

## **Richard Frankland of Rathmell**

*By Jennifer Forsyth*

The farm of Hartbarrow belonged to the Stricklands in the seventeenth century, but Anthony and Susannah left it in 1684, allowing Richard Frankland to use it for his Non-conformist Academy. Frankland had been obliged to leave his flourishing academy at Natland as it was less than five miles from Kendal. The 'Five mile Act' disallowed Non Conformists to teach within this distance from a borough.

Originally, Richard Frankland had trained for the Church of England priesthood, but was possibly influenced by Samuel Bolton, the master of Christ's College Cambridge and a convinced Puritan.

In 1699, Frankland's first academy was in his home village of Rathmell, near Giggleswick where he had been schooled. This academy provided substitute degree courses for Presbyterians who would not swear oaths of allegiance to the Crown, so therefore could not be admitted to universities. He moved premises several times, from Yorkshire to Dawson Fold in the Lyth Valley where the Crosthwaite Parish wardens signed a declaration stating that ' His wife and Family keeping due and Constant Communion with us in god's publick worship.' This was in response to a citation from the Consistory Court of York, stating that the Franklands had not attended Church regularly.

Wherever they lived, the Franklands seem to have been well received by their neighbours and outwardly conformed.