

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2012

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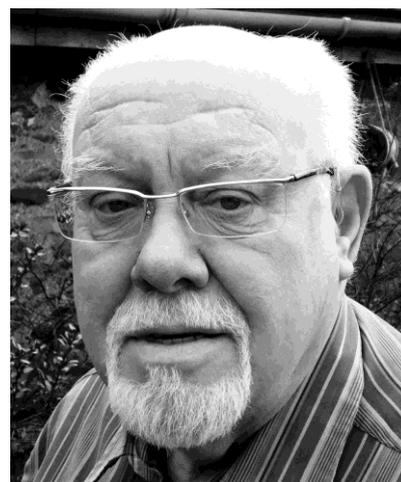
The views expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

Cover photo: Smiths newsagents, Staveley. From the collection of the late Peter Smith, Mary's brother.

The next issue of the *Journal* (No 25, the Summer issue) will be published about the 12th August 2012. All contributions (letters, articles, etc.) are welcome at any time but should be with the Editor no later than early July.

From the Chair

Here we are approaching the end of yet another successful and interesting year for our society which seems to go from strength to strength. The magnificent exhibition mounted in The Roundhouse last Easter was a splendid testament to what has been achieved since Joe Scott mooted the idea of a history society in this area over 20 years ago. We are very grateful to all who contributed in any way to the displays and acted as stewards throughout that week. It was a splendid showcase and as usual brought many previously unknown bits of information to the fore. Our meetings are very well supported and we have been fortunate in having so many really good speakers. There is however, much more going on. We are still collecting memories and recollections through oral history interviews and we appeal to our members to identify people who would be helpful in this task both as interviewers and those with memories to impart. We need also to renew our efforts in recording the changes which take place day to day in our communities particularly to buildings, tracks and fields.



At the other end of the age scale, the older pupils of Staveley Primary School were asked in January if they would take part in a history project. The brief was wide ranging. They could choose their own topic to do with the history of the area. It could be the story of their house, some building or area of the village or about someone well-known in Staveley's past or even someone in their own family. They were given the option to choose the way in which their work would be presented from handwritten text to computer generated, from charts to models. The only stipulation was that it would be done in their own time. Just before half term in February, I was invited to collect their work. There were no less than 30 items covering all of the options including one presentation entirely on CD. The pupils' work was on display at the February meeting and again at the AGM. The results show a remarkably high standard of interest and enthusiasm and as usual, I am sure that, once again, members of the History Society will learn something new. The biggest difficulty was the task of judging the work but it was a task worth doing.

I am sure that everybody will join me in thanking your hard working and energetic committee. During the year we were delighted to welcome Jemma Metcalfe-Gibson as a member of the committee. Her interest and experience in dealing with buildings will be of a tremendous benefit to the society. Right at the end of the year we also welcomed Peter Lansberry who has agreed to take on the role of General Secretary relieving John Berry who wants to devote his time to the task of getting the wealth of archives into a more accessible form. On the downside we are sorry to lose Pat Ball as a member of the committee. Pat has been a stalwart member right from the start

and we are all grateful for his interest and expertise over the years. He has been a most valuable and enthusiastic member of the team.

What of the future? Well, Don Morris has put together what promises to be another interesting programme of speakers for next winter and there are three walks to look forward to during the coming summer. It seems that we have yet another exciting year in prospect. I look forward to seeing you there.

Iain Johnston

In appreciation of Mary Smith



Although Mary was not a member of the Staveley History Society, she was and is now part of the history of Staveley. If anything needed to be known about anything from about 1936 when she arrived in Staveley to the shop (now 'The Beehive') with her parents and brother Peter the mantra was "ask Mary - she'll know". Mary was one of those interviewed by Wilfred Pickles in "Have a Go" when it came to Staveley in 1949. The whole history of the Roundhouse is built round Mary. She was a founder member of the Players, filling every office and ending up as President. All our photographic exhibitions had photos of Mary

connected with almost every activity in the Village, from WI to Parish Council, She was a Trustee of the Village Hall, masterminding endless fundraising activities with well organised car boot sales and coffee mornings. She was instrumental in the very recent return of the ceremonial key to the Village Hall presented to Mr. Mather who opened the Hall in 1936. If there were to be an update of our book "A Lakeland Valley through Time", Mary would certainly feature in it. She was a good and faithful friend to us and to Staveley.

Clare Brockbank

Walling Treasures

When out dry stone walling I never know what I might find when taking down an old wall. There could be bits of broken glass, old tins, or even something of interest such as clay pots or coins. The latter was just the case in question when I was rebuilding a wall up behind Longhouses, belonging to Tony & Margaret Harrison.

The coin had lain in the wall for many years and was very dirty but with some careful cleaning, we have identified it as a halfpenny from the reign of King George III, struck round about 1807.

There were three distinct phases of halfpennies produced during the King's reign. The ones produced round about 1807 were slightly smaller and therefore lighter than earlier coins. Initially the coins were all copper but once the mint moved from the Tower of London to Little Tower Hill the production of gold and silver coins took precedence over copper, which was not then used again for coins until the reign of King George IV in 1820.



However, what is unusual with the coin I found is that the images, unlike the ones shown above, are not both the same way up when the coin is turned over in the normal way; the reverse side is upside down. If anyone has more information about coins from this period I would be interested to hear from them but I hope you find the above of interest.

George Edington

Main Street Archaeology

Those of you who live in Staveley will no doubt have seen the scaffolding erected on a number of buildings on Main Street over the summer as restoration work was carried out.



Main Street in the early 1900s

At number 30, the new owner contacted the Society when he discovered signs of a lower window level on the front elevation when the plaster had been removed. Had this cottage ever been a shop? A search of our archive photos showed that yes, it did indeed have a shop window around a hundred years ago, as shown in the photo above. Number 30 is the first house on the right.



The blocked off door between Nos 38 and 40. (see page 5)



The drainage gully passing beneath an internal wall of No.38

At number 38, *Rook House*, the work was more substantial and builders uncovered some interesting aspects of the history. Our leaflet, *History Sitting Down*, describes the early history of number 38 and the adjacent property, No. 40, now *Design Works*. Removal of the plaster has shown that No. 40 is definitely the earlier property, as the wall which separates the properties has an external face internally to No.38. There is also a blocked off doorway which was at one time an external door to No.40. The most interesting discovery was made

however when the stone slabs of the floor of No.38 were lifted, revealing a cobbled surface with a drainage channel which passed underneath one of the internal walls. This was presumably part of a side yard to No.40 before No.38 was built. The builders also uncovered a number of



The cobbled surface adjacent to the gully in No. 38



The timber chimney bracket exposed in No. 79

hooks in the ceiling of No.38 for which the purpose is not known. We would be pleased to hear from any member who can shed some light on these.

Further down Main Street, at No.79, the new owners had removed the plaster from the dividing wall between their property and the adjacent old bank premises. This revealed both doorways and old chimney supports and led to some discussion as to which building came first. Old photos of the bank show a roof level with the adjacent cottage rather than the

present dormer windowed roof which is at a slightly higher level. Were the openings in the wall originally facing out into a yard or were they simply connecting the cottages? No. 81 has a flying easement over part of 79, quite a common feature in the older cottages. So No. 77 may have had some rights into 79 at some stage in its history. The chimney supports may have been for a hood either external or internal though the blackening of the stones would suggest that it was internal.



The Kendal Bank premises with the original roof

John Berry

Kentmere Common Land

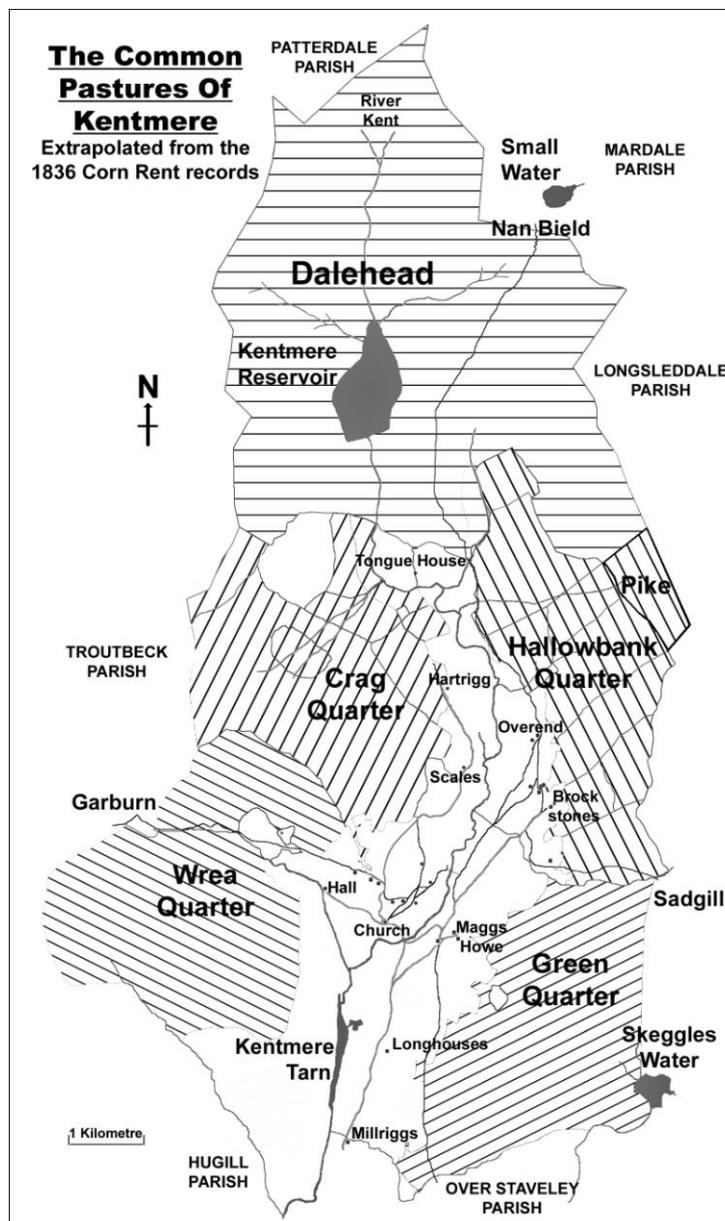
In 1760 there was an enquiry into the duties of the incumbent at Kentmere Hall, Edward Rigg. As part of the enquiry, it was necessary to examine the way Kentmere tenancies were organised. On the testimony of Joseph Park, aged 77, who had known the township for 58 years: '(Kentmere) ... consisteth of four quarters called Green Quarter, Hollowbank Quarter, Crag Quarter and Wrea Quarter...that he inhabited in Crag Quarter for 35 years, that every quarter consisteth of fifteen ancient tenements...' and '... that an ancient tenement consisteth of 10 cattles or cattle gates, i.e. hath privilege for 10 cattle to go in a common stinted pasture, that every quarter hath a distinct cattle pasture of its own, and that Kentmere Hall cattle pasture is in a separate inclosure by itself, that every such ancient tenement hath likewise a privilege for 80 sheep to go in a place called Dalehead, not divided or separated by any fences...' Joseph Park also states, 'That for every quarter there is a grass-teller whose office is to take an account of each man's stint (allocation) and that for so doing he hath privilege to put in 20 sheep (i.e. 2 grasses on Dalehead)...'

Thus, Kentmere had 4 Quarters with each Quarter having 15 tenements. Each tenement therefore had the privilege of keeping 10 cattle on their own Quarter common land and 8 grasses (80 sheep) on Dalehead. Though this account actually states that the tenements have the *privilege* of doing so, you may be tempted to interpret this account to mean that every tenement kept 10 cattle on the Quarter's common stinted pasture and 80 sheep on the Kentmere common pasture of Dalehead. This would mean that there would have been 150 cattle in total on each Quarter's common stinted pasture and 4800 sheep on Dalehead. While these numbers could possibly be supported during the summer, would the land be able to support them in winter? Would the remaining land in Kentmere be able to supply enough fodder for all these animals during winter?

Let us examine the myth that animals were slaughtered in large numbers because they could not be fed over winter. Where would next year's animals come from? Don't forget that Kentmere was in all probability, a source of raw materials for the profitable wool trade. This could hardly be supported from one year to the next, if stock was disposed of every year.

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Own Common</i>	<i>Dalehead</i>	<i>Pike</i>
<i>Green</i>	122	120	
<i>Crag</i>	94	123	
<i>Hallowbank</i>	44	120	15
<i>Wrea</i>		120	

Fortunately for us, this matter is easily resolved since the holdings on the common lands are documented in the 1836 Corn Rent documents. The above table has been compiled from the individual holdings and the numbers represent Grasses (1 Grass = 10 Sheep).



On the 1836 Corn Rent map, it is quite clear that Green Quarter common pasture was undivided at that date and hence that the 120 grasses represent the intended maximum number of grasses on each Quarter's common and each Quarter's allocation on Dalehead. The extra 2 grasses on Green Quarter common may represent the Green Quarter's teller's allocation, which by right should have been on Dalehead.

There was a well known system used in Cumbria for organising such matters, called Levancy and Couchancy, a system whereby graziers could put no more animals on the common than they could maintain through the winter on their inbye (or intack) land. This was a system imposed by the Landlord to ensure that the land was not overgrazed and each tenement had the equivalent holdings on the Quarter common land as on Dalehead. The system

works on the basis that stock would have been put on Dalehead common during the summer and brought back onto the Quarter common land during winter. There is

already some doubt that the Quarter common land would have supported 150 cattle during winter without extra fodder, without the burden of an extra 1200 sheep brought in from Dalehead.

Wrea Quarter had long since been owned entirely by Kentmere Hall and hence the Wrea Quarter's holdings did not need to be documented. Crag Quarter and Hallowbank Quarter common land had already been partitioned with enclosure walls by 1836, as evidenced on the 1836 Corn Rent Map and hence the land remaining as 'common land' is much reduced by then. The practice of tenants buying the freehold of their land had started in the 18th century and the rights to pasture on the Quarter common and on Dalehead were sold independently, leading to a piecemeal situation where farmers could have rights on one type of common, but not on the other.

The special rights on Pike associated with Hallowbank Quarter, may have been

granted due to the relatively small size of the Hallowbank common pasture. On the 1836 Corn Rent schedule, the extra 15 Grasses are allocated specifically 'on Pike'. Elsewhere Grasses are allocated 'on Dalehead and Pike', but this merely recognises the fact that there was no



Hallowbank common intack with Pike above - 2012

fence to stop sheep from wandering between Dalehead and Pike at will. I am not sure that the sheep all stayed on their own tenement's patch as was suggested by the 1760 account, any more than they would today. Otherwise why would sheep ever need sorting? This assumption has been used to create the table above, which produces a consistent picture for the allocations on Dalehead.

Further Back in History: The rental for each tenement was one Mark (13s 4d). This did not change over many centuries. Thus in 1760, one Quarters rent would be 15 Marks and Kentmere as a whole, would pay 60 Marks (£40). 14th century records show that the rent for Kentmere was 40 Marks. This leads to the hypothesis that at that time there may have only been 10 tenements per Quarter, each paying one Mark. If one considers that each tenement may have had the same privilege for 10 Cattle gates, then the total number of cattle on each Quarter's common pasture would be 100 cattle and not 150 - a much more reasonable number to be kept on the Quarter common land. At the same time, each tenement may have had 120 sheep on Dalehead, instead of 80, leading to the same number of sheep on Dalehead then as in 1836.

If one also takes into account the research which calculated that one medieval cow ate the same as 12 medieval sheep, 100 cattle would be the equivalent of 1200 sheep, the same allocation that was being used for each Quarter in 1836, on both the Quarter common land and for each Quarter on Dalehead. By this method of counting, the amount of pasturage on Dalehead was nominally the same as the Pasturage on the Quarter Common pastures.

Thus if one allows all the modest conjectures, this confirms that Kentmere may indeed have been organised on a Levancy and Couchancy basis in the 14th century. Due to the wool trade, sheep were far more profitable than cattle and cattlegates were probably converted into sheep-holdings at the obvious rate of 1 cattlegate equals 12 sheep. At the end of the 14th century, the same profitability enabled the Lord of the Manor to share in the prosperity of his tenants, effectively increasing his rents, by subsequently splitting the fixed assets of each Quarter into 15 tenements instead of 10. The effect on accounting terms would have been understood by the tenants at the time, but not today.

The physical resources stayed the same, the organisation of them changed over time. You may question the lack of hard evidence. Often in history, the hardest evidence is to be found in small amounts of land, stock and money, and the constraint of natural resources. Paraphrasing Occam's Razor, the simplest explanation is probably the correct one.

(The author is indebted to Douglas Hope for his work on the local 1836 Corn Rent schedules.) *Robert Ridley*

Tales from the Tapes – A conversation about life in Ings – Part 2

Transcript of History Society meeting held in Ings Parish Hall on 16th January 2001 chaired by Joe Scott (JS). The panel: Dorothy Buckley (DB), John Redmayne (JR), Denis Sowerby (DS) and Dorothy Whitwell (DW). Questions came from the 'floor' (Q) and the chairman. We resume with further memories of schooldays:

Q: How did you get to school and how far had you to walk? What was the farthest?

DW: Well, you'd walk 2 miles and my kids walked 2 miles.

JS: You walked from Borwick Fold?

JR: Yes, and there wasn't a road in then. Just like an old river bottom, wasn't it?

JS: You didn't think much of it did you?

DW: It was a way of life. You couldn't do anything about it. It was what you did.

JR: Wellingtons? You couldn't get wellingtons at one time.

DW: And you got to school wet - that was when you put your things on the pipes round the hall.

JR: I think I can claim to be the last scholar that walked the whole of his education at this school - the last scholar to receive all his education here. Those that was slightly younger had to move. They didn't bother to move me - too near leaving.

Q: How long was the school day? What time did you start - and finish?

DW: Nine o'clock and half past three.

JR: Yes, train went up the line at twenty past three, and we'd rush straight out!

Q: What games did you play?

JR: Rounders, marbles, hopscotch, football, of course.

Q: Did you have drill, school drill?

DW: Yes, four teams, four different colours, you know.

JS: One of the other topics I thought you might have memories of, was about the traffic, the vehicles and so on. What cars there were, that sort of thing. You didn't



George Holmes and Gus Meyer (POW), Borwick Fold, 1947

have any cars, or tractors or anything like that on the farm?

ALL: No, no, no!

JS: When did you get tractors, John?

JR: I think they came in the late 40's, early 50's?

JS: After the war?

JR: Yes because it was '45 we still had horses. The last horses worked the day I got married I think. I brought the milk down to the stand there. Then I went back and put it in the stable, took the harness off it, gave it a pat, and I said, good day, that's the end of my horses. That was in March 57 wasn't it?

JS: Well that was a sad day.

DS: You beat us by three months, John, in getting a tractor.

JR: Did we — I thought you were in front of us. Father never had a tractor - it'd be Ings Hall as beat you. Ings Hall was the first. Oh yes, they had a tractor. You got the first muck spreader.

DS: Creightons who were at Ings Hall had a tractor and we at Hill Farm had a muck spreader and so we worked together one with the other, and that lasted three or four years.

Q. When did the bypass come through Ings, Joe?

JS: The bypass? Well, the only date I can give is about the very first bypass which is when the major road went on the far side of the church on the north side, and that was 1912, I think, before the first World War, before any of our memories!

Q: I was just thinking that at some stage, the main road, such as it was, came right past the front of the school.



Milk stand with Ings Hall behind - 2012

JR: Its about 100 year since this road stopped being a main road. Mine and Dorothy's parents were going to school when it happened. My mother would have been hundred and three.

Q: That dual carriageway was made in the sixties wasn't it?

DS: Yes, '64

DB: But the alteration to the road would be made early fifties, because my boys were born '47 and '49 and the road came absolutely by the wall. We had a little three wheeler car and we just had to creep out - though there was very little traffic. There was so little traffic that we had a dog and she was able to go down to the smithy and find the parings from the horses and then come back again and then go up to where it's the caravan site now and then somebody gave her something to eat and then she came across the fields,

JS: Where was the smithy?

DB: The smithy was where the Watermill is now - the smithy and the joiner's shop at that time.

JS: It was a smithy as well.

JR: There were two adjoining buildings, weren't there?

DB: But they altered the road and took an awful lot of land didn't they, from Hill Farm, the other side.

DS: Yes. That's '64, I think.

To be continued

Notes on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

We prepare a receipts and payments account which shows what we have paid out and received during the year. Depending on when payments have to be made some amounts may not relate to 2011 even though they were paid or received in the year.

Our main source of income is our members' subscriptions and these are slightly down on last year at £933 compared with £944. 2010 was also a reduction on 2009. Our second regular source of income is sales of books and journals being made through the post office. This has done well this year and earned us £147 in addition to the sales we have made ourselves directly.

Of course in 2011 we had the exhibition which raised £360 through sales and donations, but our costs, including displays and room hire were £473. The committee would have liked to make a surplus but regard it as part of our job to encourage understanding of our local history as widely as possible and regard this "loss" of £113 as part of that role.

This year we also paid £810 for, largely, the set up costs of our new web site. This will have value over several years and may cost as little as perhaps £100 this year. Journal costs were shown at only £179 this year but this was not realistic as some bills were paid late.

A copy of the Receipts and Payments account is available from me for any member not able to attend the AGM.

Roger Collinge, Hon Treasurer.