

Department of History, Lancaster University

Victoria County History: Cumbria Project

Briefing Note for Volunteers, No. 1

Making a Start

There is a good deal of initial spadework which can usefully be undertaken at this early stage in the project. The first two sets of tasks below are to gather essential, basic data which will not only be useful when we begin to research the histories of individual places but are needed to help plan the length of each article. The third is preliminary bibliographic work. We don't need to attempt to cover the whole of Cumbria at one stroke –nascent groups of volunteers in different parts of the county could start the exercise in their local areas. In order to avoid duplication of effort, **please don't embark on this work until you have agreed with Sarah Rose which township(s) you will cover.**

We have provided two electronic forms on which we are asking you to record the data for the tasks under 1. and 2. below: these forms are available on the Cumbria County History Trust website (<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/>). Please download the forms and complete them electronically, saving the form for each place as a separate file, adding the name of the place to the file-names, along these lines: 'Form 1 (Census) Nateby' or 'Form 2 (Institutions) Newton Reigny', for example. **Completed batches of forms should be sent by email to Sarah Rose at s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk**

1. Basic data: population and boundaries

A first task is to collect some basic data on population and administrative boundary changes from the published census reports from 1801 to 2001. This will not only be essential material for the township histories but it will help in planning the length of individual articles and the coverage of each 'red book'. This initial collection of information does not require you to consult the manuscript enumerators' returns, merely the published reports. The data we require are as follows:

- Population totals for each township 1801-2001

- Boundary changes (in many cases there is continuity of boundaries between an ancient township or parish and a modern civil parish but the boundaries of some civil parishes were changed during the 20th century, thus making comparison of census data problematic).
- Any 'observations' explaining population change in a particular township or parish.

1801-1931

The published reports from 1801 to 1931 are available online at <http://www.histpop.org/> Click on the tab labelled 'Browse'; then go to 'Census'. This brings you to a 48-page index to the material online. The volumes you need to consult are as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Page of index</i>	<i>Volume</i>
1801	1	Great Britain Enumeration Abstract
1811	1	Great Britain Observations and Enumeration Abstract
1821	1	Observations, Enumeration and Parish Register Abstracts
1831	2	Great Britain Enumeration Abstract Part 1
1841	3	England Enumeration Abstract
1851	5	Population Tables Vol. II England & Wales, Divisions VII-X
1861	11	Population Tables England & Wales Vol. I, Division X
1871	13	Population Tables England & Wales Vol. I
1881	15	Population England & Wales Vol. I
1891	17	Population Administrative Counties England & Wales Vol. I
1901	19	Cumberland. [The sections you need are Table 11 (population) and Table 14 (boundary changes)]
	23	Westmorland [The sections you need are Table 11 (population) and Table 14 (boundary changes)]
1911	26	Areas, families or separate occupiers, and population, England and Wales, Vol. I. Administrative areas [The sections you need are Table 10 (population) and Table 13 (boundary changes)]
1921	30	Cumberland & Westmorland [The sections you need are Table 3 (population) and Table 6 (boundary changes)]
1931	43	Cumberland & Westmorland (Note the numerous boundary changes which took place 1931-35, many of which involved combining previously separate civil parishes)

into single units. Details are given on pp. 6-15 of this volume)

1951-2001

No census was taken in 1941. To find the census data from 1951 onwards, you will probably need to go to a reference library to locate the following:

1951-1971: Separate County Reports were published for each county for 1951, 1961 and 1971.

1981: The 1981 returns for each civil parish are published in the 'Ward and Civil Parish Monitor', a booklet published by the Office for Population Census and Statistics (*OPCS Monitor*, CEN81 WCP9)

1991: *Census 1991: County Report – Cumbria Part 1* (HMSO 1992. ISBN 0116913762)

2001: Data at the level of local authority wards are available online at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/factsandfigures/census-2001/census-wards.asp>. However, the modern wards do not coincide with Civil Parishes and are thus not what we need. I am making enquiries with the Office of National Statistics to ascertain whether the 2001 data are available at Civil Parish level: we will circulate all volunteers about this in due course.

Please enter the population data on Form 1 (Census), using a separate form for each township/parish and email completed forms to Sarah Rose.

2. Institutions: a measure of complexity

Much of the content of a VCH article concerns local institutions (churches, schools, charities, mills, factories, etc), so establishing how many of these there are in a place will act as a guide to the complexity of the task ahead. We'd like you to use a handful of standard sources, mainly from the 19th century, to provide basic data, so that we can assess what needs to be researched for each place.

Please construct for each township a check list of institutions, as follows. For now, please restrict yourself to these four categories:

- Places of worship
- Schools
- Industrial sites: mines, quarries, mills (of all types), factories
- Community organisations (friendly societies, sports clubs, working men's clubs etc)

Please use the following sources to obtain this information. In order to ensure comparability, it is important that everyone consults the same sources, so **please use all of these sources but no others** at present:

- Ordnance Survey 6" (1:10,560) County Series maps, First and Second Editions. Westmorland was surveyed for the First Edition between 1856 and 1860;

Cumberland between 1859 and 1865. The Second Edition incorporated revisions made in the late 1890s. The most readily accessible collections of these maps in Cumbria are in the Cumbria Record Offices.

- Trade directories. The aim is to obtain snapshots at four points in time. Please use the following directories, copies of which are available in record offices and local studies collections in public libraries:
 1. Parson & White's *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland* (1829) [Facsimile edition published by Michael Moon, 1976]
 2. For Cumberland: Mannix & Whellan's *Directory of Cumberland* (1847) [facsimile edition, Michael Moon, 1974]; for Westmorland: Mennex & Co's *Directory of Westmorland with Lonsdale and Amounderness* (1851) [facsimile edition, Michael Moon, 1978]
 3. *Post Office Directory of Cumberland & Westmorland* (1873)
 4. Bulmer's *History and Directory of Cumberland* (1901) or *Directory of Westmorland* (1906)

- Thomas Denton's *Perambulation of Cumberland, 1687-8, including descriptions of Westmorland, the Isle of Man and Ireland*, ed. Winchester with Wane (Surtees Society Vol. 207/Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society Record Series XVI, Woodbridge, 2003)

Please enter this information on Form 2 (Institutions), again using a separate form for each place, and return completed forms by email to Sarah Rose.

3. Previously published research

The aim here is to begin to compile a bibliography of published work specifically relating to the township/parish in question. For now, please ignore references to particular places in general articles on Cumberland or Westmorland. This is the beginning of an exercise which will continue throughout the project: VCH articles regularly make use of and cite reliable, high-quality published research. . To start with, I suggest you concentrate on the following:

- 1. ***Transactions of Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society***. The online index at <http://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/ms/main.pl?action=transindex> allows you to carry out a full search of articles in *Transactions* from 1866-1900 and 1960-2008 and a more limited author and content search for 1901-1959. Searching for the name of the parish or township for which you are compiling a bibliography in the 'Content Database' should enable you to locate substantive research on the place in question. To save typing, we suggest that you use the standard abbreviation for *Transactions* when compiling your bibliography: CW1 for Old Series (up to 1900); CW2 for New Series (1901-2000); CW3 for Third Series (2001-).
- 2. ***Northern History***, which contains some articles on particular places (e.g. Jonathan Healey's on Grasmere) but mainly publishes articles which are wider in scope.

- 3. **Journals and newsletters of local societies**, where these include sound original work based on primary sources. Into this category would fall publications of both Cumbria-wide special interest groups (e.g. *Cumbria Gardens Trust Occasional Papers*) and local historical societies (e.g. *The Journal* of Lorton & Derwentfells Local History Society).
- 4. **Popular local histories** specific to the place in question. Most of these are likely to be of limited use for VCH purposes (since a key feature of VCH research is going back to original sources) but some may contain pointers to primary sources not readily identifiable (e.g. papers or photographs in private hands).

We suggest that you create your bibliography as a Word document, making sure to provide all the following information:

For an article: Author Title Journal Volume no Date page nos

Example: Margaret Parsons, 'Pasture farming in Troutbeck, Westmorland 1550-1750', *CW2* 93 (1993), pp. 115-30.

For a book: Author Title Place of publication Publisher Date

Example: Harriet Ritvo, *The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere and modern environmentalism* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Once you have completed this initial trawl, please email your bibliographies to Sarah Rose, so that the project can maintain a record. Thanks.

And finally ... **please remember that in all research for the VCH accuracy is absolutely essential!**

Angus Winchester

Department of History, Lancaster University

January 2011

Project contact details.

Please keep in contact with the project team through Dr Sarah Rose, preferably by email (s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk). If you need to speak with her, you may phone her on 01524-66542 on Tuesdays between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. or on Thursdays between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. **Please do not phone her outside these times.**