

Newsletter

No. 14

February 2014

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

More Completed Articles Posted Online

Excellent progress is being made by our cohort of VCH drafters. Draft articles on the townships of Helsington and Casterton by Sarah Rose and Emmeline Garnett, respectively, were recently posted on the CCHT website. Sarah has now moved on to work on Natland, while Emmeline next plans to submit a piece on Barbon.



St John's Church, Helsington

Drafters' Meeting

VCH drafters are welcome to attend a meeting on Friday 14th March, 2-4pm at Penrith Methodist Church. The focus of the meeting will be the Local Government section of the VCH article. This section is usually the briefest, but it can be difficult to separate out the information to be included here from the Social History section. If you would like to attend the meeting, please inform Sarah Rose s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

A peer group of volunteer researchers in the northern part of the County have now held two meetings at Carlisle Archive Centre, and have found them helpful. The meetings are informal, and a useful way of sharing problems and ideas. If any drafters are interested in forming a similar group in the south of the county, please contact s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk.

SORTING OUT THE CLERGY!

Volunteers – We Need You

There are many ways in which volunteers can contribute to the VCH Cumbria project, short of researching and writing a full VCH township/parish history. Having recently completed my first article, I found quite a lot of time was taken up working out the names and dates of local clergy.

The VCH does not publish lists of clergy in its parish histories, but we will be able to post lists for Cumbrian parishes on the project website. Such information is a vital starting point upon which to build further biographical details and help gain an impression of religious life in the parish. For example, how long did individuals serve in the parish? Were they local? Were they University educated? Did they tend to be young or old when they arrived?



There is rarely a convenient list of vicars in the archives. But there is often a plaque in the local church or list in a local guidebook that can provide this information. These details can then be checked against the Church of England Clergy Database (1540-1835) - <http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk> - and for the period since 1855 in Crockford's *Clerical Directory*. Parts of this are also available online: <http://www.crockford.org.uk>

What we would like, therefore, is for VCH volunteers to compile a list of Anglican clergy for their parish, preferably by making a visit to the church in question. As some churches may be locked, you will possibly need to seek permission for access. We ask that these lists are submitted, either as a word document, or as a good quality photograph to which you own the copyright. We can then post these lists on the relevant pages of the project website for future researchers to use.

In order to avoid duplication of effort, we ask that you get in touch and let us know which parish you wish to work on. Email s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

Libby Seddon

We are very sorry to announce the death of one of our volunteers, Libby Seddon, who died last month. Libby only began her work on Walton parish for the VCH in Spring 2013, but she had made steady progress and amassed a lot of material. Libby will be greatly missed and we are determined that her work on Walton will be continued.

Place Images for Website

In October work began to post several images of each township onto the CCHT website. This substantial task was undertaken by volunteer Eric Apperley, whom we have to thank for the wonderful township maps that accompany the Jubilee Digests. Thanks to him, 1,111 images are already available, covering much of Cumbria. The images come from a variety of sources, though many are from Geograph.org.uk. If you have not already done so, please take a look!

CCHT AGM

The AGM of the Trust will be on Saturday 5th April and members will receive the annual report in a few days' time. Watch out for an important statement about the future of the Cumbria VCH project (see below), and come to the meeting at Lowther Castle if you can.

Creation of Regional Heritage Centre

Lancaster University's History Department has been home to the VCH Cumbria project since its inception. We are pleased to report that the University is establishing a new 'Regional Heritage Centre' within the History Department, to develop its activities in engaging with the regional community in the field of cultural heritage, broadly defined.



The VCH project is now part of the new Centre, which also embraces activities hitherto undertaken by the Centre for North West Regional Studies. The overarching aim is to create an integrated area of activity in the field of history and heritage which will contribute to the social and cultural life of the region. CCHT trustees have welcomed this move, which embeds the project even more firmly in the University's work. Further details about this initiative are supplied in the accompanying letter from CCHT Chair, Bryan Gray.

Local History Surgeries

Sarah Rose will be available in the Kendal or Carlisle Archive Centres on the following Thursdays should you wish to speak to her about your research.

Carlisle Archives:

27th February

13th & 27th March

10th April

Kendal Archives:

20th February

6th & 20th March

3rd April

History of the VCH in Cumbria

Professor John Beckett of Nottingham University, and former director of the VCH, has kindly allowed us to post his article 'The Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and the Victoria County History' (originally published in *CW3*, XI (2011)) on the CCHT website. The article reconstructs the development of the VCH in Cumberland and Westmorland, and examines the role of CWAAS members and officers in working on the project. The failure to progress beyond volume II in Cumberland, and to publish even one of the two projected Westmorland volumes is explained, mainly from material in the VCH archives. To view the article, follow this link: <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/Beckett%20CW3%20%282%29.pdf>

Forthcoming Events

Local and Regional History Seminar Series, Lancaster University, Wednesday 26th March.

Dr Chris Brader from Carlisle Archive Centre will be speaking about the beginnings of cinema in Carlisle, 1895-1920. His paper examines how cinema established itself as an important element of working class culture, and the changing nature of the relationship between leisure and social space. The seminar will take place in FASS Building, Meeting Room 2/3 from 5 p.m. Entry is **free** and all are welcome!

<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/history/event>

Campus in the City: Lakeland History and Heritage Day, St Nicholas Arcade, Lancaster, Saturday 29th March.

CCHT and the VCH project will be represented at a public event in Lancaster City Centre, designed to showcase research projects based on Lakeland heritage. We will be joined there by the Spatial Humanities project, which looks at travel writing in the Lakes, as well as various local heritage organisations. This event aims to inspire interest and curiosity about the connections between Lancaster and the Lakes.

<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/history/event/4789/>

The Memorial Project

In the autumn term, CCHT joined with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and Mrs Claire Hensman, Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria, to launch a project to encourage primary school children in the county to study the impact of the First World War on their local community. The project, called *Memorial*, comprised a 'Resource Pack' for which schools could apply, written by Cumbrian historian and broadcaster Eric Robson.



Culgaith WWI Memorial

That pack is now freely available to anyone, via the CCHT and CWAAS websites, and provides a wealth of useful website links for getting started in studying your local war memorial, and bringing the past to life by finding out how the war touched the village or local area, and the lives of the ancestors of the children in the school.

By early February, some sixty local primary schools had signed up for the project. It is hoped that each will create a poster or scrapbook for display in the school or local libraries. Then in August, around the time of the centenary of war being declared in 1914, there will be a Memorial Summer Exhibition at Rheged, where the work will be displayed. Schools will also be encouraged to present their work in a way in which it can be posted to the 'Themes' part of the CCHT website, linked to the appropriate township page, so that the hard work of the children can be appreciated by a wider audience.

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

VCH Cumbria Assistant Editor: 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: richardbrockington08@gmail.com