

Contents

No.56, May 2025

Society News

Our next two talks	1
Our programme for 2025	2
Message from the chair	3
House history projects	4

Meeting Reports

Study week: Cockermouth Castle 18-21 March 2025	4
Talk: 'Presidents, sailors, soldiers, and spies', 14 November 2024	6

Articles

The founding of Lorton, Virginia	8
The tale of Cockermouth, New Hampshire	11
Lorton, Cumberland, by Tom Chadwick	14
A history of Whinfell, Cumberland	18

Society News

Our Next Two Talks

Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam will take place on 15 May, when Ian Hall will tell the life story of Mary Jackson of Armboth, Thirlmere, who was once described in the newspapers as 'the richest heiress in law in the North of England'. At 19, she was married off to Count Ossalinsky, allegedly a Polish nobleman, who charmed and then scandalised Keswick society. Forty years later, Countess Ossalinsky found herself under the spotlight again when her fight with the Manchester Waterworks Committee over the Thirlmere Dam fascinated the whole country. The talk will also deal with the wider opposition to the dam, the first such nationally organised

campaign. Ian Hall is the author of *Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam and Thirlmere before and after the Dam*.



Portrait of Countess Ossalinsky

Names in the Landscape on 12 June (after the AGM) with our President, Professor Angus Winchester who will explore the history of place-names in the Lake District. Names give places a cultural meaning: once coined, they pass down the generations, acting as a bridge linking us with past generations. They are part of the communal memory. His talk will look at the names of villages, farms, fields and becks, of fellsides, crags and tarns, asking when they were named, by whom and what the names signify.

Our future programme 2025

15 May 2025	'Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere dam'.	Ian Hall
12 Jun 2025	AGM followed by 'Names in the Landscape'.	Professor Angus Winchester
18 Sep 2025	'Clouties and Mud – Long Meg Stone Circle and Birdoswald Roman fort'.	Bruce Bennison
13 Nov 2025	'The great enchantress: Ann Radcliffe's 1794 tour of The Lakes'.	Dr Penny Bradshaw

Talks are at 7.30 pm in the Yew Tree Hall, are included in membership and are open to visitors at £4 cash at the door, with refreshments. Talks are also streamed live to members using Zoom but are not recorded. Other activities may be added.

Officers and Committee 2024/5

President: Professor Angus Winchester Financial Examiner: Dr Ian Shaw

Andrew Chamberlain <i>Chairman</i> Lena Stanley-Clamp <i>Secretary, talks</i>	07815 422092 <i>ldflhschair@gmail.com</i> 01900 336542 <i>ldflhs.secretary@gmail.com</i> 01900 829097 <i>derekdenman@btinternet.com</i>	Charles Lambrick <i>Vice-chair,</i> Fiona Lambrick Gloria Edwards Tim Stanley-Clamp <i>(co-opted)</i>	<i>charleslambrick@btinternet.com</i>
--	--	--	---------------------------------------

Other contacts: Mary Baker, Membership, *ldflhs.subs@gmail.com*

From the Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University

Regional and Local History (Distance Learning) : Post Graduate Certificate

Would you like to deepen your knowledge of the history of the North West and develop your research skills? The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University is now recruiting students for its part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History for October 2025. Taught online over 12 months. *rhc@lancaster.ac.uk*

The Second World War and the North West, Saturday 24 May 2025

May 2025 marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Join us for a collaborative study day between the Regional Heritage Centre and Lancaster Military Heritage Group exploring the experiences, impacts and legacies of the conflict in the North West.

The **next issue** of the *Wanderer* will be published on 1 August 2025. Please send any items to the Editor, Derek Denman, by 1 July.

The *Wanderer* is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, 19 Low Road Close, Cockermouth CA13 0GU.

<http://derwentfells.com> <https://facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety>
 L&DFLHS Archive: <https://derwentfells.org.uk>

Message from the chair



Dear members,

Welcome to May's edition of the Wanderer. As I write we seem to have reverted to more typical weather in the Lakes after a glorious couple of weeks, but I'm sure the garden will reap the benefit.

As many of our members will be aware, the trustees of Yew Tree Hall in Lorton, where we hold our lectures, are working on an improvement plan for the building, which was the original Jennings malting barn, before the business moved to Cockermouth. At the same time, the Jennings Brewery has now been acquired and will be producing beer again, and this represents a great opportunity to work with the new owners with the backdrop of shared history and I am working with the fund-raising and development committees to that end.

Our 2025 programme kicked off very well with March's excellent and well received talk, 'Presidents, sailors, soldiers and spies: An American view of Cumbrian History' by Dr. Christopher Donaldson, which is covered in Tim Stanley-Clamp's talk report in this edition, for the benefit of those who were unable to join us. You will note on page 2 the full schedule of

events to look forward this year and in addition, I am looking to organise a guided walk of Whitehaven to explore the history of town and its harbour in September or October. I hope to be able to publish more specifics in August's Wanderer.

You'll also see that this edition's particular focus on the US continues with articles from Derek Denman on Lorton, Virginia and Gloria Edwards on Cockermouth, New Hampshire. Charles Lambrick reports on our second study week at Leconfield archives, last month, during which we captured another 12,000 images, including John Wood's detailed plan of Cockermouth from 1832, showing individual plots, owners and tenants. We hope to display a copy of Wood's map at our next talk in May. Derek Denman's article on the history of Whinfell, in this edition, makes full use of material from the Leconfield archive.

Our thanks, as ever, go to Lord and Lady Egremont, Alison McCann, Andy Loukes and the staff of Cockermouth Castle, who looked after us so well during our visit, and to Charles and Derek for all they have done to enable this.

I'd also like to thank Lena Stanley-Clamp, our Secretary, for her fascinating article about Tom Chadwick's engravings and painting of Lorton executed on a visit to Lorton in the interwar period, and all those who have contributed to the running of the Society as volunteers or committee members.

Finally, I'm very pleased to announce that Mary Baker, who also acts as membership secretary will be standing for Treasurer at the AGM. I'd also like to express my appreciation to Jan Evans and Sheena Denwood who have agreed to stand for election to the committee. As I said last time, if any of you should like to know a little more about what's involved with being on the committee, do please make contact and I'd be very happy to chat to you about it.

Andrew

House history projects: future arrangements

Members will know that a House History Group has been running for the last couple of years, organised by Adam and Mary Baker. The group has had occasional meetings at buildings of historical interest with a mixed social and study content; notably at Midtown, High Lorton, and Palace How, courtesy of Jan Evans. Most recently, in October, the group had a valuable introduction to the content and use of the Leconfield archive from Professor Angus Winchester, at Cockermouth Castle.

Adam Baker has become increasingly occupied with the Yew Tree Hall, which will not leave time for continuation of his role in house history, though he will continue to be our Zoom-master, and we hope to benefit from developments at the hall. As you have read in Andrew Chamberlain's message on page 3, Mary Baker has kindly agreed to become our Treasurer, retaining the membership role and, for now, the meeting refreshments. Mary will also relinquish the house history leadership role. We thank Mary and Adam for their support with house history.

House history, rather than family history, is usually the first area of personal interest for society members, often resulting from a move into an older house. So we are keen to continue to provide support for members in their projects or potential projects, such as we did when offering to copy material from the Cockermouth Castle archives as requested by members.

Until another group becomes viable, the Society will continue to provide personal support for members in their house history or property history projects. This means assistance with finding and interpreting sources of information and how to go about a project to create a history that meets the objectives that the member has, including writing it up for the Wanderer if wished.

The following people will be happy to be contacted for advice or help with your house and property history projects:

Lena Stanley-Clamp: who could help with social history and historic newspapers - ldflhs.secretary@gmail.com

Gloria Edwards, particularly with projects in Cockermouth, email - gloriajedwards@hotmail.com

Sandra Shaw, especially with using family history sources in property studies: email sandra.m.shaw@btopenworld.com

Derek Denman: all the Society's area and the Keswick area, email - derekdenman@btinternet.com

Meeting Reports

Members' study week at, Cockermouth Castle's Leconfield archive, 18-21 March 2025

Following on from the successful study week held in October 2024 at the Leconfield Estate office in Cockermouth Castle, it was very pleasing that Lord Egremont was willing to agree the holding of a second one for Society Members towards the end of March.

The four days which were spent by eleven Members again proved productive. Apart from some individual research projects, the team managed to make approximately 13,000 images of Leconfield Estate archive documents. While not as many as the 16,000 that were taken in October, on this occasion the documents chosen included a large number of plans and maps. As in October, the objective was to photograph documents that relate to either properties in the manor of Derwent Fells, the Society's specific area of interest, or those that concern property in Cockermouth. The images will be added to the Society's Digital Archive of Leconfield Sources which, apart from being made available to members on

request in due course, will also be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Service.

The plans and maps, some of them of either considerable size or in a fragile condition (or both) proved a considerable challenge to photograph. But, with the use of weights to keep the rolled documents flat and with suitable lighting stands employed, intelligible images were taken. For my part I always find plans and maps historically fascinating. Apart from providing a visual record of the layout of an area, they sometimes record small features that either provide background to what can still be seen today or provide a trace and possible explanation to what otherwise is lost to time. Plans can also record the names of people associated with property or descriptions of the use to which an area of land was put when the plan was drawn up.

A plan that caught my eye is one of approximately 1815 showing the estate of William Nicholson in High Lorton. He owned 'The Cedars', now known as Graceholm, and in 1809 sold the land to William Jennings for his house and malt kilns. The land on which the malthouse was subsequently built, now the Yew Tree Hall, is marked 'waste' on the plan. This term indicates that it would have been owned by the lord of the manor, the earl of Egremont, but was not included in the enclosure of the commons and so became ownerless. The land which was later enclosed by Jennings would have become their property by squatters' rights.

During the four days spent at the Estate Office in Cockermouth Castle Lord Egremont came to see what was being done, and to chat briefly with us.



**The team discover an interesting plan,
photo by Andy Loukes**

Later in the day he brought over a reporter from Radio Cumbria who was visiting to interview Lord and Lady Egremont for a series on Hidden Cumbria. It was apt that the Society's President, Professor Angus Winchester, who was undertaking research, was present since he was able to outline, extempore, to the interviewer in a most articulate way the history of the Leconfield Estate in Cumbria and explain what makes the archives so significant for historians.

We were made to feel very welcome for our second study week by the Estate consultant archivist Alison McCann and her curatorial colleague from Petworth House, Andy Loukes. And once again members of the permanent staff at the Castle were helpful in various practical ways. We very much appreciated their interest and support and, as in October last year, the Society is very grateful indeed to Lord Egremont for allowing a second study week, which proved as fruitful as the first one.

Charles Lambrick

***Talk: 'Presidents, Sailors,
Soldiers and Spies: an
American view of Cumbrian
history', 20 March 2025***

Dr Christopher Donaldson, Director of the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University delivered another informative and entertaining talk to our society last March, this time on some of Cumbria's notable connections with the United States.

He began with Benjamin Franklin, scientist, polymath and statesman, who spent nearly twenty years living in London between 1757 and 1785. He took a special interest in Cumbria and spent a good deal of time here in the company of William Brownrigg, the Whitehaven physician and scientist. While Franklin was staying at Brownrigg's home of Ormathwaite in the Lake District they demonstrated his experiment of adding oil to the water

**Benjamin Franklin by David Martin, 1767,
Wikipedia**



surface of Derwent Water to calm the waves. He later corresponded with Brownrigg on the subject, after which a paper was added to The Royal Society's transactions.

Frederick Douglas, the famous anti-slavery campaigner, visited the County in the 1840s when support for Abolition included Robert Peel and Prince Albert, showing how broad an appeal it had. He lectured in Carlisle and had a close relationship with the Carr family, biscuit makers and philanthropists.

The Cumbrian connection with the American Civil War could also be seen in the histories of two families from our region. The Whittakers established a thriving business selling domestic and dry goods in New Orleans. In his correspondence Jeremiah Whittaker left an illuminating record of life in the United States in the 1860s while Charles Yates Aglionby from Appleby emigrated to America before the war started. He took over a plantation in Virginia and left an interesting record of the Civil War in his day book and diary. The family was not sympathetic to the Unionist cause and a cousin, John Yates Beale, was executed for spying on behalf of the Confederates. Curiously, a memorial of his demise can be found in a local church – St Michael's and All Angels in Ainstable – lamenting the death of 'one of Virginia's bravest sons'.

Several presidents had Cumbrian connections. Woodrow Wilson, whose maternal grandfather, the Reverend Thomas Woodrow, moved from Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, to Carlisle, Cumbria, before migrating to Chillicothe, Ohio, in the late 1830s. He paid a visit to Carlisle in December 1918 while on his way to Versailles to help negotiate the treaty which would end



**Charles Yates Aglionby 1807-1891,
portrait from www.findagrave.com**

the First World War. In a speech in the Lowther Street Congressional Church he hoped that the peace which went out from 'communities like this' would 'fertilise the consciences of men'. He described his journey to see the place where his mother was born and his grandfather preached as a 'pilgrimage of the heart' and he would come back with his family five times,

staying in Rydal and Grasmere with his wife and daughters. Theodore Roosevelt was also a visitor, leaving a diary record of his experiences when visiting Furness Abbey when still a very young child.

Cumbria was treated to several visits from the Buffalo Bill's Wild West Road Show. William Cody arrived in England for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and for the next two decades would travel Europe with his enormous company of sharp shooters, and rodeo riders, Indian Chiefs, cowboys and cavalrymen, showing an admiring European population what it meant to liberate a vast continent for the forces of good 'from sea to shining sea'. The train used for transport was nearly three quarters of a mile long and its popularity was such that it could make a profit from separate shows in Maryport, Whitehaven and Workington.

Tim Stanley-Clamp

Part of a poster for Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in London 1887, attended by Queen Victoria in the golden jubilee year.



Articles

The Founding of Lorton, Virginia

The theme of Dr Christopher Donaldson's talk in March, on an 'American view of Cumbrian history', was that 'the histories of Cumbria and America are closely intertwined'. That reminded us that Lorton, Fairfax County, Virginia, was founded by an emigrant from Lorton, Cumberland. Joseph and Dinah Plaskett and their seven children, from John aged sixteen to George aged one, plus Joseph's mother, sailed from Liverpool on the *Tanawanda* in 1853.

The following short article was written by Susan Annie Plaskett in 1958. She was the granddaughter of Joseph and Dinah, and daughter of John, 1836-1922. Susan Plaskett describes how Lorton Valley Post Office was established and grew into the town. She also wrote a book, *Memories of a Plain Family 1836-1936*, which gives more detail on the emigration.

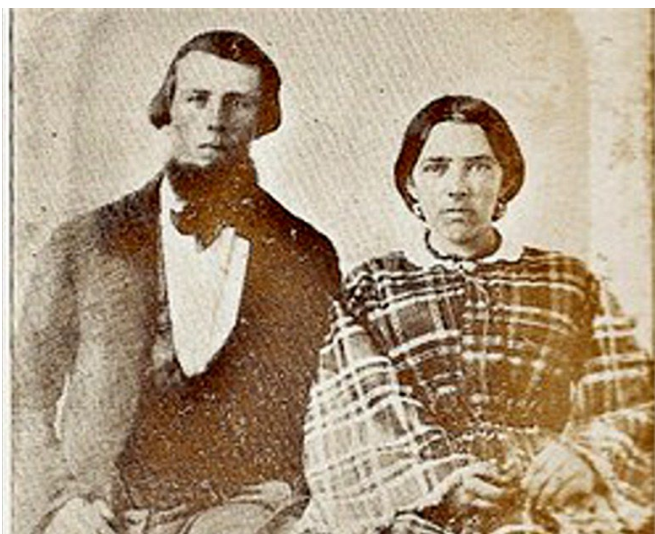
Joseph Plaskett, 1813-1893, was born in Braithwaite and was a farm servant at Kelsick in Wythop when he married Dinah Mandale, 1817-1896. She was the daughter of Matthew and Sarah Mandale, who farmed at Lothwaite Side. Joseph and Dinah married at Lorton on 18 July 1836, and son John was born soon after on 11 September. By 1838 they had moved to Lorton, where Joseph worked as an agricultural labourer.

For most, if not all, of their years in Lorton the family lived at Tenters Cottages, then a terrace of three cottages, which in 1851 had twenty inhabitants. In one of the other two lived William Baxter and his family, another farm labourer who was very close to Joseph. 'He said his chum Willy Baxter, loath to have him leave went with them to Cockermouth, and begged him sure to write.'¹ They took a coastal vessel to Liverpool and sailed for Philadelphia in February 1853, arriving on 27 March 1853, after a six-weeks' voyage. It seems that the family had sufficient funds for a cabin, and to avoid the steerage class suffered by the poorest emigrants, often the Irish.

Derek Denman

Photograph said to be of John Plaskett, 1836-1922, born in Wythop, and wife Mary Jane.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30412255/john-plaskett>



¹ Susan Annie Plaskett, *Memories of a Plain Family 1836-1936*, Franklin Press, 1936, p.63

THE HISTORY OF LORTON, VIRGINIA

by

Susan Annie Flaskett

Many people have asked about the origin of Lorton, so this is its history.

Joseph Flaskett brought his family to America in 1853 and settled in Virginia. He farmed until after the War Between the States when, his family being grown, and interested in making their own homes, he left the farm and opened a crossroads country store. The location was just off the present Number One Highway where it crosses the Lorton-Gunston road. Seeing the need of a post office in the community, since the nearest one was at Accotink Mills, he applied to the Post Office Department to locate one in his store. Colonel Edward Daniels had bought Gunston Hall from the Mason heirs and was living in the Mansion at that time. Being a friend of President Grant he used his influence in having the post office established.

Joseph Flaskett, in naming the post office, thought of his home in Cumberland County, England, and called it Lorton Valley. It was opened for service November 11, 1875. The new post office was one mile from the railroad and Telegraph Station. In the early 1870s a railroad had been constructed between Washington, D. C. and Quantico to connect with the old Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. Service prior to that time had been by boat down the Potomac River. Where the new railroad crossed the old "Telegraph Road" a station had been built and called Telegraph Station.

The first local train service was a combined passenger and freight that made three round trips a week. The pouch of mail was carried from the Lorton Valley post office, delivered to the trainman, and the incoming mail would be carried back. There was no device for exchanging mails with moving trains as there is today. If the train did not have to stop, the pouch would have to be thrown into the baggage car doorway. Sometimes the thrower's aim would be poor and then the mail would be delayed until the next trip. As the train service improved and the mail increased, the trips from and to the post office were changed to daily, and then twice daily. At the present time mail is delivered by truck to the various post offices.

In the early 1880s Mr. Joseph M. Springman opened a general merchandise store near "Telegraph Station". He was the first station agent at that place, and when a post office was established there he was appointed as the first postmaster. The office was named "Springman", and "Telegraph Station" was changed to "Springman". A few years later the names of both the post office and the station were changed to "Lorton".

In the meantime, a post office had been established near Gunston Wharf on the Potomac River, which was served by the steamer "Harry Randall" from Washington. A "Star Route" was later established from Lorton via Lorton Valley to Gunston. When R.F.D. service went into effect the two latter post offices were discontinued and since then service has been by carrier from Lorton. When Lorton Valley post office was discontinued June 2, 1911, it had been in existence thirty-six years and had the unique distinction of being served by only one family, but in three generations.

When the stamp commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of Gunston Hall went on sale at Lorton Post Office, June 12, 1958, it was interesting to remember that when Lorton Valley Post Office was established eight-three years before it was through the help and cooperation of one who was then living at Gunston Hall. Thus, on both occasions the two seemed to be linked together.

In 1955, 102 years after Joseph Plaskett came to America, the author and her two sisters (daughters of Joseph's eldest son, John) went to England and visited many of the interesting places of which they had heard so much. The little village of High Lorton in Cumberland County, from which the Virginia Lorton was named, is off the beaten path and, so, unspoiled by tourists. It is a picturesque place with two or three winding streets and stone houses, one of which has the date 1678 over the door. Double-deck buses go through the town on the way from Keswick to Cockermouth, Maryport, and other places. There is a post office, a garage, and the Horse Shoe Inn. To take a short cut to St. Guthbert's Church, one crosses a meadow dotted with daisies and other wild flowers. Some of the tombstones in the old graveyard are centuries old.

As High Lorton is located in the heart of the Lake District, it is surrounded by beautiful scenery. The river Whitby flows through the little village. Back of the village is an ancient yew tree. Wordsworth, in one of his poems, calls it "the pride of Lorton's Vale".

A mile from High Lorton is Low Lorton where Lorton Hall is located. One of the town's wealthiest citizens once resided there.

Grave marker of Dinah Plaskett, nee
Mandale, born at Lothwaite Side in
Wythop, 1817
www.findagrave.com



The Tale of Cockermouth, New Hampshire

by Gloria Edwards

A chance remark from someone several years ago set me off researching another Cockermouth – not the Cumbrian town we all know, but one on the other side of the Atlantic, in New Hampshire to be precise.

Back in the early days of the establishment of townships in America in the eighteenth century, there was conflict between France and Britain, as part of the Seven Years war, which lasted from 1756 to 1763. This was in the time of William Pitt the Elder who dominated British politics and served as Prime Minister for two periods (1756-1761 and again 1766-1768) under George II and then George III.



William Pitt the elder, chalk drawing

A contemporary of his was Charles Wyndham, second earl of Egremont. He was a politician who served as Secretary of State for the Southern Department, which included British colonies in America, between 1761 and 1763.



Charles Wyndham, second earl of Egremont, National Portrait Gallery

The thirteen British colonies on the east coast of North America broke away from the British Crown between 1775 and 1783, and joined together to form united States – one of these was New Hampshire. A parcel of land in New Hampshire had been gifted in honour of Charles Wyndham, Earl of Egremont, and so was given the name Cockermouth, in Grafton County. For some reason this land was not settled initially, was regranted in 1766, and renewed in 1772. One of the first meetings in the township of Cockermouth took place on July 19 July 1775 - a few months after the start of the American Revolution, and Cockermouth settlers wanted to show their support. They met to create a Committee of Inspection: 'to inspect and take up any person that shall be suspected to be Enemies to the Contrey and to Deal with them accordingly'.

Clearly, the war was taking its toll, in addition to the many hardships faced by settlers trying to feed their families and make a living. In November 1776 a Petition of Grievances was presented to



British colonies in North America in the eighteenth century, Boston Public Library

the Council and House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire on behalf of many of the townships of that state, including Cockermouth:

That no unreasonable advantage should be taken in the Purchase or Sale, either of foreign Commodities, the Produce of our Farms, or our own Manufactures, but that all should be sold upon reasonable Terms ... Such as are Vendors of Goods & Merchandize should sell at the same Rates they had been respectively accustomed to do, for twelve Months then last past ... Many Persons in the States aforesaid, altogether disregarding the said Proceedings of Congress & the Weal of these united States, from mercenary or worse Views, have augmented the Price of by far the greater Part of the Necessaries of Life to an enormous Degree, many Articles of which are more than double the usual Prices they were respectively sold for before the commencement of the present unhappy War. **That** some Persons have been so lost to all Virtue and Love

of their Country as to engross the most necessary and valuable Articles, purchasing them at retail Price and immediately advancing upon that retail Price, at least Cent for Cent, thereby endeavoring to depreciate the value of our Paper Currency. **That** the soldier and others not concerned in this unrighteous Commerce are groaning under their Burdens & we find cannot endure them much longer. **That** great Discontent and uneasiness Is already prevailing in many Parts of these states on account of those detestable Practices. **That** we are greatly alarmed lest Tumults, Disorder, and even a Disunion & Backwardness in, or Defection from the common Cause of America, will appear in many Places, and great Difficulties arise in recruiting and supporting the American Army ... unless some Method can be found out, and speedily applied, to relieve the Oppressed & remedy those Evils, the fatal Consequences of which are too numerous to be inserted, & too obvious to need mentioning.

Signed by John Bodwell, Chairman
Nath. Peabody, Clerk

Wherefore we pray that your Honours would gratify
the Inhabitants of said Cockermouth and order that
by act of the Hon. Genl Court that said Town be
called Groton - This your Petitioners as
in duty bound shall ever pray -

Cockermouth Nov. 24th 1796

Edmund Shattuck Selectmen
David Hale

existence, is not clear but it was not the first time such a change had been requested (Danbury had been the choice in 1791, but this does not seem to have been approved):

The Petition of us the Subscribers humbly sheweth That, Whereas the Inhabitants of the town of Cockermouth at a late Town Meeting unanimously manifested their Desire that the Name of said Town of Cockermouth might be altered and another Name for said Town substituted in Stead thereof.

Disputes regarding boundaries of townships adjoining Cockermouth are increasingly apparent in the archival records, and then in 1792 a new township called Hebron was created from part of Cockermouth and part of West Plymouth. In Cockermouth itself a Petition was raised in 1796, asking for the town's name to be changed to Groton, and this was agreed. Quite what the objection to the name Cockermouth was, after twenty years of

Wherefore we pray that your Honours would gratify the Inhabitants of said Cockermouth and order that by act of the Hon. General Court that said Town be called Groton. This your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

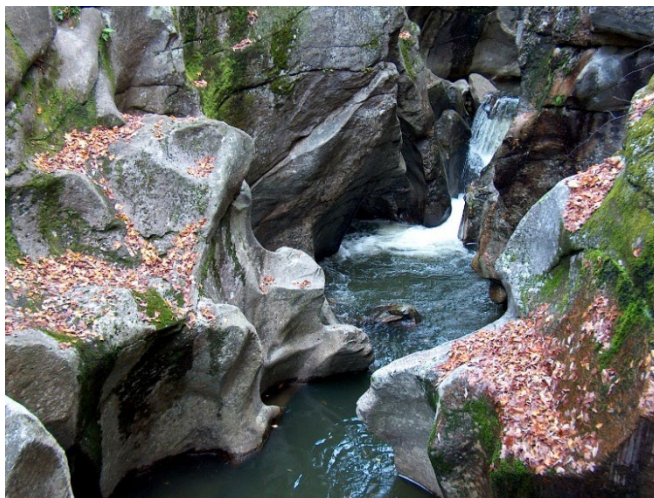
Cockermouth Nov. 24th 1796

Edmund Shattuck
David Hale

Selectmen of Cockermouth

With that Cockermouth was no more, replaced by Groton. The name Cockermouth does, however, survive in the beautiful Cockermouth River which flows through Hebron and the Sculptured Rocks area, eastwards to Newfound Lake.

**Sculptured rocks,
Cockermouth River. Photo
by Ken Gallagher, for
Wikipediaia**



Lorton, Cumberland, by Tom Chadwick

by Lena Stanley-Clamp

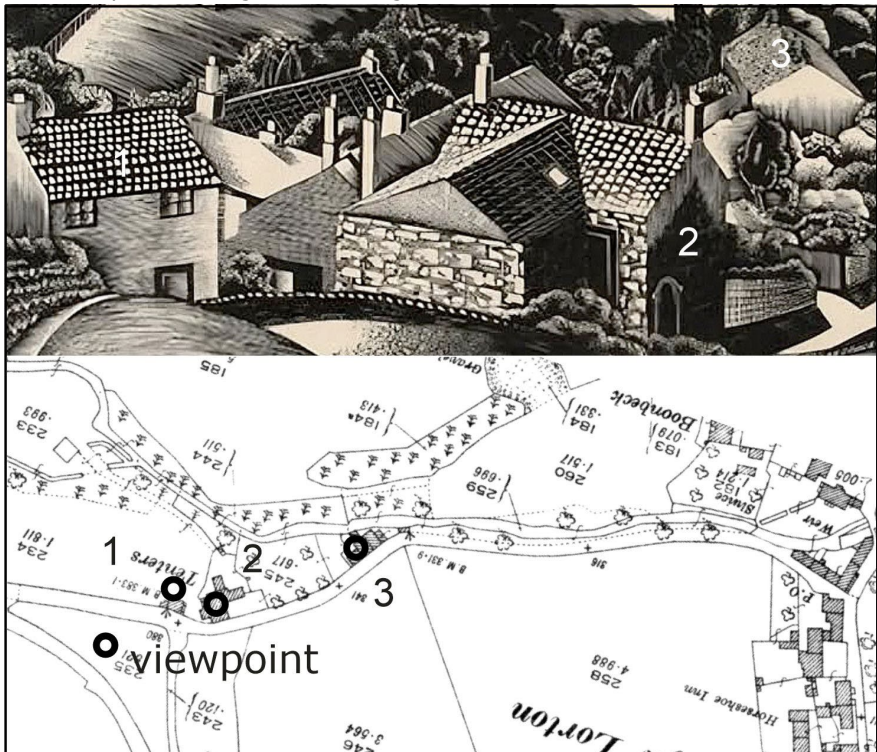
Tom Chadwick, 1912-42, a young artist of great talent visited Lorton in about 1932. The result of his visit was an outstanding wood engraving *Lorton, Cumberland* that captures the spirit of Lorton.

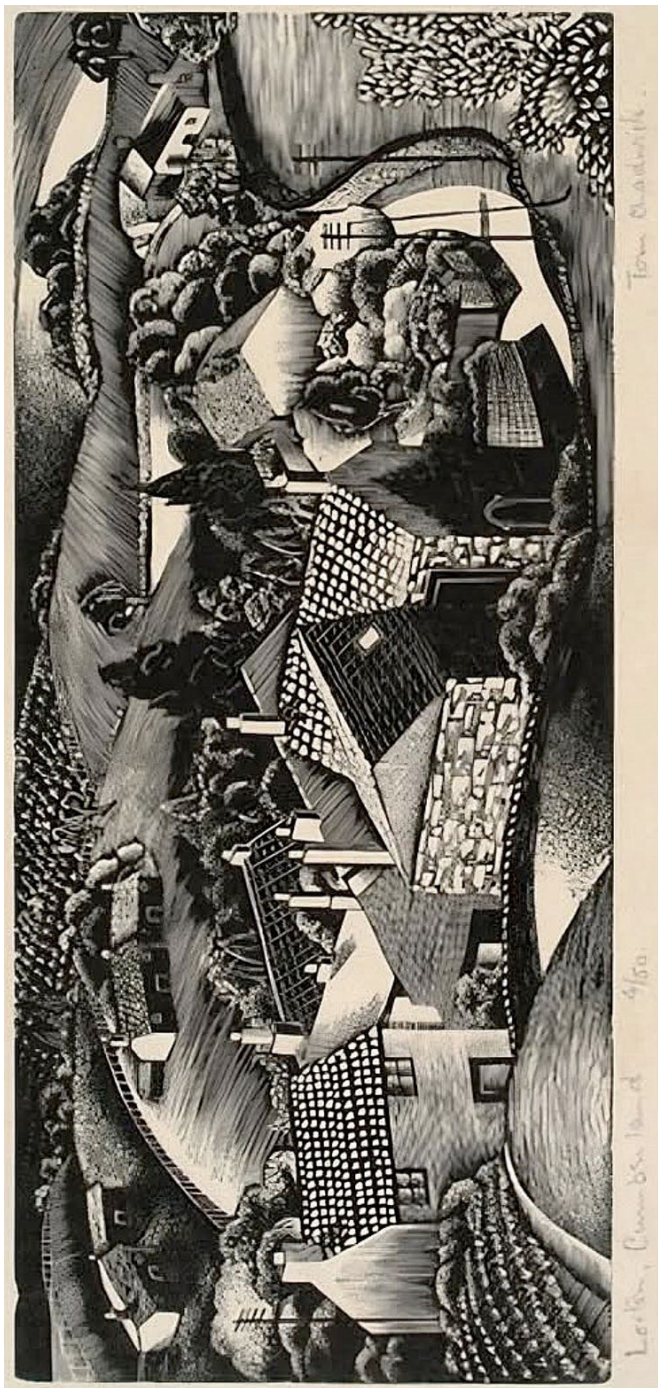
Chadwick's village nestles among the fells with its barns and cottages huddled together at intriguing angles. Their shapes, textures and patterns look immediately familiar although of course this is not topographical art. It is Lorton viewed through the eyes of an artist who conveyed the natural and man-made beauty of the place in a superb wood print.

Examining the print more closely, we can state with some certainty that Chadwick chose a viewpoint looking down on High

Lorton from Tenters. The steepness of Tenters Lane is well depicted as are the telegraph poles and the wall. Chadwick most likely stationed himself beside the Whinlatter road somewhere below the top of the Lane. Tenters had once been the location of the Fulling and Thread Mill but the mills were long closed down when Chadwick visited. The three buildings identified by Derek Denman are:

- 1 Tenters Cottage in the 1930s when it was a one up – one down cottage developed from the old office and hay loft at the entrance to the Fulling Mill. Chadwick has given it an extra window.
- 2 Tenters House, the home of the Thread Mill owners. The house burned down in 2005 and was rebuilt. The front of the old house and its distinctive door opening to the road is well remembered by Derek. Chadwick has added some roofs at the back.





From the window of the...

Looking from the window of the...

3 Tenters Cottages. This old row of three terraced cottages still remains as one property.

Chadwick produced an oil painting of the same scene entitled *Cumberland Village*, below, also dated 1932, which is in a private collection. His biographer Julian Francis tells us that the artist's method seems to have been to make oil or watercolour studies *en plein air* and paint a larger oil on canvas in his studio before making a wood engraving. Francis points out that while at first the work may look like a traditional landscape scene, its treatment was strikingly contemporary. "The emphasis on design, the blockiness of the buildings, the strange almost flat perspective, the use of strong contrasting light and shade and the pure colour palette are all very modern."¹



One wonders what brought Tom Chadwick to his viewpoint at Tenters, then - as now - off the beaten tourist track? We can speculate that he may have stayed in Lorton with some friends or relatives.² Unfortunately, he did not keep a diary and no correspondence had been preserved by the family.

But who was the man to whom we owe this vibrant woodcut print of Lorton?

Thomas Edmund Chadwick was born on 18 August 1912 in Potsdam, Jamaica where his father, a clergyman, was a schoolmaster. The family returned to England in 1916. Chadwick attended Malvern College and after a short time training as an electrical engineer, he studied at the Grosvenor School of Modern Art under Ian MacNab, who spoke of him as his most brilliant student.

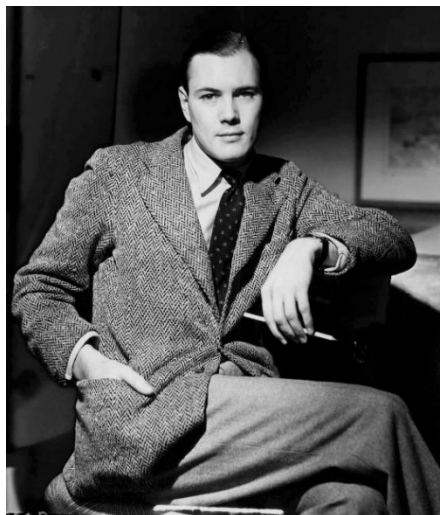
¹ *Tom Chadwick and the Grosvenor School of Art* by Julian Francis, Fleece Press, Upper Denby, 2012.

² If any of our readers can shed some light on Tom Chadwick's visit to Lorton, please contact us at ldflhs.secretary@gmail.com

In 1932, in his first year at the Grosvenor School, Chadwick's work *Lorton, Cumberland* was exhibited at the 13th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Wood Engravers at Redfern Gallery in London alongside the work of such well-known engravers as Eric Gill, Eric Ravilious, Gwen Raverat and others. Chadwick's work was later exhibited at the Royal Academy and other prestigious art venues. In 1936 he won a prize and medal at the Chicago International Exhibition. He was a member of the National Society of Painters, Sculptors and Engravers and was elected to the Society of Artists-Printmakers in 1936. From 1936-9 Chadwick taught at Westminster School of Art. He also earned his living as a professional artist and illustrator. Three of his prints were published in the Penguin Parade series of short stories, poems and illustrations by contemporary authors and artists.

Tom Chadwick and his brother Hector joined the British Army as reserve officers with the 3rd King's Own Hussars and were called up in 1939. They served in the Royal Armoured Corps in Greece and in North Africa and fought in the First and Second Battle of El Alamein. Hector was killed on 25 October, Tom two days later on 27 October 1942. Deeply affected by his brother's death he set out with two friends to find Hector's grave and make sure that it was marked with a cross. All three were killed by German shell fire. Lieutenant Tom Chadwick was awarded the Military Cross in 1941.

During his short career Chadwick produced over twenty wood engravings, some oil paintings, murals and book illustrations. Few of his print editions were ever completed which means his prints are very rare. Largely forgotten after the war, Chadwick's place among the best of British artists was restored by *Tom Chadwick and the Grosvenor School of Art* by Julian



**Tom Chadwick by H. Coster, 1937,
National Portrait Gallery**

Francis, a book published in 2012 by Simon Lawrence of Fleece Press in a special limited edition featuring Chadwick's all known work. The book is now a collector's item. Tom Chadwick's work is held in the collections of the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Library, Oxford, the British Museum and the Whitworth Museum, Manchester.

Main sources

Julian Francis, *Tom Chadwick and the Grosvenor School of Art*, Fleece Press, 2012

'Wood engraving artist finally won recognition' by Tom Jones, *The Press*, 27 June 2014

<https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/blog/collection/2014/06/lorton-cumberland-by-tom-chadwick>

The British Museum
<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/BIOG22407>

The Museum of the Queen's Royal Hussars, In Memoriam www.qrhmmuseum.com/obituary-capt-t-chadwick-m-c

Warmest thanks to Simon Lawrence of Fleece Press for sharing an image and information from *Tom Chadwick and the Grosvenor School of Art*, which is out of print.

A history of Whinfell in Cumberland

by Derek Denman

There has been very little written in the Society's publications about Whinfell, 'the hill where gorse grows'; as a manor, township, and civil parish.¹ In 1934, Whinfell was combined with the civil parishes of Mosser to the South and Blindbothel to the North, to form the present civil parish of Blindbothel. Whinfell was the largest of the three in size, at 1747 acres, and in population, with 71 inhabitants in 1931, and yet its pleasant lake-ish name and identity was lost.² This article gives an outline history of Whinfell, Cumberland, since the first record in the twelfth century.

Origins

As is usual in our rural area, the Whinfell sources start after the Norman occupation of 1092 and were written following the distribution of baronies and manors. In older, pre-Norman settlements, such as Eaglesfield, Lorton, and Embleton, we know little of their unrecorded origins. In Whinfell, however, it is likely that the area was uninhabited in 1092, though used for summer pasture.

The first surviving record is a grant of 1160-75 to the monks of Holm Cultram: 'Cecilia, countess of Albemarle, ... has granted to Holm abbey one forge in her forest of Wynfell, and dead wood in the wood (boscum) between the Eigne and the Koker to keep up the forge; and iron-ore at Egremont; and pasture for two cows and two horses in the same forest; rent one mark of silver a year'.

Similarly, before 1179: 'William, earl of

Albemarle, grants to Holm abbey a forge in Winefel wherever required, with green and dry wood to make charcoal, and iron-ore (mina ferri) at Egremont'.³

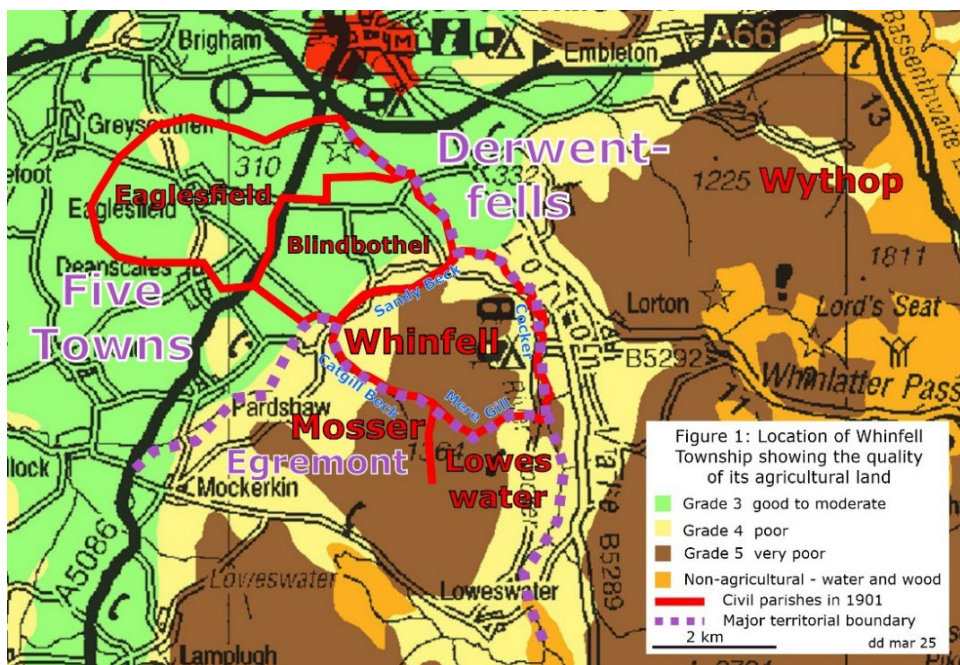
Whinfell was called a forest, suggesting a place for hunting. In addition to the gorse, the fell was sufficiently wooded to justify the ore being brought there for smelting in a bloomery. Figure 1 shows why Whinfell was a forest in the mid-twelfth century. It was mainly very poor high ground fit only for rough grazing and wood, with a strip of poor land around it. It was the north end of a fell included in the corner of a territory called Five Towns, being the well-established settlements south of the Derwent and west of the Cocker; Clifton, Dean, Greysouthen, Brigham and Eaglesfield. Within Five Towns, Whinfell had a boundary only with the manor of Eaglesfield, which included Blindbothel. Whinfell was land in the hands of the lord of Cockermouth, the earl of Albemarle who had recently moved his seat from Papcastle and was in the process of creating Cockermouth.

The boundaries of Whinfell are watercourses. Sandy Beck provides the boundary with the manor of Eaglesfield/Blindbothel within Five Towns, the Cocker provides the boundary with the territory of Derwentfells, and Meregill Beck and Cat Gill provide a major territorial boundary with the barony of Coupland/Egremont. But Whinfell was not, at this time, a place which was given boundaries, such as Mosser and Embleton were, but was poor unsettled land in the space left between the boundaries of other places.

¹ Diana Whaley, *A dictionary of Lake District Place-Names*, 2006, p.366.

² See the Victoria County History gazetteer <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/whinfell>

³ 'The Register: Iron-works', in *Register and Records of Holm Cultram*, ed. Francis Grainger, W G Collingwood (Kendal, 1929)



Settlement in the thirteenth century

It would probably have been during the early thirteenth century that Whinfell's settlement was made necessary and practical by population growth, in the warmer climate of the high medieval period. Population of our general area would later be reduced by the horsepersons of the fourteenth century: plague, war, famine, and death.

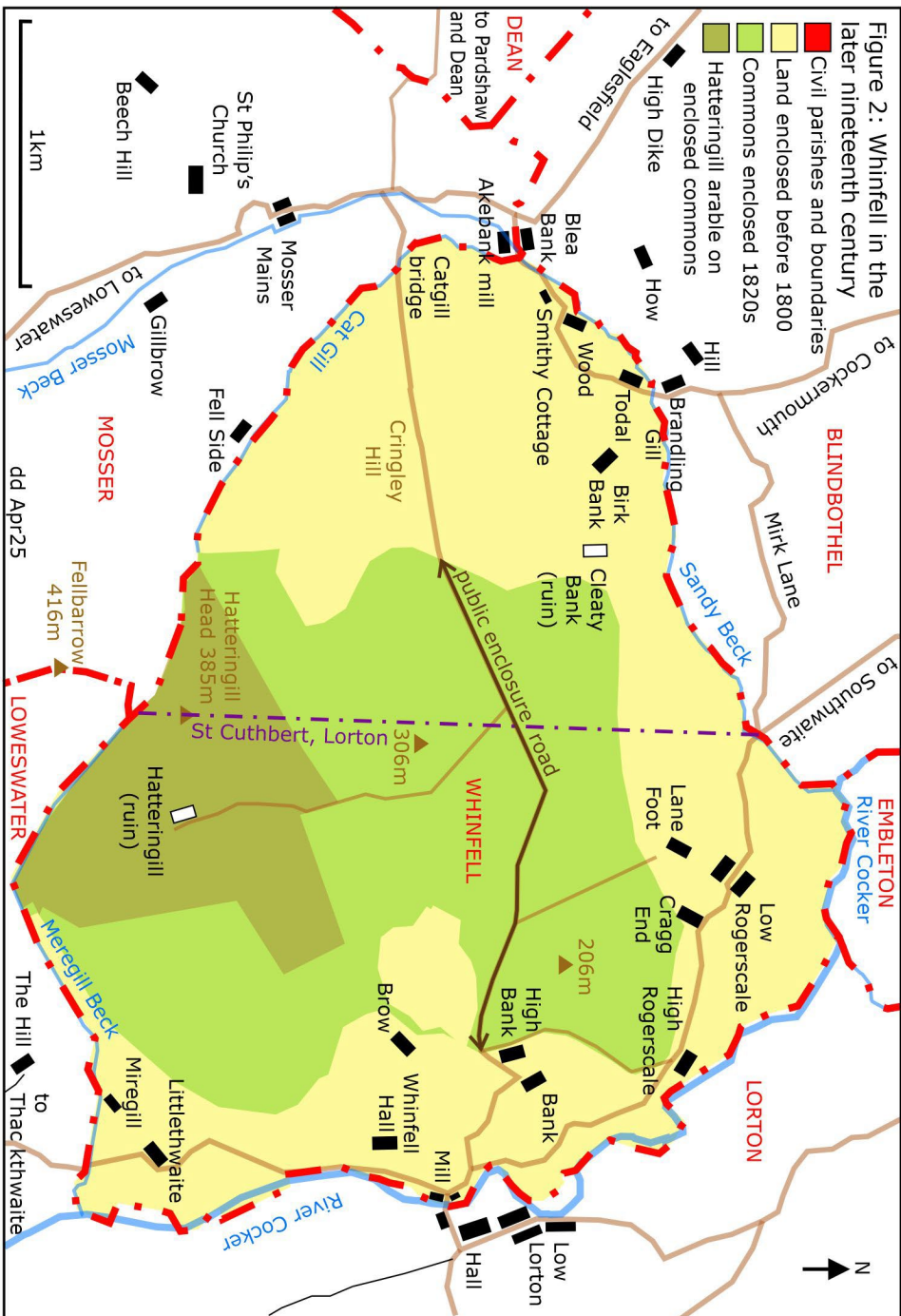
The narrow strip or poor land around the fell was suitable for subsistence arable; oats, barley, peas, apples etc. There was little scope here for a nucleated village with common fields, such as existed in Embleton, Lorton, Buttermere and early Loweswater. The name Rogerscale, the huts of Roger, suggests that before settlement this area was a sheiling for managing animals on the summer pasture. The huts on these 'scale' places often became permanent settlements, and

it may be that Rogerscale was an early settlement, say around 1200.

The first record of settlement dates to 1230, when a large quantity of property, land and people, was divided between two co-heir Lucy sisters and their husbands; Lambert de Multon and his wife, Amabil, and Alan de Multon and his wife, Alice.⁴ This is the division of property which also caused the conjunction of Loweswater, Thackthwaite, Mockerkin and Sosgill. Alan de Multon created the park in Loweswater, which may have contained a seat.

In this division of 1230, Alan and Alice received 'the homages and the whole services of ... Sarra de Whinnefel for the moiety of her tenement in Whinnefelde'. A moiety means a half share in something undivided. Sarra would have been a freeholder, and the fact that a free rent, which could not be created after 1290,

⁴ DLEC/Box301/Lucy Cartulary no. 162, 1230



remained only from Rogerscale in the nineteenth century, suggests that Sarra may have lived at Rogerscale.⁵

The other half share of Sarra's homage in 1230 would have been held by William de Fortibus, third earl of Albemarle, who held the honour of the Cockermouth including Five Towns. By 1270 a survey of the lands the late fourth earl, showed a substantial settlement in Whinfell.⁶ Angus Winchester notes that 'the list of tenants includes the names of Thomas de Rogerscales, Gilbert de Banco, Adam del Hou, and the tenants of Todholes [fox holes]. If, as seems reasonable, it is concluded that the farmsteads of these men lay in the vicinity of the modern farms of Rogerscale, Bank, How and Toddell we may conclude that elements of the post-mediaeval settlement pattern were in existence by the later-13th century'.⁷ See Figure 2 for these places.

The earl of Albemarle also held some demesne land in Whinfell, his cultivated land which was worked by his manorial tenants. Some tenants owed services of a day each of ploughing, harrowing and reaping.⁸ The location of the demesne land is not known, but by 1370 it had been let to tenants at will, and would have become unidentifiable.⁹

In the 1270 survey there were seventeen manorial tenants holding land in Whinfell, plus ten landless cottagers.¹⁰ This number of tenants compares with eighteen rents payable to Allan Pearson, which were

enfranchised in the enclosure award of 1826.¹¹ Not all holder of land tenements in Whinfell necessarily lived there; for example, modern How was just in the manor of Eaglesfield. The cottagers would have been in medieval Whinfell and might have relied on use of the common. The population might have reached one hundred, including many children.

Early mills

An early rural fulling mill, for finishing woollen cloth, was to be built in Whinfell circa 1282, which confirms that the production of fleeces and cloth for market was an important source of income.¹²

Medieval manors usually had a lord's mill at which the tenants were obliged to have their corn ground, the mill usually being leased. In 1370 the lord of Cockermouth owned a moiety of a water mill in Whinfell, which he let to tenants at will for 7s.¹³ By 1517 a new corn mill had been built by Thomas Curwen of Camberton on the current site, west of the bridge at Low Lorton.¹⁴ Sir Thomas Wharton leased a moiety of Whinfell water corn mill, otherwise Lorton Mill, on the same site to Peter Wynder and others in 1569.¹⁵ Previously it had been leased to John and Richard Wilkinson for 4s.¹⁶ That Cockermouth moiety descended through the owners of Lorton Hall at 4s customary rent.¹⁷ That site was more convenient for Low Lorton than for most of Whinfell. Nor could any single corn mill be convenient for all of Whinfell. Akebank mill, in Mosser,

⁵ DLEC/Box76/Whinfell Enclosure copy claims, No.19, Thomas Stainton

⁶ The National Archives TNA/SC 11/730

⁷ Winchester, Angus J L (1978) *Territorial Structure and Agrarian Organisation in Mediaeval and Sixteenth Century Copeland*, Cumberland, Durham thesis http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/1886/Angus_W_Thesis, Vol.1 pp.205-6

⁸ Angus Winchester, *Landscape and society in medieval Cumbria*, John Donald, 1987, pp.20&65

⁹ DLEC/Petworth Bundles No 1, Translations, Inquisition Post Mortem Anthony de Lucy, 1370

¹⁰ Winchester, *Landscape and society*, p.67

¹¹ CAS(C)/QRE/1/11, Whinfell Enclosure Award, 1826

¹² Winchester, *Landscape and Society*, p.118

¹³ IPM Anthony de Lucy, 1370

¹⁴ DLEC/Box 299T, Whinfell court, October, 9 Hen VIII

¹⁵ DLEC/Box 125/ Lease for 21 years, Lord

Wharton to Peter Wynder and others

¹⁶ CAS(C)/DLONS/L/5/2/24/1 p.210

¹⁷ DLEC/Box 328/Identification of Lorton Hall

could serve western Whinfell after it was created in the seventeenth century.

Perhaps ‘Low Lorton’ mill was the only mill site in Whinfell, being was used for corn and fulling in different periods.

Fourteenth to seventeenth century population

Lay Subsidies ‘Quinfell’ 1332-3			
Has in Goods:	£	s.	d.
William Parisson	1	4	6
William, son of John	1	4	6
John, son of John		16	3
Alexr., son of Agnes	1	7	6
Thomas, son of Bercarius [sheep farmer]		15	0
William, son of Bernard		18	0
William ffaber [blacksmith]		12	0
John, son of William		15	0
Adam fferroon		11	3
Alan Tunnyson		12	0
William Cassan		12	0
William, son of Benedict	1	3	0
Isaac Bercarius [sheep farmer]	1	7	6
Sum of all goods in this place	£11	18	6
one-fifteenth	£0	15	11

The early fourteenth century saw raids in our area by the Scots, though perhaps not in Whinfell. In addition to border service,

the population had to contribute to war funding through the lay subsidies, a tax on goods including cattle and sheep. We have a list of those assessed in Cumberland 1332-3 for one fifteenth or one tenth of the value of their goods, including detail in Five Towns.¹⁸ The table applies to the vill of Whinfell in the Honour of Cockermouth, listing thirteen owners of goods living there.

This total is nearly as high as Eaglesfield, which has 15 people assessed and £20 6s goods. That raises questions about the scope of Whinfell in this record of collections, but taken at face value the list suggests a well populated manor with a high value of flocks and herds. To estimate population, one could assume that those listed were householders, and could add ten landless cottagers, as in 1270, who had few goods. A household multiplier of 4.75 gives a number around one hundred which exceeds the 82 in the civil parish census of 1801, before enclosure.

By 1370 the lord of Cockermouth was receiving £10 1s in rent for manorial tenements and demesne land in Whinfell, plus 7s for his moiety of the water mill.¹⁹ By 1437 the income received by the Percys, Earls of Northumberland, from Whinfell tenants for their moiety of the manor, had settled at the level of the annual ancient rental used in the nineteenth century, approximately £7.²⁰ The rental for the whole manor would be about £14, rather more than Brackenthwaite but less than Buttermere. The rental of the same moiety was still £7 0s 7½d circa 1570.²¹ This suggests that the amount and value of enclosed land grew little between 1437 and 1801, due to the quality of the land.

¹⁸ ‘Cumberland Lay Subsidy: Liberty of Cockermouth’, in *Cumberland Lay Subsidy Fifteenth and Tenth*, 6 Edw. III, ed. J P Steel (Kendal, 1912)

¹⁹ IPM Anthony de Lucy, 1370
²⁰ JMW Bean, *The estates of the Percy family, 1416-1537*, OUP, 1958, p.26
²¹ CAS(C)/DLONS/L/5/2/24/1 p.210

The hearth tax of 1664 provides another opportunity to estimate population.²² Whinfell had 23 taxable dwellings all with one hearth, suggesting a yeoman-led township, again of around 100 persons.

It seems that Whinfell reached the limit of its agricultural exploitation within, say, a century of its first settlement, and that land use then changed little until enclosure in the 1820s. Through this period the population was limited to around a hundred, and nothing much of note happened there. The Whinfell inhabitants lived their lives, exported excess people, grew and consumed their crops, bred and disposed of their animals, gave service on the border, and handed their tenements to the next generation with the lord's consent. At some time they established their right to trade their tenements, in whole or part.

Division of the manor into moieties.

Alan and Alice de Multon had two sons and one daughter. The two sons, Thomas and John, took the name de Lucy rather than de Multon, being the greater name, and Thomas de Lucy, after 1256, inherited the main property as first-born. His descendant, Anthony de Lucy, gained Cockermouth and Five Towns in 1323.

The younger son, John de Lucy, was given relatively minor properties. In his lifetime, ie probably before 1256, Alan de Multon and Alice created the manor of Wythop in their half of the forest of Derwentfells and gave it to John. John de Lucy created his seat and park in Wythop.²³ Angus Winchester describes how he developed the value of the manor of Wythop, the last subinfeudation in Derwentfells.²⁴

It was said above that in 1230 Alan and Alice de Multon received only a moiety of

the homage of the freeholder in Whinfell, Sarra de Whinfell. But by 1270 it seems that the survey of the Earl of Albemarle's property in Whinfell included only a moiety of the manor of Whinfell.

The other moiety was in the hands of Alice de Multon in the time of Henry III, by 1272 at latest. That is known from an inquisition *ad quod damnum* made in 1307, which was made to investigate and confirm the property of John de Lucy.²⁵ From that investigation it was found that Alice de Multon had, in her widowhood, given her moiety of the manor of Whinfell to her son John de Lucy in 2 Ed I, that is 1273-4. Also, the Assize Roll for 1292 included a claim from Robert de Musgrave, parson of Brigham, for estovers in the wood of John de Lucy and Countess Isabella de Fortibus in Whinfell.²⁶ This confirms the division of the manor, including the common and woods.

How the service of a moiety of a freeholder's tenement in 1230 became the moiety of a manor by 1274 is not understood, but it is clear from John's confirmation in 1307 that the manor of Whinfell descended as moieties from before 1274, one through Alice de Lucy and John de Lucy, and the other with the honour of Cockermouth.

The moieties then descended separately, the manorial tenants having two joint feudal lords to whom they paid half shares of the rent. After 1290, new subinfeudated manors could not be created and so the tenants and rights could not be divided between the lords, as was done by the freeholders who held Low Lorton.

The ownership of Whinfell common became a matter of dispute in the

²² CAS(C)/DX/129/14, hearth tax Cumberland, probably 1664

²³ CAS(C)/DVAN/2/5/1, and following, contain the grant of Wythop.

²⁴ Winchester, *Landscape and society*, pp.39-40

²⁵ DLEC/Petworth Bundles No 1, Translations, Inquisition *quod damnum*, John de Lucy, 9 January 1306/7

²⁶ TNA/JUST 1/134, I am grateful to Angus Winchester for this information

nineteenth century. Before that, the common was managed through the manor courts of the Honour of Cockermouth.²⁷

The John de Lucy Moiety

After the death of John de Lucy, by 1315, this moiety may have followed Wythop into the Lowther family, John's widow being a Lowther. However, in 35 Hen VIII, 1543-4, it was said to be held by three gentlemen, Christopher Curwen, John Eglesfield, and Abrose Middleton.²⁸ Deeds of ownership then start from 24 August 1626, when the lords, Richard Barwis of Islekirk and William Musgrave of Hayton, made an agreement with their twenty tenants of Whinfell and their tenant Thomas Hutton of Hames.²⁹ This agreement, among other things, freed the tenants from the large arbitrary fines which were paid on the change of tenant of the death of the lord, to a fixed fine of two years' ancient rent. The ancient annual rent was still payable. For this, the tenants of Whinfell paid forty years' ancient rent, or about £280 in total.

In 1714, Christopher Dalston of Lorton Hall was paying rent for two closes in Whinfell to a Thomas Stephenson, in this half of the lordship.³⁰ By 1722 the half-lordship had passed to Joseph Ashly of Ledger Ashby in Northamptonshire, who then sold to John Wilson of Redmain for £280. John Wilson's only daughter and heir Jane, married Richard Pearson, son of Henry Pearson of Low Lorton, owner of Holme Farm. A marriage bond was agreed on 25 November 1723, settling John Wilson's property on Jane and Richard.

Jane and Richard Pearson had one daughter, Ann, 1725-1811, and later two sons, Wilson and Allan, c.1740-1823.

Richard died in 1745 while the boys were young, and Jane passed the manor of Whinfell to Wilson in 1750. Allan Pearson inherited the manor on the death of his brother, before circa 1799.³¹ Allan Pearson's heir was Ann's grandson, Henry Teshmaker Thompson, who represented Allan Pearson in the enclosure of Whinfell, from before 1817.

The moiety in the Honour of Cockermouth

The moiety of the manor of Whinfell which was owned, with Five Towns, by the earls of Albemarle in the thirteenth Century is easier to trace. It came to Anthony de Lucy in 1323 with the grant of the castle and other part of the Honour of Cockermouth. Thereafter is descended with the Lucys and, circa 1400, to the Percys, Earls of Northumberland. Henry Percy the sixth earl, was a poor manager of his lands and in 1530 he sold many manors, including Dean and Whinfell to his steward, Sir Thomas Wharton. These remained in the Wharton family for five generations, and on 20 August 1613 the Whinfell tenants purchased the right to fixed fines of ten years' ancient rent on change of tenant or death of the lord.³²

When the Wharton line failed the many Wharton manors, including Dean and Whinfell, were purchased back for £13,300 in 1739. Thereafter the court of Dean and Whinfell was created to manage those manors, which lasted into the twentieth century.

The enclosure of Whinfell commons.

Pressure to enclose local commons and to divide the land among the landowners came from the manorial tenants in the early nineteenth century. In some manors the moors could be exploited for corn

²⁷ For example, throughout the early court rolls, DLEC/Box 299T

²⁸ Joseph Nicholson & Richard Burn, *The history and antiquities of the counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*, 1777, Vol. II, p.64

²⁹ DLEC/Box 220, abstract if information relating to the moieties to Whinfell

³⁰ DLEC/Box 328/Identification of Lorton Hall

³¹ Family history from CAS(C), BRA/1/6/26,29,42, and 1/87/38

³² DLEC/Box 220, abstract if information relating to the moieties to Whinfell

during the Napoleonic wars, but in Whinfell it was the case that the commons were of little value due to overgrazing, and it was very difficult to keep out the animals of neighbouring townships.

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1819 to enclose and divide Whinfell commons, but not before much pressure had been put on Lord Egremont, who held the Honour of Cockermouth. During the earlier discussions Allan Pearson, holding a moiety of the manor of Whinfell, had claimed an equal ownership of Whinfell common, and a half share of the one fourteenth of the commons, by value, which would go to the lord.³³ Lord Egremont, whose courts and stewards had always managed the commons, considered himself to be lord paramount, by holding Five Towns. He considered that he wholly owned the commons, and the mineral and sporting rights.

Allan Pearson had deeds back to 1623, and importantly could rely on the Inquisition ad quod damnum of 1307, in which John de Lucy had his moiety of the manor of Whinfell confirmed, though without any boundaries of the manor being defined. Unfortunately, lord Egremont had lost a law case in 1814 with the Fletcher Vanes, who had claimed ownership of the commons of Wythop, using the same document of 1307 as evidence. This had emboldened the landowners of Embleton, in 1818, to a failed attempt to repeal their enclosure act on the (false) basis that Lord Egremont did not own Embleton commons.

In Whinfell Lord Egremont's case was weakened by the fact that no minerals had ever been worked or leased on Wythop commons, which would have demonstrated ownership of the soil. Given

that there was no written definition of the manor, given that the Allan Pearson had documentary evidence of equality back to 1623, and given the confirmation of the moiety in 1307, the enclosure commissioner, John Huddleston, decided in favour of Allan Pearson's claim, and divided between them the one fourteenth of the commons for manorial rights. Lord Egremont registered dissatisfaction but did not challenge the decision at law, being advised that he would lose.³⁴

Allan Pearson took the opportunity to enfranchise his tenants as part of the enclosure, and received a further commons allotment as payment. Lord Egremont did not, which left the landowners for many years in the curious position of being half manorial tenant and half freeholder of their undivided Whinfell property. This complexity probably benefitted financially those who later wrote legal documents for the hybrid landowners. Though Allan Pearson had extinguished his moiety of manorial rights through enfranchisement, the enclosure award of 1826 left his heir, Henry Teshmaker Thompson, with a moiety of the mineral and sporting rights in Whinfell, which also caused complications for lord Egremont when he shared those rights with A T S Dixon of Lorton Hall in the late nineteenth century.³⁵

Hatteringill Farm

In the early 1820s the Napoleonic wars were long finished and local arable farming was in recession, supported by the corn laws. However, John Nicholson, of Littletown in Newlands, acquired and improved some 75 hectares of the newly enclosed Whinfell. As a holder of only four acres of enclosed land at the defunct Cleaty Bank farm, he had to purchase most of this land. He built a farmstead for

³³ DLEC/Box76/Whinfell Enclosure copy claims, No.12, Allan Pearson

³⁴ DLEC/Box 76, Whinfell enclosure papers, advice from Nathaniel Nicholson 29 Nov 1819

³⁵ CAS(C)/QRE/1/11, Whinfell Enclosure Award, 1826

growing oats at 300 metres above sea level. Hatteringill farm, now a ruin like Cleaty Bank, is shown on figure 2. Nicholson found a tenant in John Moffat, whose family was still resident in 1841, but the bold venture did not survive the repeal of the corn laws. Angus Winchester gives much more information on this project in *England's Landscape: the North West*.³⁶

Religion, education and community

Although Whinfell was constructed as a manor and a township in itself, the distribution of the settlements did not support a natural community focus, and so public institutions such as churches, inns, schools and village halls were not developed. The settlement can be considered in two parts, the strip of farmsteads along the Cocker, which had a natural affinity with Lorton, and the smaller group to the West; Todai, Birk Bank, and Wood, close to Mosser, Blindbothel and Pardshaw.

That community division was long recognised by the established church, in that while the whole local area, apart from Dean, was in the parish of Brigham, the eastern strip of Whinfell was served by St Cuthbert's Lorton as one community and quarter with Lorton. The smaller western group usually attended either at Brigham itself or at Mosser in periods when there was a chapel there, particularly when rebuilt as St Philip's in 1773. This division was formalised when the ecclesiastical parish of Lorton was created in 1883, as shown in figure 2. To the West a new ecclesiastical parish of Mosser was created to embrace Mosser, Blindbothel, Eaglesfield, and this small part of Whinfell, but with a new St Philip's in Eaglesfield from 1891.

When day schools were built in the early nineteenth century the same pattern was followed, in that the schools were established to serve ecclesiastical parishes rather than civil parishes. At that time the church was the main community bond, as demonstrated by the fact that the village hall in Lorton, the Yew Tree Hall, was created later to serve the inhabitants of the ecclesiastical parish, including Whinfell and Brackenthwaite, rather than just Lorton.³⁷ So Lorton school embraced the inhabitants of eastern Whinfell with no distinction from those of Lorton, and Paddle School was created on a commons enclosure in Blindbothel to serve the Eaglesfield area, and western Whinfell.

Whinfell was a community led by yeomen holding agricultural land, and had no resident lord, nor squire. Whinfell Hall was recorded by that name in the parish registers from 1622, and was the farmstead of the yeoman Allason family. This lack of resident established authority, or church, together with weak lordship, given that a man with two lords has no lord and that fines were fixed, would have made the township attractive to Quakers, who wished to establish self-reliant agricultural communities with minimal external control. In adjacent Mosser one half of the land was owned by Quakers in the mid nineteenth century, with lower percentages in other townships west of the Cocker, such as Loweswater's Waterend, Whinfell, and Pardshaw, the location of meetings. Notable Whinfell Quakers of the nineteenth century included Wilson Robinson of Whinfell Hall and his son John Wilson Robinson, 1853-1907, the pioneer rock climber, plus the artist Joseph Sutton, 1762-1843, of Rogerscale.³⁸ However, Jonathan Stainton and John Sibson, notable nineteenth-

³⁶ Angus Winchester, *England's Landscape: the North West*, English Heritage, 2006, p.p.107-9

³⁷ Yew Tree Hall, Lorton, Regulations, 17 Jan 1921

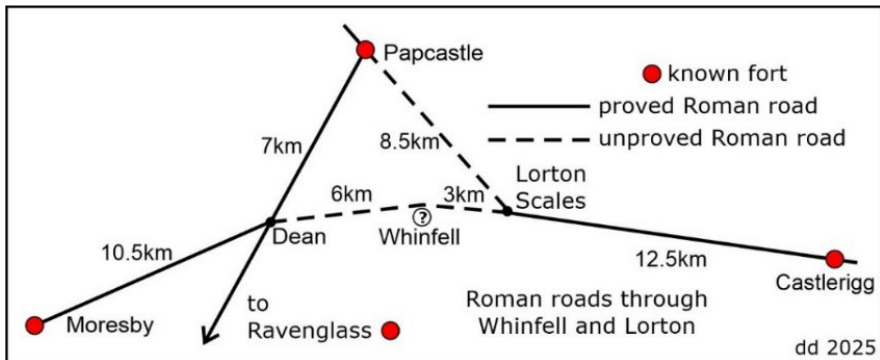
³⁸ See *Journal* 41, Feb. 2008, for Robinson, and *Wanderers* 45&46, Aug. and Nov. 2022 2022 for Sutton

century members of the Brigham curacy, also owned and resided at farmsteads at the Brow and Rogerscale. The established church and the 'dissenters' appear to have co-existed harmoniously in Whinfell.

Incorporation in Blindbothel.

In the nineteenth century transition from townships managed through the church vestry to civil parishes, Whinfell survived as a small civil parish. However, its responsibilities were little more than maintaining the highways and supporting the poor with rates. In the reorganisation of 1934 small parishes such as Whinfell, Mosser, Blindbothel, and Brackenthwaite, could not sustain independent status. Whinfell civil parish was joined with Mosser and Blindbothel civil parishes to form a new Blindbothel civil parish. The name Whinfell may have been lost to avoid confusion with the civil parish of the same name in Westmorland, but also it may have been that Blindbothel had Eaglesfield's Paddle School just in its area, the only active institution in the whole of the new civil parish. From 1934, given that the manor of Whinfell had also been extinguished, Whinfell continued only as a place name.

Annex: a Roman Road over Whinfell?



The publication in 1994 of *The Roman route across the northern Lake District: Brougham to Moresby*, by Martin Allan, was an important booklet which stimulated members of the Society to seek local Roman roads in 1998.³⁹ The author had done extensive research of written sources and field work over many years to amass evidence of the northern route to Moresby, which deserved publication and the endorsement of Eric Birley, a great authority on the subject.

Allan's work between Brougham and Keswick established the route of the road successfully, though he had the disadvantage that the location of the fort at Keswick was not known, and a destination is important in confirming remains as Roman, through their alignment. The fort site has since been found near Castlerigg stone circle, close to where he suggested. West of Keswick he had the problem of there being no known Roman site on a direct route to Moresby via the Whinlatter Pass, and he could not prove that a Roman Road had traversed Whinlatter at all. The finding of the fort site at Castlerigg and the society's success in finding an old road from Thornthwaite to Knott Head confirmed that a Roman road did cross Whinlatter, as he had suggested, to Lorton Scales.

³⁹ Martin Allan, *The Roman route across the northern Lake District: Brougham to Moresby*, CNWRS, 1994

The book title says 'route' and not 'road', the question being whether that route to Moresby involved a detour from Lorton via the fort at Papcastle, or a direct road over Whinfell to Dean. Allan accepts that there must have been a road from Lorton to Papcastle. That would continue to the coastal fort at Maryport. However, his hypothesis is that a second road ran from Lorton to Dean, there to cross the known Roman road from Papcastle to Ravenglass, with the destination of the fort at Moresby.

The difficulty is that no part of a Roman road from Lorton to Papcastle has been found, and Allan did not investigate it. Nor did he find Roman road remains, an agger, on the path of a Roman road which might have crossed Whinfell. Between Lorton and Dean, Allan published a suggested path of a road, without establishing that such a road existed. He neither established that the route from Lorton to Dean was direct, nor did he claim that it was direct, but the detailed discussion of where such a road might have been can easily be interpreted as a statement that such a road existed.

There is a further difficulty, acknowledged by Allan, that the distance between Keswick and Moresby exceeds a day's march, 'notionally fourteen miles [22.5km], though it could stray up to twenty [32 km]'.⁴⁰ The distances between Keswick and Papcastle, 21km, and Papcastle and Moresby, 18km, would fit with a two days' march, but a direct road from Castlerigg to Moresby would be just over 32km, involving two steep ascents. A marching camp would probably be required on Whinfell. Allan found a suitable site on Whinfell for a camp, but no evidence of it.

Martin Allan presents the present road over Whinfell, between the Brow and

Catgill Bridge as one that could have Roman origins:

*Probing of its verges ... suggests a width of five metres. Moreover, the fact that its level is only here and there above that of the verge on one or both sides is consistent with the possibility that it was robbed of much of its stone at the time of the building of the walls, about 8 metres apart Despite the apparent absence, at least in recent times, of any tradition of its origin being Roman, it is hard to think that any but a military purpose would have needed so good a road, in such an out of the way location And it is no less hard to think of who but the Romans would have made a hill road so angular.*⁴¹

It was John Huddleston, the enclosure commissioner for Whinfell, who, in about 1820, drew the line of the larger part of that public road, to be built over Whinfell common, which Allan knew.⁴² A fenced road from Catgill bridge to the common already existed. The walls on Whinfell common did not exist before 1820. It seems unlikely that those walls were built partly from the excess stone taken from a Roman aggar, the line of which John Huddleston followed, but which had was not noticed by antiquarians. A road may have crossed Whinfell common before enclosure, but only Mirk Lane is shown on the Donald map surveyed in 1770.

That is not to say that there was no Roman road over Whinfell, because a road from Lorton to Papcastle has also not been evidenced, and the Romans who marched over Whinlatter to Lorton, all forest, probably marched on to some destination. Rather, it seems fair to say that these roads and their paths are the subject of hypotheses which still need to be sufficiently evidenced in this area.

⁴⁰ Allan, *The Roman route*, p.54, quoting Breeze.

⁴¹ Allan, *The Roman route*, p.20

⁴² Allan, *The Roman route*, p.55, note 36