



Charity No 1011624

FOCAS 108

May 2020

Archives Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that our application for full Accreditation at the expiry of our initial award in 2013 has been successful. We are one of three services in the UK that are the first to have been awarded full accredited status for the second time. In their notification to us, the Accreditation Panel stated that they '... welcomed this strong application from one of the first Accredited Archive Services. The applicant had undergone significant changes during the period of its first award, but had been able overall to maintain high standards of preservation and access. It was good to see progress in accommodation improvements at Kendal and Barrow branches'.

The Accreditation Panel has, as in 2013, provided us with a list of 'Required Actions' and 'Improvement Actions' which we shall seek to address as part of our business and service improvement plans for the next six years. We are also pleased to report that the North West Regional Development Manager for The National Archives has offered to visit us to discuss the feedback and present our Accreditation award at a time when we hope COVID-19 is no longer consuming all news coverage.

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist

FoCAS Newsletter - Back Copies

Over the years FoCAS has been producing Newsletters to keep members informed about the latest news and the interesting things going on in the archive world. During this time there have always been extra copies produced to cover exhibitions, new members etc. but inevitably these have not always been used up. There is now a surplus of back copies, so if any member who keeps their Newsletters has a gap in the sequence, this is the chance to 'plug that gap'. Some of the very early copies and copies up to No 70 are in short supply or non-existent so I cannot guarantee that I can supply every copy that I am asked for. If you let me know your requirements by email at chesterforster1@tiscali.co.uk I will mail them out to you free of charge. If I do not have a hard copy of the Newsletter that you requested I can send you an electronic copy by email for you to print out on your own printer. This applies to all copies right back to issue No. 1.



One final offer is that if you would like to have all the issues in electronic format please send a small blank pen drive along with a stamped-addressed envelope to the address below and I will copy all the Newsletters for you. I can recommend the early issues as they were full of little known facts compiled by our first editor, June Barnes.

Please send to: Chester Forster, 25 Highwood Crescent, Carlisle, CA1 3LF or Tel: 01228 527010.

* Please Note *

The Committee has agreed that this year's 2020 AGM/ Members' Day due to be held on Saturday 26 September at Carlisle Archive Centre should be cancelled. There will be an update on future plans in the September issue of the Newsletter when the situation with the coronavirus should be clearer

Archives of the Borderlands – proposal for a scoping exercise put forward by the Regional Heritage Centre of Lancaster University

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University came to FoCAS with a proposal requesting funding for a Scoping Exercise to lay the groundwork for a major funding bid, provisionally titled Archives of the Borderlands (AoB), to the UK government's Borderlands Scheme. AoB aims to find new ways to catalogue and showcase the archives of the great families on the English side of the Anglo-Scottish border, the Lowthers, Howards, Dacres, Percys, Cavendishes and Egremonts to name but six. The archives of these families are of regional, national and international significance, recording everything from daily life and the management of the estates to the workings of international trade, warfare and politics across nine centuries. Yet the archives remain relatively difficult to access, held in part in regional archive centres and in part at the homes of their owners. For this reason, large parts of the collections remain uncatalogued and little explored. AoB will seek to remedy this by cataloguing, investigating and showcasing these archives.

The purpose of the preliminary project is to establish the scope, approach and parameters of the larger AoB initiative. In order to ensure that AoB will be in a position to win major funding it is first necessary to demonstrate the extent and feasibility of the project and establish its path. FoCAS was approached with a request for funding towards the appointment of a Research Associate who will take this forward. The FoCAS Trustees Committee considered this application carefully but with enthusiasm and agreed that it is a project that we should support. To this end we agreed to award the full amount requested - £8,700.00 – from the monies invested from the Margaret Bainbridge legacy. Full recognition of our award has been promised and the results of the scoping project will be made public. We will, of course, keep you apprised of developments.

Lorna M. Mullett, Treasurer

From the Treasurer and Membership Secretary

We are three months into this year and I am happy to say that our financial state is more sunny and stable than the weather we experienced at the beginning of the year. Most of our members have now paid their 2020 subscriptions but there are a few for whom it has slipped their mind, despite reminders. Our constitution allows us to strike off any member who is six months in arrears. We do not like doing this so may I ask those members who still have not paid their subscription to do so before the end of May at the latest.

As reported previously we have a considerable sum invested in a Skipton BS Community Saver Account. We received a letter from the Skipton some weeks ago asking us to answer certain questions to ensure that we will be covered by the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme) in the event of anything untoward. What fun we had with one of the questions which seemed to suggest, to us and to the staff at the Skipton Branch in Penrith, that we would not be eligible for compensation if we had NEVER been involved in money laundering investigations. Needless to say we queried the wording at some length but were assured by staff at the Skipton Head Office that the wording was correct, and a requirement of the PRA (Prudential Regulation Authority at the Bank of England) although they admitted not particularly user-friendly!!

We are also delighted to report that monies donated to the Cumbria Archive Service have been used to purchase records and archives of the Howards of Corby Castle. And do please read the item on the grant made to the Regional Heritage Centre of Lancaster University (see article at top of this page).

Many thanks, Lorna

PS: Send any subscription cheques to me at 24 Pennine Way, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 8EE

Useful Information

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From the Chair

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would have to sit down and write an article about a national emergency, but here we are right in the middle of the biggest peacetime emergency that the country (and indeed the world) has ever faced. At the time of writing the country is virtually in lockdown and I hardly need tell members that all archives and libraries have been closed. However, things may change between the time of writing and you reading this Newsletter. To keep up-to-date the link to Cumbria County Council is: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries-archives/covid19.asp>.



There is always the temptation at times like these to throw up one's arms in despair and bewail the fact that one can no longer just blow into an archive centre to do research. However we can also look upon this time as an opportunity to sort out all the notes that we have gathered in research; to pinpoint where we need to verify facts or sources; to search Cascat to see if there are other lines to follow; to write up what we already know. Now is the time to do all the things that we always said we would get around to doing but always found an excuse to put them on the back burner so to speak. For me the first thing I have tackled is making a catalogue of my local history books. Until now most have been stored in my loft in boxes with appropriate titles such as Roman, Transport, directories etc. but now that I can see them displayed on shelves, I can't help but pull a volume off the shelf and say to myself 'I'll just check such and such now'. So far I'm at number 1209... and counting.

I have also decided that because I am of a certain age that need to gather up the all the family history odds and ends that I have accreted in over 40 years of research. I owe it to my grandchildren and great grandchildren to say the least. The fact that I could 'pop my clogs' if I contract Covid-19 after having being diagnosed with heart failure in February has brought home to me that I will not live for ever and that much needs to be brought to a conclusion. This will be my next big task.

So far I have identified 21 projects that are either unfinished or need to be updated in the light of new information that I have come across since they were first typed up. I find it quite exhilarating re-reading the old texts; it is like meeting old friends and a warmth of rekindled memories floods in. Another thing that I have done is sorted through all the back copies of FoCAS Newsletters that I hold both from the time when I was Newsletter Editor and from previous editors. I am clearing space so if you would like any particular copy, please let me know. Having scanned every Newsletter since issue No1, I can also send a copy of any of these by email.

Looking towards brighter times I can tell members that there are moves afoot to have a consultative group for the archives for the first time since the massive cuts which took effect in January 2016. The exploratory meeting was to have been held in March and has obviously been cancelled but the threads will be picked up when we return to normality. If any member of FoCAS would like me to raise any relevant points, I shall be pleased to do so.

Finally, let me wish everyone a safe and healthy time in the coming months.

Chester

Deadlines for copy for the *Newsletter* are:

1 April (May edition); 15 August (September edition); 1 December (January edition)

**The Editor welcomes contributions to the *Newsletter* from FoCAS members
Articles should be in the region of 500 words (preferably with illustrations)
Articles on members' own research interests are particularly welcome**

Please contact me at: jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com

Following the news that Cumbria Archive Service had received accreditation from the National Archives, FoCAS chairman, Chester Forster sent a message of congratulations to Cumbria Senior Archivist Robert Baxter and received the following reply:

Dear all,

I'd like to thank you very much indeed for contacting me about the news of the Archive Service receiving Archives Accreditation for the second time. It is much appreciated in these difficult times. Those of you who may have explored The National Archives' web pages on Accreditation will have some appreciation of the work required for an application submission. I shall be very pleased to pass your kind remarks on to my colleagues.

The Council's Comms Team have offered to do a media release on it later this week. Naturally it's likely to be buried in all the virus related stories but I'm hoping it may make for a small piece of good news amid the public health and economic gloom. The National Archives have also offered us a meeting or conference call to discuss the feedback from the Accreditation Panel. They have also offered us a certificate presentation event later this year once Covid has receded which I hope may make more of an impact.

Although all staff are having to work from home at present, I am happy to report that we have (in line with TNA guidance) been permitted to return to Archive Centres to carry out premises checks, strongroom environmental monitoring and related tasks. We are currently making arrangements to do this at each site. I am in Kendal at my mother's house for the duration caring for her as she qualifies to be included in the extremely vulnerable category of people.

I hope you all keep well and looking forward to seeing you all again later this year.

Best wishes

Robert
Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist, Cumbria Archive Service

News from the Cumbria Archive Service

Service-wide News

Closure – COVID-19

FOCAS members will be aware that our Archive Centres closed on Friday 20 March until at least Friday 1 May 2020. We intend to review the situation at that point and make a further announcement on a possible re-opening date. Staff have been instructed to work from home. In order that we follow COVID-19 lockdown guidance produced by The National Archives for archive repositories, we have secured arrangements with the Council for certain staff to carry out checks of our premises and we shall continue to conduct environmental monitoring of our strongrooms. A number of colleagues in archives and libraries have volunteered for temporary redeployment by the Council during this crisis period and will be working in the Council's contact centres offering advice and arranging services and assistance for the County's most vulnerable people.

The Archives Card: replacing CARN reader ticket scheme

We are one of some 40 local authority and higher education archives which have subscribed to the new Archives Card scheme, produced by the Archives and Records Association (ARA). This replaces ARA's CARN (County Archive Research Network) ticket scheme. The CARN scheme has been in operation since the 1980s and is not compliant with recent Data Protection legislation. As a purely paper-based system it does not allow easy or quick retrieval of information on users, nor does it allow researchers to amend their own details. ARA has withdrawn support for CARN with effect from 31 March 2020. Accordingly we intend to transition to the new Archives Card in 2020 after staff have been trained in the new system and we have the required ICT equipment in our four Archive Centres. We shall honour existing CARN tickets until the new scheme is in operation at which point we shall ask researchers to register for the new Archives Card. We shall inform users on progress of these changes on our webpage at:

https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/archivecentres/readers_tickets.asp

We encourage FoCAS members who are researchers (and indeed all our users) to find out more about the new Archives Card and register their application at www.archivescard.com

Cumbria Archives User Group

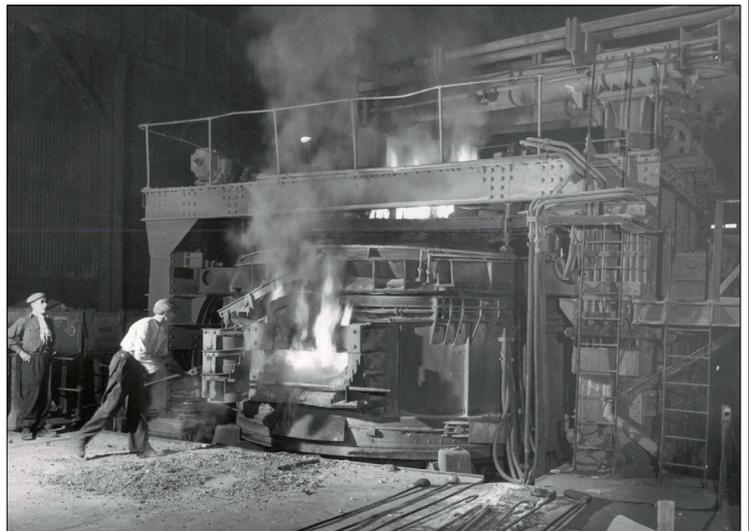
The Council's Archives Advisory Group last met in December 2016 and was discontinued under the Council's last revision of its constitution, which reduced the number of committees and ad-hoc bodies. We have realised, after holding informal meetings with our local stakeholder user groups, that there is still a need for a formal body to act as a forum for our stakeholder bodies and individual users (both researchers and depositors). We intend to invite users to attend an annual group meeting, similar to those held by Cheshire Archives and Lancashire Archives. We hope this will provide us with an opportunity to present our current and future projects and service plans. It will also be important for us to receive the views and ideas of our most committed users for improvements and enhancements to our services. We intended to hold the first meeting of this group later this year and we shall inform FoCAS members when we are able to arrange a date, depending on the re-opening of normal service post-Coronavirus.

New addition to Digitisation Team

It's Monday 5 August 2019 and I'm driving to Carlisle Archive Centre to start my new job as digitisation technician for Cumbria Archive Service. I live in the Scottish Borders so it's quite a long journey but I'm reflecting on the much longer journey I've taken since my first job at Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath. I studied photography at Napier University in Edinburgh, then worked as a commercial photographer with advertising and design agencies primarily specialising in architecture and interiors. After several years I was successful in gaining the post of photographer at City of Edinburgh Council based at Central Library. They had an ambitious outlook regarding their archives as the digital frontier opened up in the mid-nineties. I was in charge of the photographic and digitisation processes at City of Edinburgh overseeing major archive transfer from analogue to digital working with the National Libraries of Scotland and National Museums of Scotland as part of cross organisational work to produce websites where our respective collections overlapped. My previous architectural and interior skills were put to good use as part of the position was to photograph the beautiful city in all weathers and seasons. Hanging off the top of a 150ft monument about five times in mid-February to get the desired shot was a particularly challenging task! Olympic flames, celebrities, politicians, royalty, authors, bank vaults, funeral parlours, parades, city festivals all passed in front of my lens as a recorder of the City.

Then the National Trust for Scotland presented an opportunity for me to take part in an ambitious project called Reveal. This two-year project across the five geographic areas of Scotland was to provide the Trust with a fully digitised and up to date catalogue record of all items in its possession (estimated in the region of 200,000 items). As one of two photographers in the East region team we had the enviable/unenviable task of photographing over 80,000 items held in the East properties. This was monumental in terms of organisational workflow and communications but we completed the project two months ahead of schedule and on the way worked with everything from mummified cats to 16th century Chinese perfume bottles.

After letting my camera cool down I now find myself working at a productive but more measured pace at Carlisle Archive Centre. I have been here for six months now and have been settling into the wealth of material that the Centre holds. Funded for two years by British Nuclear Fuels Limited, the main focus of the project is to digitise the British Steel Corporation's (BSC) archive of Workington steel works. Many of the negatives date from the earliest construction of the plant until the late eighties and include some breathtaking images of workers in the Personal Protection Equipment of the day (waistcoat and flat cap!) on floating cranes or next to a Bessemer containing molten metal. The social history of the area is revealed through workplace images, portraits of the employees and the leaving parties of long-serving employees. This archive provides a rich resource that illustrates the area's



Electric Arc Furnace, Workington [1930s], YBSC/22/2/1/40

long association with BSC which will ultimately be available to view online. I recently attended a symposium organised by the National Museums of Scotland which focused solely on the value of digital collections and collecting. I can see that Cumbria County Council and the Archive Service are well placed to capitalise on the benefits of digital collections online. I am really enjoying being part of the developing importance of the digitisation team with Francesca and Guy. As I write this importance is thrown into focus with the impact of the coronavirus closing down so many opportunities for the public to access original physical items meaning that digital collections for public viewing are vital.

Kevin MacLean, Digital Technician

Coronavirus in Cumbria: documenting the pandemic in our county

We are asking people to assist us in recording the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Cumbria for future generations by doing the following:

- Writing about their experience of the pandemic: this may be about single memory or event; in the form a diary over several days or weeks, or a creative piece (story or poem)
- Taking a photograph which shows how the pandemic has affected them or their community in Cumbria
- Producing an audio or video recording about their experiences
- Collecting leaflets/flyers/posters or similar digital content from local government, schools, local businesses, local voluntary or community organisations which provide information about closures, changes in operation, social distancing and efforts to help vulnerable people.

The intention is to create a community archive of Cumbrian pandemic-related records, which will be catalogued, preserved and ultimately made available for research. We hope this could in due course complement official records relating to the pandemic which may be transferred to Cumbria Archive Service.

Further information is available on the 'Latest News' page on our website at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives>

Carlisle Archive Centre Round-up Community Outreach

Carlisle Archive Centre held the inaugural 'Down Your Way' Discovery Evening on 10 March and for the first of the series the focus was on Harraby. What better place to start our series, given that Carlisle Archive Centre has been based there for almost ten years. A range of records were on display, which reflected the residential development of the area and the activities of the community, from the 1930s to the present. There was a small selection of records relating to Lady Gillford's House. This gave rise to tales of playing in the grounds as children and watching the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in the kitchen, at a time when very few people would have had a television set. The evening was attended by 53 people, several of whom had been lifelong residents of Harraby and some were visiting the Archive Centre for the first time. One of the main aims of our Discovery Evenings is to appeal to audiences that may not have previous involvement with archives, as well as those who are more familiar. We are pleased to welcome everyone.

On 4 March, we hosted a group from the Ladies' Fellowship from St Adian's Church, Carlisle. The group were given a tour of Lady Gillford's House and the archive facilities before having the opportunity to view a display of records relating to St Aidan's Church and the surrounding area. Highlights of the display included correspondence between the Bishop of Carlisle and the new incumbent of the parish, Reverend FLH Millard, dating from 1921. Rev. Millard had been issued with an order to occupy the house purchased by the Diocese as a vicarage for St Aidan's Parish; however, it had been impossible for him to do so, due to a certain Miss Geldard, a lady of some wealth and possessing a maid, being reluctant to move out! There were also some records of the County High School for Girls, including photograph portraits of four of the headmistresses, some appearing rather stern, dating from the late 19th century to 1959.

Accessions

A selection of the highlights from recent accessions:

- Christine Boyce, Stained Glass Designer. Full set of cartoons for the Norman Nicholson Memorial Window, St George's Church, Millom, 1998-2008 (DX 2278 Accession: H15034)
- Aerial Photographs of Cumbria. Large-scale aerial photographs (42 prints) of Cumbria (Alston and area to the south and west of Penrith); 1:2500 scale, produced for Ordnance Survey, 1968 (DX 2382 Accession: H15045)
- Roundthorn Estate, Penrith, title deeds and papers, 1767-1928 (DX 2408 Accession: H15135)
- Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society excavation photographs and other papers, relating to work undertaken by Dorothy Charlesworth, in Carlisle and on other sites (two ring binders), 1966-1976 (DSO 1 Accession: H15103)
- 'Penrith Remembers' Project, 2014-2018. Heritage Lottery funded project. Bound volume, signed by relatives of those who died or served in the First World War. Oak box of papers (poems, stories, souvenir newspaper, journals) produced by the project participants (DSO 467 Accession: H15096)

Cataloguing

The British Library and Manchester Archives collaborative 'Unlocking our Sound Heritage' Project is enabling us to make available a number of oral history collections, which were previously not accessible in the searchroom or online. Carlisle Archive Centre holds five significant oral history collections which have recently been catalogued or are in progress and are to be included in the project:

- Cumbrian Voices Spoken History Project, 2012-2016. A collection of 50 recorded life-story interviews with a diverse range of Carlisle and Cumbrian residents, made by the late Roy Martin, who worked as a sound engineer for the BBC (DX 2102)
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust High Fell Project, 2000-2010. A collection of 57 oral histories, describing changes in the landscape before and after World War II. Memories of people who lived and worked in the High Fell area, including their interaction with other people, wildlife and the landscape (DSO 313)
- Hidden Stories Shared Lives, 2017. Oral history recordings of 51 people who were born outside the UK but now live in Cumbria. Interviews explore the reasons why they left their country of birth (DX 2361)
- Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, 2014. 'Talking Tales' community based, intergenerational project exploring the history of theatre in Keswick. Includes 46 sound recordings (DSO 215)
- OutREACH Cumbria, 2016. Part of LGBT Cumbria's 'Celebrate' project. Interviews with 34 people from the LGBT community in Cumbria (DSO 418)

A selection of other collections recently added to CASCAT:

- Langwathby Parochial Foundation and Poor Charity. Including: Langwathby Church of England School, [1960]-1983; Minutes of meetings of the Langwathby Charity Trustees, 1908-1973 and Survey of Rents, [1604] (DSO 299)
- Cumbrian Co-operative Societies, 1872-2005. Historical records relating to the Co-operative Societies in Cumbria, including minutes, photographs, correspondence and papers. Research for publication *The People's Store* by Jim Lamb on the history of the Co-operative Societies in Cumbria, including research notes, photocopies and draft text (DB 132)
- Cumberland Women's Institute Markets, 1958-2008. Minute books, committee and Annual General Meetings, publications, correspondence and financial records. This collection chronicles the establishment of the WI markets in several locations around the county, their operation and eventual decline (DSO 157/16)
- Photographs of Alston. A delightful collection of photographs of Alston scenes, people and businesses (The Black Bull, later Victoria Temperance Hotel; H Stephenson, Grocers; Golden Lion Hotel; Collin Bros Garage; J and C Tatters Garage), school class groups; Alston Show; a garden party and tennis party. 1880s-1950. The collection also includes two booklets: Centenary souvenir booklet for the Kearton family (1978) and Alston Show centenary catalogue (1946) (DX 2340).

Louise Smith, Archivist



Photo Captions (above). Left: DX 2340/2. A group outside the Victoria Temperance Hotel, Alston, in 1922. Right: DX 2340/23. A view of Front Street with shops fronts and staff.



News from Kendal Archive Centre

Recent accessions at Kendal include:

- Kendal Castle Women's Institute, 1994-2018 (WDSO 188)
- Parish Magazines, 2007-2009 (WDX 2009)
- South Lakeland Magistrates' Court, 2001-2007 (WTPSSL)
- Oxford Archaeology North: Royal Hotel, Burton-in-Kendal: Archaeological Evaluation, 2019 (WDSO 185)
- Sedbergh Congregational Church, 1822-1945 (WDFCC 9)
- Cautley and Dowbiggin School, 1877-1896 (WDS 32)
- Scrapbook of Jones Taylor of Kendal, 1823-1874 (WDX 2010)
- Eden Heritage Archaeology and Heritage Services: Wetheriggs Pottery, Clifton Dykes, Penrith, Historic Building Recording Report, 2019 (WDSO 46)
- Greenlane Archaeology Ltd: various heritage statements and reports, 2010-2014 (WDSO 338)
- Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line newsletters, 1989-1994 (WDX 2011)
- Saint Philip Howard Roman Catholic Chapel, Glenridding, 1970s (WDFCRC 5)
- Kendal and District Trades Council, 1985-2002 (WDSO 325)
- Posters: Westmorland events and attractions, 1970s (WDX 2012)
- Gawith, Hoggarth and Company Limited, 1987-2006 (WDB 13)
- Arnside, St James Parish, 2000-2012 (WPR 39)
- Kentmere Hall: Archaeological reports, 2019 (WDX 2014)
- Burton in Kendal, St James parish, Mothers' Union, 1954-2000 (WPR 10)

Continued overleaf

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This quarter's accessions at Kendal range from archaeological reports to parish records. A welcome addition to our collections was a further deposit of records of Gawith, Hoggarth and Company Limited of Kendal, tobacco and snuff manufacturers (WDB 13). Tobacco and snuff has a long history in Kendal, and Kendal Brown snuff was famous the world over and ranked alongside two other eponymous products of the town, Kendal Mintcake and Kendal Green. The accession brings our existing collection more up-to-date and includes incoming letters 1987-1990; copy letters 1988-1992; lists of leaf removed from store 1994-2006; steaming lists 2001-2004; lists of quantities of twists 1994-2004; recipes, flavours and ingredients; lists of tobacco leaf from bond 1990s; snuff tin labels; floor plan of Lowther Street premises for fire safety purposes; stock taking lists c.1980s-c.1990s. We collected the records from the old company headquarters on Lowther Street in Kendal and it was a treat to see the interior of the premises which contained some items of the trade including snuff tins and machinery, aromas associated with snuff and tobacco, and a rather Dickensian office.

Anthony Hughes, Archivist

News from Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies Centre

New material at Whitehaven Archives

Latest accessions include:

- Title deeds and papers for Eskdale Mill, Boot, 1737-2018 (YDEC 20)
- Skirting and Whangs Beck Egremont Flood Risk Scheme - archaeological evaluation and working papers, Dec 2018 (YDSO 39)
- Deeds relating to the Friends Meeting House Whitehaven, 1916-1931 (YDX 95)
- Copy photographs of military buildings, Border Regiment No 8 Company and Coastal Defence Battery guns at Bransty with sketch plan of battery, undated [1940s, 1990s] (YCOP)
- St Bees Parish Council minutes, 2003-2016 (YSPC 21)
- Various references, Workington Local Studies material, including Workington Arts Club and Film Society records, 1948-1966; Workington Rotary Club photograph albums; Workington County Technical and Secondary School Old Scholars' Association minutes, 1924-1945; Workington Book Club annual reports and minutes; Public Library reports, accounts, correspondence and plans; Workington St Michael's church rate, 1837, and poor rate, 1841; Workington 1st Shopping Week Committee members photographic montage, 1923; Private street improvement works, with a list of adopted back lanes, 1930s; Photographs of royal visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Bessemer Steelworks, 1917; Photograph of ex-regular soldiers who served through Second Boer War and the Great War, [1950s?]; title deeds for messuage in Moot Hall Lane, Workington, 1764; The Chrysalis, Workington Mechanics Institution, Sep 1849; Carnegie Hall plan, 1915
- Letters and other papers of an Old St Beghian, 1916-1918 (YDS 60)
- Friends of Egremont Castle Association collection, including minutes, photographs, correspondence, accounts, records of projects and events, research papers, 1980s-2017 (YDSO 188)
- The Gatehouse, Calderbridge - Archaeological building report, 2018 (YDX 439)
- Clifton St Luke, marriage register, 1977-2015, service registers and PCC minutes (YPR 40)
- Borough of Workington copy of award of common lands, charters, charities and benevolent institutions (SMBWO)
- 'The Dora Waltz', printed sheet music composed by Robert McLauchlan of Moor Row, 1914 and Guidebook to St John's Church Waberthwaite, 2019 (YDX 694)
- Montreal C of E School prospectuses, 1993, 1994 (YDS 58)
- St Mary's Primary Catholic School, Kells governors' minutes, 24 Mar 1993, 1 document (YDS 114)
- J and C Walker's map of Cumberland electoral divisions and hunt territories, undated [post-1850] (YDX 695)
- NES Windscale and Calder Works News, 1960, and annotated photographs of machinery at Windscale site, undated [late 1950s?] (YBNFL)
- Photographs of scenes from 'At the Coal Face: The Cumberland Story' film, [1940s] (YDX 707)
- Letters relating to William Furness of Wasdale Hall and Seascale Hall, on iron ore mining (at Red Tarn, Langdales and Whitehaven), local railways and property, 1860-1865 (YDX 696)
- Local Studies Library - Atom and other UKAEA and BNFL magazines, 1976-2004
- Cleator Moor Cooperative Society Jubilee calendar, 1908 and Roll of Honour employee volunteers who served in the Great War [c.1919] (YDB 37)
- Order of Discharge from Bankruptcy for Hugh Paterson, Whitehaven, 1863 (YDX 697)
- Workington County Grammar School speech day programmes, 1950s (YDS 53)
- Marchon photographs of staff and an incident on site; internal publications, c.1970s-1998 (YDB 59)

We are also pleased to have received a small amount of 18th and 19th century material relating to the Christian/Curwen families of Ewanrigg and Workington Hall (DCU). This formed part of the Howard family of Corby Castle accession purchased recently by the Archive Service with funds kindly provided by FOCAS and reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. We shall write further on these papers when catalogued.

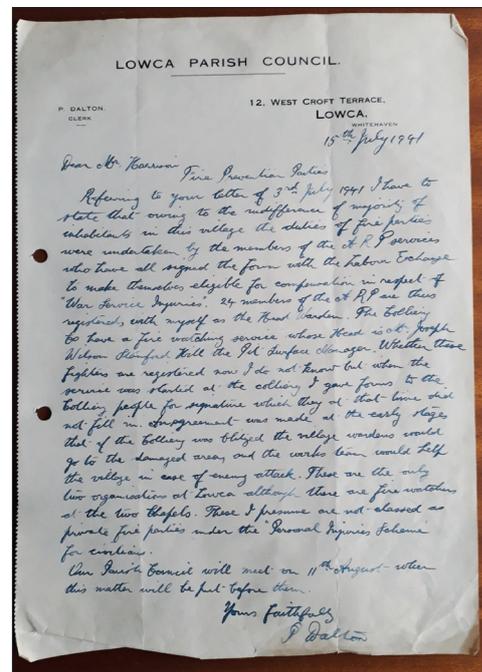
Recent cataloguing

Work has continued on the records of the National Coal Board, particularly the abandoned mine plans and on pre-1974 urban and rural district council minutes. Further Waugh and Musgrave solicitors' records have been listed including deeds for Dovenby, Gilcruix and Tallentire and imported into our archive software. Over 1700 new entries are available to browse on CASCAT. Recently we have been working through a large, diverse collection from Workington Library which has featured the Book Club, Rotary and the Arts Club and Film Society as well as Ordnance Survey maps for the town and surrounding area. There were also two church rate books for Workington St Michael which filled a gap in our holdings for this parish.

We have done further appraising and cataloguing of more pre-1974 local authority material (mainly files of council clerks and surveyors) at our outstore. One unlisted find of particular note was a file relating to Air Raids Precautions fire prevention activities in Ennerdale Rural District Council (SRDE/1/3/2/156) from December 1940 to April 1945. While mostly comprising many official circulars from various Government ministries and regional civil defence bodies, there are also interesting items of correspondence relating to the local Fire Guard Service. These include inquiries by the Council to parish councils within its territory on their arrangements for fire-watching parties. Also present are papers relating to orders and distribution of important items of required equipment such as steel helmets, stirrup pumps and practice bombs. In 1943 there were 240 fire guards in Ennerdale RDC of which four were women. These include fire prevention arrangements for buildings of special historical and artistic importance – Ponsonby Hall and St Bees Priory. The file finishes with peace in Europe approaching, marked by the relaxation of fire guard duties and the collection of equipment.

Outreach activities

In early December, Whitehaven Archives played host to ten children from the local area. The group were given an insight into the Heritage sector with a tour of the strong room, an introduction to the source material and a chance to research the history of Mirehouse housing estate, where the majority of the group live. Developing research skills was part of their week-long work experience placement designed by local councillor, Emma Williamson. We also gave a tour and introduction to the archives to a member of Millom Library staff and a county council apprentice.



We recently hosted another visit from Monkway Junior School. This time we gave the children a behind the scenes tour of our strongroom. A favourite on this tour is a viewing of the Great Seal of King James I on Letters Patent of 1609 within the Curwen of Workington Hall collection. But sometimes we think the children are more impressed that our strongroom was formerly the range of cells of the old Whitehaven Police Station. As you can see from this photograph it was not exactly like the police cells you see on TV today!

Since the start of the year, Whitehaven has seen an increase in attendance at its Discovery Evenings. These have been on family history and pubs and ale houses. We plan to host a family history evening on a regular basis, where visitors will be able to use the resources on the search room shelves and on microfilm, ask questions of staff and see a selection of original genealogical sources. The scheduled event on 'Memories of Marchon' and a

book launch for *Get Lost: in the Ancient Trackways of the Lake District and Cumbria* will be rescheduled.

In other news, we were delighted to hear that one of last year's work experience students has chosen to apply for the Master's degree in Archives and Records Management and we wish her well.

Captions. Top: Letter from P Dalton, Clerk of Lowca Parish Council, to the Clerk of Ennerdale Rural District Council, noting 'the indifference of the majority of inhabitants' to fire prevention duties, 15 July 1941 (SRDE/1/3/2/156). Bottom: Cell no 1, old Whitehaven Police Station, 1988 (YSCONS/1/4/18)

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist
Diane Hodgson, Archivist
Jacqueline Moore, Community Services Officer

News from Barrow Archive and Local Studies Centre

Building work started in December 2019 and will last until autumn 2020. As with any building project, things haven't always gone smoothly but there is progress. As I write this, the new fire escape from the upstairs room (Furness Museum until 1990s) is being put in. This comes over the roof and down into the car park by the back door of the Archives. New meeting rooms are being built into what the library called the stack: several floors of Dexion shelving and staircases used for storage. Of course everything that was there has had to be disposed of or stored elsewhere. A new fire escape from the staff workroom will be put in. Staff have had to put up with a lot of change and noise. The Archive workroom is now a temporary library staff room and most of the Local Studies books have gone into the basement. The Archive and Local Studies Centre will be closed for about two months, supposedly in June and July. We will put the closing dates on the website when we know.

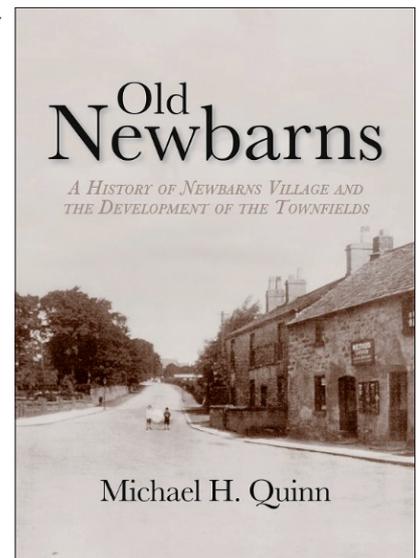
Among the items we have received since January is a photograph album compiled by Able Seaman Samuel Byron Webb of Barrow-in-Furness while serving on HMS Medway and HMS Curlew. Webb visited China, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Java and Singapore while on HMS Medway and Greece, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and North Africa while on HMS Curlew. Included are several photographs of executions of people in China and the funeral of Able Seaman Ernest Slayford in Hong Kong 1935. (BDSO 158/22)

The latest book to be launched at Barrow Archives was *Old Newbarns: a history of Newbarns Village and the development of the Town fields* by Michael Quinn. Mike has spent hours in the Archive Centre looking through the many documents, photographs and maps we have on the village. According to the book Newbarns was once an 'obscure village in a remote corner of England' but 'from its earliest history a community full of surprises. By rights the Village should not exist but it does due to the Abbot of Furness. One interesting character born in the village narrowly avoided the gallows after being charged with forgery. The village can boast that for a number of years it had its own Mayor and Town Council which met regularly in the Farmers Arms, or Town Hall. Two winners of the Victoria Cross lived in the village as did Sir Jonah Walker-Smith MP.' Mike has produced a very detailed and well-illustrated book. Anyone wanting a copy can email barrow.archives@cumbria.gov.uk and we will pass the email to him.

Signal Film's project 'Looking at the North with Sankey' has now started and the volunteers are taking part in workshops to guide them before they undergo research. The Archive Centre ran two workshops recently to familiarise the volunteers with the Archive Centre.

Susan gave a talk to a group at the Methodist Church in Dalton on the work of the Archive Service after everyone, including Susan, had spent 30 minutes doing chair-based exercises. We have run a session for Year 3 from Greengate Junior School when they visited the Centre and looked at maps, documents and photograph relating to Victorian Barrow. Susan also visited South Walney Junior School to run a session on Art in the Archives. The Centre has a number of paintings and drawings including sketchbooks belonging to George Romney (1770s); paintings by Abel Masson (c.1900) and pencil sketches by Ben Lones (1940s and 1950s). The children used colour copies of the art but had a chance to look at the originals.

Susan Benson



Researching refugees in Cumbria

The plight of refugees has been in the background of much of our news for many years now, and it has been good to learn that Cumbria is playing its part in welcoming refugees from Syria and elsewhere at the present time. Learning more about Cumbria's current response led me to wonder how our county responded to the refugee communities that came to live in our county in the 1930s and early 1940s. When I started investigating I knew that some central European refugees had settled on the west coast and started up a number of industries in that area. I also knew about the artists Kurt Schwitters and Hilde Goldschmidt in Langdale and assumed that the county would have hosted some Jewish refugees from Nazism, but beyond that I knew little. As happens so often when you ask an historical question, a whole new world opens up – and that has certainly happened with this enquiry. Much of what has emerged has come from records held by Cumbria Archive Service and from our local history libraries.

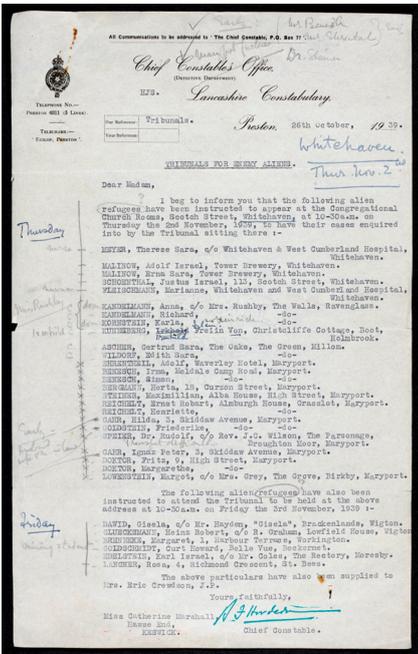
There is of course quite a large volume of research on the refugees of the 1930s nationally, but as is so often the case, it tends to be London-centric. So what happened in Cumbria? My first surprise was to discover that during the Spanish Civil War some 4,000 children from the Basque provinces came to Britain in order to remove them from the expected bombing of Bilbao following that of Guernica. Cumbria welcomed over 100 of these youngsters and they were housed in hostels at Brampton (converted from the workhouse) and Ambleside as well as in religious communities in Carlisle and Wigton. Most lived here from 1937 to 1939, some remained during the war and a few stayed in Britain for the rest of their lives. Our local newspapers are an excellent source of information, but there is also material in The National Archives and at the People's History Museum in Manchester about Cumbria's response.

Michael Stephens at Carlisle Archive Centre (CAC) alerted me to the less well researched part of the Catherine

Marshall archive (CMA) that is kept at Carlisle. Catherine Marshall is best known for her suffragist work, but after the First World War she turned her attention to international organisations and in the 1930s to refugees. In the late 1930s she opened her house at Hawse End to refugees from Czechoslovakia, especially political refugees from the Sudetenland which Germany occupied in late 1938. She accommodated anything up to 20 refugees in her house and as the records show, she was totally immersed in issues relating to their welfare. Hawse End was not the only hostel established for Czech refugees, there were others in the Windermere area, at Patterdale Hall, at Caldbeck and at Edmond Castle, near Hayton. There is a file about the latter in CAC.



During 1938 and 1939 large numbers of refugees from Austria and Germany, many Jewish, arrived in the county. Evidence for them lies in records at the archive centres, in oral history transcripts, as well as in sources associated with the Cumberland Development Council, the West Cumberland Industrial Development Company and west coast industries at Whitehaven and Carlisle archive centres and in various runs of refugee and internment record cards kept at The National Archives. A cluster of refugees who lived in the Ambleside area became famous and appear in books written about them. However perhaps the most extensive source is the CMA as Catherine was appointed Liaison Officer for the Enemy Alien Tribunals that took place in the autumn of 1939. All 'enemy aliens' had to appear before these tribunals and CMA contains her records for the Whitehaven Tribunal. Few such detailed records have survived anywhere in the country. These documents allow us to learn much about the refugee community in west Cumbria.



Catherine Marshall's assistant was Mary Crewdson, a town councillor in Kendal who features extensively in the Minutes of Kendal Town Council (kept at Kendal Archive Centre) and also in the *Westmorland Gazette*. Not only was she involved in the tribunals, but she managed the Czech hostels around Windermere and at Patterdale Hall.

An interesting figure in Ambleside was Clara Boyle, a Jewess from the German-Polish border area who had married a British diplomat and lived in Ambleside along with her mother. After the death of her husband she became engaged in rescuing her family and friends from Germany, all of which is documented in her archive at Kendal Archive Centre. Her mother Ida Asch gave German lessons in Ambleside, and according to the Ambleside Oral History Group transcript of my mother's interview, she was one of her students!

As well as these major figures leading Cumbria's response to the refugees, interestingly all women, a large number of other people and organisations were involved at this time. Transcripts from Kendal and Ambleside oral history archives contain useful references to refugees and organisations helping them, the role of the Quakers emerges from records related to Colthouse at Barrow Archive Centre, and the Friends School at Wigton at CAC. Information on refugees taken in by the Freshwater Biological Association at Wray Castle is in their archive, and substantial records about Cumbria's Jewish refugees exist at World Jewish Relief in London. Working through these records has shown that for the most part, the people of Cumbria in the 1930s were as welcoming as they are today. As in recent times people and communities were operating on a different trajectory from government – the former provided sanctuary, the latter created a hostile environment.

CWAAS will be publishing my book *A County of Refuge: Refugees in Cumbria 1933-1941* in the summer. If any member would like further information when it is available please email me at r.david49@btinternet.com and I shall ensure that you are sent a flier.

Rob David

Captions. Right: Catherine Marshall (CAS(C): DMAR10/1. Top left: Hawse End in 1939 (CAS(C): DMAR10/8. Bottom left: One of a number of annotated lists of those attending the Whitehaven Enemy Aliens Tribunal, 1939 (CAS(C): DMAR6/5 (All photographs courtesy of CAS)

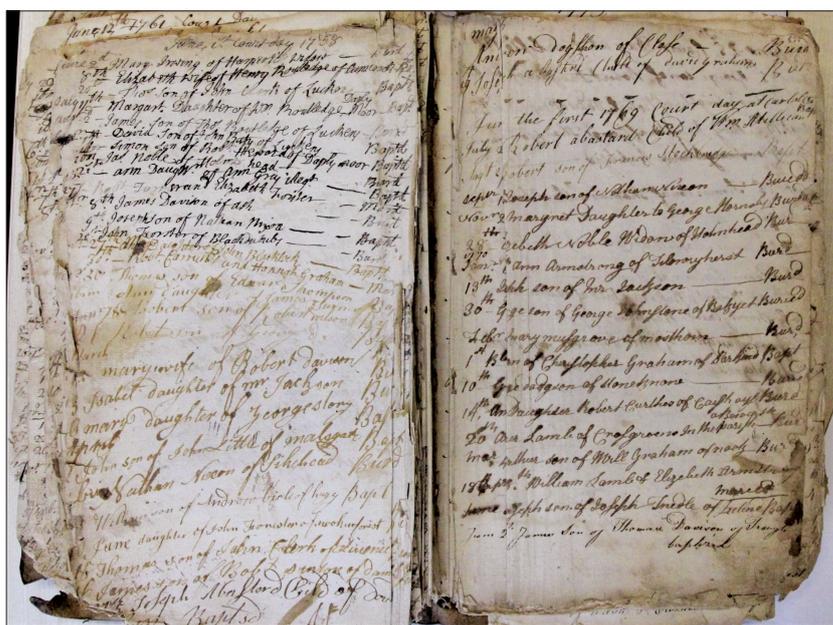
The problems of being a transcriber

When I started earnest research some 42 years ago, I began by trying to trace my family history and was immediately grateful to the dedicated souls who had tirelessly transcribed parish registers, bishop's transcripts and many other documents. Can you imagine today how limited your research would be if you had to search every original document? Family research would grind to a halt and anyone wanting to research the medieval period would have to be conversant with Latin and Norman French.

It is the transcribers and indexers who have saved the day for many of us. In family history there is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) who have assiduously transcribed and indexed millions, if not billions of names. While not everyone can agree with their motives (they baptise all names and induct them into the Mormon Church), the benefits to genealogists are profound. The medieval and early modern records of England have been transcribed and calendared for the last 150 years by an army of learned historians and are now at our disposal in the several hundred volumes in the Calendar of State Papers.

At Carlisle Archive Centre (CAC), one of the parishes not yet transcribed is Stapleton in the far north of the county. This is particularly galling for me as many of my Forster ancestors had originated there and I had more than a passing interest in the history of the parish. Some work on this had been done by Helen Cunningham of CAC who intended to produce a comprehensive transcription. However, her effort ran out of steam and I determined to finish her work - which is when the problems began.

Normally, on a parish register, it is a straightforward job to transcribe either the parish registers or the bishop's transcripts and compare them before publication. If only it were that easy at Stapleton. The earliest records at Stapleton are the bishop's transcripts which start in 1665 and continue, erratically, with many gaps into the 18th century. The parish registers begin in the early part of the 18th century so, one would naturally start with the first register. However, this is not the first register chronologically as it starts in 1771 and goes through to 1812. The second register contains BMDs from 1725 to c.1771 and is deemed to be a copy. Register three covers more or less the same period but starts in 1732 and is said to be the original first register. The problems start here because registers two and three are at variance in their entries - both contain entries that are not extant in the other. Just to add spice to the situation these registers also contain entries that are not found in the bishop's transcripts and these also have entries that are in neither register. Now those whose eyes have not yet glazed over will realise that register two (which is deemed a copy) starts a few years before the original register, i.e. in 1725, not 1732. This means that this is either the original register or that it was copied from another register which is older than anything now in CAC.



With me so far? Well, the situation would be bad enough but there are further problems.

At some point the clerk decided he would adhere to the directive of the bishop in 1772 and separate the births, deaths and marriages. So he started the deaths at the back of the book and logically one would expect the entries to meet at some point in the middle. He proceeded to work towards the front of the book with the deaths but later changed his mind and started to enter the births and deaths in year order from somewhere in the middle of the book. As space in the book ran out any available space was used up but not in any chronological order. It is hardly surprising that in this 'jungle of jumble' it can quite easily take half an hour to pinpoint a single entry, using gravestone transcriptions, bishop's transcripts, the other registers, vestry minutes etc. Oh, and then there is the execrable handwriting, the alignment of entries, the incursion of black mould, damp, fading ink etc. ... but what else would you expect?

I am fortunate to live only half a mile away from CAC but I also live about the same distance from what used to be the Cumberland and Westmorland Lunatic Asylum (The Garlands) and I sometimes wonder, as I leave the house, in which direction I should be walking!

I have now reached the heady date of 1820 and everything seems to be plain sailing but for the volume to be complete it needs a comprehensive index. Lockdown during the coronavirus epidemic may see me beavering away for countless hours of endless fun but it may just happen that the men in white coats will be coming to take me away.

However, can I make a plea: next time you are in an archive centre and stretch to pluck a transcription off the shelves, spare a thought for the transcriber who has toiled to make the whole thing intelligible.

Chester W Forster

The perils of seeking to enforce the law against poachers – in 1776

Fortunately surviving as a contemporary wrapper for a series of unrelated recognizances amongst the archives of Cumberland Quarter Sessions for its Easter 1776 Sessions is a stray record of the conviction of Robert Hudson for stealing a coney from Edenhall Warren, near Penrith (Carlisle Archive Centre, Q11 1776 / 1/31). Appearing at Penrith on 31 January 1776 before three local JPs, including Williams Hasell of Dalemain, Christopher Dobson of Edenhall, the long-serving Steward of Sir Philip Musgrave's extensive estate, reported that the day before, Hudson, a yeoman, late of Beck Mill in the parish of Kirkland, 'being an idle, disorderly person laying aside his lawful trade and employment', had entered Edenhall Warren, 'then and long before lawfully used and kept for the breeding and keeping of conies [adult rabbits]'. He had taken and killed a coney of the value of 6d, against the wills of Sir Philip, the owner, and Thomas Cartwright, the occupier (lessee). A week later, Hudson pleaded not guilty before the three JPs but, on the credible sworn witness evidence of James Dawson, yeoman, late of Edenhall, he was convicted, being ordered to pay Cartwright treble damages and costs and being imprisoned for three months 'and after until he shall find sureties for his good abearing', penalties laid down by an Act of 22 and 23 Charles II as noted in the JPs' manual, the Revd Dr Richard Burn's *The Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer*. Thomas Cartwright, who spent the summer, as a brickmaker, at Plumpton, returning to Edenhall in the winter to look after the warren, was one of the three lessees of the warren, the others being William Nelson, a haberdasher of hats, of Carlisle, and James Dawson of Longtown.

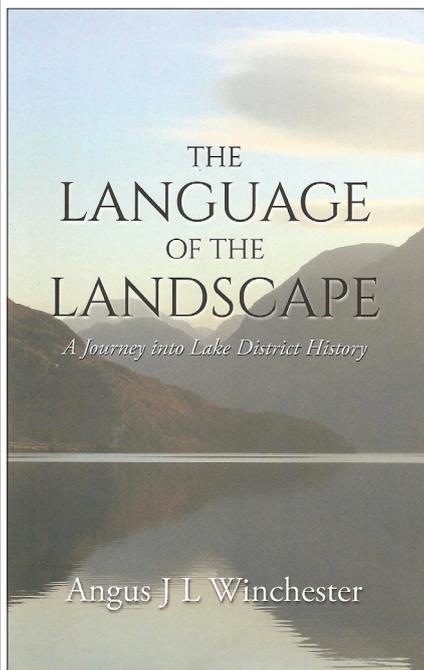
A somewhat different outcome was reached two months later when the Quarter Sessions considered a serious case of affray in Edenhall Warren. As Christopher Dobson reported to Sir Philip Musgrave, at about 8 p.m. on 13 January 1776, with snow on the ground, Thomas Cartwright and Thomas Lewis of Penrith had found Joseph Green of Carleton and his son, Thomas, aged about 15 years, in the warren with two half-bred lurcher dogs (Carlisle Archive Centre, CBME box 242). Lewis, on the instruction of Cartwright, fired at one of the dogs and the Greens launched an attack on both men, Thomas Green wielding a long iron piked stick. Between Michaelmas and Martinmas the previous year, while carrying a couple of rabbits to Carleton Hall, James Dawson had met Joseph Green on the road and been warned that if they presumed to shoot a dog of his he would either kill or be killed.

When on 19 April 1776 Quarter Sessions considered this case of affray, the Grand Jury found a Bill (a case) in favour of the Greens but quashed the Bill which had been presented on behalf of Cartwright and Lewis, even though Mr Hudleston, in his charge to the Jury, had advised them only to find for the Bill which seemed the better supported. As Christopher Dobson reported the next day, 'no body could be guilty of more barefaced particularity than they' [the Grand Jury], hardly suffering 'our people' to speak, the Foreman of the Jury having the insolence to tell Cartwright that he believed Sir Philip Musgrave had no right to a warren, Dobson observing that 'he seems to have been very well taught and is Sir J -- s's standing Foreman every Sessions'. The interests of the Musgrave family had long clashed with those of the Lowthers, even before the era of Sir James Lowther (later 1st Earl of Lonsdale). Though the legal case was held over to the next Sessions, Dobson feared that there would be serious expenditure before it was resolved and that in the meantime the affair would increase the number of trespassers 'and your people will hardly venture themselves out in the night'. Looking to the local press, *The Cumberland Pacquet* and *Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser*, for a report, one finds that the issue of 25 April 1776 simply noted that the General Quarter Sessions had ended at Carlisle 'which continued longer than the usual time though not much business of consequence was transacted'.

Sir Philip Musgrave was advised by his London attorney to remove the trial of Cartwright and Lewis to the Court of King's Bench with a view to it being tried at the Assizes; he supposed that the quashing of the indictments against the Greens had been principally based on the denial of his right to a warren. In due course copies of the subsequent Quarter Sessions indictments against Cartwright and Lewis were obtained from the Clerk of the Peace and made available, together with their Informations against the Greens, to a Carlisle lawyer and then to Sir Philip's London attorney. Though Sir Philip was not willing to hurry the process, writing from his Kempton Park home on 23 May 1776 he felt that the trespasses on the warren would never lessen until some of them had been made an example of, hoping that 'the threatenings of Green to Dawson will have great weight in the pleadings on the action'. The lack of surviving correspondence between Dobson and Sir Philip at this crucial time renders it uncertain how the action was finally concluded; the records of King's Bench and the Assizes, held by The National Archives, Kew, might provide the answer. In his letter of 18 January 1777, Sir Philip simply records that he has received the bill of his London attorney and that, though he has not looked over it, he 'cannot say it rises higher than I expected'.

Adrian Allan

Angus JL Winchester, *The Language of the Landscape – A Journey into Lake District History* (Handstand Press, £10)



In recent years there has been a surge of interest in understanding landscape change through studies of how landscape features have been named. Robert Macfarlane's *Landmarks* has done this on a national scale with a smattering of Cumbrian examples; Richard Skelton has written about the naming of the landscape around his home in High Furness in *Beyond the Fell Wall*, and members of the Rusland Horizons group (helped by Angus Winchester) have focused on the field names to learn about the past in their area of study and which are described in the intriguingly titled volume *Feather Bed and Shive of Cheese*.

So one might imagine that, in writing this book, Angus Winchester is entering an already crowded field. However that would be wholly wrong. Angus brings two advantages to his *The Language of the Landscape* that few others could achieve. The first is his affinity with his chosen area – the Buttermere valley, the land 'upstream from the low country around Cockermouth'. Angus opens the book by writing: 'This is the story of a particular place, somewhere I have known and loved almost all my life, which has got under my skin and keeps drawing me back'. It is this that makes the book so special. Angus's regard for the area and his familiarity with every fell, beck, coppice, road, track, bridge, and even every field, as well as his knowledge of the inhabitants, many of whom he met earlier in his life, shines through on page after page. The second advantage is that his is the voice of the professional historian. His knowledge of the sweep of history and of the minutiae of the historical landscape of the Buttermere valley and many places

beyond means that the patterns of life in this area come alive in every period of history. One senses that Angus has been collecting the material for this book throughout his life and squirreling it away for this *magnum opus*. The result is a book that adds immeasurably to our understanding not only of his chosen area, but every corner of the Lake District.

This reviewer cannot wait to take his bicycle, walking boots and copy of *The Language of the Landscape* to the Buttermere valley to follow in the footsteps of the author. One thing he will do however is to take his 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map of the area, as the one weakness of the book is the reproduction of the maps which are too small, especially for elderly eyes, to read. At £10 the book is extremely good value, but it would be even better value at £15 in a larger format with enlarged maps.

Rob David

Transport of Delight - Rutherglen to Windermere

This is the tale of a fairy queen, not a sylph-like, flighty and animate little thing, but the tale of how one of the first steam yachts to sail on Windermere arrived on the Lake.

The Fairy Queen was built in 1860 by T.B. Seath & Co. of Rutherglen, a beautifully slender, fast and slippery lady, 8-tons of iron, 60-feet in waterline length. She was commissioned by the newly-arrived young resident of Fell Foot, George John Miller Ridehalgh, a Captain in the Windermere Rifle Volunteers and a founder member of the Windermere Sailing Club (it had not yet acquired its Royal title). The immense task facing him now was how to move the yacht from Glasgow to Westmorland and launch her on Windermere. The roads and railways of the day were entirely unsuited to transportation of such a load, overland for 160 miles.



Caption: The very elegant steam yacht Fairy Queen on Windermere at the old Ferry Inn, in 1860. Photo from an original glass plate negative, now in the author's collection. (© Ian Jones)

On Thursday 29 March, under her own power, she steamed smoothly down the Clyde, watched approvingly by many spectators. In two hours she passed Greenock, en route for Ulverston. All went well as she progressed southwards along the Ayrshire coast, past Paddy's Milestone, around the Mull of Galloway and into the Irish Sea. But as she reached Furness and Morecambe Bay a gale blew up and she lost a couple of days taking shelter. A week after embarking, on Thursday 5 April she completed her sea voyage 'satisfactorily' at the Holker Hall estate, to commence the final few miles of the journey to Windermere. Unsurprisingly things did not run smoothly.

At Parkhead, Fairy Queen was floated, complete with engine, on to a specially-constructed wagon with front and rear

wheels 30 feet apart, leaving an awkward overhang of 15 feet at each end. A team of 25 horses was hired for this most arduous stretch of the journey, to drag the wagon through the narrow un-surfaced lanes of Cartmel. After less than a mile, at Bigland Scar a reinforcing plank on the track was shattered, and the horses became exhausted attempting to release the huge load from the mud. The following day a new and larger team of 30 horses succeeded in moving the wagon and boat to Cark - where a vital wheel disintegrated. With a replacement wheel procured and fitted, the horses dragged and manoeuvred the huge load over undulating and rock-strewn tracks for the next two days, passing Cartmel, Field Broughton and Ayside, to arrive at Staveley Meadows. There, the wheels finally sank to their axles in the soft un-metalled ground, and the convoy was abandoned 'over Sunday'.

With the horses well rested, on Monday 9 April the wagon was extricated from the mud by supreme exertion of the horses and their drivers, and delivered to the Lake near Newby Bridge. There, Fairy Queen was finally launched two days later into her home waters. On Thursday 12 April, a fortnight after leaving Glasgow, she was propelled again under steam and screw propeller for her commissioning trial on Windermere - in miserable weather conditions.

For the next 20 years Fairy Queen graced the Lake, acting as timekeeper, umpire and spectator boat for the summer racing season, accompanying the wonderful 20-foot Class of Windermere yachts. In 1880 she was purchased back by Seath, when Ridehalgh, now a Major in the Volunteers and four times Commodore of the Windermere Yacht Club, replaced Fairy Queen with an even more majestic steam yacht named Britannia. The boathouse which had served his first steamer so well had to be extended to accommodate the extra length of Britannia, 100 feet on the waterline. That building survives today and is open to the public, alongside the café at Fell Foot Park. **Ian Jones**

Cumbrian Lives ***a.k.a. The Dictionary of Cumbrian Biography***

Cumbrian Lives was established 22 years ago and was revived recently. The aim is to produce a searchable database of historical figures with names, dates, occupations, locations and bibliographical information. Those included must have achieved something important, useful or interesting within the boundaries of the new county. They need not have been Cumbrian born, but they should have lived for a significant time in the county. We are also accumulating the names of national figures who have visited, even briefly. The database will include all those already written up for the ODNB with a cross reference to those volumes.

We are constantly asked about the criteria for inclusion. This is a thorny subject, but it seems to us that the key thing is advocacy. If a researcher is prepared to select and put together a biography of decent quality, that should be sufficient justification for inclusion. As we know from the successes of the mass observation and oral history projects, the most unlikely subjects are often the most fascinating. Each entry will in any case be edited and peer reviewed.

The overall project is in three phases:

Phase One: Identification of suitable historical individuals

Phase Two: Writing up of biographical key points and bibliographies [when available]

Phase Three: Research and writing up of complete lives which are not already in the ODNB.

Contributors are asked to flag up their interests in advance to avoid duplication of effort.

Progress to date:

Phase One: A long list was produced in the early stages of the project.

Phase Two: Richard Hall and David Cross have produced biographical key points and bibliographies of more than 2,000 lives. Richard Hall has generated the lion's share of this.

Phase Three: A number of lives have now been completed and edited. Kevin Grice has completed five judges, including Lord Forster of Harray. Jean Warburton has written up George Ridehalgh of Fell Foot. David Cross has written several artists' lives and is working on Ophelia Gordon Bell (pictured below). Rob David is about to write up 'a polar related life'.

Website: A website has been designed and will be launched soon. This will enable local historians and other enthusiasts to add names not already listed.

Future Progress:

We are keen to encourage FoCAS members to choose and write up a subject of their choice. The ODNB editors have been consulted and are keen to include the most significant new lives in their online dictionary. Their website has links which lead to assistance and guidance for researchers and writers.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact David Cross via dcrossart@gmail.com



Windermere Arctic Charr, *Salvelinus Alpinus*

Much research has been done on Windermere's arctic charr. These fish are now in serious decline for a number of reasons such as the increase in temperature of the water, dropping oxygen levels, climate change, increase in phosphates and the rise in the population of roach. There used to be only three or four species of fish in Windermere, there are now 12, adding to the destabilisation of a delicate eco system.

The charr have been written about for many centuries. In 1719, for instance, Daniel Defoe writes about potted char. There are the familiar potted charr dishes with the fish depicted swimming around the outer edge of the dish, the average size being about 10 inches in diameter and an inch high. These dishes were used to convey the delicacies to the various London food outlets including Fortnum and Masons. Various local people have charr dishes and there are some in Cumbria's museums.

The fish used to be netted by the local fishermen until the practice was banned in 1924 due to over fishing. Two rods and lines are now used. The lines are typically about 90ft. long to reach to the colder parts of the lake where the charr are more likely to be present. There are about four horizontal lines off the long line to reach other levels in the lake. Rowing boats are normally used for trolling for charr, with the rower keeping up a slow movement forward to prevent lines from entangling. Once an enormously lucrative business, there were three cobbles or fishing areas in the lake with the larger estates in control of licences. The rights for the Lower Cobble used to be held by Storrs Hall, the Middle



Rayrigg Hall charr pond where the straight line for the jetty area is obvious and perhaps proving that the pond is partly artificial

one by Rayrigg Hall and the Upper one by various people including Calgarth Hall. There are complex Cobble papers showing the areas fished by different people. Charlotte Kipling, a statistician at Ferry House (HQ of the Freshwater Biological Association), wrote papers on the spawning grounds and commercial fisheries of Windermere.

The main item of information which is missing relates to charr ponds. It is thought that the owners of these ponds had the fish caught in summer and put into the pond for the winter table, particularly where there was no ice house. There is a very good charr pond at Storrs Hall with a crenulated wall which matched the crenulated causeway to Storrs Temple. The causeway's crenulations were not replaced when the Temple's restoration took place in the 1960s. The Rayrigg Hall charr pond has a substantial 15ft long Brathay flag stone jetty at the edge of the pond presumably for mooring a boat in connection with netting fish for the table. There was evidence of an ice house at Rayrigg until the 1920s when it became dangerous and was dismantled.

There are various questions:

- Where was the charr pond for the Upper Cobble in the lake? Geographically, one would expect it to be at Calgarth Hall however there seems to be no evidence on the ground or in documents.
- How were these ponds used? Was it purely for the owners' winter table or was there a commercial element?
- How long were charr ponds used for? Calgarth & Rayrigg have papers which indicate dwellings in the 15th and 16th century as does Storrs Hall before Adam Storrs (1629-1702) owned it.

Image & text by Diana Matthews

James Theodore (Ted) Relph, 1925-2020

We note with sadness and regret the death of a long-time FoCAS member, Ted Relph at the age of 94. Ted lived all of his life, apart from teacher training in York and active wartime service in Burma and India, in Crosby Ravensworth. He taught at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School from 1953 to 1982 when he retired. He was fascinated by the Westmorland and Cumberland dialect and joined the Lakeland Dialect Society in 1964, becoming its President in 2013 and President Emeritus in 2019. He was one of 57 people interviewed for the Cumbria Wildlife Trust's 'High Fells' project (2001-2010). You can find more about Ted and his life at: <http://www.highfell.org.uk/>

Ted was a staunch member of FoCAS and attended AGMs regularly until a few years ago. May he rest in peace.

Photograph courtesy of Cumbria Wildlife Trust

