

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2005

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The next issue of the Journal (the summer issue) will be published about the 12th August 2005. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the 30th June.

Acting Chairman's Report

The year 2004-5 has been at the same time a sad year and a year of considerable achievement for the Society. Tributes have been paid in the Journal to Joe Scott, Bill Bethom and Ken Hoyle, to all of whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude. Although they are no longer with us, their wise counsel and hours of industry on behalf of the Society will have a major influence on our future directions and deliberations.



The past year has seen a fort-holding exercise on the part of your Acting Chairman and my first duty is to express thanks to the members of the committee for their dedicated work and support. The result has been an excellent year for the organisation with progress on several fronts. We were very fortunate and pleased to be able to co-opt Zoë Atkinson to our committee in November. Zoë is actively involved in local history and a book on the history of Staveley School which she has written will be launched on Saturday 21st May.

Individual members of the society have featured prominently in our activities over the year. Several took an active part in our summer walk up Hall Lane and again on our visit to Crosthwaite Mill and Church. Three of our evening meetings were addressed by our members, John Berry, Mary Atkin, and Iain Johnston; all of these talks were most professionally prepared and executed. We should welcome further talks by our members at future meetings and there are many of you out there with something to tell us. Although not a direct project of the society, it would be remiss not to mention the excellent Staveley Village Map, the work of another of our members, Alan Lord.

Whereas it is always encouraging to have new ideas put forward and implemented, it is equally gratifying to see long-standing objectives being maintained and in some cases updated. The children of Staveley School are currently beavering away at the school history prize project. They have been given until the end of the Easter Holidays to complete their work and the prize is to be known as the *Joe Scott Staveley History Prize*. The society's publication *A Lakeland Valley Through Time* and the video *Then and Now — A Lakeland Valley in Pictures* continue to sell, albeit at a slower rate now that the greater part of the market has been satisfied. We are grateful to Peter Colley for having taken charge of this part of our sales department. The Oral History Group has not made any new recordings over the year, but are concentrating on transcribing those tapes which still need to be done. Again we should be pleased to hear from any members willing to help.

The year has also witnessed innovations, often resulting from the work of our acting Vice-Chairman John Berry in following the pioneer work done by Joe Scott. Thanks to John we now have an excellent Journal, issues one and two having been produced in summer and winter and issue three for the AGM in which this report appears.

Again through John we now have a website up and running and an ever increasing electronic database containing a large proportion of the society's records and archives.

Some of Joe Scott's books along with other books and documents which have been collected and donated over the years to form our library are now under the careful custodianship of Marjorie Hooson. Not only has Marjorie given them a home, but she is also to be seen at our meetings with a selection of items to borrow or purchase as members arrive at or leave the meeting. We are grateful to Marjorie and David also for their kind hospitality when the committee holds its meetings at their home. Anyone who is a member will of course know David, our indispensable Hon. Treasurer. His firm control of our finances and attention to detail would make him the envy of any organisation. We are indeed fortunate to have his services.

Then there is our Secretary, Pat Ball. The degree of success of an organisation is invariably dependent on the work, skill and personality of its secretary. It may or may not come as a surprise to members that, with a month of the 2004-5 year still to run, Pat has already organised the summer walks and the complete winter programme for 2005-6. Indeed he is now seeking any new ideas for the ensuing year.

Perhaps we ought to pause here and reflect upon the year's fascinating and varied programme. The summer walks up Hall Lane and to Crosthwaite we have mentioned and to these should be added the wonderful visit to Shap Abbey and Stanegarth, an all day event which marked a new departure. Then our programme of evening meetings got off to an excellent start with the thoroughly researched lecture by brothers John and Tony Berry on *Staveley Banks and the Railway Cottages*, now featuring as an Occasional Paper. In subsequent meetings we were to hear about *Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations in Kendal* about *Milestones Past and Present*, about *Policing and the Law* and then the final two lectures by our members Iain Johnston and Mary Atkin on *Education and Schools* and *Kentmere Pastures* respectively, both of which re-inforced the standard of scholarship within our own ranks. Once we have reflected upon this programme, perhaps we should pause again to consider the work involved in its organisation and bear in mind that this represents only part of our Secretary's work. He also calls our committee meetings, draws up our agenda, writes and prints our minutes, answers correspondence and requests, and performs a host of duties we probably do not know about.

We owe it to those who have gone before us to build upon the foundations which they laid. We can take heart from the fact that an average of well over half of our membership attends our meetings and we continue to go from strength to strength. We are blessed with a President who is always keen to be involved, attends our meetings and is ever willing to promote our aims. Add to this a thriving membership and the road ahead looks bright.

Mike Houston

Dialect Words for Rain!

My mind has been running recently on dialect ways of describing rain. I wonder why? Such phrases as “a reight daggy day!” “pelting down”, “throwing it down”, or “teeming” as in pouring out the tea, but applied to the weather? Or “siling down”? (No, it isn’t rude. But I can imagine that the weather on some days recently might give rise to some definitely vulgar descriptions.)

How do you rate, in terms of wetness, such words as “rain,” “mizzle,” “mirk,” “drizzle,” “dank”? Would you regard one as definitely wetter than another? There is a saying that asserts that there are some kinds of light rain in the Lake District that soak you through in no time at all? Which word describes that sort of weather? Would you choose a different word if you had been out all day in it? (No. I’m not asking about swear words!)

How bad is a “pash”? Is it worse if it is “pashing down”? Is it a bigger rain if it is described as “a reight pash”? Does the addition of the word “down” to a word make it sound worse? Or “girt” as in a “girt pash” - is that worse than a “pash”?

What is “bleary weather” or a “daggy day”? These phrases don’t sound like attractive pleasant weather? What is a “flough” apparently pronounced “flaw” which I don’t recall having heard, and wonder if it is a lost bit of dialect that has got lost.

Perhaps also one’s use of words depends a bit on how used you are (inured) to that particular kind of weather, and perhaps a stranger would use a stronger phrase. I remember hearing a n inhabitant in Ullapool in West Scotland saying as she emerged from her house while pulling on her mac, “Its turning out nice now, isn’t it?” I thought it was definitely of the “soak you through if you are out in it for long” variety!

What if the wetness is accompanied by wind. Are there different words for that? Or even whole phrases? Bill Rollinson found a phrase “a hogg squarl” for a stormy day in April when the hoggs were taken off the in-bye land and moved to fells. Are there similar phrases to describe windy, wet days in other parts of the year and are they related to the farm work of the period? What about successions of wet days when you’re struggling to make hay? Or trying to lift potatoes?

This raises the question of the effect of the weather on the ground “soggy”, “slairy”, “plashy”, “slushy”. Are these all the same kind of wet, sodden ground? Could these words be applied to the weather?

I’m getting quite depressed by this collection! Let’s think of some more cheerful terms “It’s clearing “it’s taking up”, it’s turning out better”, “it’s brightening up”. Hurray! Let’s go and get the garden sorted out for the spring!

Mary Atkin

Boundary Stones

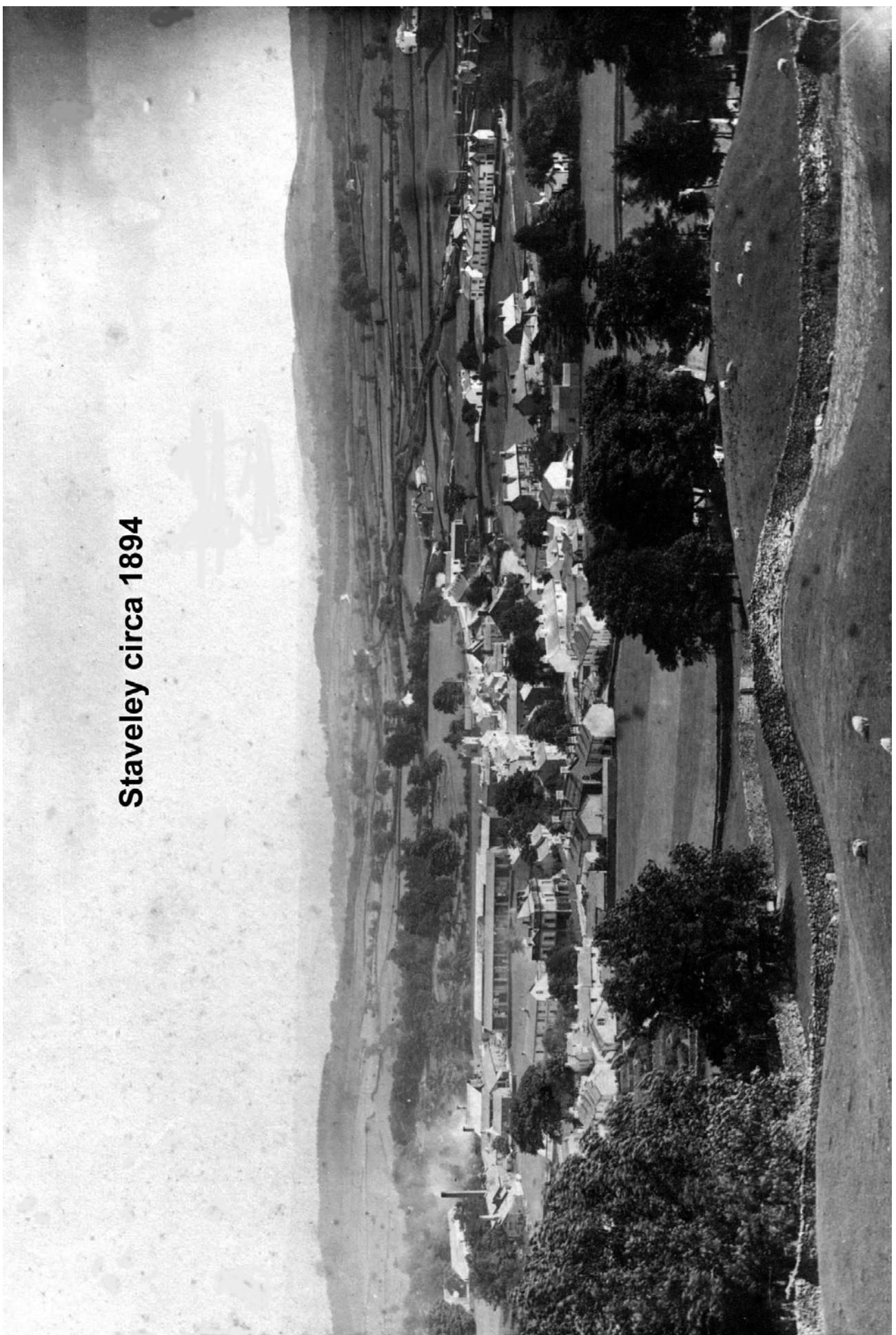
The recent lecture on Milestones prompted our member Don Greaves to show us this extract from ‘Some records of Troutbeck’ compiled by the late G.H. Joyce. This extract describes the marking of the new Parish boundary for St Mary, Applethwaite. Besides Troutbeck, this new Parish bounded both Kentmere and Hugill, taking a portion of the old Parish of Windermere. The two ‘T.C.C. 1882’ stones referred to were restored by the County Council in 1995.

“The Consolidated Chapelry of Troutbeck being: All that portion of the parish of Windermere... bounded on the south by the new parish of Saint Mary, Applethwaite ... on the east partly by the parochial chapelry of Kentmere and partly by the parochial chapelry of Hugill, otherwise Ings... and also all that contiguous portion of the said new parish of Saint Mary Applethwaite which is bounded on its northern and north-western aides by the above-described portion of the Parish of Windermere and upon the remaining sides that is to say on the south and on the south-east by an imaginary line commencing upon the boundary which divides the township of Troutbeck in the said parochial chapelry of Troutbeck from the new parish of Saint Mary Applethwaite aforesaid at the centre of Troutbeck Bridge over the stream called or known as Trout Beck opposite to a boundary-stone inscribed “T.C.C. 1882 No. 1” and placed on the north-eastern side of the same bridge and extending thence in a direction a little north of east and in a straight line for distance of one mile and twenty-two and a half chains or thereabouts to a boundary-stone inscribed “T.C.C. 1882 No. 2” and placed on the south-western side of Moor-how road at a point opposite to the middle of the southern end of Dubb's Road and extending thence north-eastward and in a direct line for a distance of nearly one mile to the boundary-stone which marks the north-eastern angle of the new parish of Saint Mary Applethwaite aforesaid or in other words to the point where the boundary which divides the said new parish of Saint Mary Applethwaite from the parochial chapelry of Hugill otherwise Ings aforesaid joins the boundary dividing the said new parish of Saint Mary, Applethwaite from the hereinbefore described portion of the parish of Windermere aforesaid.”

15th December, 1882 - Public Meeting of Parishioners - Rev. C. G. Townley in the chair.

Chairman reported that the extension and consolidation of the Church district, as recently proposed and agreed upon, has been approved and confirmed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and advertised in the London Gazette during the present month. Resolved that a sum sufficient to cover the expense of the Bound-stones marking the boundary of the new Consolidated Chapelry at the south end of Dobbs Road and at Troutbeck Bridge (£2 4s 5d.) - the one on Borrans Moor being paid for by the Churchwardens of St. Mary's - and of a copy of the Ordnance Map to be kept in the Vestry Chest and showing the boundary of the new district, be raised by subscription. (This map was deposited in the Vestry Chest, 11th April 1885).

Staveley circa 1894



The Photographic Collection

The History Society's photographic collection comprises several hundred images of different kinds, ranging from fading sepia prints, through old glass slides, to modern digital images. It is our intention to transfer all the images to digital form, in order to make them more accessible, and to arrest further deterioration.

Joe Scott had, before his untimely death last year, made a catalogue of all the images of Staveley which he had come across, either in private or official collections, or ones for which the society had been given or obtained copies. This catalogue runs to almost 1100 images. Amongst them is number 933 which is printed opposite.

This photograph was taken by Kendal photographer W. Moscrop, we think about 1894. In the foreground there appears to be some recently re-instated ground and wall, and we suspect that this photograph could have been commissioned by Manchester Corporation following the construction of the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

Although the original print is fading, and has some mould marks, it is remarkably sharp, and enlargement on the computer screen enables us to distinguish many features of the village which were, or were not, there at the time. In the centre rear is Stockbridge farm, partly obscured by the newly constructed house in Fell Close for farmer John Cannon. There are no other properties on Kendal Road until we reach the Eagle & Child. To the left is the Wood Mill, and remarkably most of the buildings there still survive in one form or another. The chimneys have all gone, as has one building roughly where the cycle warehouse now stands.

On Main Street, the roofs of Alec Row can be seen, and the front of the Abbey stands out proudly, a view no longer possible today as the front of the Abbey is obscured by the roof of the Village Hall. Perhaps the most remarkable changes are in Nether Staveley, where the Railway Hotel and its cottages stand isolated in undeveloped fields. Building on Station Road has only progressed as far as Gowan Brae (built 1889) on the east side, and on the west side we can make out buildings as far as Selwyn/Field Cote (but not Bankfield - that was added later) including the Temperance hall with its original curved roof.

On Windermere Road, the old Smithy is clearly visible, but after the cottages there are no more buildings – Wedge Hall didn't appear until about 1905 and Gowan Close much later. On School Lane we can see the original single storey Primitive Methodist Chapel, since replaced by a two-storey cottage.

Much work remains to be done in converting images to digital, and in updating the catalogue and eliminating duplicates. In some cases, the enlargement facility of the digital image has enabled us to pinpoint the date and occasion with more accuracy than had been possible with the original. If you are interested in helping with the cataloguing or image conversion, please contact the Editor.

John Berry

Pack-Horses through Kentmere

The Kentmere section of the Society's 'Roadside Features Survey' produced some 20 items to be described and photographed. Among these the most unusual and interesting are three upright slate guide-stones. These stand about 3 feet in height, and were obviously made by the same hand, all having the same chiselled inscription 'TO MARDALE' with a distinctive arrow pointing the way. Clearly they were to guide drovers of pack-trains, who might not be familiar with details of the route.

The first of the three stands just north of Green Quarter where Low Lane forks left from High Lane, perhaps to keep heavily-laden hoofs away from Gravengate. The second is at Overend, guiding the pack-trains upward to the right, where the present footpath runs above the fields.



The stone on High Lane

The third is the most intriguing, on the south-east flank of The Tongue and not directly on the present path. From here the col of Nan Bield is not yet in sight, so could the stone have been needed to prevent the trains from following a more obvious track to the well-used Hart Crag slate quarry on the northwestern face of Kentmere Pike? The stone (see photograph) is easily found in winter, but nowadays is totally lost when the bracken has grown up. Wainwright gives a (surprisingly unimpressive) drawing of it on p. 49 of his 'Old Roads of Eastern Lakeland', which contains interesting comments on the origins of several of these routes.



As early as 1540 John Leland recorded in his 'Itinerary' that the route northward from Kendal to Penrith followed the River Kent and over to Mardale. 'It riseth in Kenmore in a poole somewhat large about a myle compass and much fyssh.' He made no mention of the Shap route, which was regarded as exposed, wild and dangerous until the advent much later of wheeled traffic, first wagons and then coaches. The Kentmere-Mardale route offered more shelter, but the very steep approaches to Nan Bield on both north and south

sides ruled it out for wheeled traffic. In 1634 three travellers who attempted the Shap route wrote of ‘such ways as we hope we shall never see again... ...nothing but boggs and myres... ...never so troublesome and dangerous... ...a most confused mixture of rocks and boggs.’”

As Kendal’s wool and cloth trade developed, it was increasingly clear that the lack of good roads was a serious bar to progress. By the mid-C17 Kendal’s trade northward involved every week some 60 horses to Penrith, and 20 a month to Glasgow. (The traffic in Kendal cloth southward by packhorse to London, Bristol and as far as Southampton was far greater; but that is another story.) In 1753 the first of six Turnpike Acts brought huge changes to the whole north/south road through Westmorland, from Heron Syke south of Burton to Eamont Bridge near Penrith, and by 1763 a few coaches were regularly using the new Shap road - though none were built with springs until 1780. By 1819 the picture had totally changed; the Westmorland Gazette recorded ‘18 - 20 coaches arrive and depart Kendal in a week’ And within thirty years the railway had arrived.

There are a number of these old routes linking all parts of our region, well documented and described by both travellers on them and later historians; but there does not appear to be any record of direction signs like ours. Can anyone tell us of any others?

Christopher Gregory

The Railway Hotel

Our vice Chairman, and his brother Tony, (who works for English Heritage in York) decided to produce a short history in the form of a display which could be mounted on the wall of the Railway Hotel. This display expanded on some of the details given at our October lecture relative to the hotel itself and contained in occasional paper No. 19.

Following the Society’s meeting on February 8th, our President, Clare Brockbank MBE, presented landlord Nick Wilson with the display, watched by locals and committee members from S&DHS.



(Picture shows landlord Nick Wilson, Tony & John Berry and Alan Lord, who helped with the buildings survey)

Mid 19th Century Staveley

This is the second extract from a paper on the subject by the late J.C. Robinson. The first extract was in Journal No.1.

The Savings Bank, in 1859 is called "The Staveley Penny Bank" and the newspaper comment is that "The Bank is already affording strong evidence of the use of such an establishment and of the sagacity and benevolence of the gentlemen who set it on foot. Mr. Chaplin has wisely and judiciously combined attention to the temporal ministrations of us parish loners with his religious ministrations, and, in a similar spirit the reverend gentleman's co-adjutor, Mr. De Lambert, has shown how much good may be done in a neighbourhood like Staveley by the accession of a gentleman who is alive to the duties and influences of his position" (Mr. De Lambert was living at the "Demesne", now named "Common Head" and seems to have entered into church and other matters with enthusiasm.

At a meeting held in October 1860 the advantages of a Building Society as supplementary to the Savings Bank were put forward. Mr. De Lambert said a few words, and it was resolved "That a Staveley Branch of the Kendal and District Building Society be now formed in union with the Kendal Society" The Committee included Mr. De Lambert and William Philipson, Junr. A large number of the working class were present; a deputation from Kendal attended. It was stated that "cottages were an acknowledged want in Staveley". Mr. De Lambert entertained the deputation hospitably.

In 1861 the Reverend W. Moister, a Wesleyan missionary in Africa gave a lecture in Staveley schoolroom for the benefit of the Working Men's News Room and Night School. Here again Mr. R. De Lambert proposed a vote of thanks.

Mr. J.A. Martindale who on October 31st 1859 had become headmaster of Staveley School, though no notice of this appears in the "Westmorland Gazette". His marriage to Miss Mary Ann Seed, schoolmistress, of Kendal took place in Kendal Parish Church in September 1861. Mr. Martindale gave a lecture on "The Continent of Europe", with Mr. De Lambert in the chair for the benefit of the Working Men's Institute News Room and Young men's Night School. Here the vote of thanks was proposed by the Reverend W. Moister mentioned above, one wonders if this had any connection with the name given to the upstairs classroom at Staveley School - which former scholars, in my time as Headmaster, always named "The Moisters" Had it any connection, I wonder, with this former African missionary who, it seems, had settled down in Staveley? I must confess I had always thought it was given that name because of its cheerless dampness!

1863: Methodism was strong in Staveley in the year St James's Church was consecrated and at Christmas we read that two hundred sat down to an excellent tea. The Reverend W. Moister is again mentioned.

The Reverend J.G. Elleray: The story of the immediate predecessor of Mr. Chaplin seems to have been tinged with sadness. Earlier Rev. J.G. Elleray had lost both wife and family by some visitation (Examine tombstone in St Margaret's Churchyard for details of this; in August 1963 when I went down to get details it was covered with ivy, and will need careful uncovering to decipher the inscription.) He was looked after by a young house-keeper, Miss Mary Carradice, to whom he was married by the Rev. Thomas Fenton B.A. Vicar of Ings on Sept 6th 1858, he being then aged sixty and Mary twenty eight. Parson Elleray resigned the living, but continued to live in Staveley with his new wife and baby daughter. In 1861, July 5th, Sarah Jane the infant daughter died, Parson Elleray died May 20th 1860. A memorial window in memory of Elleray and his little daughter is placed near the pulpit. It was given by his wife who lived on for many years in Staveley at Gowan Brae (George Gilpin's house). I have no record of Mr. Elleray's death from the newspaper. I imagine him to have been a good country parson of the old type, a man of the people and no great scholarship, who hailed from Longsleddale, but of whose education and upbringing I have no record as yet (Aug. 1963) The Vicarage was a building of many rooms, now divided into three houses, opposite the shop of the Kendal Co-operative Society's Staveley Branch.

The footpath in the village: In 1859 exertions were being made to form a footpath through the entire length of the village. A sum of £10 came from the Turnpike Trust, and the largest landowner of the time, Mr. J.H. Wilson of Grange, Sussex and Messrs Chadwick Bros. each generously contributed £5 towards the desired improvement.

Milk Strike: There is an amusing paragraph relating to an abortive attempt by the farmers to raise the price of milk in Staveley. They decided, at a meeting at the Abbey Hotel, under the chairmanship of the landlord - Mr. Borwick - that members of the Association, under the penalty of a fine of £5 were not to sell blue milk under 4d. per gallon or new milk under 3d. per quart. Not to be outdone the inhabitants had a meeting and refused to buy, and the amusing comment is "the man had the pleasure of taking it home again to the delight of the pigs and calves at Scroggs etc." The effect was that the dealers in milk were glad to lower the price to the old standards.

The Staveley Gas Company: The Staveley Gas Company held its first Annual General Meeting early in 1868. The Directors' Report was signed by Rev. W. Chaplin, as Chairman of the Staveley Near Kendal Gas Company Ltd. and gives the information that the works were completed and were in full working order in September 1867. There were then 102 meters on the books, but, as yet, two mills and the railway station were without the benefit of gas. It appears that the church was one of the first to be lit by this means and the proceeds of the Shrovetide Party, established in 1863, were to go towards "The heavy debt contracted in lighting the church with gas."

J.C. Robinson

100 Years Ago

A KENTMERE farmer, William Birkett, has won a famous victory. His doctor certified that he had smallpox. The medical officer of health endorsed this view. The South Westmorland District Council adopted it and ordered William's removal to hospital. William denied that he had smallpox, and refused to budge from his bed. An application was made to the magistrates for authority to take him by force. The magistrates declined to give the order. Perhaps they shrank from the responsibility of provoking a hand-to-hand encounter between the officers of the court and a Kentmere farmer clothed only in his shirt and spotted suspiciously. Anyway, the victory is with William and we must all hope that one of its consequences will not be an epidemic in Kentmere.

From the Westmorland Gazette, February 4, 1905

Financial Accounts 2004

For those members who are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting this note highlights the main features of our accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004. Expenditure in 2004 exceeded income by a small amount. This was partly due to a reduction in income – our book and video sales have now tapered off – and of expenditure on three significant items detailed in the following paragraphs.

Some members may be aware that the Staveley Parish Register held in Kendal Record Office was in very poor condition and was to be withdrawn from public use. Your committee agreed that the Society should fund its restoration. This work by the Record Office Conservator was extensive and is shown separately on the accounts. Re-stocking the Society's collection of Occasional Papers incurred a one-off cost which will be recovered as the papers are sold. The unit cost is significantly higher than the last batch the Society had copied and the selling prices have been increased proportionately.

Cost of production and distribution of the first issue of the Society's Journal is also shown separately in the accounts including some one-off start-up costs. The Journal has been well received by members and the Committee plan to publish three issues per year. At some stage in the future it may become necessary to pass on some of the production cost to members by an increase in the annual subscription but this will not occur prior to the 2006/7 membership year.

The Society's Deposit Account with Alliance & Leicester is now paying a better rate of interest and, together with a satisfactory Current Account Balance shows the Society's finances are in a healthy state. Thanks are due to Mr. Arthur Lloyd for once again checking the recorded entries and finding the books of the Society to be in order.

David Hooson, (Hon. Treasurer).