

Newsletter

No. 9

February 2013

Welcome to the ninth CCHT e-newsletter intended to keep you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.

Volunteer Researchers' Day

Angus Winchester and Sarah Rose hosted a meeting for VCH volunteers who are currently researching full parish or township histories on 14th February at Penrith Methodist Church.



The event was well-attended by volunteers, many of whom are about to embark on research for their draft articles. The event gave them

a chance to hear from some of the volunteers who began work last year talk about their experiences. Richard Brockington spoke about working on his article on Renwick, now available online on the CCHT (<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/renwick>). Tony Cousins talked about his experiences producing an article for another rural township, Skelsmergh, which is near completion. Emmeline Garnett, meanwhile, reflected on working on a small market town, Kirkby Lonsdale. Angus Winchester provided guidance on the technicalities of researching and writing the Landownership section of VCH parish/township articles. This was later followed by a dedicated Q&A session on the Religious History section.

Jubilee Digest Update

We are almost there! We now have 85% of Jubilee Digests on the website. Cumberland is almost complete, with 97% of JDs loaded, while Westmorland stands at 79%. The Sedbergh area (West Riding) is all complete, but progress with Lancashire has been slower, with just 34% of JDs completed. There are quite a few unallocated places in Lonsdale North of the Sands, so if you can help us out and complete a JD before their launch at the CCHT AGM on **16th March**, we would love to hear from you! The Lancashire JDs should be reasonably quick to do thanks to the Lancashire VCH. If you can help, please contact Sarah Rose.

New Volunteer Training Programme

CCHT started the New Year by announcing a number of training sessions for VCH volunteers. Marion McClintock has organized a spring programme which focuses on some of the key skills and themes involved in working for the VCH project.

This month, Mike Winstanley will be offering a session at Carlisle Archives Centre on **The Poor Law** in Cumbria. The session focuses on the major changes in the administration, funding and operation of poor law from the 18th century. On 12th April, Mike will be running another session at Carlisle, this time looking at **Education in Cumbria** before 1944. This will outline the major changes to schooling up to the Education Act of 1944. Both the sessions will also give volunteers the opportunity to explore catalogues and resources for Cumbria.

At the start of this month, the first of three **palaeography** training sessions was held by Sarah Rose at Lowther Castle. These sessions are intended to provide an introduction to palaeography, using classes of archive sources which are of particular use to local historians, including probate records, manorial and estate records, Quarter Sessions papers and parish records.

VCH volunteers also have the opportunity to learn more about **geology and geomorphology**, particularly the influence of geology and glaciations on Cumbria's topography, mining and settlement history, and building materials. An introductory session on this will be held on 20 March 2013 at Lowther Castle, by David Wilcock, formerly Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Ulster.

For more information on these training events, please visit

<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/training>

Useful Resources

VCH contributors may find this new online resource useful. The UK Data Archive has released a new website - The Town Maps of Great Britain. It provides bibliographical references for around 8,000 historical town maps from the 16th century up to 1900.

<http://townmaps.data-archive.ac.uk/>

Cumbria County Council have produced an interactive 'atlas' showing modern boundaries in Cumbria. This can be viewed at:

<http://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/geography/cumbriamaps.asp>

Kendal Archives Centre has recently acquired the **Dalston Ewbanke of Stainmore** family and estate papers. This collection relates to the Stainmore area from the 17th century onwards and includes manorial records.

CCHT AGM

Reminder

Cumbria County History Trust's AGM will be held at Rheged (nr Penrith) on Saturday 16th March 2013 at 10.30AM. Coffee will be served from 10AM. Presentations will be made by the project director, Professor Angus Winchester; Professor John Beckett, who will **launch the Jubilee Digests**; and Richard Brockington, who will reflect on his writing of the draft article for Renwick.

New silver membership

We are delighted to announce that CCHT has two new silver members. They are Judge Peter Hughes and Sara Mason.

Local History 'Surgeries'

Sarah Rose, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, will be visiting the county archive centres this spring, offering drop-in 'surgeries' for VCH volunteers who need assistance with their work. Sarah will be available on the following dates:

- Thursday 21st February - CAS Carlisle (2-4pm)
- Thursday 28th February - CAS Kendal (10.30am - 4pm)
- Thursday 7th March - CAS Carlisle (2-4pm)

Further dates will be confirmed in March.

OS Maps for Sale

Last year, Carlisle Library gave CCHT a large number of duplicate first and second edition twenty-five inch (1:2,500) Ordnance Survey maps for Cumberland. These will be a valuable resource for the VCH project and are now kept in the project office in the History Department at Lancaster University. However, we have found a number of spare duplicate maps among those we have sorted through so far. We are therefore able to offer these spare maps for sale to CCHT members and VCH volunteers, **priced £5 each**. A list of the sheet numbers available has been posted on the members-only page of the CCHT website, including details of which edition they are. The maps vary in condition. If there is a map that interests you, please contact Sarah Rose. Unfortunately, we will be unable to post these maps, but their collection can be negotiated on an individual basis. Some maps could be collected at the AGM.

JD Christmas Quiz Answers

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| 1. Johnby [Greystoke parish] | 8. Dacre |
| 2. Urswick | 9. Ireby, Low |
| 3. Burneside | 10. Grange over Sands |
| 4. Irthington | 11. Ellenborough & Ewanrigg |
| 5. Lupton | 12. Stanwix |
| 6. Edenhall | 13. Threlkeld |
| 7. Eaglesfield | 14. Sedbergh. |

Mystery word: Jubilee Digests

The winning entry was submitted by Kathleen Cook.

CONTACTS

VCH Cumbria Project Director: Prof Angus Winchester, History Department, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT. Tel: 01524 592559. Email: a.winchester@lancaster.ac.uk

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Dr Sarah Rose, History Department, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT. Tel: 01524 593141. Email: s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

CCHT Secretary: Mr Richard Brockington, Highland Hall, Renwick, Penrith, CA10 1JL. Tel: 01768 870352. Email: richard.brockington@mypostoffice.co.uk