

**TO THE MEN
OF THIS PARISH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY**

**THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918.**

MEMORIAL

**A local history project which encourages primary schools in Cumbria to help
commemorate the centenary of the
First World War in which 720,000 British soldiers died.**

Participating schools are invited to seek out a local war memorial and find out more about the people named on it. Do descendants of those people still live in the local community? Do those families have photographs and other records of the ancestors whose deaths are recorded on the war memorial? Have memories about their lives and the tragedy of their death been handed down from generation to generation?

We've included a list of helpful links and websites which will help your research. The heart of the project, though, is the children finding out for themselves about the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the war which began a hundred years ago next year.

Hands across the century.



For centuries war memorials were erected to commemorate great victories. Following the First World War - the war to end wars as it was known, they were erected to remember the fallen -the glorious dead as they were described.

War memorials come in all shapes and sizes - statues, crosses, obelisks, plaques, lych gates, memorial halls, scholarships, parish rooms and stained glass windows.

They can be found in many different locations - parks and town squares, churches and churchyards, factories and railway stations. Even on the summit of Great Gable.

One website suggests that there are 783 war memorials in Cumbria. Only one village in the County - Ousby in the Eden Valley has no need of a memorial. It's what's known as a 'Thankful Village', meaning that everyone from there who went to war returned safely.

Images from left top to bottom:

H.L.Simpson, ex Carlisle Grammar School, Killed in action August 1918. Carlisle Grammar School.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

Kirklington Roll of Honour.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

Great Orton War Memorial.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

Aikton Church War Memorial.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

There's much helpful background material for teachers at the War Memorials Trust education website.

www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org

Click on 'Primary' for help sheets for primary teachers and nine lesson plans.

For background on the First World War together with various case studies and school exercises contact

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/default.htm

GETTING STARTED

First find a local memorial. Photograph or draw it and copy down the names of people listed on it. Find out what you can about who designed it, when it was erected and how the money was raised to build it.

The comprehensive Cumbrian research site is here:

www.cumbrianwarmemorials.blogspot.co.uk/search/

It's a fairly opinionated site but it contains a huge amount of detailed information.

You can also search for war memorial sites by accessing the UK War Memorials Archive

www.ukniwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.002

Cumbria Library local studies service has a wealth of information about local First World War memorials and Cumbrian First World War soldiers mentioned in the Cumberland News and Westmorland gazette. 21,000 local soldiers are mentioned in this project which was researched by volunteers.

Access all three Documents here:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries/localstudies/default.asp

The documents can be found in the NEW box on the top right of the home page.

Another on-line source of information about local war memorials and the people named on them is:

www.southcumbriawarmemorials.webs.com

This site is work in progress but contains some useful stuff.

Cumbria's own infantry regiment was the Border Regiment who will be organising exhibitions and activities for schools at their museum in Carlisle. Details from

www.kingsownbordermuseum.btck.co.uk

Images top to bottom:

Cenotaph War Memorial Barrow Park. *Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.*

Unveiling of Kendal Canal Iron Works War Memorial. *Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.*

Stone in Lowick St Luke's. *F.H.Stirling.*

Great Corby War Memorial. *Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.*

Departure of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. *Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.*



BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Once you have your list of names from the memorial, check if people of that name go to your school. Ask your parents and grandparents if they recognise the names and if people of that name still live in your community. If they do, write to them and ask if the family is related to the person on the memorial. If so, have they any photographs of the person mentioned on the war memorial and any other information they could share with you.

You may want to dig deeper and find out more about some of the people mentioned on the memorial - what regiment or service were they from, what rank were they, where were they killed and where are they buried.

A great site with information about two and a quarter million First World War service personnel is: www.forces-war-records.co.uk

There is a charge for use of this site but it's only £8.95 for a month.

If you find that your local war memorial is in poor repair an organisation called War Memorials on Line would like to hear from you. Supported by the War Memorials Trust and English Heritage they are trying to conserve Britain's war memorials and can be contacted via www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

Image above right:

Unveiling of Cartmel Fell War Memorial April 1924.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

Image right:

Blawith Church ; Lych gate dedicated to the war dead.
F.H.Stirling.

Image far right:

Plaque in Carlisle cathedral to Theodore Hardy, VC, Vicar of Hutton Roof.
Cumbria County Council; Cumbria Libraries.

PUTTING THE PROJECT TOGETHER

Once you've gathered your information, use the material to create a poster or scrapbook that tells the story of your war memorial and some of the people whose names appear on it.

Display it in the school or perhaps in your local library.

We'll contact all participating schools next year to arrange to get your project to Rheged to be part of the MEMORIAL summer exhibition.

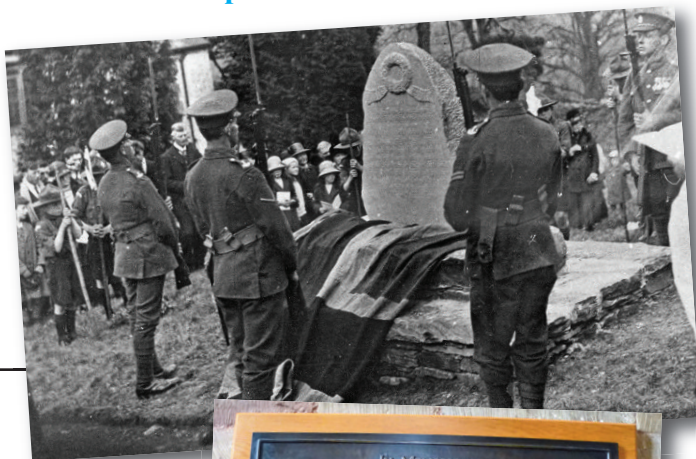
Submissions will also be displayed on the Cumbria County History Trust website

www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

so that people researching your community in the future will come across your work.

Finally, a site with much interesting historical content is that of our sponsor CWAAS:

www.cumbriapast.com



MEMORIAL
Is supported by



CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The project's patron is Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Cumbria,
Mrs. Claire Hensman.