Cumbria **Archives**



Cumbria Archives

Newsletter

Spring 2025

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**

cumbriaarchives.org.uk

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Looking back on 2024

2024 has been a challenging year for Cumbria Archives with some significant changes and developments.

The most significant change has been the closure of County Hall in Kendal. Westmorland and Furness Council is carrying out a property review and we are currently awaiting a decision about the building's long-term future. In the meantime, County Hall has closed to the public, and staff based there have relocated to other sites. The exception to this is Kendal Archive Centre.





Above Kendal Library and Kendal Archives, the Herdwick Room

Since October, we have operated a hybrid service with access to our collections facilitated by Kendal Library's Herdwick Room on the first floor, which is open from 10am to 4pm, Wednesday to Friday. As previously, documents and seats must be pre-booked. This has enabled us to continue serving our researchers, albeit with fewer spaces. We are very grateful to Kendal Library for hosting us. However, this can only be a temporary solution,

continued overleaf





Above and above right: Researchers and staff on the last day in County Hall's Search Room

and we are working with colleagues in Westmorland & Furness Council to identify a long-term home for Kendal Archives and to secure much-needed investment in the service. There are also exciting opportunities to look at developing a new offer, possibly working with museums and other partners.

Another significant development has been the investment in a digital preservation system. We are in the process of procuring Preservica which will enable us to preserve, manage and facilitate access to digital archives. Cumbria Archives has invested significantly in our digital capability over recent years, building up a substantial image bank. However, these are stored in a wide range of different media, making access difficult. Preservica will store these images in a way that enables us to share them with researchers. The investment in Preservica will be followed by a substantial upgrade to our cataloguing system. Related to this development is the participation of Cumbria Archives in the Church of England National Burial Ground project. This started as a project to record all surviving gravestones in Anglican churchyards across England. However, for us, a key element of the project has been to digitise the registers of baptisms, burials and marriages of every parish in the Carlisle Diocese. The process of digitisation is being hosted at Carlisle Archives and, once complete, the images will be available to research online.

'We are in the process of procuring Preservica which will enable us to preserve, manage and facilitate access to digital archives.'



In August, we received the sad news of the passing of Richard Hall, Archivist at Kendal. Richard's association with Cumbria Archives dates back to 1972, and during his life, he made a major contribution to the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. I had the pleasure of working with Richard for 12 years during my time as Assistant County Archivist in Kendal and was always grateful for his knowledge and humour.







A tribute to Richard is included on page 46.

We also said goodbye to Helen Cunningham, Archive Assistant at Carlisle, who had served Cumbria Archives for thirty years. Helen joined us as our Historical Research Service researcher and has helped countless clients with their inquiries over the years. Helen's expertise in palaeography and manorial documents will be greatly missed. In the meantime, we welcomed Fiona Blake to the Carlisle team as our new Archive Assistant.

Despite the challenges of the last year, our staff have continued to deliver an outstanding range of work, including inspiring the next generation to appreciate and understand their local communities. In Barrow, the team have worked with Historic England and Barrow Dock Museum on the Barrow Heritage Schools Cluster project, which will create resource packs on the growth of Barrow and the Blitz. Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies also hosted a group of ghost hunters and used the opportunity to show off some of our more supernatural collections.

Meanwhile, at Carlisle, the stock take fortnight gave the staff an opportunity to catalogue the Whitehaven Market Charter from 1660. This is an interesting and significant document dating from just after the end of the Commonwealth era when no formal governance structure had been established in Whitehaven. The charter is part of the Lowther collection and is held at Carlisle Archive Centre.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity in thanking Dr Jean Turnbull, pictured above, who supported us in establishing the newsletter as a worthy successor to the FoCAS newsletters, editing its first two editions.





Peter Eyre, Archives Professional Lead

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**

Researcher's Contribution

A fourth set of Anne Clifford's Great Books of Record?

Professor Jessica Malay, University of Huddersfield

In 2009 I began work on what would eventually be published as the first print edition of the *Lady Anne Clifford's Great Books of Record* (Manchester University Press, 2015). Editing this work was an incredible journey and has led to further research on Lady Anne's other writings and her life. However, when I finished the edition of the Great Books, there was one mystery I never solved.



This was the question of how many sets of the Great Books were produced. Three sets survive and are now held at Cumbria Archives in Kendal. These are the two sets in the Hothfield Collection: WDHOTH/1/29, known as the Skipton set; WDHOTH/1/10, known as the Hothfield set; and WDCAT/16, the set that remained with Lady Anne's descendants through her great granddaughter Mary Tufton, Countess of Harold and Gower, until it was acquired in 2004 by Cumbria Archives.
The mystery surrounding the actual number of sets produced relates to a comment written into the WDCAT/16 set (vol. 3, p. 357) by Thomas Tufton, Lady Anne's grandson, and the inheritor of her northern estates and titles. He wrote, 'There being four setts of these books: one at Skipton, another sett at Appleby Castle, and another sett at Hothfield, I thought it proper to keep this sett at London for the use and benefitt of my daughters or those concerned for them'. After much searching in archive catalogues and the work of writers throughout the centuries who commented on the

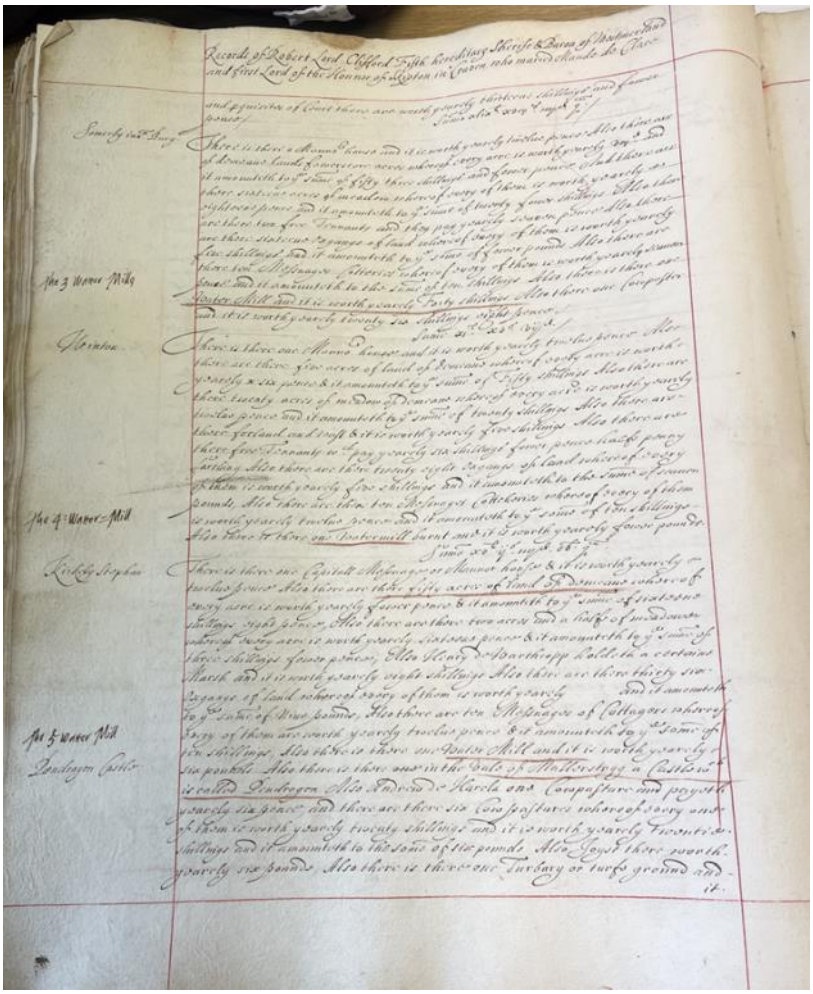
'The mystery surrounding the actual number of sets produced relates to a comment written ... by Thomas Tufton, Lady Anne's grandson'

Great Books, it seemed that the fourth set simply met the fate of so many manuscripts, suffering neglect and finally succumbing to damp, rodents, or some other accident. I found this idea unsettling because of the great care that was taken throughout the centuries by Lady Anne's descendants to preserve the surviving three sets.
I also ran into a reference that made me wonder if Thomas Tufton had not simply made a mistake. In a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, Oxford called the 'Book of Writing, E' (MS Don c. 85, p. 5), there is an inventory of manuscripts in Appleby Castle made in 1684. It



includes: 'Nine Great Bookes…Containing the Recordes of the two noble familyes of the Cliffords… in three volumes, One sett whereof were sent to Skipton, another sett thereof sent to London, and another sett left and remaining here' at Appleby. Upon reading this I decided that Thomas Tufton, writing the note in the WDCAT/16 set simply made a mistake and that there never were four sets of the Great Books. However, on a lovely spring day in May 2024 when I was visiting Cumbria Archives in Kendal I happened across a section of the Great Books (WDHOTH 3/33/5/1). This section pertains to Robert, 1st Lord Clifford of Skipton and his wife, Maud de Clare. It is on the same large folio sheets found in the Great Books. The pages are stitched together, and the paper has the anchor and star watermark found throughout the Hothfield set of the Great Books. The pages are set out in the same manner as those in the Great Books, with Latin first and then the

Left: A detail from Lady Anne Clifford's *Great Books of Record*.



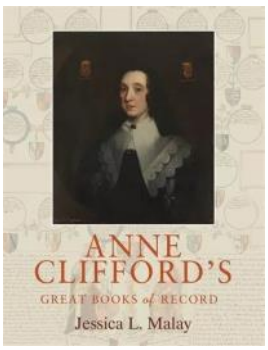
Above: A section of the Great Books (WDHOTH 3/33/5/1).

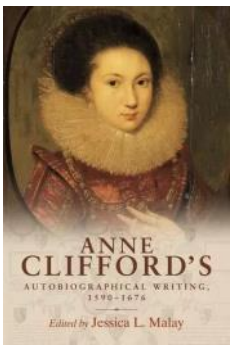
English translation following, and marginal notes throughout. The hand is also that of Edmund Langley, the main scribe of all three sets of the Great Books. Even more interesting is that Lady Anne's use of the manuscript is also consistent with her use of the Great Book sets. We see marginal notes in her singular hand and the thick red underlining which is present in all the Great Books sets as well as other manuscripts and printed books owned by her. The illustrations of seals are also of the same quality as those found in the Great Books. All this evidence shows that this section was produced at the same time, by the same scribe, and on the same paper as the Hothfield set and that Lady Anne used it as she did the surviving sets. Given this I first considered that this section was evidence of a fourth set, which became disbound with sections either destroyed or distributed widely. And so, for a moment I happily believed the mystery of the fourth set was solved. There is only one problem with this conclusion. The pages of this manuscript are not numbered as they are in the surviving sets of the Great Books. And that could mean Anne Clifford had an additional copy of this section produced at the same time as the three sets of Great Books, as a travelling or desk copy, and it could be a unique production, and not part of a fourth set.

I am looking forward to doing further research on this manuscript and continuing my efforts to solve the mystery of the fourth set of the Lady Anne Clifford's *Great Books of Record*.

Jessica's books are available at Local Studies, Kendal Library.

Find out more about Jessica's work.





Anchovies, saffron and olive oil: global encounters in a seventeenth-century Westmorland farmhouse

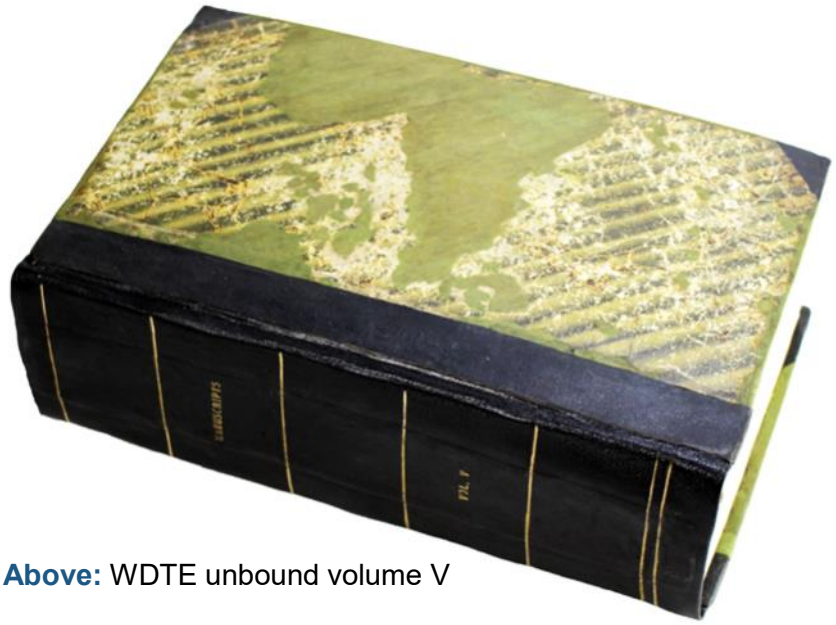
Professor Abigail Williams, St Peter's College, University of Oxford



The rugged fells and valleys of Cumbria have long held a powerful allure for the southern traveller. And part of their appeal is that their scattered farming communities have long seemed to represent a different quality of life: slower, simpler, disconnected from the busy commerce of towns and cities elsewhere in England. For some, the lifestyle has held no appeal. Writing in 1700, the travel writer Celia Fiennes describes the area north of Kendal:

I came to villages of sad little hutts made up of drye walls, only stones piled together and the roofs of same slatt; […] for the most part I tooke them at first sight for a sort of houses or barns to fodder cattle in […] there is sad entertainment – that sort of clap bread and butter and cheese and a cup of beer all one can have, they are 8 mile from a market town and their miles are tedious to go both for illness of way and length of the miles.[1]

In the middle of a dark and wet winter, it's easy to believe in this version of life in a village like Troutbeck, a few miles from Windermere. At the time Fiennes was writing, the high fells, challenging routes, and nine-day journey to London must have seemed insurmountable obstacles to any kind of cultural or culinary sophistication. Celia saw what she expected to see: basic housing, rudimentary living arrangements.



Above: WDTE unbound volume V

[1] Celia Fiennes, *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes*, ed. Christopher Morris (London: Cresset Press, 1949), 196.





‘Elizabeth’s book has references to flavours from the Americas, and possibly even Africa and Asia. Her book is of significant historical value to anyone interested in the way the “ordinary” person in England experienced the newly established empire and its colonial trade.’

But she was wrong. The remarkable surviving evidence of the home and leisure pursuits of the Browne family of Townend in Troutbeck show us that these people of Westmorland aspired to more than cheese and clapbread. The Brownes were yeoman farmers who lived and died in their house for over four centuries, until their line ran out and the property was acquired by the National Trust. The family retained their home, and all that it contained. They preserved the old-fashioned household implements that their grandparents and great-grandparents used: rushlight holders, candle moulds, objects cast out by less thrifty, or less sentimental households. And they amassed a huge family archive, thirty-one large boxes now in Kendal Archive Centre. Because of all this, because there was always a Browne at Townend, because their house didn’t change – and because they wrote so much down – we know a huge amount about who they were and who they wanted to be.[2]

If Celia Fiennes had ever stepped into the house at Townend she would have found habits and interests which speak to a family’s appetite to engage with a world far beyond the walled lanes of Troutbeck. Kendal Archive Centre holds the late seventeenth century handwritten recipe book of Elizabeth Birkett, who married into the family in 1702. The manuscript volume shows us a woman who is collecting recipes from a range of sources – like we do

[2] My account of the Brownes and their world is indebted to the help and archival research of Dr Linda Willacy: Linda McGhie, *The consumer and consumption in South Westmorland, circa 1700 to 1750: a Yeoman family's possessions and acquisitions*, unpublished MPhil thesis, University of Central Lancashire, 2002. I am also greatly indebted to the expertise and help offered by the National Trust Team at Townend, and in particular Emma Wright and Chantelle Dollimore.

today.[3] Her recipes contain ingredients which came a long way away from Troutbeck and even Europe. Elizabeth's book has references to flavours from the Americas, and possibly even Africa and Asia. Her book is of significant historical value to anyone interested in the way the "ordinary" person in England experienced the newly established empire and its colonial trade. Elizabeth's was what we might call a global kitchen – as she collected her recipes, she was drawn to things which evoked other cultures and food traditions – she has recipes for China ale, for Spanish capons, for Naples biscuits. The Brownes were aspiring, and their kitchen, like many of ours, was influenced by foods from around the world. The recipes for these items – Italian biscuits, Spanish style capons, Chinese ale are mostly based on ingredients that you could get in England. But other recipes take us far beyond. There are references to nutmegs, mace, cloves, claret, anchovies, pepper, ginger, artichokes, oranges and lemons, currants, myrrh, saffron. None of these are local fare. We also know from surviving letters that the Brownes of Townend enjoyed the finer things in life: Ben Browne junior secures coffee beans (berries) from London, along with chocolate. To serve these fashionable hot drinks the family acquired delicate little cups to sip from.

Other ingredients listed in Elizabeth's book take us even further afield. One of these is musk, as in the directions to make 'rice cream'. Musk was almost certainly being imported from North America at this time – most likely from what is Canada today, extracted from the beaver or the musk ox. It could also have come from the musk deer native to Siberia. Ten recipes in the book contain musk as an ingredient. There are also at least seven references to ambergris, derived from a sperm whale, a direct link from the Brownes and Townend to the American colonies and possibly the whaling trade. We find mention of civet, which uses the musk glands of a civet, a small cat-like mammal native to Africa, Asia, and Southern Europe. This was another expensive, high-status item used to create powerful flavour and to create perfume. It's unlikely the family were eating imported luxuries on a daily basis, but they enjoyed highly flavoured, scented foods, spice and they had access to a steady supply. They may have bought small quantities of such items

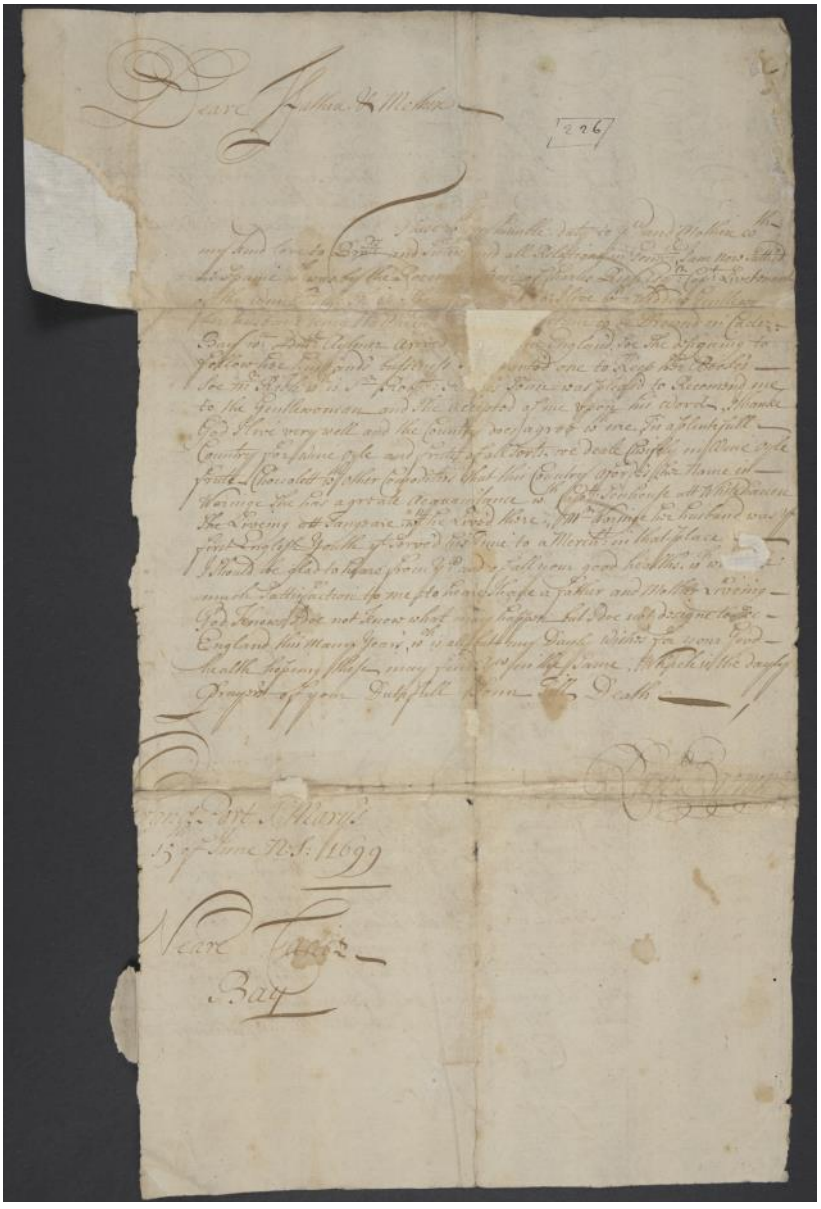

Townend, Troutbeck

[3] Elizabeth Birkett, Commonplace book, Kendal Archives, WDTE Box 16/1.

from the packmen who regularly travelled through the Kirkstone pass selling their wares.

The Brownes of Townend travelled through food – but they also had contact with the wider world through travel. The archive contains amongst its thousands of pages of correspondence the surviving letters of Richard Browne, the younger brother of Ben Browne senior. Richard travelled widely in the late seventeenth century. Like many of the younger sons of a Westmorland farming family, he needed to find a trade independent of the farm. He worked as a clerk to a merchant, and wrote home to his parents George and Elinor in the 1690s and early 1700s. His beautifully penned letters illuminate the global dimension to the Brownes' experience. George and Elinor Browne sat in their carved wooden chairs and read of sights remote from their village.

'Richard went west. He describes Newfoundland, on the northeast coast of Canada, a mere three and a half thousand miles away from Troutbeck.'



First of all, Richard went west. He describes Newfoundland, on the northeast coast of Canada, a mere three and a half thousand miles away from Troutbeck. He is not enthusiastic: 'a place I cannot command report of any acct. Tis a very wild woody country & has abundance of wild beasts'.[4] It's not clear what he is doing there, but the European commercial trade in Atlantic Canada, centring on cod fishing, was huge in the seventeenth century. The only positive thing Richard has to say about

[4] Richard Browne to George and Elinor Browne, WDTE V fol. 226v.

his spell in the North East Atlantic is about 'the Multitude of Fish that it afoards […][5] The vast fish stocks off the coast were caught, dried and exported by English merchants to the Mediterranean – then as, now Englishmen caught fish and sent it straight to Spain. The trade in cod enabled them to buy Spanish wine.

In 1699 Richard writes from Cadiz, on the southwestern tip of Spain, on the Atlantic coast. Cadiz was a key point for trade with the Americas. Richard describes the riches in Spain and the potential for lucrative trade, noting a new term for business: 'they call it commerce'.[6] He has got a job keeping the books for a merchant's widow. He is at first positive about Spain: 'thank God I live pretty well the country does agree with me'.[7] His employers' business is mainly in wine, oil, fruit and chocolate. Cadiz is the centre of trading with the Indies – and here again we see the Brownes positioned along the major trade routes of the developing empire.

Richard seems to fall out of love with Spain. His next letter criticises the Spanish for being 'proud and idle'.[8] He says, ever the son of a farmer, that they don't till their land properly, and that if they worked a bit harder it would be much more fruitful. He is quite smitten with his next location, Genova (Genoa) in northern Italy. Genova, like Cadiz, is a hub of European trade. It's a seaport, and a principality, with its own duke, or doge. Its economy in this period centres on banking, and maritime trade and like Cadiz, its wealth is partly based on the transatlantic slave trade. Richard finds it very glamorous. He comments on its size, its grandeur – the tall marble buildings, the wealth of the inhabitants. He says that the most fashionable Genovese imitate English fashions, and that some people even call it 'Little England'.[9]

I find it remarkable to think of the Brownes and their extended family poring over these carefully written letters which have travelled thousands of miles and speak of places and experiences and tastes and smells so far away from the green valleys of Westmorland. Through the letters, and through the ingredients in the kitchen we see that this relatively ordinary family was inextricably connected to the huge global trade routes that were to build the British empire over the course of the next two centuries. The Brownes are people born and bred in Troutbeck – but they are also people of the world.

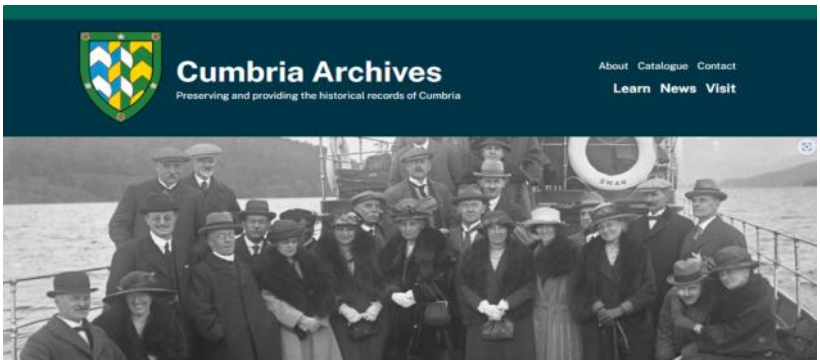
Find out more about Abigail's work. and **explore Townend's rich history.**



[5-9] WDTE Vol. V, fol. 226v.

Photographs of Townend by kind permission of The National Trust, Townend.

A Refresh for our Website



Our researchers will note that we replaced our website during December.
The previous version, which was admittedly plain and somewhat user-unfriendly, was intended as an interim measure post-local government reorganisation.

Cumberland Council's digital team have provided us with the means to create and edit content easily on a new platform. We hope that researchers enjoy navigating the new site and will give us feedback so we can continue to improve it. The website features our new logo based on the arms of our previous corporate body, Cumbria County Council. For readers with a technical interest, the new website is built in a web content management system (CMS) called Drupal. This is the standard CMS for central government (GOV.UK websites) and will now become the standard platform for local government websites too, including those of Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. Our particular variant is built in the 'Drupal Minisites' CMS, which allows for services like ours, which do not fit into either council website, to develop their own stand-alone website tailored to the needs of our service and that of our users.

Payment service

Also accompanying our new website is a new payments service. Users wishing to pay for copies previously had to navigate our online shop. Instead, customers will now be sent a safe, secure link for the correct amount to the GOV.UK Pay service, which is used by central government and has now become the standard online payments service to be used by local government.

These improvements are part of a larger scale upgrade to our online services. We intend to introduce a new version of CASCAT, our online archives catalogue, later this year. In late 2025 or early 2026, we also aim to make available a new online portal for digital content. This will provide digitised images of a selection of some of our most important holdings together with digitised documents and sound recordings.
Readers are welcome to send comments about the website to me directly via the email below.

Robert Baxter,
Senior Archivist

Email: robert.baxter@cumberland.gov.uk

Kirkby Stephen Past: the Victorian Era

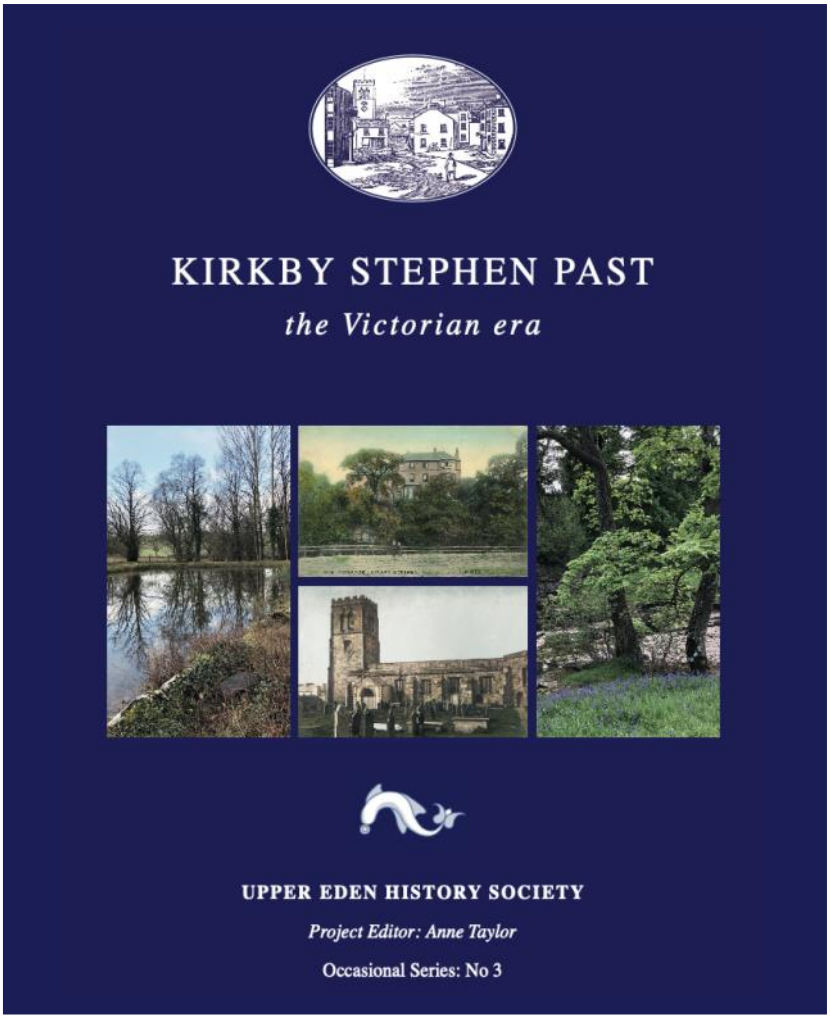
Anne Taylor, Upper Eden History Society



Two sisters from London visited Westmorland in the 1870s. One would marry the widowed vicar of Kirkby Stephen, the other would become a popular and prolific author of novels for young women. Both have been almost completely forgotten until now.

Two biographies are central to the latest history book published by members of Upper Eden History Society in 2024. *Kirkby Stephen Past: the Victorian Era* contains a biography of the Reverend Canon James Simpson, vicar of Kirkby Stephen from 1863 to 1886, And a biography of his sister-in-law, the novelist Rosa Nouchette Carey. Rosa's sixth novel, *Heriot's Choice*, is set in Kirkby Stephen and was published in 1879, soon after her sister had married the vicar. The novel is fascinating for the amount of period detail given about the town and surrounding countryside. The Victorian age was also the railway age; Kirkby Stephen was served by three railway lines and their construction was to have a major impact on the town. The book also contains chapters on the coming of the railway, an account of an archaeological survey of navvy encampments and some information about contemporary attitudes to the railway, as told by a local poet.

Several of the authors used Kendal Archives and Local Studies for their research. Copies of the above books are available to borrow from Local Studies at Kendal Library.



ISBN: 978-0-9553980-3-2, the third in an occasional series of history books published by members of Upper Eden History Society.

Conservation at Cumbria Archives

It has been a busy year for collections care, with the start of the Atlantic Geomatic International (AG) project to digitise the parish registers held at our archive centres.





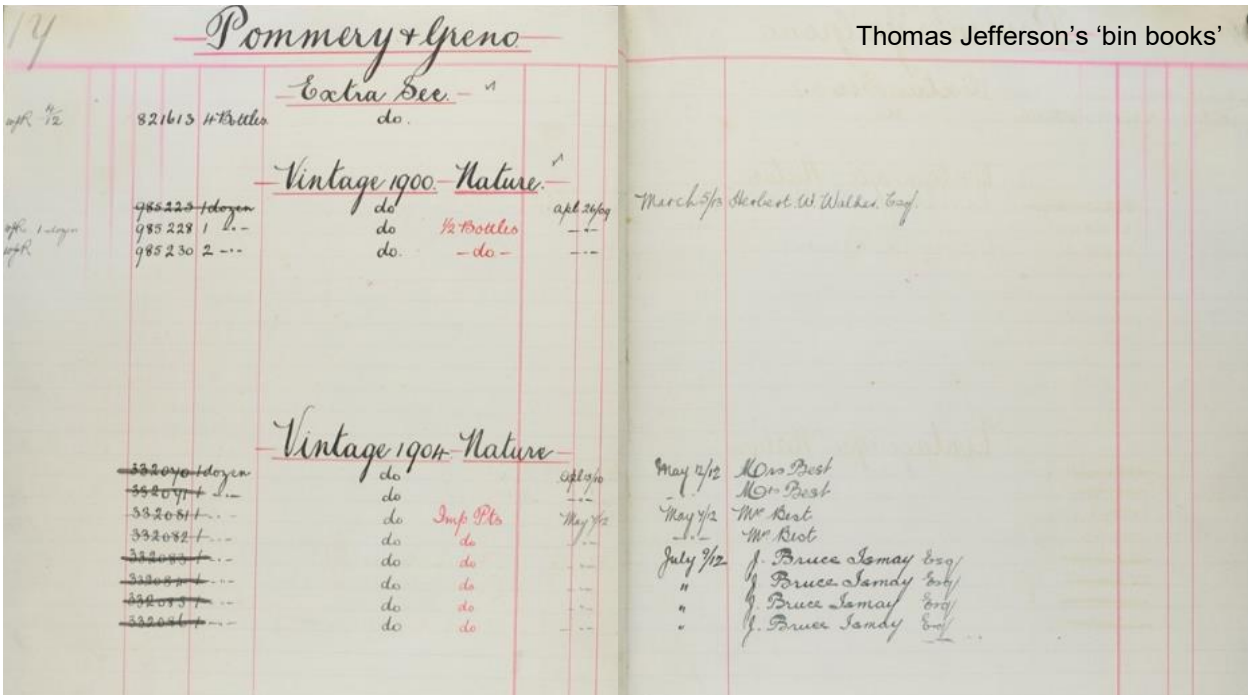


The Conservation Team
Above left to right:
Fay Humphreys and Claire Dean, Conservators, Erika Freyr, Senior Conservator.
Left: Helen Leech and George Platt, Digitisation Technicians

There was concern that the project would be detrimental to the long term preservation of the volumes.
Any digitisation project carries risks, but a commercial project (which tends to be faster and less nuanced than our in-house digitisation service) carries additional risks.
To mitigate this, our conservators surveyed every volume, and determined which were fit for commercial digitisation and which were not. As the parish registers have in fact all been digitised onto microfilm in the past, there was no need to subject the vulnerable volumes to the process a second time, and these will be made available by digitising the microfilm copies instead.
The conservation team have offered their survey template and training to other record offices throughout the UK, as many do not have conservation teams, but all will be approached by AG for this national project.

Digitisation

Helen Leech, our Digitisation Technician, has been digitising the 'bin books' of Jefferson's Wine Merchants in Whitehaven. The bin books list what wines and champagnes were in their cellars between the years 1906 to 1930, and to whom they were sold.
Jefferson were the suppliers to Cunard and the White Star Line, owners of the Titanic.
The Chairman and Managing Director was J Bruce Ismay. The name is likely to be familiar, because he was on the Titanic and survived.
You'll have seen him depicted in films and books. He was cleared of all wrongdoing and seems to have really suffered after the sinking. He lived out of the public eye until his death in 1937.
So, it was interesting to find his name in the bin books. In July 2012, three months after the disaster, somebody in his household bought four dozen bottles of Pommery Nature



Thomas Jefferson's 'bin books'

'We have been digitising the 'bin books' of Jefferson's Wine Merchants, suppliers to Cunard and the White Star Line, owners of the Titanic.'

Champagne. No doubt a normal expense, but intriguing nonetheless. Meanwhile, George Platt, Digitisation Technician, has been working to digitise paintings from our collections.

In 1937, at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, approximately four thousand children from Basque Country were evacuated to shelters across the UK, see image below.

Over one hundred of the children found refuge in Brampton, thanks to the volunteer efforts of the local churches, schools, trade unions, and the Women's Cooperative Guild. Together, they aided the Cumberland and Westmorland Basque Children's Committee to renovate a disused workhouse into a shelter for the children where they might receive education and care.

Still bold and bright today, the Basque children's paintings stand out as a colourful example of the capabilities of grassroot funded humanitarian efforts.



Brampton Basque children's artwork.

Erika Freyr,
Senior Conservator

Researcher's Contribution

Winifred Nicholson
and the Brampton Basque children's hostel

Rob David

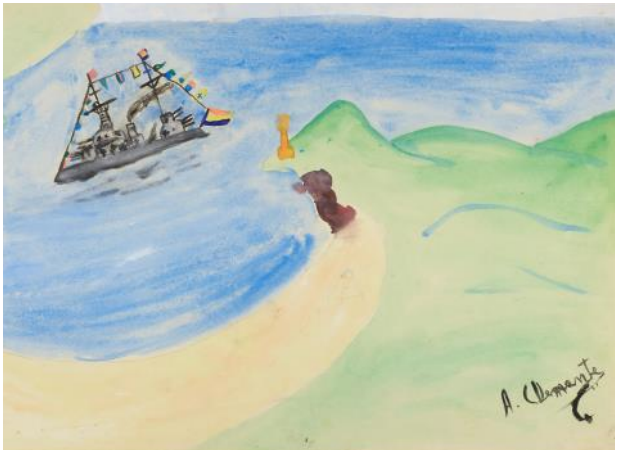
Towards the end of 2024 descendants of the Cumberland artist Winifred Nicholson (1893-1981) deposited eight pictures at Carlisle Archive Centre which had been painted by the Basque child refugees at the Brampton hostel between 1937 and 1939 under her tutelage.[1]

Jake Nicholson, Winifred's eldest son, kept these paintings because he knew how much teaching the Basque children had meant to his mother, and how she loved their use of bright colours.

These youngsters from the Basque region of Spain were amongst about four thousand refugee children from the Spanish Civil War who came to the United Kingdom. Over one hundred of them were accommodated at the Brampton hostel and they were taught by two Spanish teachers who had accompanied them from Bilbao, along with a number of English and foreign teachers engaged by the Roberts family of Boothby.[2] Charles and Lady Cecilia Roberts were



the driving force behind the establishment of the hostel, and Winifred Nicholson (née Roberts) who had a house at Bankshead, near Lanercost in Cumberland was one of their daughters





[1]The eight paintings include three by Alfonso Clemente Pérez (aged 14 in 1937), one by his younger sister Ana Clemente Pérez (aged 9 in 1937), one initialled AR which is Alfonso Ruiz López (age 14 in 1937), one by Fernand V which may be by Fernando Villanueva Guerre (aged 13 in 1937). In addition there are two paintings which are unsigned.

[2]For a history of the Basque children at Brampton see: R. David, *'Happy and Safe': The Basque Child Refugees in Cumberland and Westmorland 1937-1939* (Carlisle, Fell Foot Press, 2023).



and became one of Britain's most distinguished artists of the mid twentieth century.[3] Wilfrid Roberts, the MP for North Cumberland and an avid supporter of the Spanish democratic government, was Winifred's brother. Although it seems that Winifred was living outside Cumberland in Paris and Surrey between 1937 and 1939 she is thought to have spent her summers either at Bankshead or with her parents at Boothby. It was probably during the summers of 1937 and 1938 that she taught the Basque children at Brampton. She had an interest in education and apparently enjoyed teaching as at one time she ran a small school at Bankshead and possibly at Boothby too.

The eight paintings in this collection are characterised by the use of vivid colours. Winifred clearly invited the children to paint the landscapes that were familiar to them in Spain. The pictures reflect the bright light of the Basque region, and in the case of two paintings by Alfonso Clemente Pérez, the landscape he depicted can be identified as that around the bay of his home town, San Sebastian. It is possible that the painting depicting a battleship was the earlier of the two when the trauma of war remained uppermost in his mind. The other picture perhaps came a little later by which time his memory of the war was fading. Much later in life one of Winifred's pupils, Alfonso Ruiz López,

'In the case of two paintings by Alfonso Clemente Pérez, the landscape he depicted can be identified as that around the bay of his home town, San Sebastian.'

[3]Winifred had married the artist Ben Nicholson but they separated in 1931. Between 1937 and 1939 Winifred was living near Brampton and among other activities, ran a small school at Banks Head. A useful short biography of Winifred can be found in: Crane Kalman Gallery, *The Nicholson Women* (London, 2204).

Researcher's Contribution

described Winifred Nicholson as 'the most marvellous person…who began giving us water-colour classes and, as we progressed, introduced us to oils'. He went on to say that he 'enjoyed these classes as I was very keen and loved painting'.
In early 1938 or 1939 the Basque Children's Committee announced that it was mounting an exhibition of paintings by Basque children and those at Brampton were asked to take part. Alfonso tells us that 'Mrs Nicholson was very enthusiastic and set us to work tirelessly. Eighteen of my pictures went, and they were all sold in London, ending up in English homes as reminders of us. I received £38 from their sale, which was a small fortune for me, and I had already decided how to spend it.

'We weren't short of anything ourselves, so I would buy clothes for my siblings in Spain who didn't have any.'



We weren't short of anything ourselves, so I would buy clothes for my siblings in Spain who didn't have any'[4]. These paintings join the substantial archive relating to the Basque children in Cumbria deposited at Carlisle Archive Centre by various members of the Roberts family. This archive is now one of the most significant deposits for the study of these child refugees in the United Kingdom[5].



[4]N. Benjamin (ed), *Recuerdos: Basque Children Refugees in Great Britain* (Oxford, Mousehold Press, 2007), 145-6.
[5]I am grateful to Shirley Nicholson and Jovan Nicholson for additional information.

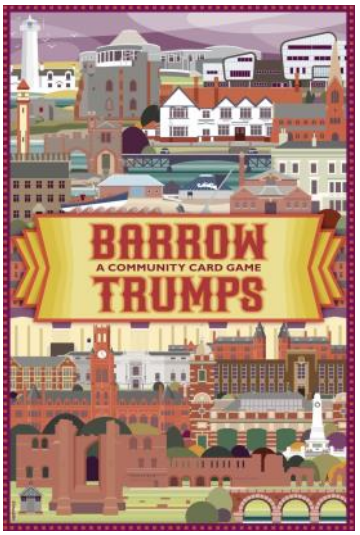
Barrow Archives Update

Susan Benson and Hazel Gatford, Archivists

We have been actively engaged with our local community through various educational and cultural initiatives. In particular, we've conducted sessions on Victorian Barrow at local schools, and, for the first time, the effect of the Ulverston-Lancaster railway's construction on Grange-over-Sands.

At short notice, Susan acted as tour guide for a group of pupils from Brazil, photographed below, who were visiting Furness Academy. They visited Roa Island to look at Piel Castle, stopped at Furness Abbey, then drove through the centre of Barrow and round Walney and Barrow Island. Fortunately, their English was excellent and there was no need for a translator.

Several local groups are participating in the Barrow Top Trumps project with Arts4All. We liaised with St George's School, whose building is the former Lakeland Laundries (now Lakeland House). The students visited our Library, as part of this initiative, to research their building's history. Similarly, representatives from the Barrow Deaf Association came in to conduct research about Barrow Cemetery.



'The Archive Centre is working with Daisy Horsley from Historic England, the Dock Museum, and staff from local schools on the Barrow Heritage Schools

The Archive Centre is working with Daisy Horsley from Historic England, the Dock Museum, and staff from local schools on the Barrow Heritage Schools Cluster project. The subjects chosen are the growth of Barrow and the Barrow Blitz. The project will result in a series of resource packs to be used in schools.



Cumbria **Archives**



Peggy Braithwaite,
the first woman lighthouse keeper

We continue to work with artists working on various projects in the area. Sarah Hardacre was appointed by BarrowFull to work on Reclaiming the Past, part of the Barrow Dreams project. She worked with local groups to research Barrow's Remarkable Women, including those involved in local politics, Peggy Braithwaite, the first woman lighthouse keeper, who was based in Walney Lighthouse, Gill Thompson the first female nuclear physicist employed in the shipyard, and the WI and Ladies Lifeboat Guild. Banners were made and the project culminated in a parade through the town centre with people carrying the banners. Sarah French wrote a lovely article about the parade in the November edition of the Cumbria Life magazine.

'Sarah Hardacre worked with local groups to research Barrow's Remarkable Women, including those involved in local politics, Peggy Braithwaite, the first woman lighthouse keeper, who was based in Walney Lighthouse.'

For this year's Festival of Built Heritage in September, Susan led two walks around the town centre looking at the history of various buildings. She led the walk again for Wellbeing Walks, which was organised by Active Cumbria.

Staff from the Archive Centre attended the Medieval Fair at Furness Abbey, which has been organised by Furness Abbey Fellowship for many years. This year the weather was lovely which encouraged 1,800 visitors.

During June we hosted a morning of talks: the first



Above: Self portrait of a Furness Abbey scribe

by Paul Dryburgh of National Archives on The Cowcher Book of the Duchy of Lancaster; the second by Dr Christopher Tinmouth on Furness Abbey.

In July, Geoffrey Durham gave a talk on George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, who visited the Furness area on several occasions and was not always welcomed. This event was held in partnership with Swarthmoor Local Meeting to celebrate George Fox's 400th birthday.

As part of Sankey Through the Lens, the second project run by Signal Film and Media using the Sankey photographic archive, we have hosted four talks by Sankey volunteers: Rod White on the individuals whose gravestones in Barrow Cemetery were photographed by the Sankeys; Jean McSorley on the building of Barrow Docks; Peter Laird on 'Airships and how to lose an MP'; and finally, Stephe Cove on 'From the Mountains to the Sea: The Sankeys Follow in Wordsworth's Footsteps'. They have all proved very popular talks.

Recent Accessions

Over the last few months, Barrow Archive Centre has received the usual variety of accessions from schools, businesses, parishes, non-conformist churches, solicitors, societies and individuals. Some highlights include:

BDX 945

Biographical material relating to Ian Halliday, metallurgist, who developed the continuous casting process of steel manufacture at a pilot plant at Barrow-in-Furness in the 1950s;

BDX 947

Photographs, videos, mementos, and memories of Dave Day held on 8 June 2024 in memory of TV cook Dave Myers, one of the Hairy Bikers, who was bornand brought up in Barrow-in-Furness

BDX 953

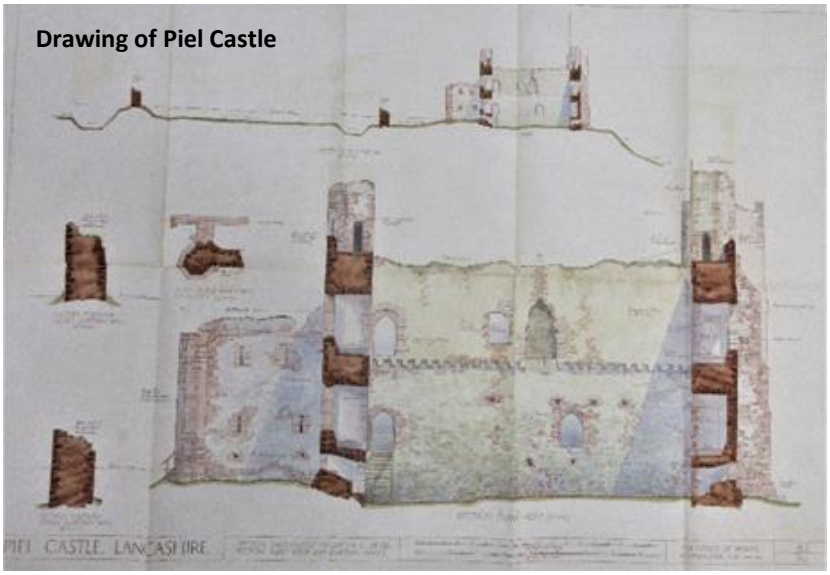
Invitations and photographs of ship and submarine launches at Barrow-in-Furness 1948-1962;

BDX 676

A poster advertising a concert by folk group, The Spinners, who appeared at Barrow Civic Hall on 24 Jan 1973

Cataloguing

Files from Barrow Borough Council Surveyor and Engineers Department may not seem very interesting. However, among the information about sewers, the redevelopment of Hindpool after the bombing in 1941, and the remodelling of the town centre in the 1960s, some interesting items can be found. In particular, there are three files on Piel


Drawing of Piel Castle



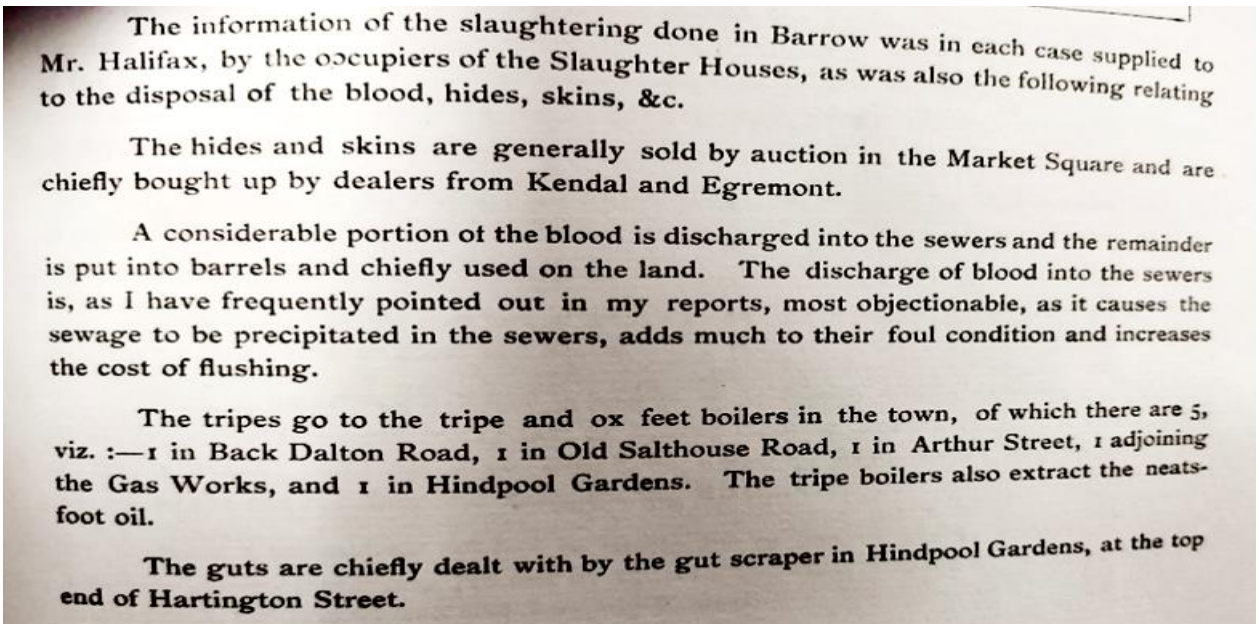
Above: Piel Castle

Castle from 1921, including beautiful drawings of the castle, a volume of photographs, and a survey by HM Office of Works BA/S/2/8/17. The collection also contains a fascinating report by W H Fox, borough surveyor and engineer from 1898, on the town's privately run abattoirs and chill rooms. It is full of information about how the discarded parts of the animals could be repurposed. For example, blood could be used to make fertilizer, refine sugar from sugar beet, and produce buttons; guts could be used to line pipes in breweries to stop the beer reacting with the metal; horns could be used as combs or handles for knives; even the scrapings from the stomach could be used to make "Texas nuts" to feed to other animals. Fox recommended that the borough council build a new abattoir, which it did.

Volunteers

We have a group of very loyal volunteers who come in every Tuesday to work on various projects. They have recently completed an index to volumes from Barrow Borough Council's listing of bus drivers, conductors and buses, 1917-1930; an index of licences for buses issued by Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, 1917-1923; and an index to Barrow Workhouse, 1901-1906 (an on-going project). Building plans for Ulverston Urban District Council 1916-1973 have now been catalogued and a start has been made on boxes of files from Barrow Town Clerks' Department. Dalton-in-Furness housed lots of evacuees from Salford from 1939, and one volunteer is currently also producing a list of all the children who stayed in the area.

Below: Barrow abattoir notice.



The information of the slaughtering done in Barrow was in each case supplied to Mr. Halifax, by the occupiers of the Slaughter Houses, as was also the following relating to the disposal of the blood, hides, skins, &c.

The hides and skins are generally sold by auction in the Market Square and are chiefly bought up by dealers from Kendal and Egremont.

A considerable portion of the blood is discharged into the sewers and the remainder is put into barrels and chiefly used on the land. The discharge of blood into the sewers is, as I have frequently pointed out in my reports, most objectionable, as it causes the sewage to be precipitated in the sewers, adds much to their foul condition and increases the cost of flushing.

The tripes go to the tripe and ox feet boilers in the town, of which there are 5, viz. :—1 in Back Dalton Road, 1 in Old Salthouse Road, 1 in Arthur Street, 1 adjoining the Gas Works, and 1 in Hindpool Gardens. The tripe boilers also extract the neats-foot oil.

The guts are chiefly dealt with by the gut scraper in Hindpool Gardens, at the top end of Hartington Street.

Serendipity and Storytelling: Piecing Together Lives from the Past

Helena Sanderson, M.A.

Amongst generations of Lancastrians, the only clue to my four times great grandmother's origins is the anomalous 'Westmorland Kendale' entry on an 1851 census return. The data indicates she was born around 1795, and details from online parish register transcriptions suggest a potential 1796 baptism, with parents Thomas and Jane Barns. Checking this with the original Holy Trinity Church Parish Registers on microfilm, additional information in the baptism records confirms Ann's birth in 1795, and her brother William's a year later.

The children appear to be the only surviving offspring of Thomas and Jane, who married in Kendal in 1794, and lived for a time on Wildman Street. A marriage bond, legally allowing the couple to marry by licence instead of banns, describes widower Thomas as an exciseman, and gives his new spouse a maiden name: Stephenson. Sadly, their son William dies in 1810 aged fourteen, 'son of Thomas Barns, deceased', confirming an 1807 burial record for his fifty-three year-old father.

In the first incidence of serendipity, at the turn of the millennium I lived on Wildman Street, next to what was the Prince of Wales Feathers pub. I wonder how much the street changed in the two hundred years between our generations. In the 1790s, Castle Dairy would already have existed for four hundred years, Sleddall Hall would have experienced many changes since its early seventeenth century origins, and next door to the hall, just how old was The Old Brewery when it appeared on Thomas Jeffreys' 1770 map?

As can sometimes be the way, it's not always one's direct lineage that proves the most engaging. Widowed and bringing up two young children, many women in Jane's circumstances would have



felt the need to remarry quickly. The 1794 marriage bond had put her age at twenty one, and I find another potential marriage for her in the parish registers from 1808, tying in with her husband's death the previous year: Jane Barnes, widowed, marries William Woof, widowed, at Holy Trinity Church.

Nearly a quarter of a century later, William Woof appears in an 1832 poll book for Westmorland voters. Living at Killington, he is qualified to vote through the rental of a mill, house, and land, for which he was paying at least £80 a year. The 1841 census reveals William and

Researcher's Contribution

Jane Woof living north of Killington, William a miller, matching up with the poll book entry. The couple are still there in 1851, Jane now seventy-eight, which corresponds with her age in 1794. William dies before the 1861 census is taken, and Jane, now a magnificent eighty-eight, is living in her home as a boarder.

That's only part of the story, of course. Jane is buried in the churchyard of All Saints' Church, a tiny church nestled close to Hall Beck in the hamlet of Killington. Her home a mile away, the mill one of many along the length of the River Lune. One summer evening, I take a stroll from the church, along the road she would have likely travelled every Sunday, and there I meet my second incidence of serendipity.

A small enclave of houses, ancient and modern, the mill converted, but Jane's home still a home: I knock. The owner is someone I know by name, a local historian who has lived here for many years, and who has researched the



house and its inhabitants. They know of Jane and William Woof, and of William's trade as miller at the nearby mill. I am given a guided tour, and allowed to take photographs of my five times great grandmother's abode, where she lived for over thirty years.

One of the most fascinating parts of Jane's home is the small cupboard inset next to the fireplace in the main living room. Would it have been too warm for spices, instead a repository for salt, or even tea, both of which were expensive in their day? In her 2010 article on Lake District built -in cupboards, Sarah Woodcock highlights they may not have been referred to as 'spice cupboards' until recent times, and that they may have held anything of value.[1]

I wonder what Jane kept in this one? The carved initials suggest previous seventeenth or early eighteenth century inhabitants, although what happened to W to prompt a removal is somewhat intriguing!

The whitewashed dairy room on the lower level also takes me back to Jane's time. I lay my palms on the dark slate slabs, imagine Jane's hands on a warm summer day soaking up their coolness. William was also farmer of eleven acres, and Jane would have been responsible for making and organising produce for market, produce made and stored in this room.

Jane dies in 1862, and it is through her will that solid confirmation appears that she was 'my' Jane: she leaves her personal estate to Stephenson nephews.

The *Westmorland Gazette* reports her as being 'much and deservedly respected', and I feel that, whilst we can only guess about Jane, her personality, and her life, those four words tell us a great deal.

[1]Woodcock, Sarah, 'Fitted Press Cupboards and Built-in Wall Cupboards of the Lake District', *Regional Furniture*, xxiv, 2010, pp. 17-39 (p. 22)

Carlisle Archives Update

Kelda Roe, Michael Stephens, Archivists
Sarah Wood, Archives Assistant

Sales Particulars

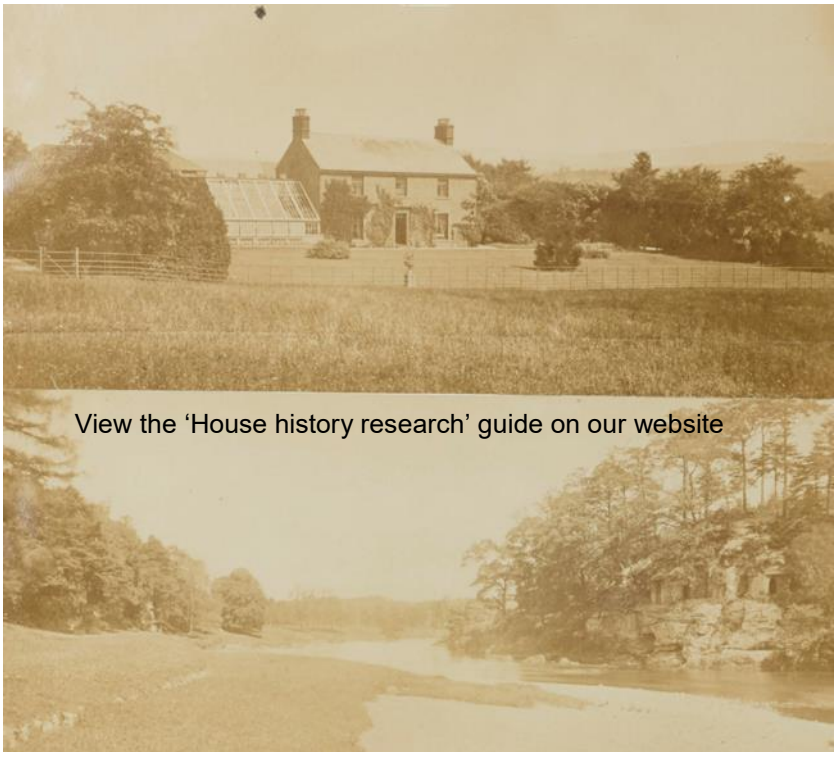
Sale particulars can take the form of brochures relating to the sale of land or property, and some of the best examples include photographic images and floor plans. Such particulars are of great use to family historians as they can contain the names of occupiers/owners of the property at the time of the sale.

Some recent cataloguing of Blaymire and Shepherd, Solicitors of Penrith, includes a collection of over 500 sales posters, particulars and plans relating to properties listed for sale across North Cumbria. One of the earliest items, which dates back to 1817, details the sale of the Itonfield Estate, in the parish of Hesket-in-the-Forest. A later item dated 1900 details a house and shop on the west side of Market Square, Keswick, which was occupied by The American and Continental Supply Stores.

The list of these sales particulars can be found on our online catalogue, CASCAT, by entering the reference DBS/6/1* in the reference number field:

If you are interested in researching the history of your house, there is also a property history guide on our website.

Sarah Wood,
Archives Assistant



Whitehaven Market Charter

We are delighted to report that inventory work carried out by the Carlisle Archive Centre team has led to the cataloguing of Whitehaven’s market charter. The 1660 Letters Patent by King Charles II to the Inhabitants of Whitehaven granted them the right to hold a market every Thursday and a fair annually. The fair was to be held on the 1st August, or the following day if the 1st fell on a Sunday. The tradition of the Lammas ‘Shout’ by the Whitehaven Town Crier is still held annually in August, restating the inhabitants’ right to a market.

A grant of a market to Whitehaven had been issued in 1654 but,

because this was in the Commonwealth period, it must have seemed sensible for Whitehaven's inhabitants to have their rights reconfirmed by a royal grant. It was Sir John Lowther who petitioned the crown for this confirmation (the petition itself is held privately by the Leconfield Estate). Whitehaven did not have a corporate body until 1709 (Whitehaven Town and Harbour Trustees, set up following the 1708 Act of Parliament for the improvement of the town) and the Lowther family were the major landowners in the area. These facts, combined with Sir John Lowther's work to petition the crown, perhaps explain why the charter was given to the safe keeping of the Lowther family.

But why has this charter been overlooked for so long? This historically important document had been safely stored at the Carlisle Archive Centre in environmentally controlled conditions for many years, and there was a summary of it in the accession record from 1963 – likely one of the first deposits by the Lowther family. Perhaps previous generations of archives staff considered it such a significant item that everyone knew exactly where to find it and a detailed catalogue entry was not needed. Then, when cataloguing was carried out for many of the Lowther family title deeds in the 2010s, as part of the need to register mineral rights, this item was not shortlisted for detailed listing. Whatever the reason, it is now catalogued with reference number DLONS/W/9/41/1.

During a closed fortnight for staff training and stocktaking, an archives team member identified the charter as an item which would benefit from bespoke packaging produced by the conservation team. Another team member then worked on translating the Latin to help identify and catalogue the document, while another worked on clearly identifying the provenance for the item within the centre's deposit records. As a final stage, the digitisation team produced high-quality digital images of the 364-year-old charter and its magnificent royal seal; these have already been used by Whitehaven Town Council to update their information about the terms of the charter. Altogether a true group effort making full use of the Cumbria Archives' team's expert skills and knowledge.

Kelda Roe, Archivist

Outreach activity with local schools

Archives are a great resource to support learning at Key Stage 2 and 3. We have had a very busy Autumn term with a strong demand from local schools. The History curriculum seems to have been focused on census returns which are a very popular and informative resource. We have delivered workshops at 8 different schools (Stanwix, Stoneraise, Ireby, Scotby. Wreay, Rockcliffe, Newtown and Yewdale), connecting with just under 300 pupils.

Recent Accessions

We have received eighty two deposits of material since June.

This includes the usual flow of parish council records, including minutes of meetings, accounts, planning applications, and the registration of land from a variety of Councils: Hethersgill, Kirkbampton,

Walton and Hunsonby. With the introduction of two new unitary authorities last year, we have started to take in material from former district councils, including Eden District Council. We have received two large deposits of electoral registers which means we now enjoy coverage for the Eden area from 1982-2023.

As with many local groups and committees, we have taken in records of two local Women's Institutes following their closure: Among the Kirklinton and District records, there are scrapbooks (4), 1949-2016; attendance registers (3), 2005-2015; account books (9), 1923-2014; reel of film; officer's memorandum book, 2007-2008; competition results, 1983-2002; summary history of the institute. Among the Thirlmere records, there are record books (10), 1956-1997; committee minute books (5), 2000-2018, scrapbooks (2), 1956-2016; press cuttings book, 2017; registration with the Charity Commission, 1985;



Whitehaven Market Charter

programmes of events, 2001-2006.
We also received the records of Penrith Ladies Luncheon Club following its closure in 2017. This collection comprises: minutes of club meetings and Annual General Meetings, Mar 1972-Mar 2007; programmes of events, 1978-2010; club rules and a note of changes made in May 2004; contact details for speakers and draft programmes, 2007-2017.
We have successfully bid for several items from the local auction house, Thomson Roddick. This includes the following sales particulars: Oakbank Estate, Wetheral, 1868; How Hill Estate, Castle Sowerby, 1874; Eden Lacey Estate, Great Salkeld and Lazonby, 1897; an estate at Cotehill, 1907; Skirsgill Farm, Penrith and Peatgates Farm, Bolton, 1924; a manuscript minute book for Blencathra Isolation Hospital, 1923-1944 which also contains newspaper cuttings, and a rota of visitors and meetings, 1935; brochure about the Cumberland Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis, 1904; five black and white photographs of the building, staff and inmates, 1920s.
During the year, we received quite a significant deposit of material following the death of Geoff Horne who passed away in November 2023. He joined Carlisle Natural History Society in the early 1960's and became Society President in the 1970s. From the early stages, Geoff's ability and enthusiasm for monitoring birds of prey, especially the peregrine were widely recognised. This is reflected in his collection which contains nest monitoring records, ringing notebooks, diaries and correspondence.
We were also contacted by the current owners of the former Maryport Police Station who found various records in a chimney breast during renovation work. This includes a register of habitual criminals containing details of distinctive remarks and peculiarities, 1887, and a report concerning the theft of 1 Ancona cock and 8 crossbred hens from Jonathan Musgrave of Bragg Beck, Flimby, 1910.
Our last deposit of 2024 is a set of seven paintings by Spanish children staying at the Hostel for Basque Refugees in Brampton, made under the supervision of Winifred Roberts in 1937. They are in excellent condition with bright and vibrant colours and are a most wonderful addition to the existing archive of the Roberts family of Boothby.

'We were also contacted by the current owners of the former Maryport Police Station who found various records in a chimney breast during renovation work. This includes a register of habitual criminals containing details of distinctive remarks and peculiarities, 1887.'

Cataloguing

At the end of November, we closed for two weeks as part of an annual stock taking exercise. We managed to rationalise existing storage space through appraisal work and changing the physical location of some collections. We generated nearly eleven cubic metres of space which is a

significant achievement, much needed as we continue to take in considerable quantities of material. We also made a start listing building plans held in series 1, Carlisle City Council (Ref: CA/E/1). This project will continue in the new year and has already been assigned to a staff member.

Work continues on the Lowther family estate plans (Ref. DLONS/W), the indictments and petitions held in the Cumberland Quarter Sessions (Ref. Q/11/1 and 3) and Cowans Sheldon (Ref. DB 40).

The Joint Archives Committee records held at Carlisle Archive Centre cover the foundation of the Joint Archives Committee in 1962, through to the introduction of a joint Cumbria Archives Service following the formation of Cumbria County Council in 1974, and then on to 2023 with the renaming of the service as Cumbria Archives following the most recent local government reorganisation. This collection also includes records relating to the Cumberland Record Office prior to 1962. As well as records which track the history of this department, deposit records relating to the provenance and terms of deposit for the collections in Cumbria Archives' care are retained permanently.

While it is unusual for a major project relating to internal service files to take place, review of these files was well overdue; growth in the number of collections and complexity of material in Cumbria Archives' care resulted in catalogue structure overhauls and many collections were later transferred to Whitehaven Archive Centre in the 1990s. This review work and the cataloguing records into the electronic catalogue, is being undertaken by one of the archivists and will ensure that collections' provenance remains accessible in the appropriate archive centre. This will ensure that we continue to follow depositors' wishes and provide archives staff with ready access to collections' background information and terms of reuse. This will support depositors, researchers and internal reporting along with external grant applications for projects to make more collections readily accessible.

Much of the material will, by necessity, be accessible only to archive staff to ensure that depositors' personal data is protected, but we aim to make files relating to the history of the archive service publicly available wherever appropriate.

Michael Stephens, Archivist



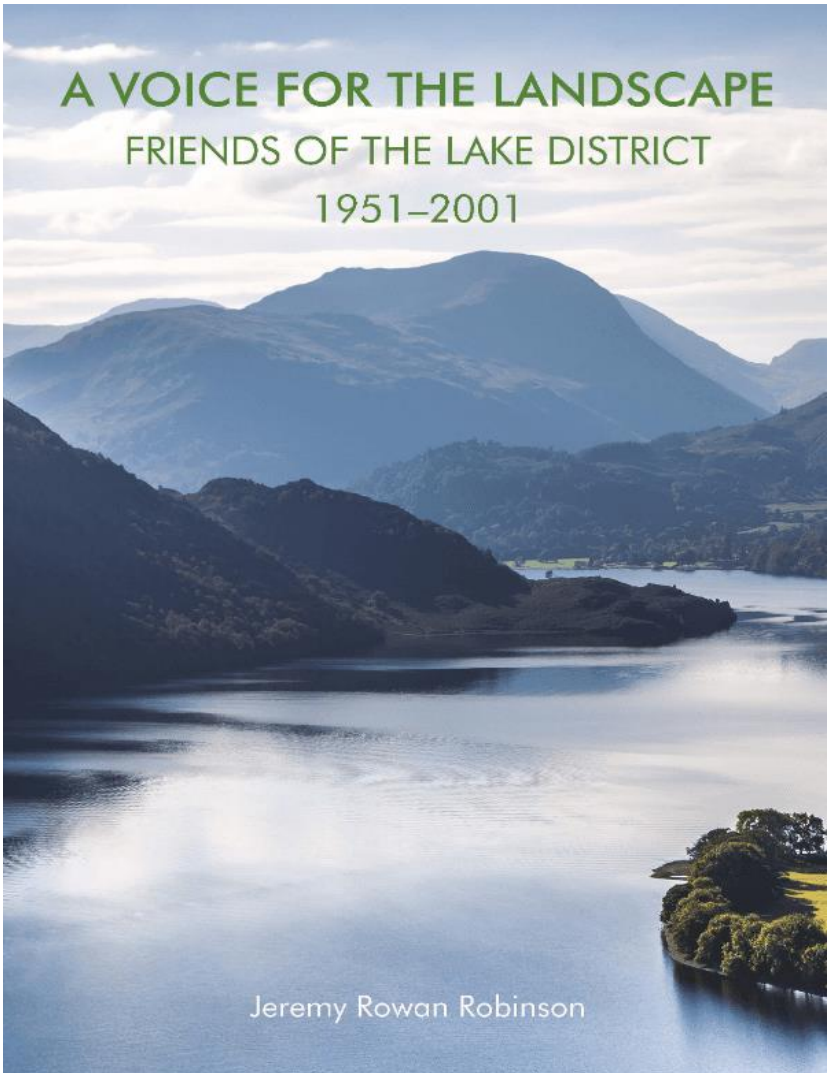
Brampton Basque children's artwork.

Researcher's Contribution

A Voice for the Landscape

Jeremy Rowan Robinson

It is always rewarding when months of research in the archives is reflected in a published work. *A Voice for the Landscape: The Friends of the Lake District 1951-2001* was eventually published by the Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University, at the end of last year.



The Friends were established in 1934 with two objectives: (1) to campaign for the establishment of national parks, and, in particular, a national park in the Lake District; and (2) to take action for the protection of the landscape.
John Cousin's book *Friends of the Lake District: The Early Years* shows that the Friends played a major role in achieving their first objective. *A Voice for the Landscape* is a sequel and looks at how far the Friends achieved their second objective during the 50 years following the designation of the Lake District National Park in 1951. It was published just in time for the 90th Anniversary of the Friends.

The book takes an issue-based approach and there are chapters on electricity supply, development control, water supply, definitive maps of public rights of way, road improvements and control of power boats. In some ways, therefore, the book is a history of the National Park over this period seen from the perspective of the Friends and it shows that there were successes and failures over this period. Perhaps the biggest success was heading off the proposal to increase the supply of water taken from Ennerdale and

Wastwater; the biggest failure was the inability to stop the major upgrade of the A66. The Friends, of course, were not alone in seeking to conserve the landscape of the National Park over this period; others played an important role, not least the National Park Authority itself, but theirs is a different story. Much of the Friends' work involves responding to proposals for development made by others and they are often characterised as saying 'no' to everything. And it is true that they do sometimes say 'no'; indeed, they would be failing in their duty to their members if they didn't object to something they regard as unacceptable. However, the book shows that they try to be positive in their approach and look for ways in which the proposal can go ahead without harming, or doing less harm, to the landscape. For example, with the proposal to upgrade the A66, they were an early advocate of an alternative route to the north of Skiddaw; and with the proposal to take more water from Ennerdale and Wastwater, they were an early advocate of the use of the river Derwent to meet the need.

What was surprising was the extent to which the research showed that the Friends had taken the initiative over this period in safeguarding the landscape. A good example is the enormous amount of work undertaken by the Friends to ensure that the Register of Common Land and the Definitive Maps of Public Rights of Way were as comprehensive as possible. It can also be seen in their successful parliamentary campaign to protect limestone pavements, in their support for the traditional skills of hedging and dry stone walling, in their donations to other bodies wishing to acquire land for conservation purposes and in their environmental grants programme for public bodies and community groups.

The research for the book was by no means straightforward, but I was fortunate to receive help in accessing material from a number of quarters and in particular from what were then the County Record Offices and especially Kendal Records Office. Through them I was able to access the Friends' archive and the minutes of the National Park Authority and the local authorities, all of which proved invaluable. I'm happy to have this opportunity to say thank you.

The outcome is a book which shows that the Friends were a significant voice for the landscape over that period of fifty years.



Jeremy is a retired legal professional who served as a solicitor for the National Park Board in the 1970s. He was a Park Board member for nearly eight years from 2007 and has been a dedicated volunteer with the National Park for sixteen years. Jeremy was also closely involved in establishing Scotland's first two national parks and was a trustee of the Friends organisation for three years. His extensive experience provides him with deep insights into the challenges and operations of national parks in the United Kingdom.

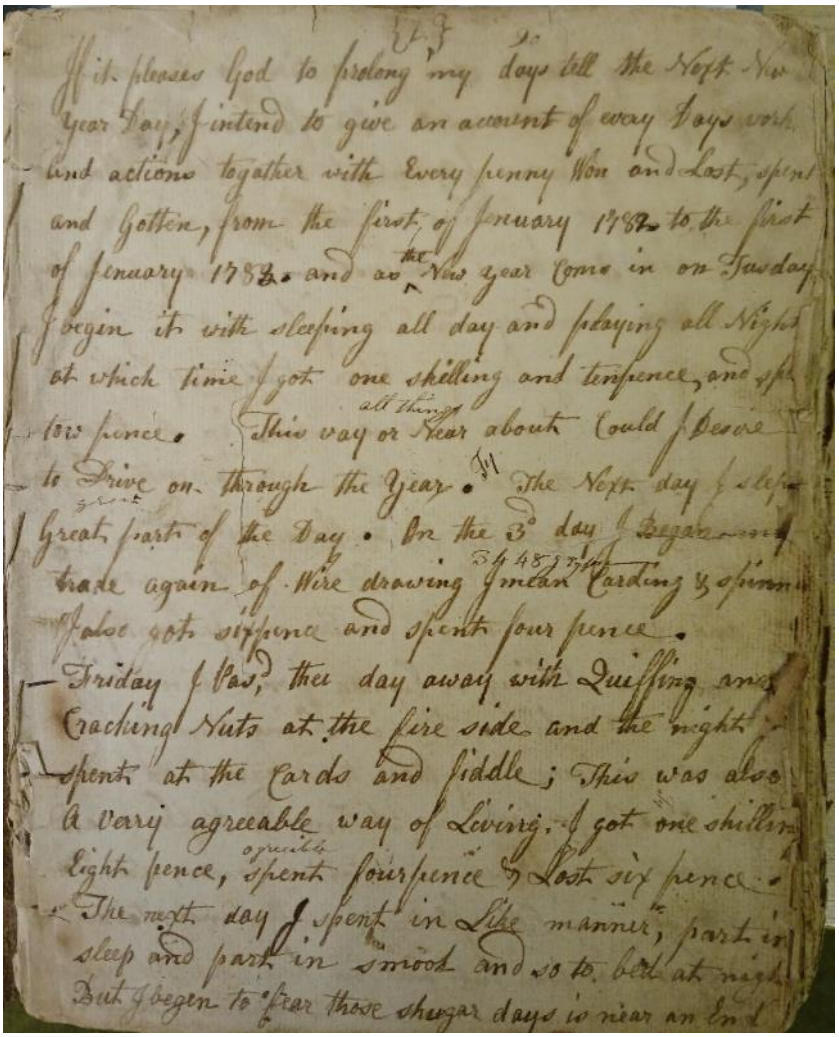
Kendal Archives Update

Anthony Hughes, Archivist

'… the New Year came in on Tuesday I begin it with sleeping all day and playing all night …' William Tyson's diary.

William Tyson of The Bield, Little Langdale, was a farmer who started keeping a diary in 1782. He began his diary as follows:-

'If it pleases God to prolong my days till the next New Year Day, I intend to give an account of every Days work and actions together with every penny won and lost, spent and gotten, from the first of January 1782 to the first of January 1783, and as the New Year came in on Tuesday I begin it with sleeping all day and playing all night...'.



If it pleases God to prolong my days till the Next New Year Day, I intend to give an account of every Days work and actions together with Every penny Won and Lost, spent and Gotten, from the first of January 1782 to the first of January 1783 and as the New year Come in on Tuesday I begin it with sleeping all day and playing all Night at which time I got one shilling and tenpence, and spent ten pence. This way or Near about Could I desire to Drive on through the Year. The Next day I slept great part of the Day. In the 3d day Began my trade again of Wire drawing I mean Carding & spinning I also got sixpence and spent four pence. Friday I Past the day away with Quoiting and Cracking Nuts at the fire side and the night spent at the Cards and fiddle; This was also a Verry agreeable way of Living. I got one shilling Eight pence, spent fourpence & Lost six pence. The next day I spent in Like manner, part in sleep and part in smood and so to bed at night. But I begen to fear those cheaper days is near an End

Above: The first page of William Tyson's diary, January 1782

Kendal Archives was very pleased to be given William Tyson's diary last year [ref WDX 2101/1]. It is an illuminating document full of insights into the life of a Westmorland farmer at the end of the 18th century. We learn from Tyson's diary that he carried out numerous tasks on his and neighbouring farms, that he played the violin for money at dances, and scrupulously noted his expenses. William describes himself as a husbandman and says, in an entry from October 1782, that '…I have a change of work every day, so that a husbandman's work can never be irksome.' Some tasks were more welcome than others though, and it appears that threshing was not a favourite job of his, as the following entry from September 1782 shows:

'Wednesday I begun threshing…though

threshing is a trade that goes very ill against the back with me, yet it puts me in mind of winter's return, wherein is placed that Golden time called Christmas, which will be long looked for…'.

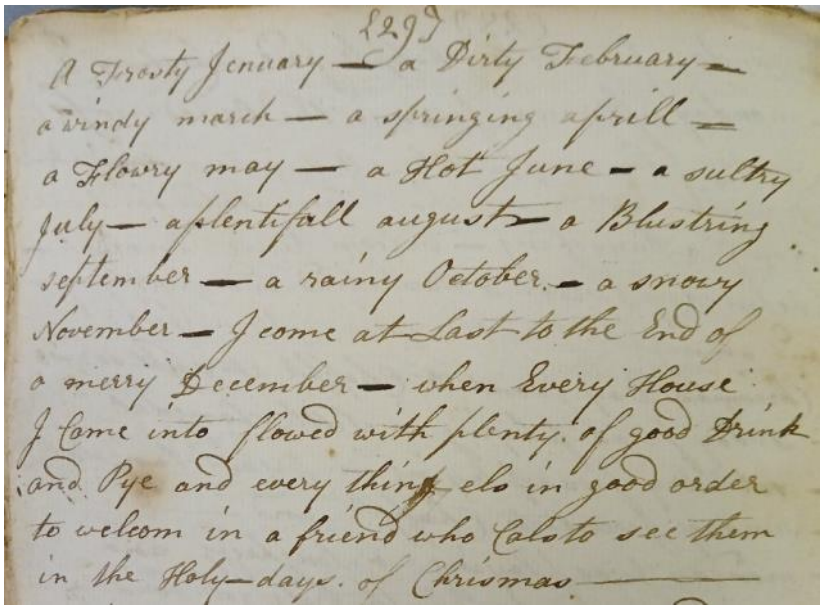
Most entries relate to a farmer's daily tasks, such as threshing, shearing, peeling bark, cutting bracken, looking after animals, fencing, carding, with occasional entries relating to fox hunting and other pursuits. Tyson went 'to Chapple' most Sundays, and on some 'exceeding wet' days, he 'did nothing', and sometimes he spent whole days 'hulking about at home.' Tyson sometimes writes an entry with more profundity than usual, and this seems to happen near the end of the year as he looks back over the preceding months. For example, at the end of October 1783, Tyson writes:

'Now was I to look over all this Book and compare this year with the last I should find a vast of Difference in Every particular as to Expenses and Gettings and Losings and all amusements but I must take times as they fall out, good or bad.'

'Tyson went 'to Chapple' most Sundays, and on some 'exceeding wet' days, he 'did nothing', and sometimes he spent whole days 'hulking about at home.'

Tyson goes on to say that Christmas is looked forward to 'particularly by the poor country fiddlers who have long been without a penny in their pockets…'. Tyson seemed to play the fiddle whenever he could, and even mentions playing at a dancing school. William sometimes earned 5 groats for playing the fiddle, and he played at a dance for eight hours to earn this amount on one occasion. He spent money as well as earned it but was frugal at the same time; he mentions that he attended his cousin Jenny's wedding at Clappersgate and for two days was 'very merrily… eating, drinking, dancing, or riding about all the while…and for all this feast and pleasure I only spent fourteen pence'.

Tyson then goes on to look back over the preceding year and adds an adjective to each month to describe how he experienced it, such as 'a Frosty January, a Dirty February, a windy March, a springing April, a Flowery May…' and so on.



Above: William Tyson's descriptions of the months of 1783

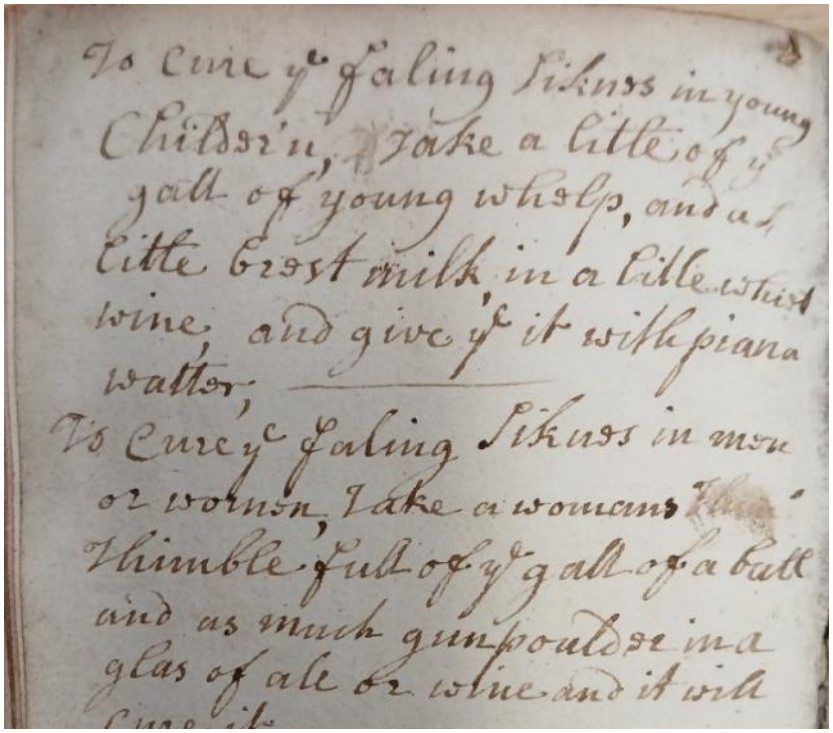
There are some interesting artistic connections relating to William Tyson's farm The Bield in recent times. Local artist Alfred Heaton Cooper painted a watercolour view of the house and sculptor Josefina de Vasconcellos and her artist husband Delmer Banner bought the property in 1939, living there for many years. William Tyson's diary is currently receiving some preservation work, but a digital copy is available to view at Kendal Archives [Ref: WDX 2101/1].

Jeremiah Jackson's pocket book

We were recently given a very interesting pocket book that belonged to Jeremiah Jackson who was a farmer in Brough in the early- to mid-18th century. The leather-bound book was started by Jeremiah Jackson in 1718 and it contains notes of various payments, numbers of sheep sold or shorn, recipes for various cures, and other miscellaneous entries. Later entries were added by Jeremiah's son, William. The recipes are very interesting and include a recipe 'to cure the fal[l]ing sicknes[s] in young children', along with a method of gilding metals, for creating glue that is waterproof, and for creating varnish. Falling sickness could refer to epilepsy or seizures, and the recipe says to 'take a little of the gall of a young whelp, and a little breast milk, in a little white wine and give it with piana water.' The recipe is followed by one for curing the falling sickness in men and women which requires



Above: Detail of the first page of Jeremiah Jackson's pocket book, 1718. **Below:** Cures for 'falling sickness' from Jeremiah Jackson's pocket book



‘A recipe for curing the falling sickness in men and women which requires mixing the gall of a bull with gunpowder in a glass of ale or wine.’

mixing the gall of a bull with gunpowder in a glass of ale or wine. There are also recipes for dealing with ailments of various animals.

The gilding, glue, and varnish recipes might have had more practical effects than the medical recipes, and hint that Jeremiah spent some time working on his farm buildings. A page in the pocket book confirms that building work was carried out by Jeremiah, listing the work done on building a house in 1718. Work carried out includes cutting trees, sawing spars, lintels and ribs.

While most entries are concerned with farming and associated work, one brief entry stands out for its description of violence. The entry states:

‘Memerd that upon y^{e} 24 of November 1726 y^{t} Robt Steward beat our Servant with a stick and with y^{e} same he struck out our horse’s eye.’

You can access the pocket book by booking an appointment at Kendal. Archive Centre [Ref WDX 2105/1].

Recent accessions

Kendal Archives has received many new accessions over the last six months, and here are some of the highlights:

WDB 123
Shap Granite Company Limited, Pink Quarry: time book, 1911-1913, 1947; maintenance book, 1954-1965

WDSO 440
South Lakes Walking Club records, including minutes, cash book, programmes, logs of walks, photographs, etc., 1935-2000

WDB 177
[Hankinson?] chemist and pharmacist, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, prescription books, 1881-1889

WDSO 344
Broadsides (6), composed and printed by John 'Poet' Close, Kirkby Stephen, circa 1850s

WDSO 441
Grange and District Photographic Society, including minutes, correspondence, programmes, secretary's papers, etc., 1967-2008

WDSO 229
Inner Wheel Club of Kendal, including minutes, accounts, 50th and 70th anniversary certificates, newspaper cuttings, etc., 1943-2024

WDX 2099
Black and white photographs of the construction of Calgarth pumping station, 1970-71

WDSO 450
Lake District Sheep Dog Trials Association minute book, 1953-1968

WDX 2101
Diary of William Tyson, farmer, of The Bield, Langdale, 18th century

WDX 2105
Pocket book of Jeremiah Jackson of Brough, farmer, containing notes relating to farming, recipes for cures, some accounts, etc., 1718-1752

WDX 2106
Diary of Henry Thompson of Kendal and Arnside [transcription], 1885-1888

Curwen of Workington Hall estate archive: some exciting news

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist





Letters patent of Henry VI granting to Sir Christopher Curwen, for his good services, the castle and land of Cany and Canyell in the bailliwick of Cauce (Caux), France, 30 January 1428. (DCU/4/177).

We are pleased to announce that the Curwen of Workington Hall collection, held at our Whitehaven Archive Centre, has been presented to Cumbria Archives by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, as part of the Acceptance in Lieu (AiL) of inheritance tax scheme administered by Arts Council England.

The full annual report on the scheme can be found on the Arts Council website.

The collection, comprising some 540 boxes and 200 unboxed maps and plans, is the largest single privately-owned collection at our Whitehaven office. Cumbria Archives has a long relationship with the Curwen papers, these being one of our first major family and estate collections to be deposited at the Carlisle Record Office in 1949. Since then, over twenty major and minor deposits have been made from the family and their solicitors from the 1960s onwards. The collection was transferred from Carlisle to our Whitehaven office on its opening in 1996 which brought the collection much closer to its West Cumberland origins.

The archive, with its

earliest document dating from 1358, occupies a significant place in the history of coastal Cumbria, and particularly its economic and industrial transformation of from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Much of the character of the area, with its planned new towns and collieries, was shaped by local landed families including the Curwens, Lowthers and Senhouses and their association with Workington, Whitehaven and Maryport respectively. The Curwen family played a major role, taking advantage of the coalfield to develop the town of Workington into a centre for shipbuilding, and iron and steel making. By 1750 the Curwen town of Workington was attempting to challenge the status of the Lowther owned town of Whitehaven as the main trade port in Cumberland, particularly for the export of coal.

The Curwen papers are a particularly rich source for records of the collieries and harbours of Harrington and Workington. The fortunate survival of many estate account books for the period of the mid-18th century to the early 19th century allows us to see, for example, lists of colliers toiling in the Curwen mines, labourers and servants working on the Curwen estates and even details of foodstuffs consumed and household goods obtained for the family's seat at Workington Hall. The court books from 1700 for the manors of Workington and Harrington yield a comprehensive picture of the state and growth of these towns, supplemented in the 19th century by the receipt books for ground rents, listing tenants and premises.

Many of the papers centre around John Christian Curwen (1756-1828), who must rank as one of the most interesting and progressive Cumbrians of his day. He was a member of the Christian family, who were an ancient family prominent in the Isle of Man and holding the hereditary office of deemster there. He was first cousin to the 'Bounty' mutineer Fletcher Christian. John married into the Curwen family in 1782 and assumed that surname as his own. He was Member of Parliament for Carlisle from 1786, with breaks, to 1820, and then for Cumberland from 1820 to 1828. The greatest strides in the development of the Curwen estates occurred during his time. Although the records of his parliamentary career are sparse in this collection, he made a national mark in his campaigns for reform of the Corn Laws, and for Catholic emancipation. His practical interest in agricultural innovation can be traced in the proceedings of the Workington Agricultural Society, of which he was founder-president. These volumes contain reports on Curwen's experimental farm at Schoose in Workington and on the estate he purchased between Windermere and Hawkshead to encourage forestry. One of the most interesting of his projects was his introduction of social insurance and mutual benefit schemes for his colliery workers, of which a little can be seen in the records of the various colliers' and friendly societies in the collection. The collection also includes papers of the Christian family estates in Cumberland at Ewanrigg, including papers relating to Broughton Colliery and some papers relating to their Manx estates based around Milntown.

We are hoping to plan two outreach events regarding the Curwen collection at Whitehaven Archive Centre and also possibly in Workington. We shall publicise these events later this year.

Cumbrian archives before Cumbria Archives

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist

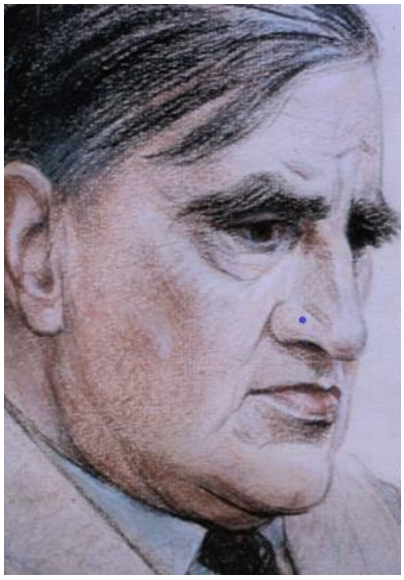
Researchers may be interested to know that there is an article with the title above published in the latest Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The article covers the subject of record keeping and collecting by the county authorities of Cumberland and Westmorland and the city of Carlisle from 1800 until 1960, when the Joint Archives Committee of Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle was established.

Readers may be interested to know more about the following:

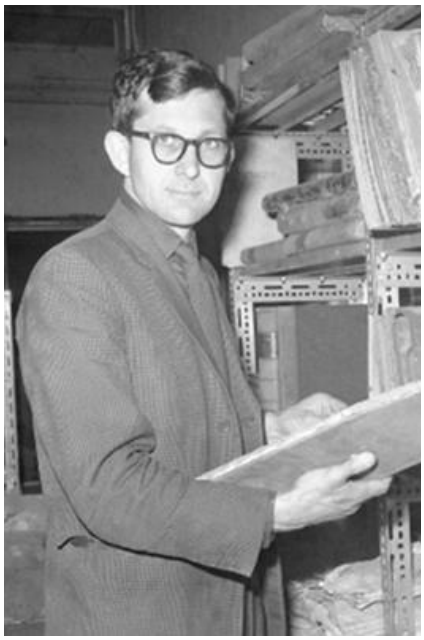
- Why Westmorland County Council collected and made available records from the 1890s onwards but did not appoint an archivist until 1962.
- Why Carlisle City kept its records in a cell at the police station in the 1860s and 1870s.
- How Cumberland County Council evacuated the county records for safekeeping during World War Two.





Former County Archivists

Above left Madeleine Elsas, **above right:** Tom Gray, **below left:** Bruce Jones and **below right:** Sheila Macpherson.





Whitehaven Archives Update

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

Outreach

Around Easter, we gave a talk and tour of the archives to a very enthusiastic and animated group of ghosthunters, who had never visited a record office before. The visit included a display of all things supernatural and spooky, and one lady found (by chance) that her ancestor was listed as captain on a ship's crew list, which we had put out on display. This was followed by our Lancaster University placement, where students helped list another series of the Percy Kelly letters in more detail, and interviewed us about the role of volunteers in the heritage sector. In the spring term, children from Monkwray School visited to learn about Georgian Whitehaven and local history sources. Volunteers from the Wilder Walkmill Community Project also visited on two occasions, receiving an introduction to the archives and some of the documents relating to the former Walkmill Colliery which they were researching. We ended the year with a Christmas party for volunteers and regulars, which was a lively affair.

Recent Accessions

CB/HEN Historic Environment Unit, Egremont Castle archaeological survey project papers, c1993-2002



Staff at WH Moss printers (Ref: PH_1688_1)

DBT
Plan of Holm Side, Gosforth, property of Mr Isaac Hartley, 1849

DH/477
Gosforth Agricultural Society subsciptions and accounts, 1897

PH/1688
W H Moss staff photo, 1896

PH/1689
Photos of Whitehaven and surrounding area, [late 20th century]

SDA
Allerdale DC portraits, certificates and tourism minutes, 1980-circa 1999

SMBWO
Negatives from the Lowther vs Curwen case, 1887

YBSC
British Steel Collection photos of the Beckermet Mines team awards, 1931-1932

YCOP/45
Printed map of pubs in Whitehaven, 1874

YDFCM 1
Trinity Methodist Church Workington Sunday School minutes and Local Preachers' Group mins and papers, 1841-2017

YDFCM 2
Whitehaven Methodist Circuit deeds, plans and trust papers; Methodist Missionary Society account book for Cleator Moor, c1860-2019

YDFCM 4
Solway Methodist Circuit newsletters and plans, 2017-2024

YDS 8
Fairfield Junior School log books, 1925-1974

YDSO 13
Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society minutes and programmes, 2021-2024

YDSO 178
Transcript of Hodgson's Guide to Port Hamilton and Fleswick Beach, undated

YDSO 198
St Andrew's Scottish Country Dance Society programmes, financial records, notes on dances, 1985-2006

YDSO 199
Solway Stompers Western Dance Club dance steps/ instructions, undated [1990s]

YDSO 200
Cumberland and Westmorland Association Western Branch of Change Ringers - minutes, reports, membership and publications, 1970-2006

YDSO 201
West Cumbrian Motorsports Club programmes, 1970-1974

YDSO 202
Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association minutes and flock books, 1916-2024

YPR 17
Whitehaven St James quinquennial inspections, log book, valuation, orders of service; history notes, 1972-2015

YPR 30
Mosser parish: PCC minutes, Paddle School minutes and accounts, charity accounts, history and photographs of the parish, 1856-2012

YPR 36/134
Workington St Michael's archaeological excavation: primary fieldwork and photographs, 1990s-2019

YSPC 23
Muncaster Parish Council minutes, 1894-2024

YSPC 27
Irton with Santon tithe records, 1839-1840

YDX 765
Stephen Holliday's local studies collection – additional photos, postcards, acts, reports, c1860-c1955

YDX 787
West Cumbrian ephemera - newspaper, will, ration book, 1849-1954

YDX 791
Ravenglass trade account ledger, possibly belonging to a local merchant, 1762-1820

YDX 792
Papers of George Sloan, BEM, Workington, 1727-1968

YDX 793
Interviews on B ully Smith Riots and William Pit Explosion & BBC Radio 4 broadcast on Whitehaven Harbour, and Radio 4 'Home This Afternoon' broadcast on Whitehaven and its American connections, 1947-1970

YDX 794
Papers of Mercia Haughan, former councillor and Mayor of Workington, 1980s

YTHOS 2
Register of trainee midwife's cases, 1962-1963

YWCSP
West Cumberland Strategic Partnership, c1996-c2012



Above: Photograph from Whitehaven and the surrounding area (Ref: PH/1689)

Cataloguing

We have listed the records of the (now closed) Trinity Methodist Church in Workington, including the Sunday School and Local Preachers' Circuit and also the deeds and trustee papers for the chapels in the Whitehaven Methodist Circuit.
Modern minutes and related papers for Wyndham, Stainburn, Southfield and Fairfield Schools have been catalogued in recent months.
We have added in more minutes and programmes to the Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society collection including for the recent production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat.

This year, Whitehaven Archives has received small collections for clubs such as the Western branch of the Cumberland and Westmorland Association of Change-Ringers;
St Andrew's Scottish Country Dance Society, in Workington and the Solway Stompers Western Dance Club.

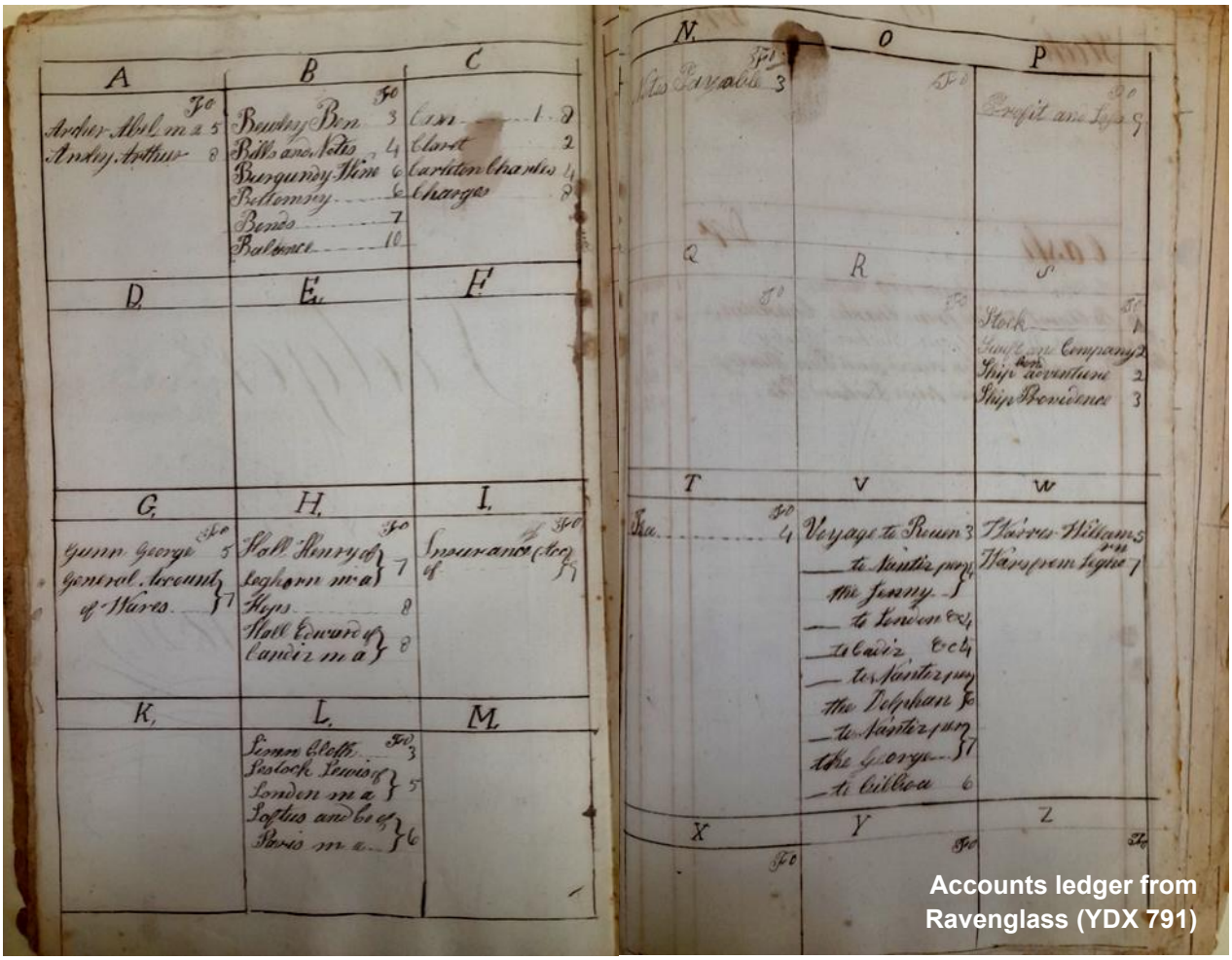
Lately, we acquired a deposit from the Herdwick Sheep Breeders' Association, including minutes and flock books, which is currently being catalogued.

We have had an intriguing, standalone item recording trade in and out of Ravenglass and Eskmeals – an account ledger, 1762, from a local merchant which refers to voyages to London, Paris, Cadiz and Rouen; various ships and their masters, other merchants; trades in wine, green tea, beef,

'We've had a deposit from the Herdwick Sheep Breeders' Association, including minutes and flock books, which is currently being catalogued.'



Photograph from Whitehaven and the surrounding area (Ref: PH/1689)



Accounts ledger from Ravenglass (YDX 791)

leather, and linen and loaning money.
Oxford Archaeology North forwarded us the primary fieldwork, drawings, record sheets and photographs of the excavation of the medieval burial ground at Workington St Michael's Church.

We have made some headway on appraising the large collection from Millom Town Council, cataloguing the records of its predecessor, Millom Parish Council (collection Ref. YSPC 8) and material from Copeland Borough Council, which was found among the files.
We have also listed records from Allerdale Borough Council following transfers from Records Management.

Staff have been working their way through sorting and arranging the papers of the West Cumbria (Strategic) Partnership, involving local councils and the private sector.
There has been further work on repackaging sorting and listing the Curwen collection and appraising and listing the Ennerdale Building plans in further detail. We have had some new additions to the British Steel collections in terms of photographs and publications.
A volunteer's project to identify photographs in the Albright and Wilson has been inputted into our archive catalogue.
Our staff have also produced a few hundred parish registers for the Atlantic Geomatics digitisation project in the latter half of the year.

Richard Hall 1950-2024

We record, with sadness, the death of our former colleague, Richard Hall, in August 2024.

Richard was an archivist at Kendal Archive Centre for some thirty five years until his retirement in 2013 and he would have been a familiar and friendly face to many of our researchers. Richard was born into a farming family near Wigton but it was evident from an early age that his interests lay with the academic sphere (particularly history) rather than the practical work of a farm. His scholarly abilities bore fruit at St Bees Grammar School and he won a place to read history at Cambridge. After graduation, he made unsuccessful attempts at both a career in teaching and a doctoral thesis on the Scottish wars of Edward III (Richard was said to have loved the research but not the writing involved in a PhD). His long association with the Archive Service started in 1972, working as a student volunteer at Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle, with Bruce Jones, then County Archivist. After gaining his archival qualification at UCW Aberystwyth, Richard joined the Record Office at Kendal, in 1978, under the leadership of Sheila MacPherson. I first met



Richard in the mid 1980s when I was undertaking research for my undergraduate thesis at Kendal Record Office and then worked alongside him briefly at Kendal in the mid 1990s, first as a volunteer and then on the staff. Richard could always be relied upon for friendly advice and, of course, had a wealth of archival and historical knowledge to draw upon. Tea breaks were enlivened by Richard's sense of humour and jocular remarks, usually on politics or the state of the England cricket team. Unfortunately, Richard's latter years were blighted by illness and poor health and it is good to remember him in better times. My own favourite happy memory of him was giving him a lift over to Ushaw College, Durham, in 1996 for the 650th anniversary commemorations of the battle of Neville's Cross, the highlight of which we both agreed was a special appearance by the late great actor, Robert Hardy, who gave a superb lecture on the English longbow, about which subject Hardy was an expert.

There were wonderful tributes given to Richard at his funeral by his brother Jeremy and by his friend Dr Tim Brain, which revealed Richard's wide and interesting hinterland. He had a long association with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and a devotion to classical music, especially the Three Choirs Festival and Lake District Summer Music Festival. Fewer would perhaps have been aware that Richard established a trust in his own name to sponsor early career musicians. Farewell to 'one of our own', whose contribution in his long service will live on at Kendal Archive Centre.

Robert Baxter,
Senior Archivist

Cumberland Council
Westmorland & Furness Council
Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**



Above: A Bedford bus, nearly as old as the building, ferrying a wedding party to Kendal Registry Office. One of the last weddings to take place at County Hall, Kendal.

Visit Cumbria Archives

Step 1: Register online for an Archives Card

www.archivescard.com

We will take your picture and issue your Archives Card when you visit.

Step 2: Search 'CASCAT' Cumbria Archives' Online Catalogue

All the documents we hold are listed on CASCAT.
archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/calmview/
Please select any documents you wish to view - making a note of each document's reference
N.B. Documents will need to be requested prior to visiting.

Step 3: Book an appointment

Email or phone us to book an appointment to visit one of our Centres.
Provide a reference for any document you wish to view.

E. barrow.archives@cumberland.gov.uk	**T:** 01229 407377
E. carlisle.archives@cumberland.gov.uk	**T:** 01228 227284
E: kendal.archives@cumberland.gov.uk	**T:** 01539 713540
E: whitehaven.archives@cumberland.gov.uk	**T:** 01946 506420

Cumbria Archives

Opening Hours

Barrow Archive Centre

Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am - 1pm; 2pm - 5pm
Closed between 1pm - 2pm

Carlisle Archive Centre

Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am - 1pm; 2pm - 5pm
Closed between 1pm - 2pm
The Victorian Kitchen will be open for visitors to stay during the lunch closure but bring your own refreshments.
Important: Reception at Lady Gillford's House will be closed 12pm to 1pm. Archive users already in the building will be able to exit the building but there will be no admittance of visitors during this hour

Kendal Archive Centre
Interim Service at Kendal Library

Wednesday to Friday: 10am - 4pm
Important: Kendal Library closes at 1pm on Thursday.
If you aim to arrive after 1pm you will need to phone us for access to the building. Phone numbers will be provided when you make your appointment.

Whitehaven Archive Centre

Wednesday to Thursday: 9.30am - 12.30pm; 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Closed between 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

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