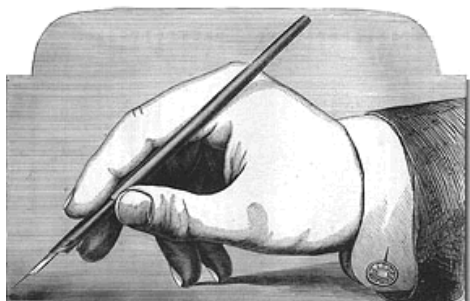




Cumbria Archive Service



## Beginners Guide to Palaeography



**When:** Tuesday 1 May 10.30am-3.30pm

**Where:** Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre

**What:** practical introduction to reading old handwriting

**Who:** Designed for beginners and those with little experience of reading handwriting in archives, or those wanting to build confidence in order to read and research

### Course details

This one day course aims to help equip CCHT volunteers with the skills needed to read the old styles of handwriting found in historical documents, building up confidence in hands that date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Instruction, guidance and encouragement will be available from one of Cumbria Archive Service's archivists Catherine Clark. She will illustrate with a variety of archives that chronicle by-gone life in the county and will ensure participants get plenty of opportunities to have a go reading into the past for themselves.

Examples and introductory notes will be shown digitally on a display screen but hard-copy print outs will be given for every document the participants will be working on, and hand-outs will also be provided.

#### **Session 1: 10.30am-12.30pm**

**(registration and refreshments from 10.20am)**

This will introduce palaeography, and introduce the peculiar letter forms and types of abbreviation that often deter all but the most determined local historians.

#### **Session 1: 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

Participants will be given hands on experience of reading a variety of archives written in *Secretary Hand*, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**What to do:** numbers are limited so booking is essential if you are interested.

**How to prepare:** no preparation is needed as this is an introductory session. Just bring along a pencil for your notes. Some participants may find a magnifying glass useful but Whitehaven Archives has some that can be shared by the group.

**Lunch break:** the course will break for lunch between 12.30pm -1.30pm, when the Archives building will close. You will need to take lunch in town – there are plenty of cafes conveniently located or, on a nice day, picnics can be enjoyed in the park or on the harbour-side.