CAS(W)/DWM/11/405, case and plea, pp.6&7

Water-in wood, as freehold on 5 March 1625/6.<sup>15</sup>

We do not know when Aikbank first had a mill, but it was well established before 2 February 1663/4, when John Fletcher, yeoman, and his son Joseph borrowed £50 for five years from Henry Fletcher of Frizzington, milner, secured on three parcels or closes of land at Aikbank. In the conditions 'there shall not be any wood cut down nor spoil or waste thereof be made saving only so much as shall be necessary for the repair of the milne and hedges'. If John and Joseph were to default, then Henry Fletcher could take possession of the closes, but John & Joseph were 'not to be molested and hindered of their Mildam and Milnrace but may have liberty to take any water in any part of the premises where they please as formerly have been accustomed'.<sup>16</sup>

On 25 March 1686 Aikbank was owned by two resident spinsters, Janet and Mary Fletcher, when they borrowed a further £28 from Henry Fletcher of Frizzington, yeoman, secured on three different parcels or closes of land.<sup>17</sup> The indenture makes no mention of milling or millers, but perhaps it did not need to.

On 10 February 1698/9 Janet and Mary, still resident spinsters, sold their freehold messuage and tenement and also one water corn mill at Aikbank to John Dixon and Ann Dixon his wife of Waterend in Loweswater for £212 5s. Aikbank was held by the chief lord, which would be Egremont barony, paying 'free rent of 5½d & 8d perscription money'.<sup>18</sup> However, the purchase money was to be paid in two parts, £120 in hand and £92 5s one year after the death of the longer living of Janet and Mary. The Dixons granted them a life interest of a moiety of Aikbank, plus the water corn mill, a grinding mill, their

mansion house, half the barn, one byre and both kilns.<sup>19</sup> Aikbank mill was therefore in the possession of the, presumably, sisters while either of them lived.

#### **Aikbank's owners – the Dixon era**

Aikbank Mill and the surrounding land remained in the ownership of the Dixon family until the twentieth century, passing through inheritance to its younger branch, the Dixons of Todell. John and Ann Dixon were among the earliest Quakers in Cumbria at a time when Quakers were exposed to persecution and legal penalties. Ros Southey recounts an interesting story in *Life in Old Loweswater* of how John was arrested in 1661 and sent to jail in Carlisle.<sup>20</sup>

In 1687–8 Thomas Denton claimed of Mosser landowners that 'These tenants here are within the barony of Egremont and answer as freholders to that court. They are almost all Quakers, being too near neighbours to Pardsey-crag, and too far distant from any church'.<sup>21</sup> They would have been members of the Pardshaw Meeting of the Society of Friends.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Quaker families in the surrounding area became closely related by marriage. This tightly-knit community provided a loyal client base for Aikbank Mill. The decline of the Quaker population in the later part of the eighteenth century was in large part due to disownments following marriages to non-Quakers.

*The Diary of Isaac Fletcher of Underwood, Cumberland 1756-1781*, edited and annotated by Angus Winchester, is a unique source of information about the inhabitants of Mosser during that period. Isaac Fletcher

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<sup>15</sup> CAS(W)/DWM/11/405, case and plea, pp.7&8

<sup>16</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2, no.29(red)

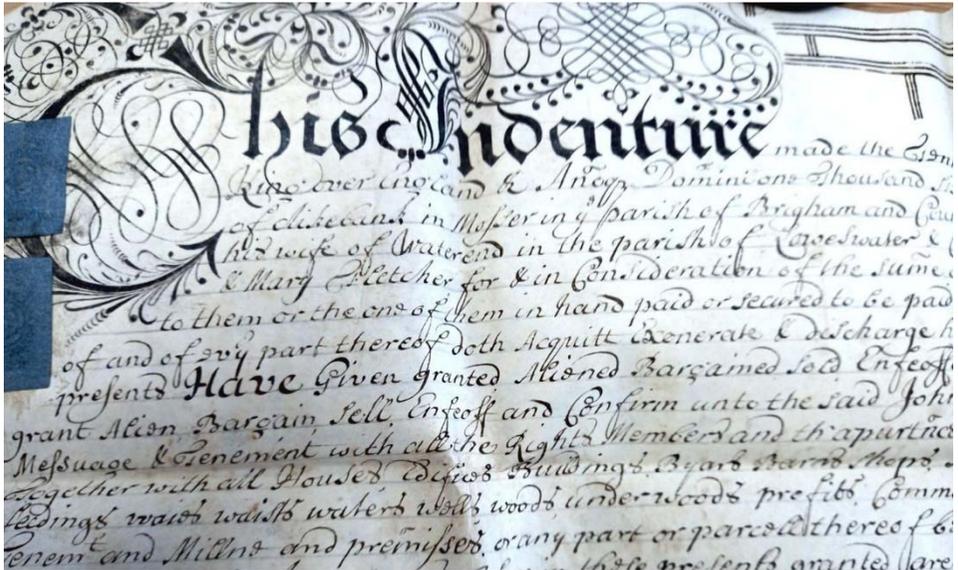
<sup>17</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2, no.24(red)

<sup>18</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2, no.33(red)

<sup>19</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2, no.32(red)

<sup>20</sup> Roz Southey, *Life in Old Loweswater*, Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS, 2008

<sup>21</sup> A Winchester (Ed), *Thomas Denton: a perambulation of Cumberland 1687-8*, Surtees Society & CWAAS, 2003, p.121



**Indenture of sale of Aikbank by Janet & Mary Fletcher to John & Ann Dixon, dated 10 February 1698; by permission of Cumbria Archive Centre, Whitehaven; ref: YDX159/1/2**

was a lawyer, farmer and merchant. He was also a clerk and elder of the Pardshaw Meeting as well as a man of wide interests, including astronomy and meteorology. Although he had no formal legal training, he performed the duties of a country solicitor and advised his clients on their legal and financial affairs. The brief notes in his diary recorded his daily life and work.

The first mention of Aikbank Mill appears in Fletcher's diary on 24 March 1756 when he has been working on a lease between Jonathan Dixon of Waterend and George Wilkinson. The mill and the land were let to Wilkinson for a term of 21 years at the annual rent of £13.<sup>22</sup> However, four years later all was not well with the tenancy. In November 1760, Fletcher went to Kirby 'to meet Jonathan Dixon & George Wilkinson. G.W. agreed to pay him the rent in arrear in two

weeks & to pay the remainder of rent due at 25 March next.'<sup>23</sup>

The next mention during Wilkinson's tenancy appears in August 1761 and reveals a drama in the Quaker community: 'Walter Smith, the miller at Akebank, & Mary Black, daughter of Matthew Black, were married this morning at Cocker mouth [...]. She is underage and very much against her parents' consent.' Mary Black was later disowned by the Quakers for being married by a priest.<sup>24</sup> This episode must have strained relations between Wilkinson and his miller. The following year, Fletcher noted briefly 'Ended the difference between George Wilkinson & Walter Smith.' It is interesting to note that another daughter and two sons of Matthew Black were also disowned for the same reason.

The following year Wilkinson surrendered his tenancy. On 30 October 1762, Fletcher noted 'met Jonathan Dixon

<sup>22</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 5

<sup>23</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, pp. 92-93

<sup>24</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p.404, note 61

& George Wilkinson at Kirby. They at last agreed. Jonathan Dixon to allow him £20 & George to give up his lease & term in Akebank estate and Jonathan to have the machine over & to enter on the premises on the 25th of March next'.<sup>25</sup> The sale by auction of George Wilkinson's farmstock and possessions was held on 25 March 1763. There is sadness in Fletcher's note of that day 'The sale held late tho' but a small quantity of goods sold. Value £11 11s 8½d. Jonathan will get the whole he wants. George is now very ill in a fervour at Dubmill & could not attend the sale'.<sup>26</sup>

While Wilkinson's tenancy was coming to its premature end, Jonathan Dixon bought Joseph Wood's mill (this was probably the second mill mentioned earlier) in Mosser and he also rented Akebank land.<sup>27</sup> Wood was to become the tenant at Aikbank Mill from 25 March 1763 for a term of 14 years at a yearly rent of £21.<sup>28</sup> Joseph Wood's tenancy lasted only 10 years. The reasons are unclear. He may have had financial problems; he had a mortgage on a property at Branthwaite which had to be 'assigned'. In 1770, Isaac Fletcher noted that Wood came to see him 'making distress for tithes'. Another clue we can speculate about may lie in Fletcher's note of 5 March 1763 'Looking over some clauses in the Militia Act. Lot fell on Joseph Wood'.<sup>29</sup> It is possible that instead of serving in the militia Wood chose to pay a £10 fine, but in this case, he would be automatically appointed to serve again next time there was a ballot. The period of service varied from 3-5 years.<sup>30</sup> Ten years later, on 13 March 1773, Fletcher wrote: 'Isaac and Joseph gone to Aspatrey with Joseph Wood who is shifting this day'.<sup>31</sup>

### Three generations of the Black family at Aikbank Mill, 1773-1844

By 23 June 1772, arrangements had already been made for the tenancy of Aikbank to pass on to Joseph Black. Fletcher noted: 'At Kirby this evening. Met Jonathan Dixon, Joseph Black & Joseph Wood about Akebank land, mill etc. Jo Black took Akebank land & mill & also Mosser land for 12 years, to be let loose at the end of the first four years by giving 6 months' notice. Yearly rent £32 for the said four years & £34 for the eight years after. Conditions much the same as in the old lease.' The lease ran from 25 March 1773.<sup>32</sup> Joseph Black remained the tenant at Aikbank Mill until at least 1808.<sup>33</sup>

Angus Winchester tells us more about Joseph Black (1733-1817) and his family. Joseph was the son of Matthew and Isabel Black. Matthew, a weaver by trade, worked in later life on Isaac Fletcher's farm, and was appointed caretaker of Pardshaw Hall meeting house in 1768. Winchester notes that Matthew was comparatively poor. He received money from a Quaker legacy for the schooling of his children and his family received support from the Women's Monthly Meeting.<sup>34</sup>

Despite his strong Quaker background, Joseph Black married Lyddia Barwise, who was not a Quaker, in Brigham Church in 1759. He was disowned by the Pardshaw Meeting but later reinstated. On his marriage, he lived on Isaac Fletcher's property at Underwood and was often employed there as a day labourer. Joseph Black's name is mentioned a few more times in Fletcher's diary. The families were on friendly terms. There were visits on Sunday afternoons

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<sup>25</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p.130. There is a reference to the machinery from Briscoe's Mill having been removed to Aikbank Mill on J.G. Brooker's map in CAS(W)/YDX 159/5/1

<sup>26</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 137

<sup>27</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 131-2

<sup>28</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 132; lease dated 7 December 1762 in CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2

<sup>29</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 136

<sup>30</sup> [www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/542/795/6637/4301995924.PDF](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/542/795/6637/4301995924.PDF)

<sup>31</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 263

<sup>32</sup> CAS(W)/YDX 159/1/2

<sup>33</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p.420s

<sup>34</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, Biographical Notes, p.420



**Drawing of Walker Dixon asleep at Todell, drawn from life by William Fletcher Dixon, 1904; by permission of Cumbria Archive Centre, Whitehaven; ref: YDX 159/3/9**

for Isaac and his wife at Aikbank, and Joseph and Lyddia at Underwood. In September 1778, Isaac mentions that fever was spreading in several families in the neighbourhood. 'Joseph Black's family yet very ill. Four of them in it.'<sup>35</sup> Isaac Fletcher died on 28 November 1781.

<sup>35</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, p. 358.

<sup>36</sup> [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

<sup>37</sup> Winchester, *Isaac Fletcher*, Biographical Notes, p.420

Our next encounter with Joseph Black is on a page of a land tax document of 1780 relating to Mosser. In the 18th century, owners of land or property paid a direct tax according to the annual rental value of their landholdings. The rate of tax was set each year by an Act of Parliament and was usually between two and four shillings in the pound. This tax was administered by unpaid local commissioners, members of the gentry, who were nominated by Parliament. Those who collected the tax were usually local men of modest means, farmers or tradesmen.<sup>36</sup> The administrators whose signatures are inscribed on this document dated 22 June 1780 bear familiar Cumbrian names: James Spedding, William Fletcher and Thomas Spedding. The collectors were John Fawcett and Thomas Robinson. The document confirms that Jonah Dixon was then the owner and Joseph Black the occupier. The tax paid that year for Aikbank Mill land was 12s 5½d.

Joseph Black left Aikbank Mill in 1809. In later life he was gravedigger at Pardshaw Hall. He died in 1817, aged 84, and was buried at Pardshaw Hall.<sup>37</sup> His son William Black succeeded him in the tenancy.

#### **Rebuilding and improvements at the mill**

Some handwritten notes by the genealogist James Gorton Brooker (1885–1976), provide more information about the history of the mill.<sup>38</sup> Born in Mosser,

<sup>38</sup> In the possession of Dr James Proctor. The note is headed 'by J G Brooker' but it appears to be in the handwriting of his cousin Kathleen Dixon, who may have copied passages from

Brooker was the grandson of William Walker Dixon of Todell (1818-1910), the owner of Aikbank Mill for a good part of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century. Regrettably, these notes do not cite his sources. However, Brooker had access to family papers as well as a large archive of Quaker records, wills, correspondence and maps he collected. He recorded a few personal recollections of life at Aikbank Mill in the early 1900s when he lived at Todell, a short distance away.<sup>39</sup>

Brooker gave a description of the renovations and investment in the mill. 'In 1808, two new millstones were put into Aikbank Mill. One from Northumberland costing £10-10s and one from Lancaster costing £8, and two big logs of timber costing £10-1s-6d were used in the mill. It must be remembered that at this time the wheel was under shot taking its driving water from a beck running beneath the wheel and there was no dam as such – as there is now. In 1814, the buildings of the mill were rebuilt and two new French Burrs stones for grinding were fitted. The barn near the house was built in 1869. The Dutch Barn about 1890. Stable, carthouse and pigsty cost £67 to build in one year. Alterations to the dwelling house in 1855 cost £101'. Brooker mentions also that 'When the mill at Akebank was being rebuilt in 1814, the machinery or some of it was taken away from the Mosser Mill and used at Akebank & the Mosser Mill was done away with'.

Brooker described Aikbank as a sort of social hub in Mosser. He wrote that after the mill was rebuilt, people used to go there to sit and talk, and keep warm in the bottom part of the mill on winter evenings. In the absence of an inn, the mill was at the centre of the community in Mosser.

Kathleen Dixon of Todell (1891-1971), a granddaughter of Walker Dixon, recorded her family's recollections about Aikbank in a few handwritten notes.<sup>40</sup> She mentions that the mill was once a thriving enterprise, working day and night, and employing two millers. This height of activity may have been during the Napoleonic wars, when the demand for and prices of grain were high. This was followed by a slump in prices when the wars ended. The slump caused problems for many farmers who had taken long leases at high rents during the latter years of the war. In the 1820s many rentals had to be reduced during the lease term or were given up. However, the Corn Laws in force from 1815 to 1846, maintained higher prices of cereal by at first only permitting imports when the market price was very high, and later imposing tariffs on imported grain.

William Black (1760–1833) took over the tenancy at Aikbank from his father Joseph around 1809. He married Elizabeth Rooke in 1787 in a Quaker ceremony at Pardshaw.<sup>41</sup> It must have been William who oversaw the transformations at the mill. An anecdote recorded by Edmund Robinson illustrates how the family ties in the Quaker community dictated to which mill they would take their grain. Edmund remembered his own father, Wilson Robinson of Whinfell Hall, telling him how many a time he went on horseback over the Fell and down the lane with a sack of wheat to get it ground at Aikbank, even though the mill at Lorton was much nearer.<sup>42</sup> William Black was Wilson's uncle.

Kathleen Dixon's notes relate mainly to the period of William Black's tenancy. 'When Akebank was rebuilt in 1812-14, all the corn was brought in sacks on the backs of ponies and horses, and the flour and oats were taken away in the same

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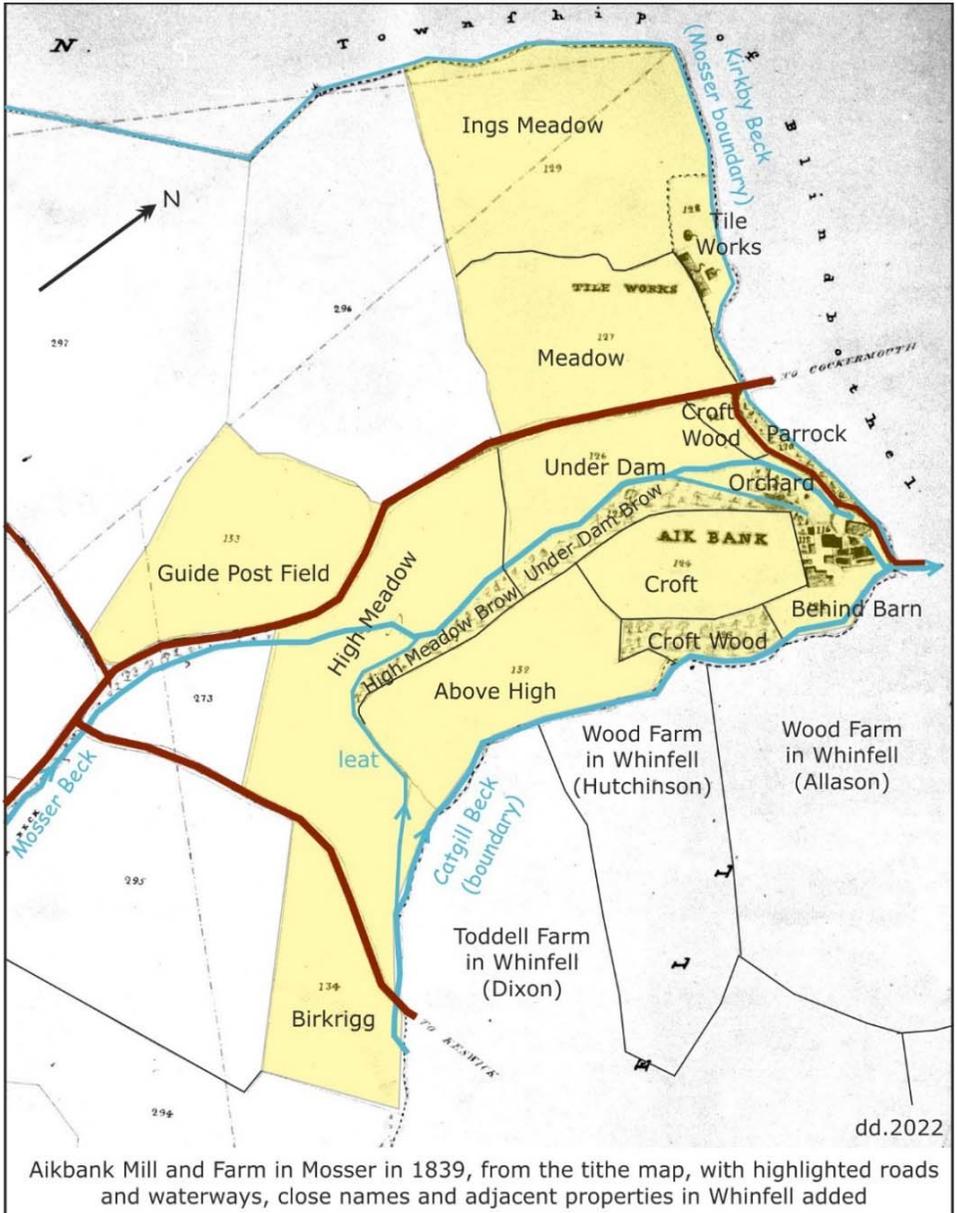
their correspondence when he was living in Calcutta in the 1940s

<sup>39</sup> 1901 Census

<sup>40</sup> In the possession of Dr Jim Proctor, undated

<sup>41</sup> England & Wales, Society of Friends (Quaker) Marriages 1578-1841

<sup>42</sup> Extracts from letters written by Edmund Robinson to J.G. Brooker 1931-1943, L&DFLHS archive



Aikbank Mill and Farm in Mosser in 1839, from the tithe map, with highlighted roads and waterways, close names and adjacent properties in Whinfell added

way. This was because there were no roads for wheels, only narrow horse tracks – and everyone rode, the women riding pillion and mounting the horses from the

horsing stones which were found at every house and farm.’ She noted that her great-grandfather, William Dixon, had the bridges at Aikbank rebuilt after the walls

were washed away as a result of a cloud burst on Mosser Fell.' The flood, also recorded at Crabtree Beck in Loweswater, occurred in July 1828.

The following year a notice published in the *Cumberland Pacquet* of 17 June must have provided much amusement for its readers:

'Whereas a COW, five years old, was lost from off the Street in Cockermouth, on Wednesday the 21st of May, having white face, red sides, upright horns, and Two Pans near together on the Milking side, and is back-end calver. Notice is hereby given, that any Person or Persons giving such Information to Mr. Thos. Thwaite, of the King's Arms Inn, in Cockermouth; or to Wm. Black, of Akebank Mill, the Owner, so that the said Cow may be had again, shall be handsomely rewarded.' A further notice published immediately below reported that a cow answering the same description, except for a few additional characteristics, was left at the Bush Inn on the same day and was now in the possession of the said William Black from whom the owner may receive it again on paying reasonable expenses.

William Black died in 1833 at the age of 73 and was buried at the Quaker Burial Ground at Pardshaw Hall.<sup>43</sup> His son William succeeded him as the tenant at Aikbank Mill. The 1841 Census gives an insight into the household at Aikbank Mill at that time, though adults' ages were given in five-year increments. It consisted of four people with William, aged 40-4, born in 1801, as the head. His wife was Sarah Black, 35-9. Joseph Pearson, 19, and Isabela Key, 20-4, were described as servants. All four were born in Cumberland.

#### **The Tithe Apportionment of 1841**

A detailed survey of the property, its land, field names, state of cultivation and acreage can be found in the Tithe

Apportionment of 1841 for the township of Mosser. The purpose of this survey, under the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, was to commute the tithes to a rent charge payable to the tithe owner, and to apportion that tithe rent among the landowners' properties.<sup>44</sup> William Dixon was then the landowner and William Black was recorded as the occupier of the houses, mill, garden and land. The land included plantations, pastures, coppice, meadows, arable land and some woodland. The total of just over 36 acres included tile works which manufactured drainage tiles for land improvement and were occupied jointly by William Black and William Nicholson. The records include also houses and a garden at Birkrigg in Low Mosser occupied by Isabella Black. The total itemised rent charges were 16s 8d. It is interesting to note that William Black was also the joint occupier with William Dixon (who was the owner) of over 125 acres of land in Whinfell. This was recorded in the 1840 Tithe Apportionment for the Township of Whinfell.

#### **Local Intelligence**

The early 1840s saw much debate about the repeal of Corn Laws or sliding import tariffs. A *Cumberland Pacquet* reporter writing under the heading of Local Intelligence gave an upbeat account of the situation and used William Black as an example of a successful farmer.

'Notwithstanding the panic created by the passing of the Tariff—the present agitation respecting the corn-laws—and the various other means made use of to create feelings of despondency in the minds of the farmers, we are glad to learn that the sons of the soil in West Cumberland still continue to keep their heads up and to look forward with hope for better days. One fact is worth thousand assertions; and we are enabled to furnish a proof that the agriculturists of

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<sup>43</sup> England & Wales, Society of Friends Burials 1578-1841

<sup>44</sup> TNA/IR 29/7/120 & TNA/30/7/120, tithe apportionment 1841 and map 1839 for Mosser

this district are not the broken-spirited beings which certain individuals represent them to be for base political purposes; that proof is in the spirited competitions entered into by themselves at the different stock and crop sales which have lately taken place in the neighbourhood. At one of these sales, namely, that of Mr. W. Black, of Aikbank Mill, near Brigham, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday last, both the stock and crop sold well—all the biddings were characterised by spirit, and excellent prices were obtained, the competitors either not having the fear of the Tariff and the anti-corn-law mania before their eyes'.<sup>45</sup>

However, for William Black and his family their days at Aikbank Mill were already numbered. The mill and farm were advertised to be let from Candlemas 1843. The advertisement gave a detailed description of the property: 'WATER CORN MILL, situate at, and called MILL, in the Township of Mosser, in the County of Cumberland ; and all that desirable Messuage, Tenement, and Farm, adjoining thereto, now occupied along with the said Mill, consisting of a good Dwelling House, with suitable Outbuildings, and a Thrashing Machine, which goes by Water, and One Hundred and Sixty-eight Acres, or thereabouts, of Land, lying compactly, the whole of which has been drained, and is now in the Occupation of Mr. William Black, as Tenant'.<sup>46</sup>

The news of William Black's bankruptcy was published in December 1844 with the announcement that his personal estate and effects were assigned to Thomas Green of Papcastle and John Nicholson of the Hill, in the township of Blindbothel, in Trust for the equal benefit of his creditors. The Assignment was lodged at the office Mr W.P. Senhouse, a solicitor in Cockermonth. William Black, late of Aikbank Mill, was by then living in

Loweswater.<sup>47</sup> The seventy-year long tenancy of the Black family at Aikebank Mill came to an end.

Aikbank was in the news again in the summer of 1846 when a powerful thunderstorm caused serious damage at the mill: 'The rivers here were swollen to a frightful extent on Thursday morning week by the heavy rain of the previous night, and we are apprehensive that more damage will have been sustained thereby than has yet come to our knowledge. The storm thunder and lightning on Wednesday night was truly awful, yet we have not heard of any loss of life or other accident. It is said that not less than thirty cart loads of hay have been swept away by the Cocker from different meadows upon its banks; and the three weirs belonging to Aikbank corn mill, in the neighbourhood of this town, have in a great measure been washed down by the violence of the flood'.<sup>48</sup>

#### **The next chapter, from the 1850s to the present**

The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 brought a fall in the price of grain and great changes in agricultural practices. There was a shift in demand from oats to wheat with arable farming moving to better, more efficient land. Livestock breeding took over the land released from arable cultivation. Dairy products found a wider market with the coming of the railways. Sheep and cattle farms needed to become larger to be viable, fewer people were needed to work on farms causing migration to towns in Cumberland. After 1850, the need for rural corn mills was much reduced.

This new chapter in the history of Aikbank Mill witnessed a succession of tenants on shorter-term tenancies, which was not unusual. Farmers' leases in the 19th century tended to be for a seven-year term. This practice was as an obstacle to improvement as short leases

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<sup>45</sup> *Cumberland Pacquet*, 25 Jan 1843

<sup>46</sup> *Cumberland Pacquet*, 3 Oct 1842

<sup>47</sup> *Cumberland Pacquet*, 24 Dec 1844

<sup>48</sup> *Carlisle Journal*, 8 Aug 1846

did not allow the farmer to get a return from investment.

Little is known of Thomas Walker who lived at Aikbank Mill from 1844 other than he was a keen pig breeder. He won a prize for Best Boar at the Agricultural Show in Pardshaw in October 1844<sup>49</sup>. He died in 1861 in Ireby and his will stated he was a yeoman, formerly of Aikbank Mill. He left effects under £100 to his widow Mary, the 'relict and sole Executrix'.<sup>50</sup>

The table in Appendix 1 presents snapshots of the Aikbank Mill households on the day when the censuses were taken in the years 1841 to 1921. The long list of women's names – farmers' wives, mothers, daughters, nieces and servants – makes their part in the history of Aikbank more visible. Their largely unpaid labour was vital in making the smaller farms viable. The data found in the censuses leaves some gaps but more information can be gleaned from other sources. William Mounsey's tenancy came to a sudden end with his death in 1852, aged 57.<sup>51</sup> He was succeeded by John Tomlinson who farmed at Aikbank until 1866.<sup>52</sup>

The Akitt family were from Bassenthwaite. Before coming to Aikbank, John Akitt had been the tenant and miller at High Mill in Bassenthwaite. The family remained at Aikbank from 1866 until 1881. Daughter Hannah died in 1879, aged 34, and was buried in the churchyard at Mosser Chapel. John Akitt died in Cheshire in 1895. His obituary in the *West Cumberland Times* revealed a praiseworthy life: 'The deceased gentleman, who formerly resided at Aikbank Mill, Cockermouth, was highly respected by all who knew him. He was straightforward and honourable in his dealings, shrewd in business, a good

farmer, and an excellent judge of cattle. He was a staunch friend. His genial and jovial company was much sought after, and he will be greatly missed in the Chester district.'<sup>53</sup>

John Hayston, whose presence at Aikbank is recorded in the 1881 Census, left in 1887 when his farmstock and crop were sold by auction.<sup>54</sup> It was during his tenancy that a bridge at Aikbank Mill was discussed at the meeting of the Highway Board in Cockermouth. The surveyor declared the bridge was dangerous for people crossing over with horses; it was very narrow and had no protection at the sides. The report stated that the owner, Mr Dixon, was willing to put up a kerb wall on each side.<sup>55</sup>

John Hartley died at Aikbank in 1908. He left effects of £563 to his widow Margaret Hartley, who later took on the tenancy at Fangs in Loweswater.<sup>56</sup> The mill at Aikbank ceased to function shortly after the end of John Hartley's tenancy. The notice to let published after his death still mentions water-powered Thrashing and Winnowing Machines and two pairs of Stones but this was the last reference to a working mill at Aikbank.<sup>57</sup>

Two generations of the Storr family farmed at Aikbank from 1909 to the 1930s. George Marton Storr and his wife Hannah had lived in the township of Mosser in the 1870s; six of their 14 children were born there. Their son, Fredrick William Storr, who was born in 1891, served in the Canadian Infantry in World War One. He was killed in action in 1917, aged 25, during the Battle of Arras. His name is recorded on the War Memorial in Eaglesfield and on the Paddle School Roll of Honour.<sup>58</sup> By the time George Marton Storr became a tenant at Aikbank,

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<sup>49</sup> *Cumberland Pacquet*, 8 Oct 1844

<sup>50</sup> Probate of Thomas Walker, 10 May 1862, [probatesearch.service.gov.uk](http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk)

<sup>51</sup> *Carlisle Journal*, 12 Nov 1852

<sup>52</sup> *Carlisle Journal*, 5 Jan 1866

<sup>53</sup> *West Cumberland Times*, 12 Jan 1895

<sup>54</sup> *West Cumberland Times*, 22 Jan 1887

<sup>55</sup> *English Lakes Visitor*, 23 Oct 1886

<sup>56</sup> 1911 Census

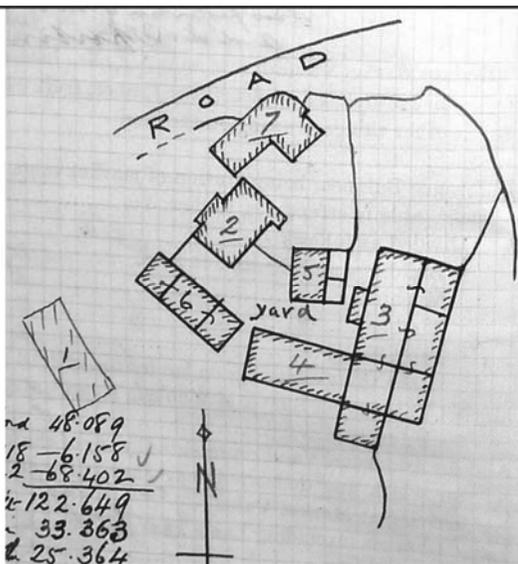
<sup>57</sup> *West Cumberland Times*, 19 Sep 1908

<sup>58</sup> Walter Head and Sheila Gordon, *They Lie in Foreign Fields*, L&DFLHS, 2018

**Aikbank building descriptions  
from the survey for the  
Land Tax, 1910-15**

1. Dutch barn 6 bays wood built iron roof
2. House:- kitchen parlour pantry dairy 5 bedrooms part roughcast stone built slated good
3. Potato house lofted, barn, lean too hull. Byre for 20 cows 2 hulls
4. Cart shed 3 stall stable lofted
5. Two pig hulls
6. 3 boxes lofted store room not lofted
7. Saw mill and box store room lofted. Waterwheel. All stone built slated oldish good condition.

Source: TNA/IR58-19232, no.4,  
Field Book entry for Aikbank, Mosser



he was a widower. He farmed with his son Marton.

A Land Tax Survey, also known as the New Domesday Survey, was made of Aikbank under the Finance Act 1909-10.<sup>59</sup> It gives a detailed description of the property. The Valuation Register listed George Marton Storr & Son as occupiers and William Fletcher Dixon of Todell (1860-1916) as the owner of Aikbank Mill Farm. The extent of the property recorded in the Register under the Poor Rate was 52 acres, but total land comprised 181 acres, chiefly grass. The annual rent was £115 and the tenancy term was then just one year. The gross value of the property was £2,502 and its market value was estimated at £2,425. There is no mention of the mill or any machinery in these records.

The buildings included a five-bedroom house with a kitchen, parlour, pantry and dairy. The house had a rough stone-built front and a slated roof. The outbuildings included a Dutch barn, a

potato house, a byre for 20 cows, a cart shed and a three-stall stable with a loft. A separate entry in the Register recorded that Aikbank Woodland, 2 acres, was owned and occupied by William Fletcher Dixon.

George Marton Storr died at Aikbank in 1916. He left effects of £552. His son, Marton Storr, remained at Aikbank with his wife Sarah and their family until the 1930s. The names of both father and son appeared a number of times in the newspaper reports of cattle and sheep auctions at the Agricultural Hall in Cockermouth. The 1921 Census records show that the farm supported a family of five and two servants. The Storr's later moved to Wigton.

In 1910, on the death of William Walker Dixon the ownership of Aikbank passed to his son William Fletcher Dixon (1860-1916) and later to the latter's daughter Frances Kathleen Dixon (1891-1971). After over 200 years in the hands of the Dixon family, probably in the 1950s

<sup>59</sup> TNA/IR58-19232, nos. 4&18, Field Book entries for Aikbank, Mosser

or the 1960s, the property passed into the ownership of the Greenbank family. In 1934, Kelly's Directory records that Burton Greenbank was a farmer at Aikbank Mill. The family were previously living in Camerton where Burton (born in Liverpool in 1867/9) was a farmer and carter. The 1939 Register records that Burton Greenbank and his family were still living at Aikbank. Burton's occupation was general farming and he was a widower. Other members of the household included his married son William, born in 1899 at Camerton, also a farmer, and daughter-in-law Ada, born in 1906 in Cocker mouth. Their daughter Dorothy was born at Aikbank in 1940. After Burton's death in 1952, William inherited or possibly bought the farm. Dorothy Greenbank married in 1964 and moved away. Her parents sold Aikbank after her marriage. William Greenbank died in 1988 and his wife Ada in 1999, their deaths were registered in Carlisle. They are still remembered by some of their Mosser neighbours.

Walter Graham Pattinson (1913-1984), who was from Dearham and Mary Rose Pattinson who was born in Braithwaite, bought the farm from the Greenbanks in 1965, according to their son Donald. Their names are listed on conveyances dated 1973 and 1974 in a Schedule of Documents of Title of 1992.<sup>60</sup> Aikbank was a working farm during their time there. In 1974, they sold the mill building to a retired teacher from the Cocker mouth Grammar School, Roy Hogarth and his wife Margaret, who converted it into a dwelling.

In 1985 the Pattinsons sold Aikbank farmhouse and land to Dr James Proctor and Betty Proctor. Originally from Sheffield, they came to live in Brigham in the 1960s when Jim Proctor, a young PhD graduate, was offered a position of Plant Engineer at Distington Engineering. Aikbank Mill Farm became a home to the Proctors and their children Kenneth and Polly in 1985. Jim's demanding seven-day

a week job meant there would be no more farming at Aikbank. Betty Proctor served on the Parish Council and followed her interests in music, art and dancing. They both joined the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society and were always intrigued by Aikbank's forgotten past. Betty died in 2019. Aikbank Mill Farm remains the home of Dr Jim Proctor.

### **Conclusion**

The earliest records disclose that in 1575 there was in Mosser a house and land called Aikbank which was inhabited by the Fletcher family as manorial tenants. The hillside position of the farmstead and the plentiful water supply was an ideal location for a mill. While the sources do not tell us when the mill was built, they reveal it was well established before 1663/4. Aikbank Mill co-existed for a time in the same township with a corn mill at Mildam which was likely to have been the lord's mill. This second mill fell into disuse between 1762 and 1770; it is not recorded on the Donaldson map.

In 1698/9 the ownership of Aikbank Mill and farm passed from the Fletchers to the prominent Quaker family, the Dixons. The property remained in their possession well into the twentieth century.

The mill at Aikbank served the local farming community for at least 250 years. It was a prosperous business while it could rely on the support of the Quaker population and during the Napoleonic Wars when demand for grain was very high. In the 19th century, the mill and the land still provided a good living for a succession of tenants. The decline in the number of working farms in the area in the second half of the twentieth century also spelled the end of farming at Aikbank Mill.

### **Acknowledgement**

The author wishes to thank Derek Denman for his guidance and invaluable contributions to this article.

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<sup>60</sup> In the possession of Dr Jim Proctor, undated

Appendix: Extracts from the 1841 – 1921 Census records for Aikbank Mill, Mosser

Year	Name and age	Relationship	Occupation (if recorded)	Place of birth
1841	William Black, 40-44		Miller	Cumberland
	Sarah Black, 35-39		Male servant	Cumberland
	Joseph Pearson, 19		Female servant	Cumberland
1851	Isabella Key, 20-24		Miller & farmer of 200 acres, employing 3 farm servants	Distington, Cumberland
	William Mounsey, 52	Head		
	Ann Mounsey, 51	Wife		Dean, Cumberland
	Elizabeth, 15	Daughter		Dean, Cumberland
	Ann, 12	Servant	Scholar	Dean, Cumberland
	Henry Dand, 31	Servant	Farm servant	Scotby, Cumberland
	Joseph Banks, 20	Servant	Farm servant	St Bees, Cumberland
1861	Joseph Robson, 24		Servant miller	Uldale, Cumberland
	Charles Black, 63		Errand boy	Dean, Cumberland
	John Tomlinson, 64	Head	Farmer of 180 acres employing 2 men	Embleton, Cumberland
	Mary Tomlinson, 65	Wife		Embleton, Cumberland
	Joseph Tomlinson, 37	Son		Mosser, Cumberland
	John Tomlinson, 6	Grandson	Scholar	Mosser, Cumberland
	Fisher Cass, 16	Servant	Carter	Embleton, Cumberland
1871	John Akitt, 64	Head		Threlkeld, Cumberland
	Hannah Akitt, 54	Wife		Bromfield, Cumberland
	Hannah Akitt, 26	Daughter		Bassenthwaite, Cumberland
	John Akitt, 25	Son		Bassenthwaite, Cumberland
	Joseph Akitt, 20	Son		Bassenthwaite, Cumberland
	Sarah Ann Akitt, 17	Daughter		Bassenthwaite, Cumberland
	Henry Akitt, 15	Son	Scholar	Bassenthwaite, Cumberland
Geor Fleming, 25	Servant	Farm servant indoor	Brigham, Cumberland	

Year	Name and age	Rel/ship	Occupation (if recorded)	Place of birth
1881	John Hayston, 36 Mary A Hayston, 37 John Hayston, 9 Harry Hayston, 6 Grace Hayston, 3 Tom L Hayston, 1 Elizabeth Courman, 20 John Moffat, 19	Head Wife Son Son Daughter Son Niece Servant	Farmer & miller of 178 acres Scholar Scholar Scholar Domestic servant Agricultural labourer, indoor farm serv't	Branthwaite Dovenby Branthwaite Branthwaite Branthwaite Branthwaite Alderby Dearham
1891	John Thornthwaite, 39 Margaret Thornthwaite, 40 William Thornthwaite, 11 Frances Thornthwaite, 9 Margaret M Thornthwaite, 7 Sarah J Thornthwaite, 5 Mary Thornthwaite, 3 Lizzie Thornthwaite, 1 Thomas Thornthwaite, 0 Thomas Findley, 19 Esther Foster, 19	Head Wife Son Daughter Daughter Daughter Daughter Daughter Son Servant Servant	Farmer Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar Farm labourer General domestic	Bassenthwaite Brigham Brigham Brigham Brigham Brigham Brigham Brigham Orton Seaton
1901	John Hartley, 66 Margaret Hartley, 64 William Hartley, 33 Isaac Hartley, 26	Head Wife Son Son	Farmer Farmer's son Farmer's son	Gosforth, Cumberland Cleator, Cumberland Irtton, Cumberland Irtton, Cumberland
1911	George Marton Storr, 62 Marton Storr, 32 Hannah Storr, 26 Charles Storr, 21	Head Son Daughter Son	Farmer Farmer's son working on farm Farmer's daughter, dairy work & cattle Farmer's son working on farm	Castle Howard, Yorks Graythwaite, Mosser, Cumberland Crake Hall, Maryport, Cumberland Torpenhow, Cumberland
1921	Marton Storr, 42 Sarah Storr, 38 Jane Hannah Storr, 4 Fred Pharaoh Storr, 2 Charles Storr, 32 Catherine Fell, 22 Henry Stephens, 14	Head Wife Daughter Son Brother Servant Servant	Farmer Home duties Assisting brother on farm Domestic servant Farm servant	Mosser, Cumberland Blindbothel, Cumberland Mosser, Cumberland Mosser, Cumberland Torpenhow, Cumberland Blindbothel, Cumberland Arlecdon, Cumberland