

FOCAS 114

May 2022



An employee operating a laundry machine at Isaac Braithwaite and Son, Engineers of Kendal, in the early twentieth century. See article from Kendal Archive Centre, p.13

From the Treasurer

It was suggested by a member of the Friends that it would be useful to remind members of the terms of subscriptions, so, briefly, here they are:

- ◆ Our financial and subscription year runs from January 1 to December 31
- ◆ Subscriptions are due on January 1 in any one year
- ◆ Reminders of arrears are sent out in the March following (There was some interruption to this practice during the Covid-19 interval but it has now been restarted)
- ◆ If no subscription has been received by June 31 of that year the member in arrears will be deemed to have forfeited membership and will be removed from the membership list.
- ◆ Current subscriptions rates are £12 for an individual, £15 for a couple/two persons living at the same address, and a society or group. Some members still pay at an old rate so I would ask that you check to see that you are paying the proper rate.
- ◆ Subscriptions may be paid either by cheque, sent to the Treasurer, or by Standing Order for payment on January 1 each year. Standing Order mandates are available on the website under 'Membership'. We would encourage this method of payment.
- ◆ Members can Gift Aid if qualified to do so and again Gift Aid mandates are available on the website – www.friendsofcumbriaarchives.com
- ◆ All subscriptions are banked with the Nat West bank and are used solely to benefit the charitable aims and objectives of the Friends.

All best wishes, Lorna

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)

Those related to members' current research interests are particularly welcome

**Please contact me at
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A message from the Acting Chair

For the next few months, until the 2022 AGM in the autumn, I have taken on the role of Acting Chair. The fact that we have had Lorna Mullett and Susan Dench as recent Interim Chairs, and now me as Acting Chair, does reflect the fact that a too-small group of Friends has been running FOCAS for the past few years and especially during the pandemic. Your committee would be very grateful if other members could step forward to become trustees and help keep the show on the road. The trustees meet three or four times a year, and at the moment, thanks to the Margaret Bainbridge bequest, we have quite a lot of money to distribute for the benefit of Cumbria Archives Service. Perhaps you can help us in make the right decisions.

The revitalised Events programme got off to a good start at Carlisle Archive Centre in February but the meeting was dominated by committee members. It would be good if other Friends became involved so that we once again establish a community of archive enthusiasts. A flyer advertising a third event at The Armit Library and Museum accompanies this Newsletter and we should enjoy seeing some new faces at that meeting. Our Members' Day and is set for Saturday 29 October.

2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the Cumbria Archive Service and its immediate predecessors. However, in researching the origins of our archives it has become apparent that it dates back to 1942 and the appointment of Madeleine Elsas as archivist in Carlisle, although the service took a somewhat different form at that time. During 2022 there will be various events and exhibitions to mark the 60th (or perhaps it should be the 80th) anniversary and these will be advertised to Friends as information becomes available.

I do hope to meet some of our members at these various events over the year.

Rob David

FoCAS Events Programme, 2022

**12 July 2022 at The Armit Museum and Library, Ambleside
(2.00 - 4.30) see separate flyer with this Newsletter to book**

**Unfortunately the event planned for Barrow Archive Centre
has been postponed**

**The Members' Day and AGM will take place at Carlisle
Archive Centre on Saturday 29 October 2022**

Archives of the Borderlands: Interim Report

In 2020, the Friends of Cumbria Archives generously awarded a research grant to me and my colleague Dr Sophie Ambler, also of Lancaster University's History department. The grant is enabling us to undertake a feasibility study for future research into the major family archives of the border areas of northern England (Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumberland). The grant derives from Margaret Bainbridge's legacy to the Friends of Cumbria Archives and we are very pleased to acknowledge the importance of this funding in enabling us to take forward the research work.

The archives of the great northern 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. Yet large parts of the collections remain uncatalogued and little explored, even by academic researchers. 'Archives of the Borderlands' is seeking to remedy this by exploring possible avenues for cataloguing, investigating and showcasing these archives. The first phase of our research involves a feasibility study to gather information already in the public domain concerning the relevant archives across the three counties. We are also conducting more detailed research involving three case studies (the archives of the Lowther family, earls of Lonsdale; the archives of the Howard family of Naworth; and the archives of the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle). Given our background as medieval historians, our research has focused especially on material dating from the 11th to the 16th centuries, but we hope that the study will be of more general interest.

The feasibility study was initially delayed on account of the pandemic, but in November and December 2021 we were able to employ two accomplished Research Assistants (Dr Simon Harris and Dr Lisa Liddy) to undertake archival work using digital resources, and to conduct research in person at the Carlisle Archive Centre (Cumbria Archive Service) and at Alnwick Castle. They also conducted a series of interviews to set the samples of material that they had selected for study in a wider context. One of the aims of this first phase of work was to test how long it would take a researcher to gain a more detailed insight into the collections, and to gauge the level of variation both within and between collections in terms of the existing catalogues.

The initial phase of research is enabling us to produce a guide to information currently in the public domain concerning the relevant archives, including current cataloguing schemes, references to the relevant volumes of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (including links to volumes that are available online), antiquarian records, calendars and works of secondary literature that cite these collections. We hope to make this report available in a user-friendly format on the FoCAS website by the end of this year. The research for our three case studies has provided information that will help us to shape a future research project grant application to the UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) funding bodies. Prior to that we envisage some more specific initiatives, such as a pilot project to test digital methods of showcasing and analysing the material.

We are very grateful to the owners of the three archives for allowing this work to go ahead; to the archivists who have provided assistance; to other historians who have offered advice; and, of course, to the Friends of Cumbria Archives for funding the work. We look forward to reporting further early in 2023, following the end of this initial phase of research.

Dr Fiona Edmonds, Lancaster University



Image: The archives at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, hold material relevant to Cumbria (Photograph: Phil Thomas via Wikimedia Commons)

FoCAS Events Programme, 2022

1: Research in Cumbria's archives

Those present at Carlisle Archive Centre on 25 February for the first in a new FoCAS series in which researchers speak about the archives they have used were provided with an illuminating master class, delivered with verve and enthusiasm, by Dr Chris Donaldson and Dr Rob David.

Originally hailing from Pennsylvania Chris Donaldson opened our eyes to some of the archives relating to America to be found in Whitehaven and Carlisle Archive Centres. Highlighted was a letter from Benjamin Franklin, scientist and representative of the American colonies in London, who had been written to by Humphrey Senhouse of Netherhall, Maryport, in the hope that the electrical machine he had developed might provide him with some relief in his hearing loss. Another letter was from the emancipated former black slave, Frederick Douglass, who made very well-attended speaking visits to Cumberland in 1846 and 1847. In the opposite direction, travelling from Liverpool to America in 1865, the many letters Jeremiah Whittaker wrote to his sister provide illuminating detail about the impressions the Americans and their way of life had on him. The fourth of the archives that Chris highlighted was the remarkable, at present unpublished, day book of 1861-66 which Charles Aglionby (who inherited Nunnery) maintained, chronicling his experiences observing the course of the American Civil War, etc.

After a tea break, which allowed us to view the archives that the Archive Service had kindly looked out and captioned, Dr Rob David explained how the deposit with Carlisle Archive Centre in 2021 of the extensive archives of the Roberts family of Boothby has very significantly widened our understanding of the story of the 100 child refugees, from the Basque region of Spain, who were cared for at Brampton from 1937 until the early 1940s. A leading role in the campaign to evacuate 4,000 children from Spain to Britain was played by Wilfrid Roberts, Liberal MP for Cumberland North. Rob has so far examined in the region of 300 letters documenting the Brampton Hostel (housed in the converted Workhouse) in which the children, aged between 6 and 16 years, were accommodated; these letters in particular document the funding of the Hostel, dependant as it was on voluntary donations, the parents of Wilfrid Roberts, Charles Roberts and his wife, Lady Cecilia Roberts, being instrumental in the campaign, Charles as Treasurer of the Hostel. On display was a selection of the correspondence concerning fundraising for the Hostel, also associated publications, including Dr David's *A County of Refuge: Refugees in Cumbria 1933-1941* (CWAAS, 2020) whose chapter on 'the Little Basques' in Cumbria he acknowledged would now have to be supplemented by a paper based on the Roberts family archives. Rob had recently recorded the recollections of Carlisle-resident Mrs Carmen Eckersley (nee Cid) aged 92, one of the children housed in the Brampton Hostel, and a copy of the recording has been deposited with the Archive Centre. It is to be hoped that Cumbria will be as generous in its support of those from Ukraine who, as refugees from their country's brutal invasion by Vladimir Putin of Russia, seek sanctuary in this area.



Text by Adrian Allan, photo by Sarah Wood

2: Visit to the Dacre Library, 7 April 2022

Those members of FoCAS fortunate enough to visit the Dacre Library on 7 April as part of the 2022 FoCAS Events Programme were introduced to a private library which contains a comprehensive collection of publications on the History and Topography of Cumbria and the Lake District.

The collection, which was begun by the present owner's parents in the early 1970s, continues to be added to on a regular basis - the main sources being auction houses (both local and throughout the UK), PBFA and other book fairs, and the internet. However, the preferred method of purchase is from second-hand and antiquarian books dealers in real shops. It began as a collection of books and pamphlets depicting, in both words and illustrations, tours of and guides to the Lake District itself. Since then the collection has deepened and broadened to cover almost all aspects of Cumbrian history. It is a library of published works and not an archive of documents or ephemera.



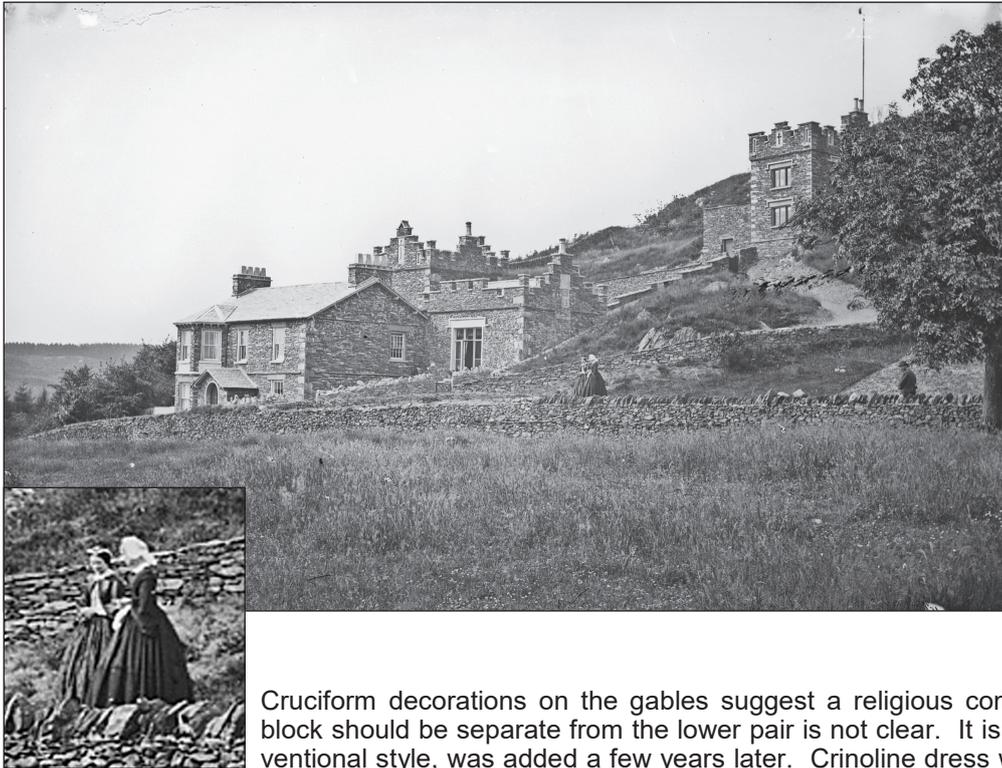
Books and pamphlets cover all things from [before] 'Romans to Railways' [and after]. The publications of a number of learned and other local history societies are also included. Many topographical works are lavishly illustrated with aquatints, engravings or etchings. Biographies, family histories, memoirs and genealogies are well-represented in respect of those either born or taking up residence in Cumbria. Other subjects include industry (rural and urban), transport, agriculture and the development of fell-walking and rock-climbing. Most places have their own parish or town histories along with the principal county and district directories. There are also many unusual items of local dialect and fiction with a Cumbrian setting.

Members were introduced to the collection which is organised into subject areas occupying various parts of the house. Those interested in particular publications or topics were able to find them easily as the collection is comprehensively indexed. We were invited to explore the collection at will and members dutifully scattered themselves amongst their more favoured parts of the collection. I found myself drawn to a superb collection of biographies partly hidden under the stairs as well as the tour guides – which included some interesting 20th century publications.

Our thanks go to Tim Sykes for his generosity in opening up this superb collection to FoCAS members and to Rob David and Lorna Mullett for making the arrangements for what turned out to be a fascinating afternoon.

Text by Jean Turnbull, photo by Lorna Mullett

Mystery House Revealed



Mark Brennand, the Historic Environment Officer at County Hall in Kendal, identified Mystery Photo FU01 as 'Sawrey Knotts', and this has set me off on some interesting research.

On the evidence of a date stone, it seems that the three castellated blocks in the photo were built in 1861, on a fell side previously known as Sawrey Knotts. They were erected for Robert Scarr Sowler QC, a Manchester barrister, and his wife Frances. The ease of rail travel from their home near Bolton to Windermere was making weekend retreats in the Lake District popular among wealthy off-comers from the industrial hinterland.

Cruciform decorations on the gables suggest a religious connection, although why the third block should be separate from the lower pair is not clear. It is likely that the villa, of more conventional style, was added a few years later. Crinoline dress worn by the ladies on the lane in the photograph suggests that it was taken around 1870.

Sited 1/4 mile higher up the hill there was another landmark known as 'Sowler's Tower', possibly a folly. Flags were flown there as part of the Sawrey village celebrations to mark the marriage of the Prince of Wales in 1863. And again in 1887, it was the site of a village bonfire to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The Sowers were church-going people. In 1867 Mrs Sowler laid a foundation stone containing a time capsule, during the building of the nearby Church of St Peter, where they were major benefactors. When Robert Sowler died in 1871 his wife continued to live at Sawrey Knotts for another eight years, until her own death. Thereafter, it passed to her two sisters during their lifetime.

In 1889 and 1890 Sawrey Knotts was let to Edmund Potter, cousin of Beatrix Potter; and to William Gaddum, his brother-in-law, who built a coach house and loose box for horses, although he never owned the place. A decade later the Gaddums completed Brockhole, now the National Park Visitor Centre overlooking Windermere Lake. The Sawrey property remained in the hands of executors for almost a decade. But although it was frequently advertised to let, usually for several months at a time, it was often unoccupied. In 1899 the last of the Sowler sisters sold Sawrey Knotts together with 23 acres of land.

The new owner was William Denham Grimshaw, a wealthy calico printer from Accrington. It was probably he who carried out a major reconstruction of the house in 1901, doubling the size of the villa to include a large dining room and kitchen on the ground floor, and a lounge on the first floor with fine elevated views to distant Windermere. The Grimshaws commuted frequently, enjoying Sawrey Knotts over the next two decades, until Mrs Elizabeth Grimshaw died in 1920, and her husband's death three years later. The probate value of William Grimshaw's estate was the equivalent of about £8 million today. Their daughter, Mary Grimshaw, inherited and continued to live at Sawrey Knotts until 1939, a neighbour of Beatrix Potter at nearby Hill Top Farm.

Today, Sawrey Knotts is a guesthouse.

Ian Jones

Castle Howard : its art collections and archives

In the course of compiling the bibliography of recent publications on Cumbrian history and archaeology that he contributes each year to the *Transactions* of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Dr Michael Winstanley has drawn the attention of FoCAS to six essays on the collections of Castle Howard to be found on the *Art and the Country House* website, <https://www.artandthecountryhouse.com/> which readers of this Newsletter will also be interested to read :-

Helen Brett, Martin Myrone, Mark Searle, 'Home and Away: Joshua Reynolds's portrait of Frederick, 5th Earl of Carlisle', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHE527>

James Legard, 'Castle Howard before and after the 5th Earl of Carlisle: the evidence of the 1759 and 1825 inventories', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHE525> [includes downloadable pdfs of the inventories]

Martin Postle, 'Frederick Howard, 5th Earl of Carlisle as a collector of contemporary British Art', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHES526>

Christopher Ridgway, 'Antiquities at Castle Howard', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHES524>

Christopher Ridgway, 'The "Orleans Room" at Castle Howard', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHES528>

Anthony Geraghty, 'Castle Howard: The architecture of the interior', *Art and the Country House*, <https://doi.org/10.17658/ACH/CHES523>

Through his arranged marriage in 1577 to Elizabeth Dacre, sister and coheir of the 5th Baron Dacre (d. 1569, aged 7 years), Lord William Howard (1563-1640), son of the 4th Duke of Norfolk, acquired the barony of Gilsland (including Naworth Castle) and the Dacre estates in Yorkshire and Northumberland. In 1661, his great-grandson was created Earl of Carlisle. The Yorkshire estate provided the site of Castle Howard, designed by Sir John Vanburgh in 1699 for the 3rd Earl (1669-1738); it took over a century to complete. Successive earls continued to own both Naworth Castle and Castle Howard until the early 20th century. George Howard, 9th Earl of Carlisle (1843-1911) was the last Earl to live at Castle Howard; a noted artist, many of his works remain there. On his death, he left Naworth to his eldest son and the rest of the estates to his wife, Rosalind, the 'Radical Countess', (1845-1921), for her life, with discretion to distribute them amongst their children after her death; Castle Howard thereby came to their eldest daughter, Mary (wife of Gilbert Murray, the eminent Greek scholar), who in turn passed it to her younger brother, Geoffrey Howard. Nowadays one of the grandsons of Geoffrey Howard is a director of the private company which owns and administers the estate.

Besides the many works of art at Castle Howard associated with and collected by the Earls of Carlisle, particularly the 3rd-5th Earls, there are their very extensive archives which concern their Yorkshire, Northumberland and Cumbrian estates and document their own lives and interests. Catalogued in six ring-bound volumes by Judith Oppenheimer, Castle Howard's first archivist (1976-81), the archives include 'old Dacre and Greystoke title deeds' of the 12th-16th centuries concerning property particularly in Cumberland, Yorkshire and Northumberland; surveys and valuations of property in Cumbria and elsewhere, 1396-1805; correspondence concerning Cumberland's Parliamentary constituencies, 1881-1900; and the correspondence of George Howard, 9th Earl (d.1911), and Rosalind, 9th Countess (d.1921), who took over the management of the estates in the 1880s and whose papers particularly reflect her prominent role in promoting women's political rights and the temperance movement both nationally and in Cumberland and Yorkshire. A copy of Judith Oppenheimer's catalogue of the archives at Castle Howard is held by the Archives and Special Collections department, Palace Green Library, University of Durham. Readers may well be aware that the Howard of Naworth archives, which were originally deposited with the University of Durham, were transferred to Carlisle Archive Centre a few years ago.

Adrian Allan

Farewell to Louise Smith

It was with sadness that in February FoCAS learned of the resignation of Louise Smith, Carlisle Archive Centre's longest-serving archivist, to take up an Information Governance post with the NHS at Leeds so that she might be closer at hand to look after her mother.

Louise joined the Cumbria Archive Service from Northumberland Archives in January 2008 and since then she has undertaken the full range of duties to support the Service at Carlisle. Whether it was meticulously entering details of new accessions in the accessions register, assessing and cataloguing collections, answering the many online and other enquiries the Centre receives, unobtrusively managing the searchroom, or promoting the Service to a wider audience through talks and displays, Louise, ever courteous and anxious to help, provided a service much appreciated by depositors and researchers alike. The personal and professional qualities she demonstrated and her experience in the management and exploitation of archives will surely be appreciated in her new post. Louise will be also be much missed by her fellow staff – and by the wider community, including Wetheral WI (of which she was Honorary Secretary) and the Cumbria Local Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association (of which she was Group Secretary).



It is to be hoped that sometime in the future Louise may be able to return to the archival fold; olim archivarius semper archivarius.

Text and photo by Adrian Allan

Early Days in the Cumbria Record Office (Kendal)

Monday, 3 November 1980. My first day in my new post as Senior Assistant Archivist, Kendal. I had just left the Chester City Record Office where I had been Assistant Archivist and Education Officer for the past three years. This was promotion and a move to a much bigger archive service. Or so I thought.

I was joining a well-established complement of staff in Kendal, Nancy Woof, typist and administrative assistant, Tom Burdett, handyman and general assistant, Richard Hall, Assistant Archivist, and Sheila MacPherson, Deputy County Archivist. The real seat of power of the Cumbria Archive Service was in Carlisle where Bruce Jones, the County Archivist, presided over the political and financial control of the Service. In reality we enjoyed a high degree of autonomy in south Cumbria, seeing very little of our colleagues in the north and we operated very much as a stand-alone, self-sufficient unit. Initially my time was mostly spent sharing searchroom duties with Richard Hall. Researchers would arrive randomly with differing degrees of archival experience and the most esoteric queries and it was a joy to get to know many of the 'regulars' and help them with their research. The favoured few researchers might aspire to be allowed to take their tea and coffee breaks with the staff. When it came to lunch, it was every man and woman for themselves. On my first day I had the temerity to ask where the staff canteen was, having enjoyed such an amenity in Chester. I was told that there was no staff canteen in Kendal and that 'most staff normally go home for lunch' which was a little difficult for me as my home was still in Warrington!

When released from the searchroom, I was encouraged to give talks about archives to local schools, groups and organisations. With the help of the staff at the Kendal Teachers' Centre (on the corner of Burneside and Windermere roads) I forged links with a number of local schools and, over the coming years, worked in collaboration with them to produce a number of educational packs and publications based on archives.

Foraging for records in the wilds of south Cumbria and beyond was another extra-searchroom activity that will live long in the memory. It often required getting quite dirty and was usually physically taxing, the highlights being the rescue of the records of Heelis & Heelis, solicitors, from their office in Hawkshead and the foray into Lancashire to snatch the archives of Thomas Mawson, landscape architects, from imminent oblivion from their garret storeroom in Lancaster. Mixed in with all of this fun was the day-to-day call to gather in ecclesiastical parish records from numerous churches all over the south of the County.



The old Kendal searchroom (photograph the Kendal Archives Centre)

Over time, the fruits of these labours became ever more apparent as the Record Office in Kendal became, like many other county record offices, a growing magnet for more and more researchers, academic and genealogical alike. Enquiries, postal, telephone and face-to-face, grew to such an extent that it was necessary to find better methods of meeting the demand. Through the introduction of a fee-paying postal research service in the late 1980s, the publication of a small number of research aids, e.g., *Cumbrian Ancestors*, and the establishment of FoCAS, the Service rose to meet the challenges of its increasing popularity.

When the Service was first established in 1962, the County of Cumbria was still a pipe dream. However, after its creation in 1974, concerted effort was made to reach out to areas which, through no fault of their own, found themselves part of this new county. Barrow in Furness was one such place. A temporary Record Office opened in Dalton in 1978 and moved to purpose-built premises behind Barrow Central Library in Ramsden Square in 1979. Staffed by just a solitary archivist, Brett Harrison, and a part-time secretary and administrative assistant, Marilyn Pidduck, the office opened to the public on a part-time basis. I was contracted to travel to Barrow one day each week to free Brett from of his searchroom and to enable him to forage for his own archival collections in the Furness area. It is to his credit that he managed to persuade the local shipyard managers to part with the enormous Vickers shipbuilding records then languishing in storerooms and drawing offices on Barrow Island. I had the pleasure of assisting with the cataloguing of many of these drawings adding to my arcane knowledge of ships' gun mountings.

All of the activities I have described now seem a part of a golden, long lost age. Pre the computer age and part of a pioneering and, dare I say, empire building era for the Archive Service. We had the sense that we were building something based on the heritage of the county and for the future generations of researchers. Sheila MacPherson, who succeeded Bruce Jones as County Archivist in 1986, embodied this vision, a vision I tried to promote further when I succeeded Sheila in 1992. Structures and faces have changed over the last seven decades but the archives are there still as lasting testimony to those who have endeavoured to rescue and conserve them and make them accessible for future generations.

Jim Grisenthwaite, Cumbria County Archivist 1992-2002

Memories of Cumbria Archive Service, 1987-2016

Cumbria Archive Service is 60 years old. Congratulations and Many Happy Returns! Being (only slightly!) older myself, I know how interesting it is to look back and reminisce about how much the world has changed.

I came to Kendal in August 1987 when Sheila MacPherson was the County Archivist. My overriding impression of working there was what a friendly place it was. There were plenty of characters (both amongst the researchers and the staff!) and it was always entertaining and interesting. I also enjoyed the fact that there were two other archive offices (later three with the opening of Whitehaven in 1996) which made for more variety, different perspectives and ideas, and an opportunity to meet a wider range of colleagues and researchers. The frequent trips to the strong-rooms to retrieve (often very heavy) documents also provided the equivalent of free gym membership. It kept us all fit when we weren't nursing our backs! I later went on to become Assistant County Archivist in 1992, responsible for the Kendal and Barrow offices, and then County Archivist between 2002-2016. The major changes I recollect in the years I worked for the Archive Service were the dramatic increase in visiting researchers, largely prompted by an explosion of interest in family history; increasingly imaginative ways of engaging schools and young people with archives; the introduction of electronic cataloguing and the availability of information on-line; and the construction of the new Archive Centre in Carlisle which opened in January 2012. The latter was certainly the most memorable project personally for me.

The former Archives Office in The Castle in Carlisle was a lovely and appropriate historic setting but it provided sub-standard accommodation which was also far too small. The cramped, uncomfortable searchroom was inadequate to meet public demand, and the rabbit-warren of poky storage areas offered no means of providing the cool temperature and stable relative humidity necessary to ensure the preservation of the archive collections. The need to do something about these problems had long been recognised and previous attempts had been made to find a solution. Things came to a head in the first couple of years of the 21st century because the lease for The Castle premises was due to expire and we knew that the rent would rise from a peppercorn to £100,000 per annum. Coinciding with this, in January 2002, The National Archives informed the County Council that the standard of accommodation was now so low that it would no longer agree to designate The Castle to hold records under the Public Records Act. The Council's Cabinet, after spending five minutes in the archive storage areas to see conditions for themselves, agreed that action needed to be taken but asked that we try to secure a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund to offset the costs.

The difficulty and cost of upgrading Grade II* listed premises inside an ancient scheduled monument soon ruled out the possibility of staying in The Castle. In 2006, after examining several options, the derelict site at Petheril Bank was chosen because the large grounds provided sufficient space for future as well as current needs. It also offered good road and public transport links. In addition there was an opportunity to restore the historic, early 19th century Lady Gillford's House as a cultural community centre to support our ambition of broadening the audience for archives. This proved to be the key to really engaging Heritage Lottery Fund's interest and helping to convince it to award a grant of £4.8m towards the £8m project costs.

Detailed design work started in 2007 and progressed into 2008. The aim was to provide a modern, purpose-built facility which met the British Standards for archive preservation and access. The strongrooms were designed so that thermal massing would naturally provide a stable internal environment reducing the need for expensive mechanical intervention to provide the optimum conditions to preserve the collections. The research rooms provided 80 spaces and we planned a large dedicated education room especially for schools and group activities. Both storage and public facilities provided for an anticipated 25 years of expansion space. We also wanted to relocate the Conservation team into a state of the art, purpose-built laboratory.

The restoration of Lady Gillford's House and the construction of the new extension for the main archive facilities started in early 2009 and took about 18 months. We accomplished the major task of relocating the archive collections into the new facility in the last three months of 2010, after several years of planning and packing up (nobly supported by a large team of volunteers). We opened to our researchers again during 2011 to test things out before holding the official opening with Sir Chris Bonington on 11 January 2012. For me, securing the funding, producing the design specifications and working as part of a multi-disciplinary team with architects, builders and engineers was certainly the most challenging and demanding – but ultimately rewarding – project of my career. It was a fascinating experience and I felt really privileged to have that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Looking back at the photographs of building Carlisle Archives has made me feel very nostalgic - and proud - so thanks for asking me to write this article and prompting me to do that.



I've enjoyed reminiscing. Overall, I'm reminded of all the fantastic achievements of Cumbria Archive Service and the dedicated and enthusiastic staff, willing to go the extra mile whatever the circumstances. I'd like to end by wishing Peter Eyre and all his colleagues every success in facing what I know are very testing current challenges. I believe the history of the Service shows that a way will be found of continuing to provide the best possible archive service in the Cumbria locality for many years to come.

Anne Rowe, County Archivist 2002-2016

Photograph: handing over the keys for the new Carlisle Archive Centre, FoCAS Newsletter, no. 76, p.6

News from the Cumbria Archive Service

Service-wide news

2022 is looking like another challenging year for Cumbria Archive Service dominated by the impact of Local Government Re-organisation. As I reported in the last Newsletter Cumbria County Council and the six District Councils will be replaced by two new unitary authorities, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness, that are a nod back to the predecessors of Cumbria County Council.

As yet we do not know what the impact will be on the Archive Service. Options include keeping the service together, as has happened elsewhere, or that each of the new authorities will host an Archive Service serving their areas. The May Local Government elections will elect members to two shadow authorities that will operate alongside Cumbria County and the District Councils. We expect to learn the immediate future of Cumbria Archive Service later in the Summer.

Local Government Reorganisation will be a major challenge for the Archive Service but we also have many positive developments to look forward to. In particular we are looking forward to the culmination of our Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project and the hosting of an access terminal at Carlisle where the public can listen to historic sound recordings from our rich and varied sound archive.

Cumbria Local History Federation are working with the Archive Service and an archives consultant, Kevin Bolton, to deliver a series of training days to support local history groups look after collections in their communities. This is an excellent opportunity for the Archive Service to reach out to communities throughout Cumbria and promote access to our collective written heritage.

We are continuing with developing our plans for marking the 60th Anniversary of the Archive Service. In particular work continues on updating this history of the Archive Service and Robert Baxter has worked with Rob David in unearthing more of the early story of the Archive Service from the 1940s and the first Cumberland County Council Archivist, Madeleine Elsas. Our archive centres are pulling together their plans for displays and events for the Summer and we will publicise these very soon.

We welcomed a number of new colleagues to Cumbria Archive Service. Helen Leech and George Platt have joined our Digitisation Team. Helen is working on a grant-funded project to digitise collections relating to West Cumbria's industrial history. George will be working on digitisation projects with a focus on Cumberland and Westmorland county collections. In March we were sorry to say goodbye to Louise Smith, who has been Archivist with us at Carlisle since 2008. Louise will be greatly missed by us and has taken up an Information Management post with the NHS in Leeds. We are looking forward to Kelda Roe joining us from the Mountain Heritage Trust in early May.

Peter J Eyre, Archives Professional Lead

Update from Barrow Archive Centre

Interesting accessions Jan to March 2022

BDX 880: Memories of Patricia Winifred Ireland (Boulton) of life on the Abbotswood estate (home of Sir James Ramsden and then his son, Frederic) when her grandfather, Stephen Boulton, was the gardener; Photo of Abbotswood House; sketch plans of the estate and of East Lodge and its gardens; photographs of the Boulton family 1883-1970s

BDX 882: Walter M Johnston collection: Lectures on various aspects of Cumbrian history with slides. Walter lectured in Cumbria, Lancashire and Oxford on antiques, art, writers and local history between 1960s and 2010. His collection contains transcripts of his lectures with slides and additional photographs, leaflets

BDX 883: Recipes for food and drink 1830s rescued from a skip in Bardsea. Includes recipes for food and drink as well a hair pomade and tooth powder

BDSO 177: Remember Barrow Soccer. Booklet containing recollections of Barrow AFC supporters collected as part of a project in 2021: <https://sites.google.com/view/remember-barrow-soccer/home>

Women's History Month

To celebrate Women's History Month, staff created an exhibition looking at women in work, women in local government and the work carried out by women during the First World War. The exhibition includes extracts from oral history interviews collected by Elizabeth Roberts, Alice Leach and the Dock Museum.

Update on Lighting column

The column has been taken to William Sugg and Company Ltd of Horsham, Heritage Lighting Specialists for refurbishment and to have the lamp replaced. The column will then be placed in the garden at the front of Barrow Library and will be lit.

Outreach

We have had visits from a new women's History Group (part of Women's Community Matters) called Chinwaggers who are interested in researching various aspects of local history. An art group based at Age UK and taught by Danielle Aspinwall (Adult Learning) spent an afternoon looking at photographs and newspaper articles documenting the various visit of Queen Elizabeth to Barrow and Furness. The art they produce will be displayed in the Forum. Members of Barrow Local Committee and Cando FM staff are working on new heritage trails and were interested to see documents relating to the new trails. Barrow Civic Society enjoyed a talk on the History of Barrow Library. We are getting more requests from local schools for sessions on various aspects of local history. Susan visited Croftlands Junior School in Ulverston and delivered three sessions (1.5 hours each) in one day on Ulverston in the 19th century. It was exhausting but fun!

Seeing the North with Sankey

This Heritage Lottery Fund project which has resulted in the digitisation and cataloguing of about 15000 negatives and postcards finished at the end of March. There will be a website with all the images. More details in a future Fo-CAS Newsletter.

Students

We have had a student, Beth, from Lancaster University working on the Covid 19 Community Archive as part of her undergraduate degree. She has catalogued the collection which will be uploaded to CASCAT.

Jessica, a newly qualified archivist has been volunteering with us one day a week. She has catalogued a number of small collections and is currently cataloguing our postcard collection.

Heather is a school administrator who is studying for an Archives qualification with Dundee University and comes in for one afternoon a week. She has listed small collections, but she is now working on an exhibition on Queen Elizabeth's visits to Barrow and Furness between 1956 and 1998. This will be on show from June 1 in the library.

Susan Benson, Archivist

My Time at Barrow Archives

As a history student at Lancaster University, I am surrounded by history every day. I have studied many periods and historical events, from the Romans to World War One, and so naturally it has been easy for me to forget to look up from my textbooks and notice the history being made today.

This changed when I was placed at the Barrow Archive, as a part of the placement scheme run at Lancaster. The purpose behind this was to expand my knowledge of work in the heritage sector and my main task was to catalogue an abundance of sources from the COVID-19 pandemic. These sources were kindly submitted by the people of Cumbria, with each individual contributing to the preservation of history in their own, unique way. It was my job to look at each of these contributions in detail and upload them onto the system at the Barrow Archive.

As I gradually made my way through the sources, it became increasingly apparent how we, as a nation, have lived through a historic event which no one will forget anytime soon. I have seen the fear, grief, hope, and unity which the pandemic caused, and how the past two years have affected every one of us in a range of ways. During my time at the Barrow Archive, I was also consistently reminded of how important archives are in the preservation of history.

Thanks to the contributions of the local people and the hard work of the Barrow archivists, historians of the distant future will be able to understand what life was like during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is even possible, that the sources I filed will one day be used by a student like myself for their own studies and they will also be reminded to look up from their textbooks and appreciate their place in history too. To play even a small part in this process has been a privilege I will always be grateful for. All I can say is thank you to the incredible people at Barrow Archives and thank you to the people of Cumbria.

Beth Wood



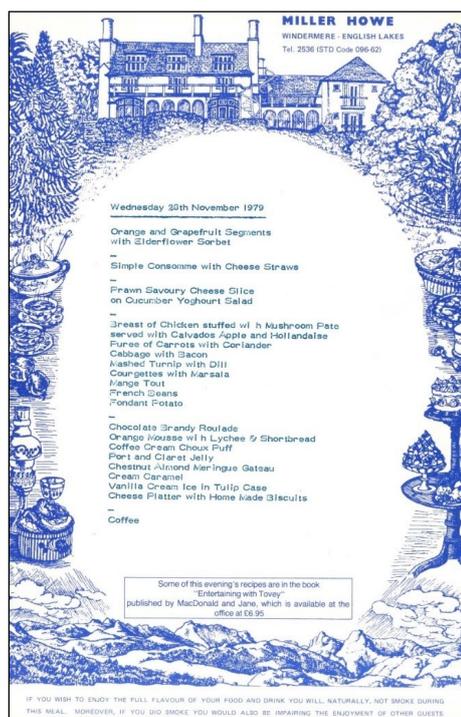
Above: a selection of submissions to the Barrow Archive Covid 19 Archive.

Image created by Susan Benson

Update from Kendal Archive Centre

Some recent accessions

- WDX 2047: Westmorland deeds and papers - deeds relating to Finkle Street burgages, Kendal, 1656-1803; deed relating to Highgate, Kendal, 1716; deed relating to Stricklandgate, Kendal, 1701; etc.
- WPR 54: Burneside, St Oswald Parish - parish magazines, 2009-2020; orders of service: for induction of Revd Nigel Lawrence Davies, 1991, for Queen's Golden Jubilee, 2002; papers and correspondence, 1990-1996
- WDSO 416: Eden Heritage Archaeology and Heritage Services - West View Farm, Temple Sowerby, Historic Building Recording Report, 2021
- WDX 2048: Women's Lives on Record - seven interviews with women from South Lakes/ North Lancashire regarding their working lives - Anne Mathieson, Dorothy Swarbrick, Gillian Price, Mary Searle-Chatterjee, Penny Henderson, Rita Gerrard, Roz Ivanic, 2020-21
- WDEC 49: Save the Children Fund, Kendal Branch - minutes 1957-2008; AGM minutes and secretary's reports 1958-2008; secretary's correspondence 1972-1984; scrapbooks 1960-1999; photograph albums 1980s-1990s; etc.
- WPC 80: Barton and Pooley Bridge Parish Council - minutes 1866-1995; declarations on acceptance to office 1894-1973; account book 1895-1950; financial statements 1931-2008 [gaps]; letter book 1956-1963; overseers' receipt and payments books for Low Winder 1868-1895 & Barton 1868-1902
- WDX 2051: Miller Howe Hotel, Windermere - menus, cookery course recipes, 1979-1987
- WDFCM 3: Sedbergh Methodist Circuit - circuit meetings minutes 1991-2015; church council meetings minutes 1979-2013; invitation committee minutes and papers 2011-2012; Methodist Missionary Society account book 1969-1993; account book 1969-2010; Home Mission Fund accounts, 1970-2009 [gaps]; correspondence relating to circuit property 1990s-2014; etc.
- WDX 930: Blake Tyson Collection - research notes on Kendal Apprentices, 1571-1736; Thomas English; spinning galleries; Lakeland farm lavatories; Daniel Fleming and oxen; Whitehaven topics, including salt pans, harbour, pier, windmills; architecture of Lakeland bee keeping; Edward Wilkinson of Kendal, sexton; St Bees school; 19th century carvings at Kirkby in Furness; etc.
- WDSO 33: Kendal Amateur Dramatic Society - minutes 1930-1965 (3); programmes for Bonaventure (programme signed by cast and others, with photographs of production) April 1951, The Long Shadow, January 1952, An Inspector Calls (with photograph of production), January 1954, On Monday Next, March 1954
- WDSO 328: Burneside Bowling Club - AGM minutes 2014-2019 & 2022; secretary's reports 2020 & 2021; lists of captains, Clark Cup winners, other lists; photocopies of photographs; etc.
- WDX 2054: Clarence Frost, police constable in the West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary - constable's notebooks (17) 1935-1941; certificate issued on completion of service, August 1941; etc.
- WDB 12: Isaac Braithwaite and Son Engineers Limited, Kendal - photographs of various types of machinery, mainly laundry machinery, 20th century



Images. Above: Miller Howe menu, 1979 [ref WDX 2051/2]. Right: Scene from Bonaventure [ref WDSO 33]

Kendal's latest accessions contain some interesting items that relate to work and leisure. The Miller Howe menus and cookery course notes are snapshots of trends in 1970s and 1980s British cuisine [collection reference WDX 2051]. Miller Howe Hotel, Windermere, was owned by John Tovey MBE from 1971 to 1998. Tovey was a restaurateur and one of the first celebrity chefs in Britain in the 1970s, appearing in television series and writing cookery books. The cookery course notes contain recipes for soups, sorbets, main courses, and deserts, and the menus list a mouth-watering selection of dishes including trout baked with hazelnuts, and the intriguing 'My Nan's Topsy Trifle'.

Moving from fine dining to theatre, the Kendal Amateur Dramatic Society items are a reminder of a time when 'am dram' societies flourished across the country. The Kendal group counted playwright Duncan Greenwood



amongst its members and the recent accession includes a programme for the play *The Long Shadow* written by Greenwood and a programme for *Bonaventure* by Charlotte Hastings in which Greenwood played the character Dr Jeffreys. The programme is signed by the members of the cast and is accompanied by photographs of the production which was staged in April 1951 at Kendal's Town Hall.

We received a large wooden box of photographs and drawings of machinery manufactured by Isaac Braithwaite and Son, Engineers, of Kendal [collection reference WDB 12]. The firm started out as drysalters, dyers, rope, line, and twine manufacturers, and had started building laundry machinery by the 1890s. The photographs show various machines associated with washing clothes on a large scale, machines that were built at the Ibis works in Kendal.

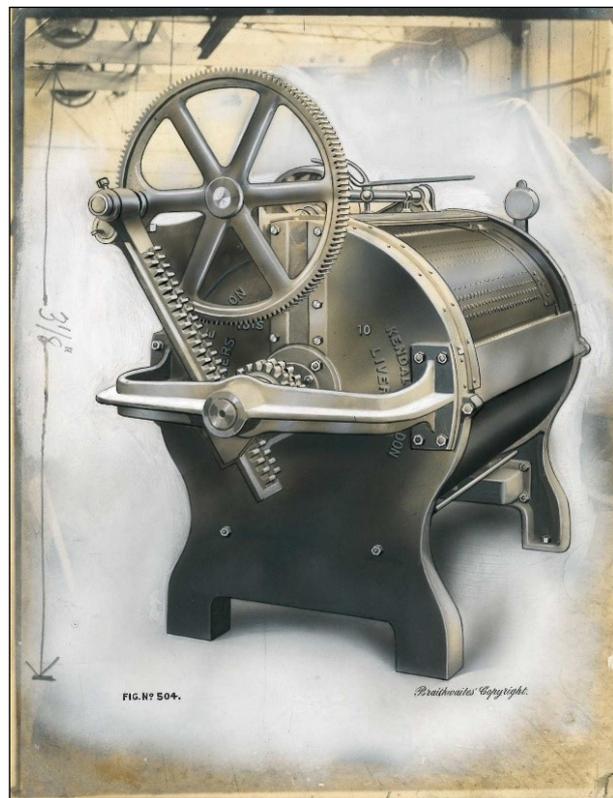
Your archive needs you – a call for remote volunteers

Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal, is looking for volunteers to transcribe the Westmorland Land Tax records into searchable spreadsheets. Volunteers will work from home and will be emailed digital copies of land tax assessments and a blank spreadsheet which they can fill in and return. So, if you are interested in local history, would like to tackle some old handwriting, and have some time to spare, then get in touch on email kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk to register your interest.

Image. Braithwaite laundry machinery, early 20th century.
See also front cover image

[ref WDB 12/7/1]

Anthony Hughes, archivist



Update from Whitehaven Archives

New material

YBSC: 'The Birth of a Rail', Workington Iron and Steel Company, A United Steel Company photograph album [1952?]

YDSO 27: Gosforth WI album, 2009-2011

YDX 458/4: Gosforth Millennium celebrations album

PH/1677: Photograph album of Copeland area by Mary C Fair, 1935

YDFCP 6: Bootle Evangelical Church marriage register, 2001-2004

YDSO 75: Beckermeth Women's Institute financial papers

YDSO 122: Workington Rambling Club financial papers and correspondence

YDSO 191: Whitehaven Town Mission minutes, Sunday School class register, photos, souvenir handbook

DB 200: Capita aerial photos of Whitehaven Harbour and Marchon, 1992

YDX 767: Documents relating to the Hudleston or Huddleston families of Millom, Lancashire and Sawston, Cambridgeshire

YDX 768: Letters by Samuel George Wattleworth, apprentice in the merchant navy and autograph album of Margaret Meikle Kerr Wattleworth, 1892-1930

YDX 766: Investigation into Virgin Mary Well, Holmrook

YBNFL: BNFL News, 1973-1988

Outreach

We have taken part in the latest Explore Your Archives themes on Twitter which have included Celebrations, Letters and Art. For these we have highlighted: some of the British Steel photographic collection (parties); letters by Ruskin, Southey and Wordsworth collected by autograph hunter John Gibson and artwork from the Fowler family and Wattleworth family. On International Women's Day, we tweeted images of women in the armed forces, in local industry and on the sports field for the theme 'Break the Bias'. We have also used our social media account to tie in our collections to local events like the Cumbria Dark Skies festival and the centenary of Workington Reds AFC.

At Whitehaven Archives, we have had our first school visit since the pandemic with 20 children from Monkway on site to learn about mining. We are due to have two classes in from Fairfield School by the end of the month to study Victorian Cockermouth.

We are looking forward to having a couple of external speakers on the diverse topics of Sal Madge and the Dukes of Atholl's Cumbrian connections later this year. 2022 should also see the return of our Archive Discovery Evenings to celebrate Cumbria Archive Service's 60th year.

Continued overleaf

Recent cataloguing

Lately, we have added new items to existing collections like the Gosforth and Beckermeth Women's Institutes and deeds and legal records into Workington Borough and Cockermouth Urban District Councils' archives. Mary Fair's photograph album is notable for its scenes of the western lakes and fells as well as oak spelk basketmaking in Eskdale; and herdwick's at the Woolpack Show [PH/1677]. See photo below on left.



We have also catalogued small collections like the Whitehaven Town Mission with records of its governance, schooling, activities and anniversaries. Thanks to help from the Friends of National Libraries, we were able to purchase six legal papers of the Hudleston/Huddleston families of Millom, Lancs and Cambs. Another small but interesting collection we have taken in has been a series of letters from Samuel Wattleworth, an apprentice on board a merchant navy ship called the Knight Commander back home to his family, 1892-1899. They give a brief insight into life on board and in foreign lands like Peru, Brazil, Georgia and Vancouver. The letters are accompanied by an autograph album belonging to Margaret Wattleworth, the mother of Samuel, which features poetry and drawings from her family and friends, including these portraits of local worthies and national politicians of the day [YDX 768/2/1]. See photo above on right.

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

The Huddleston papers

Six documents relating to the Hudleston/Huddleston families of Cumberland, Lancashire and Cambridgeshire, 16th-18th centuries, were purchased at auction with the aid of a grant of £1,000 from Friends of the National Libraries.

The family was extant at Huddleston, Yorkshire in the mid-13th century. John de Hudleston (died c.1252) married Joan, daughter and heir of Adam de Boyvill, whose ancestor had been granted the Lordship of Millom, Cumberland, by William le Meschin (d. c.1134), younger brother of Ranulph le Meschin, Vicomte de Bayeux and Lord of Chester. Descendants included Sir John Hudleston (d. before 1306), a noted soldier and present at the Battle of Falkirk, Sir Richard Hudleston who was at Agincourt, Sir John Hudleston (d. 1493), High Sheriff of Cumberland, who fought in the Wars of the Roses and was Constable of Cockermouth Castle in 1461. His descendant, William Hudleston married Isabel, youngest daughter of John Neville, Marquis of Montagu in c.1494. By this marriage, William acquired some 12 manors, including two at Sawston, Cambridgeshire. His grandson, Sir John Huddleston (1517-1557), was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Member of Parliament and Privy Councillor. Princess Mary stayed a night at his house, Sawston Hall, in July 1553 during her escape to Norfolk and the house was burned by her prospective captor, the Duke of Northumberland. Sawston Hall was extensively extended and remodelled by Sir John's son, Sir Edmund Huddleston (d. 1606).

The documents, all of which are now held at Cumbria Archive Centre, Whitehaven [reference YDX 767] include the following: 1). Letter of attorney of William Hudleston, esquire, 2 October 1500, granting powers to William Hutton, Rector of Egremont, and William Biggyngs, chaplain, to acquire seisin of a tenement in Egremont, Cumberland, called Howbank. 2). Quitclaim of William Hudleston, 14 January 1501, of all right in a tenement called Crosslate in Freckleton, Kirkham, Lancashire, to William Hudleston of Millom, esquire. 3). Memorandum of the customs of the manor of Sawston, Cambridgeshire, at the court of Sir Edmund Huddleston at Pyratts on 10 October 1587, mainly concerning the keeping of livestock upon the commons. 4). Receipt by [Sir] Edmund Huddleston for a lease given to Elizabeth and John Lever of Leyland, Lancashire, of a barn and five acres of land in Leyland, 9 November 1590. 5). Original will of Sir Edmund Huddleston of Sawston Hall, Cambridgeshire, 10 December 1603, appointing his wife Dorothy Huddleston his executrix, grants of monies to the poor of various places in Essex, London, Cambridgeshire and Lancashire, legacies of gold rings to his sister and daughters, a quarter or half year's wages to his household servants, etc. With codicil dated 6 Dec 1606, conveying his manors of Leyland and Farington and the fourth part of the manor of Clayton, all in Lancashire, to trustees to sell the same after his decease. 6.) 18th century copy of deed of partition of 4 July 17 Henry VII [1502] of the five daughters, the co-heirs of John Neville, Marquis of Montagu and Isabel his wife, including their daughter Isabel, the wife of William Hudleston, esq., granting various manors and lands including the manor of Sawston, Cambridgeshire.

The documents above will complement other significant collections relating to the Hudleston family held at Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle, Lancashire Archives, Cambridgeshire Archives and Durham University. This article will be published in the annual report of the Friends of the National Libraries [<https://www.fnli.org.uk/>] and is reproduced here with their kind permission.

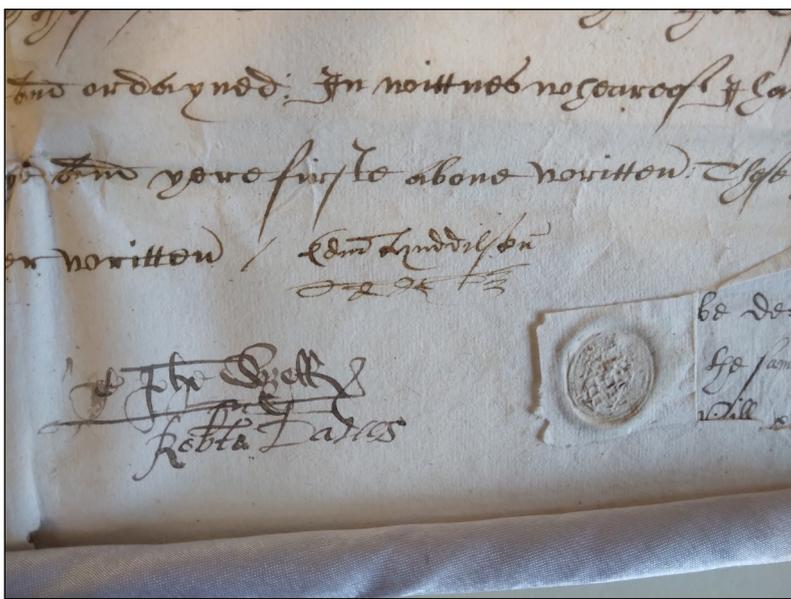


Image: Signature of Sir Edmund Huddleston from his will dated 10 December 1603 [YDX 767/5]

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist

Update from Carlisle Archive Centre

Accessions

A selection of deposits for the period December 2021 - February 2022:

DS 93: Hunsonby Endowed Voluntary School [Accession: H15652] 1903-1997

Minutes of school managers, 1903-1974 (2 volumes with loose papers) endowed under the will of Joseph Hutchinson, 1726. The second volume continues as a minute book of the Hunsonby School Trustees, 1977-1997

DSO 519: Raughton Head Young Farmers' Club [Accession: H15638] 1952-2017

A lively collection, chronicling the activities of rural youth from the mid-20th century. The scrapbooks (1964-2017) are largely from 21st century. They reflect the breadth of activities arranged both by and for club members and showcase the members' range of talents. There is a comprehensive run of programmes, for the period, 1955-1980; correspondence (1960s-2004) accounts (1970-1999) financial statements (1992-2012) minute books (1990-2006) loose minutes (2005-2012) year books and other publications (1952-2005)

DSO 523: Lazonby History Society [Accession: H15704] Late 19th century-2020

Sadly, this deposit came to us as a result of the closure of Lazonby History Society in 2021. There is a wealth of material, including research notes, photographs and papers relating to specific aspects of the Lazonby area: land ownership; wells; war memorial; school; bridge and river crossings, medieval mill; auction mart; village events and celebrations. There are two photograph albums of houses and property in the village and surrounding area; a study of the Reay and Laidler families with connections to Brackenbank; a lovely postcard album; loose aerial photographs. The collection contains oral history recordings (9) made for the Millennium project (cassette tapes, transcripts and papers) along with other recordings, such as an interview with former landgirls from the Second World War. There are ring binders containing minutes of the society for the period, 1997-2020. The collection is, at present, box listed and easy to access for researchers.

Continued overleaf

Accessions continued from previous page

DRIM: Rimington Family of Tynebridge House, Penrith [Accession: H15714] 1796-mid 20th century.

Recently deposited, a fascinating family collection with African connections, comprising: Rimington family pedigree and research notes; recollections of Frances Rimington; letters from the Boer War, Animal Stories, The Turkhana, and Taming and Training African Animals by Michael Rimington; photograph album of life in Kenya; diaries of George Rimington and papers relating to his publication 'Diaries of a Victorian Gentleman'; exercise book of Reginald Rimington; Dykes family pedigree; land transactions and indentures of the Dykes family; Brisco family of Crofton Hall, Thursby; a sword given to Geoffrey Philp Rimington by Senior Chief Wdungu

DX 2558: The Reverend Rex Malden Photograph Collection [Accession: H15723] mid-20th century.

A large photographic collection, containing several photograph albums and an extensive collection of negatives and contact prints. Rev. Rex Malden (1899-1982) was Vicar of Whitehaven between 1931-1941 and of Wigton, between 1941-1947 when he became vicar of Corbridge on Tyne. He was a very good amateur photographer and amassed, mainly at Whitehaven and Wigton a collection of some 4,500 negatives and contact prints. The negatives are all identified and have been kept in two long filing boxes and the contact prints in a number of albums. 'Rex Malden's Whitehaven' was published in 2000 and won the Lakeland Book of the Year Award. Subsequent publications include, Rex Malden's Whitehaven (2); Rex Malden's Wigton & Rex Malden's Lakeland

Cataloguing

Recent cataloguing includes:

DS 221: Newton Rigg Agricultural College

TBR ½: Predecessor companies of British Rail Maryport and Carlisle Railway Company.

Additional material, relating to the Maryport and Carlisle Railway Company at the turn of the 19th/20th century and during the age of steam. The material arrived in a very poor state and underwent extensive cleaning. Train books (6) for the company, covering the period, 1890-1906 and filling in gaps in the existing series. The books record, time of train, stations visited, ticket numbers and monies taken. Arrivals and Departures book, 1887-1897 showing, date, owner of waggons and number; cargo; originating station and destination station; journey ticket books for first- and second-class journeys from Carlisle station, 1899-1904; Coaching traffic books for Carlisle (3) and Curthwaite (2) stations, 1894-1902; parcels delivery book, Wigton station, 1887 and a collection of parcels waybills for 1905



DX 2535: Blue Streak Project, Spadeadam, 1953-2005

An interesting collection of papers and photographic material relating to the development of the missile. Includes minutes of the project group, exhibition and publicity material from 2001-2005; photographs from 1960s of staff working on Blue Streak in various locations and the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to Spadeadam in 1965; brochures from 1960s outlining the test site, missile components with colour photographs; dissertation on the circumstances leading to the development of Blue Streak, 1997 (see photos on right)



Photographs of local scenes added to the collection; the River Eden, 1895; the Near Boot public house, c. 1900; Jackson's Joiner's shop, c. 1900; Houghton School (juniors and seniors) 1919 and sale card for Bowness Hall stock sale, 1919

Louise Smith, Archivist

Quarter Sessions Petitions

Petitions from 18th century Quarter Sessions are currently being transcribed and input into our catalogue by a student volunteer from the University of Lancaster and one of our Archive Assistants. Once input these are immediately available on CASCAT and are an incredibly name rich source with particular interest to the family historian.

Petitions range from general poor relief to requests such as: 'petition of debtors held in county gaol for door to street to be opened to provide much needed ventilation and allow purchase of food' (ref: Q/11/1/278/29 [petition paraphrased]). Perhaps not surprisingly, this petition was not granted! Expenses for coroners' inquests were also frequently submitted. One entry from a coroner's expenses petition has recently caught my eye and is captured in the image below

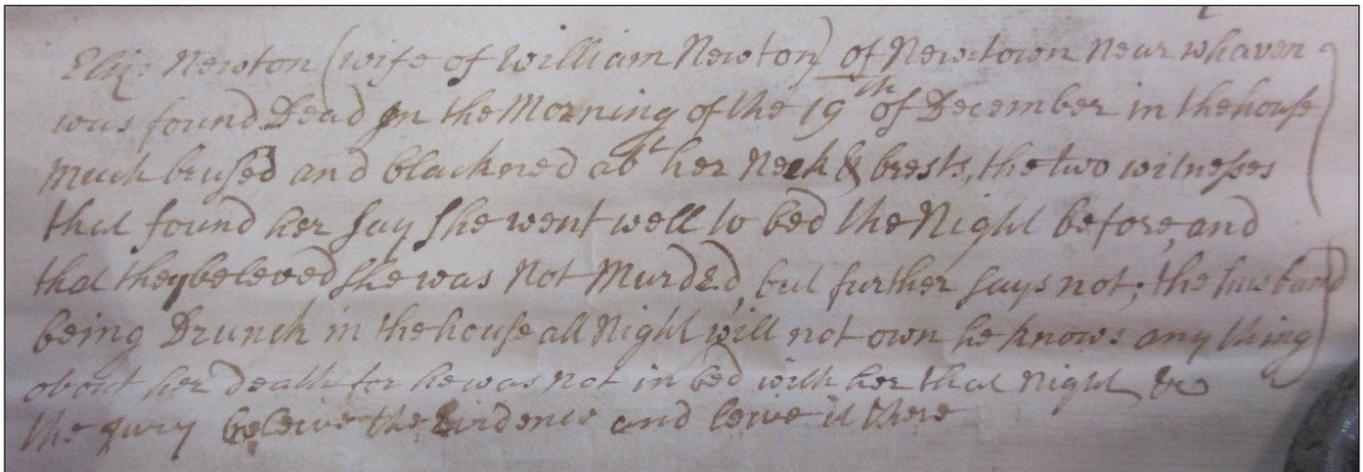


Image: Account of Anthony Harrison, coroner, for expenses at inquests (1755-1756 Christmas Petitions) Ref: Q/11/1/272/17

Transcription: *Elizabeth Newton (wife of William) of Newtown near Whitehaven was found dead on the morning of the 19th of December in the house much bruised and blackened about her neck and breasts, the two witnesses that found her say she went well to bed the night before and that they believe she was not murdered but further says not; the husband being drunk in the house all night will not own he knows anything about the death for he was not in bed with her that night. We the jury believe the evidence and leave it there.*

Helen Sewell

Update from the Conservation and Digitisation Unit

Planning Ahead

In 2022 the Conservation Unit has big plans to start to tackle some of our long-term projects in the two cold stores at Carlisle Archive Centre. This will involve reassessing the packaging and storage of our most vulnerable collections, modern media and photographs. Modern media is a challenge for conservation because so much of the material is made up of mixtures of different elements - such as plastic and laminate photo albums bound in leather with metal fixtures. Each element behaves slightly differently in changing environmental conditions, so we will be surveying the stores and making a plan for the long-term preservation of these collections.

With the mixed media contained in these collections, we felt that some training was necessary. This spring Fay will be attending a course in the conservation of leather, and I recently completed a course in the conservation of plastics. With the combination of these, along with our experience with paper collections, we are confident that we can bring the stores up to a good standard this year, and hope to make more of this material available (safely, in digital format) to our readers.

Erika Frey

Continued overleaf

The trouble with transparent papers

Recently in the Conservation Unit we have been working on a large collection of c.90 early 20th century architectural plans for Crossrigg Hall, held at Kendal Archive Centre (WDX/1105/1/10). These plans required suitable packaging that would provide support and protection for their long-term preservation.

Historic tracing papers can be a troublesome format, as they were often impregnated with oil, treated with an acid, or made from very short fibres in order to make them transparent. Unfortunately for us, these methods result in a brittle and fragile paper on ageing that can easily break and tear and requires particular care to prevent this damage from happening.

Each plan has been placed in a clear archival polyester sleeve which fully supports the paper and means they can now be easily handled and viewed. New boxes from archival board have been made to store them on the shelf, which provides protection from light and dust and aids their retrieval. Some of the plans required gentle humidification to encourage the sharp creases to relax and allowed us to safely unfold any areas that were obstructing information. This was carried out in a sealed chamber with the slow introduction of moisture vapour, as they can also easily distort when wet.

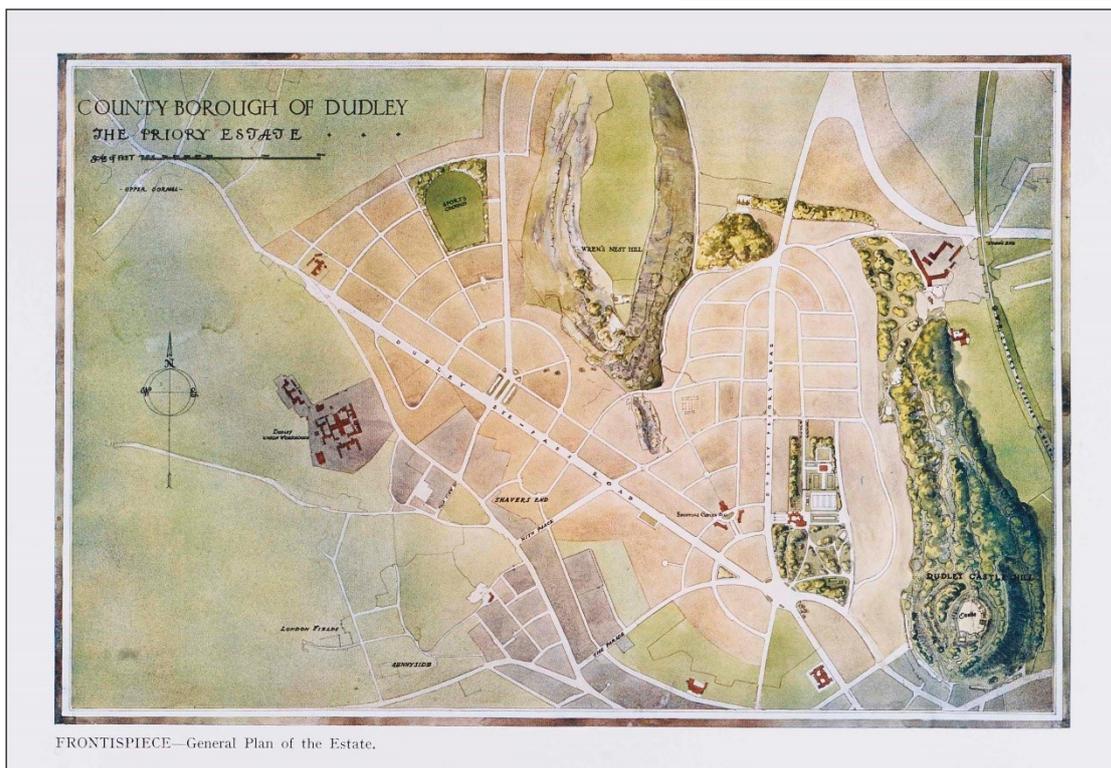
Fay Humphreys

Digitisation: ongoing and upcoming

We've had quite a variety of requests for digital copies of material held in the archives recently. These include historic hand drawn maps, building surveys, sales particulars, wills, railway plans, WRVS training materials in case of nuclear war, confidential hospital records, architectural drawings, Cowans Sheldon crane plans, an 18th century sketchbook, an enclosure map, gun plans, photos of Blue Streak and letters.

Francesca Halfacree

Images. Right: Blue Streak
(DB112/NEGS/1965/2/9/529/11)
Below. From *The Art & Craft of Garden Making*
by Thomas Mawson, 1912. (WDB/86/19/5)



Progress on the digitisation of wills

So far this year I have digitised our collection of wills from 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581 and am currently working on 1583. That brings the total number of digitised wills to 9,385 images - amounting to 422.4GB. The files produced are large Raw files, along with JPEG copies for access by researchers and archive staff. The wills are photographed using even lighting, however by cross lighting, the texture and relief are emphasized to give a more interesting three-dimensional visualisation.

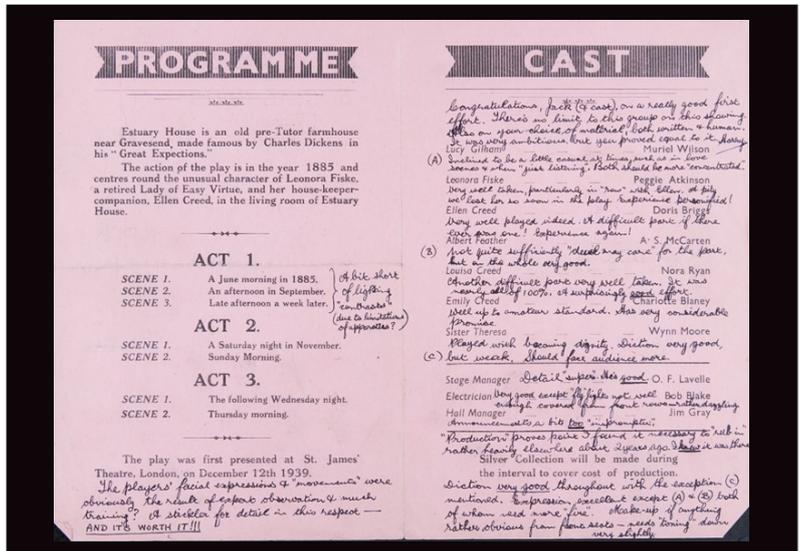
Guy Pawle

New staff for the West Cumbria Industrial Heritage Project

My name is Helen Leech and I started with Cumbria Archives on 28 February 2022 in a post funded by British Nuclear Fuels as a Digitisation Technician. My background is in public libraries as a digital librarian – ebooks, automation of library processes, coding, electronics and robotics, digital storytelling, filming, 3D printing and laser cutting, Libraries of Things. I am based at Carlisle Archives Centre and I am enjoying ploughing through boxes of photos and negatives sent over from Whitehaven. I am currently working on High Duty Alloys in Distington, which closed in 2007.

This was a huge site which employed nearly 3,000 people at its peak during the war, and there were many social groups. One was a very active drama group which presented shows in the works canteen. There's an album that somebody lovingly collated of programmes and photos over a period of some ten years: Two photos from it can be seen on the right, one from a production of 'Intent to Murder' in 1958, and the other the programme for 'Ladies in Retirement' with cast notes handwritten by somebody, maybe the director? Poor Muriel Wilson is described as "Inclined to be a little casual at times such as in love scenes" but OF Lavelle, the stage manager, is "Detail 'super'. She's good."

I've been advised to watch out for the activities of FoCAS and the work it does, and I look forward to meeting you sometime.



The Carlisle Archives Team are proud to be saying goodbye to one of our volunteers, who is leaving us soon to start what we are sure will be an impressive career in conservation - congratulations on your new job Zoe!

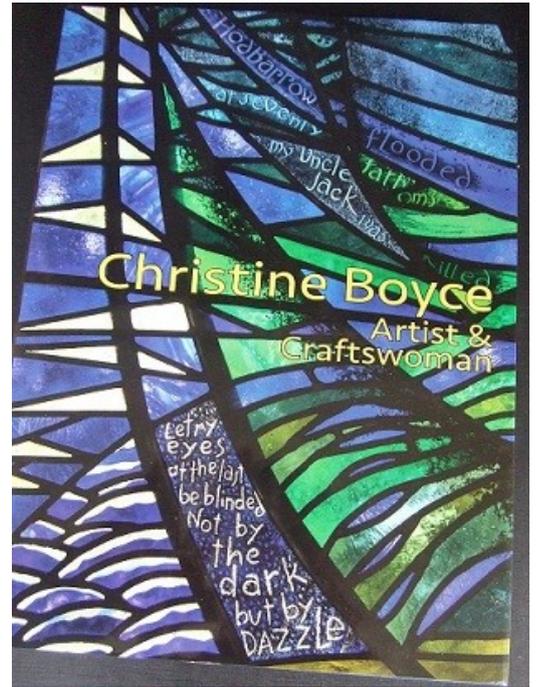
My time on placement with the conservation department at the Carlisle Archive Centre has been invaluable in my professional and personal development. Erika and Fay have been so generous with their time, patience and tutelage, guiding me through several projects which have introduced me to the key concerns and approaches in our field. Thanks to them, I was well equipped with the essential skills and confidence needed to secure a full-time position at the Parliamentary Archives. Though I am very sad to go, I am also pleased to know that a new student or volunteer will be able to benefit from working with this talented pair. A huge thank you to them and everyone at the archive!

Zoe Voice, Northumbria University student volunteer: MA conservation of Fine Art on Paper

Alastair Carew-Cox (ed), *Christine Boyce, Artist & Craftswoman*

Seraphim Press, 2021. 128pp., £20. ISBN 9780993404535

Particularly since the late 19th century, the area around Lanercost and Banks has attracted noted artists, from the days of George Howard (d.1911), 9th Earl of Carlisle, friend of William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones (responsible for stained glass windows both in St Martin's church, Brampton and Lanercost Priory) and later, notably Winifred Nicholson (a granddaughter of Lord Carlisle), Li Yuan-chia, and Audrey Barker. Latterly joining this colony of artists in 1988 was Christine Boyce (1928-2019) who, as a mature student, had studied Fine Art at Newcastle University, developing her noted drawing and painting skills and taking a stained glass option. At her home at Banks, Christine created a large workshop such that she was able to undertake commissions for both local churches - she served as Stained Glass Adviser to the Carlisle Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches - and many private individuals, gaining a local and national reputation for her stained glass, exhibiting widely; her secular commissions generally allowed her more freedom to adopt an abstract and geometric style.



Examples of her work are to be found across Cumbria, her masterpiece recognised as the memorial window for the poet Norman Nicholson at St George's church, Millom, completed in 2000. Christine's last commission was at Upper Denton church where she created miniature scenes from the lives of Sts Patrick and Cuthbert for the late John Lee of Lanercost, who restored the church, dedicated by the bishop of Carlisle to both saints, as a private place of worship and meditation. At Lanercost Priory, besides a delightful small armorial window commemorating Edward I's sojourn there, 1306-07, Christine was largely responsible for ensuring that the William Morris dossal, which had been commissioned by George Howard, was expertly restored, to hang behind the altar. Her work was imbued with a love of the natural world and underscored by her Christian faith, each commission evidencing the thorough research she undertook to understand the person or subject commemorated.

In *Christine Boyce, Artist & Craftswoman*, edited by Alastair Carew-Cox, an award-winning architectural photographer, one is presented with a beautifully produced volume of essays, by Christine, her husband and her friends (including her last pupil in the art of stained glass making) about her life and work, illustrated by a large number of colour photographs of her work in a variety of media, principally watercolour, oils, and stained glass. A reference copy of this publication is held by Carlisle Archive Centre, which is fortunate to be the recipient of Christine Boyce's sketchbooks, notebooks, and papers concerning a number of her commissions, also a video cassette of Christine talking about the making of the Norman Nicholson window (ref. DX 2278), together with the original stained glass window created for WI House, 33 Lonsdale Street, Carlisle (ref. DSO 157/18/2).

Readers may also be interested in a companion volume of the Seraphim Press, William Waters and Alastair Carew-Cox, *Saints & Symbols, Pre-Raphaelite Stained Glass* (2021), dedicated to the memory of Christine Boyce.

Adrian Allan

Useful Information

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