

Newsletter

No.5

June 2012

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

Interactive Map for CCHT Website

To coincide with Jubilee celebrations, a sample of 60 Jubilee Digests have been published on a new section of the CCHT website. On the homepage you will find an **interactive map of Cumbria**, which serves as a gateway to the Jubilee Digests and further information about 340 communities in the county! When the map page opens up, click on the Ward you are interested in, and a list will appear of all the townships in that ward.

Jubilee Digests

CCHT would like to express their thanks to the many volunteers who have produced Jubilee Digests, and we hope that you will continue to be involved in the project. We received over 100 completed Digests before the start of June – far more than expected! Those that were not published as part of the initial launch over the Jubilee weekend will be loaded onto the website over the coming weeks. If you still have a Digest to submit, please do so as soon as you can. There are still a number of townships/parishes that have not been allocated yet, particularly in parts of Westmorland and Lancashire North of the Sands. A list of allocations is available on the CCHT website. If you would like to get involved in the project, please contact Sarah Rose: s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk



CASCAT Updates

Cumbria Archive Service has recently made several additions to CASCAT, including a showcase of new collections. Among these are papers of the Thwaites Family of Westmorland (Kendal Archive Centre); sixty-three diaries Edward Wadham of Millwood, agent to the Duke of Buccleuch, 1851-1912 (Barrow Archive Centre); and an eight volume collection of photographs of the Settle-Carlisle Railway 'The Ways of Rails' (Carlisle Archive Centre). Details of these collections can be found using a separate tab on the CASCAT homepage:

(<http://www.archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/CalmView/default.aspx>)



Archives staff have also added collections information from A2A (Access to Archives). A full list of these collections is available through CASCAT: (<http://www.archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/CalmView/Aboutcatalogue.aspx>). A link to this list is also available on the CCHT website.

Draft Articles

Volunteers preparing draft township/parish articles met with Angus Winchester on 10th May to discuss approaches to the introductory section of VCH articles. Guidance was provided in the eighth and final Briefing Paper in the series (now on the CCHT website). These Briefing Papers will be collated to create a VCH Cumbria volunteer handbook.

Geologist Needed!

Our volunteer drafters would welcome advice from someone with knowledge of geology or geomorphology to help prepare the necessary paragraphs on the landscape in VCH articles. If you would be able to help, or know of someone who might, please contact Sarah Rose (s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk) or Richard Brockington (richard.brockington@mypostoffice.co.uk)

IN THE ARCHIVES.....

Dr Heysham's Statistics:

Dr Heysham (1753 – 1834) was a physician and demographer and Cumbria's premier naturalist and ornithologist. He is however best remembered for his meticulous records of public health and demography for Carlisle. These were known as his *Observations on the Bills of Mortality in Carlisle* (1780-88)

He also collected statistics for the areas surrounding Carlisle, principally Eskdale Ward [the Northern Division of the County of Cumberland], Leith Ward [South East portion of the county up to Eskdale] and the Cumberland Ward [15 parishes surrounding the city of Carlisle]. There are also some statistics for Caldbeck, Torpenhow, Bolton, Westward, Aspatria and one or two other towns

Unlike with Carlisle Dr Heysham does not appear to have compiled the statistics himself, relying rather on information supplied by local correspondents [often the local clergy]. The statistics are usually for the year 1781/2 and list; houses, inhabitants and new houses built since 1750. There is no consistency to the way the statistics are presented. These statistics are in manuscript format and may present problems of interpretation as the material is in very much a raw state. It appears these were the basis for some of the population figure given in Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*.

These items are available for consultation in Carlisle Library. The shelf mark for the material in the Local Studies Collection is M839.

All the material has been photocopied to save wear and tear on the originals. Further personal copies would be best made using a digital camera.

Stephen White, Carlisle Library

CONTACTS

VCH Cumbria Project Director: Dr 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