

The Land Settlement Association (LSA)

In 1936 200 unemployed men marched from Jarrow to London in search of work and an end to poverty.

In the same year 1000 unemployed miners and shipbuilders moved to 20 different locations across England, including Crofton in Cumbria, to begin new lives as market gardeners.

The men from Jarrow returned with nothing.

The tenants on the Crofton LSA became part of a multi-million horticultural industry which still survives today.

The Jarrow march is well documented, yet very few people know about the LSA.

Crofton LSA

The story so far

In October 2016 Eileen Devenney created Old Crofton on Facebook to keep in touch with former neighbours and friends on the LSA where she was brought up as a child. Lots of people have contributed names, photos, memories, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldcrofton/>

In 2015 I created a heritage trail in Sidlesham, near Chichester in West Sussex, to commemorate the LSA which had been established in the village in 1936. A website, exhibitions and a film followed.

<http://sidleshamheritagetrail.co.uk/about>

In 2017 I was one of several volunteers who helped to dismantle an LSA house. It is now in storage at The Weald and Downland Living Museum, awaiting funding to be re-erected. When it is rebuilt the LSA story, including both Sidlesham and Crofton as well as the other 20 LSAs across England, will have a permanent home.

In April 2020 I was contacted by the BBC who were making enquiries about the three LSAs in Cumbria, namely Crofton, Dalston and Broadwath.

I messaged several people via Old Crofton facebook and with their help we are telling the Crofton LSA story. Tony Britton, Ian Jardine and Bob Osborne have been particularly supportive.

The story so far is work in progress and there are lots of gaps. Can you add more pieces to the LSA jigsaw with the names, dates and stories of former tenants and staff?

Many thanks for your help.

Dr Bill Martin (and Eileen Devenney)

Billm89@hotmail.com

Introduction

The **Land Settlement Association** (LSA) was a UK Government scheme set up in 1934 to re-settle unemployed workers from depressed industrial areas, particularly from North-East England and Wales. Between 1934 and 1939 1,100 small-holdings were established within 21 settlements across England.

Abbotts Ann (Andover, Hampshire)
Chawston (Wyboston, Bedfordshire)
Dalston (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Elmsthorpe (Leicester)
Foxash (Colchester, Essex)
Low Fulney (Lincolnshire)
Newent (Gloucester)
Potten (Bedfordshire) 1st one
Snaith (Humbersde)
Yeldham (Essex/Suffolk)
Stannington (Sheffield)

Broadwath (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Crofton (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Denham (Suffolk)
Fen Drayton (St. Ives, Cambridgeshire)
Harrowby (Lincolnshire)
Newbourn (Felixstowe, Suffolk)
Oxcroft (Bolsover, Derbyshire)
Sidlesham (W. Sussex)
The Abingtons (Cambridge)
+ Boverton (Glamorgan)



This map (above) is taken from 'The Land Settlement Association' by K.J. McCready (1974). The positions of the three Cumbria LSAs are not accurate – Crofton is south-west of Dalston and Broadwath east of Carlisle near Warwick Bridge and Heads Nook. (Ian Jardine)

LSAs were set up in rural areas where each successful applicant's family would be given a small-holding of approximately 5 acres, livestock and a newly built house. Small-holdings were grouped in communities which were expected to run agricultural production as cooperative market gardens, with materials bought and produce sold exclusively through the Association. All applicants were interviewed and given agricultural training before being assigned a property.

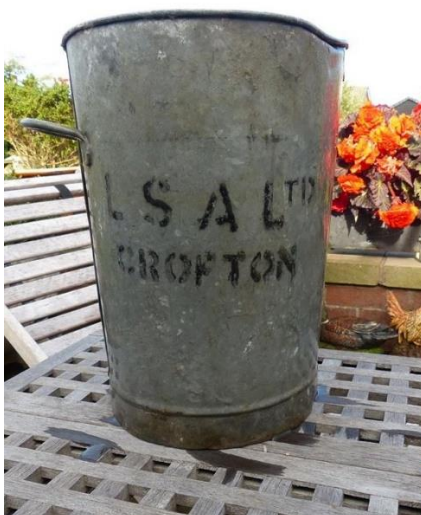
The allocation of smallholdings to the unemployed was suspended at the outbreak of the Second World War through the necessity of increasing food production; favour was then given to those already with horticultural skills. After the war the Association was incorporated within the 1947 Agricultural Act for statutory provision of smallholdings designed as a first step for those going into agricultural production. The scheme was

wound-up and all the properties privatised in 1983, by which time it was producing roughly 40% of English home grown salad crops. The residual assets of the scheme were constituted as the LSA Charitable Trust, for the benefit of former tenants and to promote horticultural education.

LSAs in Cumbria

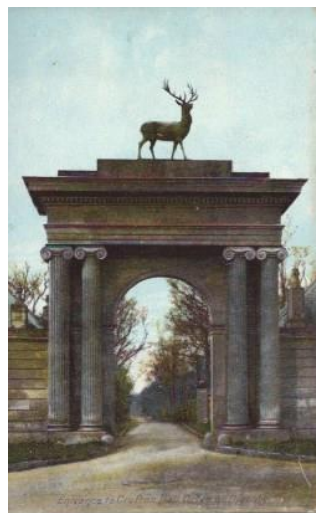
Three LSAs were established in Cumbria. Crofton (64 smallholdings), Dalston (28) and Broadwath (23). Unlike other LSAs across England, the first tenants were local, unemployed miners from collieries in Whitehaven and Maryport or from the steel works in Workington and Barrow-in-Furnace. Later they were joined by unemployed men from the woollen mills in Peebles and miners from Northumberland.

Crofton LSA



Crofton LSA: Introduction:

Crofton Hall Estate dates from the 13th century and was the family seat of the **Brisco family**. The founder of the Brisco lineage settled at Brisco, Carlisle at the time of the Norman conquests. Around **1390** Iswold Brisco obtained the Manors of Crofton, Whinnow & Dundraw when he married Margaret Crofton, daughter & heir of Sir John Crofton of Crofton. The line of the Brisco Baronets was created in July 1782 with John Brisco (1739-1805) the first Baronet of the Brisco line. Portions of Crofton Hall dated from 1665 and other elevations were added in the 1830s. The grounds were laid out by Sir John Brisco in the period 1770 to 1775. At one stage there were some 780 acres of farm, park & heronry. (A descendent of the Brisco family, Ann Taylor, posted on Old Crofton facebook in June 2020 with archive photos of Crofton Hall)



500 years of occupation of the Crofton Estate by the Brisco and Crofton family ended when Crofton Hall (and 718 acres of land) was sold in February 1936 to the Land Settlement Association.

A film 'Here is the Land' (1937) was shown in Dole Offices to recruit people to the LSA. A copy can be seen on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAQwZarA58c&t=7s>

The following is an extract from 'Past and Present' written by Denis Perriam. It appeared in the Cumberland News (cc 1990)

This was a scheme, organised along co-operative lines, as an experiment to provide work for the long-term unemployed from Special Areas set up in the depression. Various organisations, concerned with the welfare of the unemployed, had met in 1933 and had agreed to jointly fund the scheme, providing the government would match the money from voluntary sources. It was agreed that the government would provide £50,000 from their special areas fund and a further £75,000 after that period. The Land Settlement Association was incorporated under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act in November 1934, known by its initials, LSA.

Most of the LSA estates were south of the Humber; there was only one in Northumberland, but Cumberland had three at Dalston, Crofton and Broadwath Farm. A fourth Cumberland estate was purchased by the LSA in February 1938 at Wath Head and Jenkins Cross, but before this land could be developed it was requisitioned by the RAF as a wartime aircraft dispersal base.

The LSA carefully chose their estates because they required good agricultural land, but in acquiring it they would not put anyone out of work. The objectives of the LSA were given in publicity materials distributed throughout the West Cumberland special Area., where there were many out of work miners. Miners were at first sceptical of the scheme, in which the 'unemployed could be successfully re-established in life as self-supporting smallholders,' when few of them had any experience in this type of work.

Each man was provided with a house for his family, a greenhouse, garden, hen houses and a piggery, depending on their preference. Holdings varied between 4 and 11

acres, but each smallholder had to pay a rent and comply with LSA rules. Seeds, plants, tools and livestock had to be purchased from the LSA and all sales were through the association. Here was a centralised packing station and transport was arranged to take the produce to market.

A National Association of Tenants had local representation; F. D. Snowball, who was secretary for the Crofton estate, acted as national secretary and W. Stevinson from the Dalston estate, was a committee member. Estate could equal a small village of between 200 and 400 people, including families, and Cumberland had a total of 141 holdings on the three estates. The LSA provided all of the facilities needed for running each estate, including the social needs. There were critics of the scheme and J Jackson spoke at a County Council meeting in 1937; "a lot of the trainees would not make salt for their potatoes . . . the association was bringing these people on to the land that was being well farmed and the land might have been put to better purpose. At the same meeting T.P. Reed thought "the houses were a disgrace to the countryside and if the scheme was a failure the houses would be worth nothing to anybody". Such criticism angered the tenants at Crofton Hall.

Everything was to change with the war. There was then full employment, as anyone out of work was expected to work. Training for tenants ceased and recruits came from the farming community. Only those who had the experience and the necessary capital to start a smallholding were allowed as tenants. Special loans were arranged for those who couldn't find the capital.

Responsibility of the scheme passed from the commissioner for Special Areas to the Ministry of Labour, under the wartime food production programme.

Once the war was over, the Government looked again at the scheme. Under the Education Act of 1947, the LSA was to run the estates on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture. The LSA was no longer an experiment, but something that worked and was successful, even if it no longer fulfilled the reasons for which it was set up.

In the aftermath of the Brown Committee Report on the LSA in 1960, the agricultural correspondent for the Cumberland News criticised the LSA which he thought needed to be completely overhauled.

"Tenants", he said, "were given the feeling that they were not working for themselves, but for the benefit of the Government. Whitehall was too autocratic and there were few facilities for tenants to air grievances, except at estate level. Formerly tenants depended on the LSA for technical advice, but the present tenants are mostly men who have made a success as agricultural workers and have saved to enable them to branch out on their own. They are more individualistic and are able to manage without the LSA." He felt that the tenants could purchase their seeds and stock much cheaper outside the LSA and sell at a more favourable price.

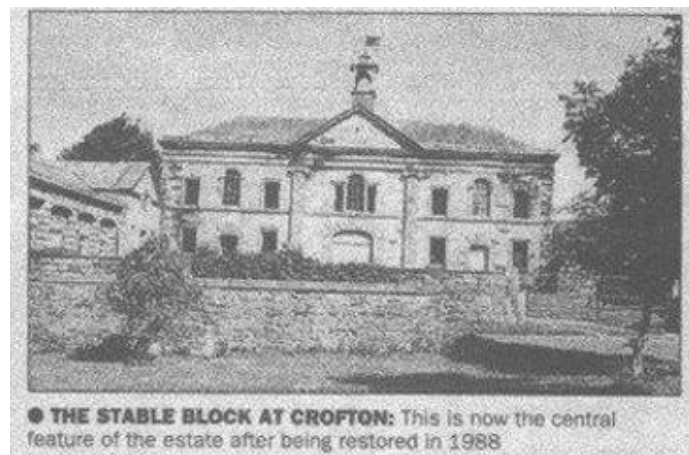
Professor Wise was appointed by the Government in 1963 to report on the LSA. His findings published in 1967, recommended that the Cumberland and Northumberland estates should be withdrawn from the scheme. A co-op was formed, the Cumberland Growers Ltd, which some of the ex-tenants joined and this society became a member of the West Cumberland Farmers trading Society Ltd. It was WCF who then provided the grading, packing and marketing services for tenants from June 1967.

Those who could afford to buy their holdings were given the opportunity to do so.

In 1972, Cumberland County Council purchased the Crofton estate, under the Smallholdings Act of 1908. Which allowed councils to purchase land for this purpose. The object was to provide starter farm units for young entrants in to the farming industry. 'Project Crofton' which began in 1987, was Cumbria county Council Scheme to create a centre for the farming industry.

Crofton Hall had fallen into such a state that in 1956 it was demolished. It is the stable block which now forms the central feature of the estate, restored by the council under a community programme project to provide work for 30 unemployed people.

Article in Cumberland News - 'Farming experiment sows the seeds of success' Past and Present by Denis Perriam)



Enquiries are invited by The Lane Settlement Association Ltd from agricultural and horticultural workers wishing to make a start on their own. Holdings are available on several of the association's 18 estates and Estate Managers are now interviewing prospective applicants.

These holdings are family holdings, with modern houses, averaging 5-10 acres. They are fully stocked and equipped for horticulture under glass and in the open, and for pig and poultry keeping. Applicants must have been full-time wage earners in agriculture or horticulture for at least 5 years and should have £500 to £600 to invest.

The Association, which administers these holdings for the Minister of Agriculture, has facilities for arranging loans up to 75% of the total capital requirements.

For application form and illustrated folder write to: The General Manager (Ref. G/1958/1) 43 Cromwell Road, London SW7 (The Grower, November 1958)



Professor Wise was appointed by the Government in 1963 to report on the LSA. His findings published in 1967, recommended that the number of LSAs be reduced to 10, including Crofton. Crofton LSA closed in 1974 as it became 'increasingly difficult to make a living'. Unlike many of the other LSAs no independent company was set up. Tenants had the right to buy their houses, but the smallholdings were taken over and managed by Cumbria County Council as starter farms for young would-be farmers.

The closure of all remaining LSAs was announced in the House of Commons on 22nd December 1982. Tenants had the right to buy their houses and smallholdings and most LSAs became independent companies. For example, Sidlesham and Foxash, which continued trading into the 2010s, and Snaith which is still operating today (2021) as Snaith Salads, a subsidiary of Yorkshire Salads.

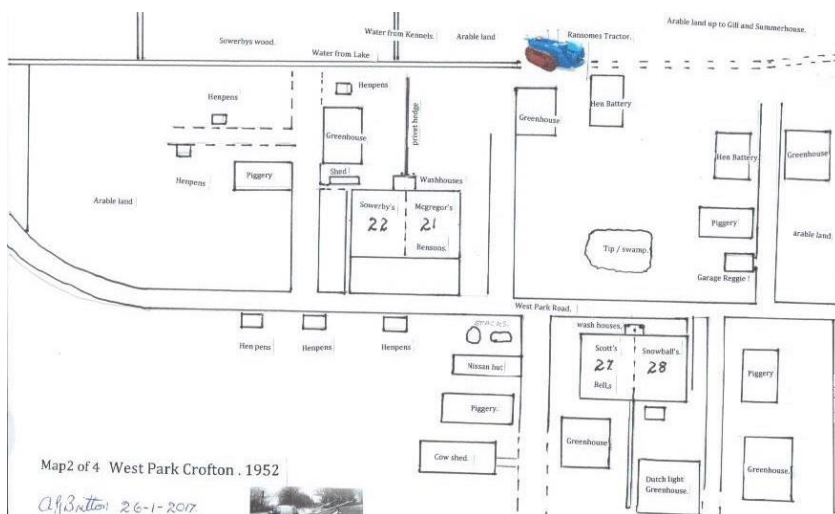
Crofton LSA: Organisation and property:

The first tenants lived in Crofton Hall while they were being trained and when their houses were built they were joined by their families.





Crofton LSA had 70 properties, comprising smallholdings and staff houses, numbered sequentially.





The **LSA houses** were constructed by Isaac Armstrong and Co, Low Hesket, at a cost of £430 each with a predicted life of 9 years (Tony Britton) The original houses, mostly semi-detached with three bedrooms, had flat roofs, which were 'over-pitched' in the 1960s. A few houses were detached with two bedrooms and there were also two 'blocks' of three.

Photo: An original LSA house with a flat roof on west park, possibly with Eileen Webster and Joyce Bell

There may have been additional houses, tied cottages, part of the former Brisco/Crofton Estate which would have been occupied by LSA employees who worked with shire horses, then tractor and lorry drivers or employed in the packing shed, offices, stores or the propagation unit.



The manager of the **LSA manager**, appointed by the government, lived in a 'beautiful sandstone house' adjacent to Crofton Hall stables. The manager at the time of the BBC Radio Interview in 1937 (see story below) was A B Crawford. Other managers included Harold Markham (1940-47), Campbell (1947-52) and Cyril Baker (1957-74).

The site of Crofton Hall stables became the **LSA HQ** where the **stores** and **offices** were located. Thornby Moor Dairy (Cheesemaker) now occupies part of this site. The **packing shed** where all the produce was graded and packed for distribution was initially housed in the north wing of Crofton Hall. This was superseded by a purpose-built building in about 1949. Foster Laydon was an early manager, Audrey Britton, Isobel Bell and Maisie Wilson were LSA staff and Robert Studholme was the Wagon Driver + Beryl Britton (1952-62).



The photograph shows Hilda Brunskill, Marjorie McGregor, Irene Tatters, Alan Horton and Mrs Wilson cc 1950.

Whereas most LSAs had a **Maintenance Unit**, with specialist carpenters and plumbers to carry out repairs to LSA houses and glasshouses, Crofton LSA had Willy Hall, a joiner by trade (1945-60) working on his own, although latterly Irwin Bell was his apprentice. Any plumbing work was undertaken by the tenant or the LSA called in a firm, W. Holliday from Wigton was the usual plumber on call.

A **Central Services Department** manager tractors, lorries (Paddy Spencer & Robert Studholme Wagon Drivers) and equipment hire including the soil sterilizer. "Prop man Dennis Crawford and my late brother-in-law Robert Studholme manned the steriliser". (Tony Britton)

The **propagation unit**, where seedlings were grown, was contained in the walled garden of Crofton Hall and extended to the greenhouses of Nos 17 and 18. No 17 had two 60 x 24 greenhouses and No 18 had one. The staff worked all of it as required. "There were two men I remember Walker Hodgson (under manager to Mr Barnard) lived in No 17. and Norman McTeer who lived in No 24 after Harry Carlton. The walled garden was a bit of classic Victoriana with an orangery, lean-to greenhouses growing figs and the periphery walls had raspberries, red and honey coloured, against them and also apple and plum trees. Badly placed trees on the outside of the wall allowed certain kids to climb and get an apple or two!" (Tony Britton) "Mr Baker 'advised' smallholders on the different crops that were to grown each year". (John Socha)

The first tenants lived in Crofton Hall while they were being trained. When their houses were built they were joined by their families and some of the rooms in Crofton Hall were used for community activities. During World War Two Land Girls came to the LSA to learn to drive tractors and some of them may worked smallholdings. After the war a wooden shed near the entrance to East Park, which may have come from Jenkins Cross, was used as the **social centre** for the tenants and their families. (See Ian Jardine's story in a later section) The hut burnt down in 1948 and was replaced with a more permanent structure. (See Eileen Devenney's story No 46 below)



Sunday School in Crofton Hall cc 1950



At the beginning LSA children went to **school** in Crofton Hall which had two classrooms,. (See Dorothy Laverick below) When the LSA started in 1936 children attended school until they were fourteen. The School Attendance Register lists the names and addresses of

pupils, as well as details of the previous school they may have attended and hence where they lived in the north-east of England before they came to Crofton. (*This document may be difficult to track down*).



Crofton Hall School Christmas Party 1946.

The leaving age rose to 15 in 1944 and in 1957 children started going to Thursby Primary School, run by Cumbria County Council. (See Ian Jardine's story No 45 below) The leaving age rose to 16 in 1972.

Thursby School



1950

1952





1955

The youth club performed a pantomime each year. “Aladdin was one I remember as I had my arm in sling due to having cut my hand badly on the school guillotine. Our costumes were made from flour bags dyed in different colours”. (Audrey Strudholme)



Crofton LSA: Smallholdings, Tenants and Staff:

(More photographs can be found on 'Old Crofton' a Facebook account)

Tied cottages to the Crofton Hall Estate:

- Crow Wood Cottage (Crofton Hall Gamekeeper's Lodge) - John & Margaret Forrester (Smallholder retired/1939 Census)
- Crofton Cottage - Harold & Nellie Markham (Poultry Instructor/1939 Census)
Todd Hall - Mrs. McCartney – Secretary to LSA Manager in the 1940s, also Leader of Toadhall Crofton Brownies and Girl Guide Packs.
- + Crofton Farm (not LSA) - William & Margaret Osborne (1939 Census) + 10 children, Elspeth, Bill, Annie, Bob and John (twins) Tommy, Jim, George, Margaret and Jean (all born between 1930 and 1949. Bob has been a great help with this research project.

East Park:

No 1:

1939 Thomas & Edith Telford (Smallholder 1939 Census)

1947-1960 (approx.) Arthur Foster
1963-2020 Phil & Evelyn Scothern
+ Joynson

No 2:

1939 William Wilson (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1940 (approx.) Joe Brown
1960s Arthur & Madge Forster
1970s Rob & Janice Smith

No: 3 & 4:

No 3:

1939 William & Ethel Bill (Builders Labourer/1939 Census)
1946-1953 Bill & May Maddison (See story below)
+ Tommy Bell (son Irwin on 1954 school photo)
1953-?? John Robinson

No: 4

1936-1953 Bill (William) & Nellie Cruddace (Smallholder/1939 Census)
(See story below)
After 1953 ?

No 5 & 6:

No 5:

1939 Arthur & Dorothy Parkinson (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1942-1946 Walter & Jane Irving (Moved to No 19 West Park),
1947-61 Joe Bell (not related to No 3) Son Henry on school photo 1954)
1961-67 Lawrence & Betty Reed + Derek, Irene, Freda, Elizabeth, & Lawrence.
1970-1982 Bob & Dorothy Benson

No 6:

Hugh & Elizabeth McPherson (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1950s-1970s Irving & Isobel Bushby (Daughter Anne on school photo 1954)

.....
+ Brett & Lyn Mitton

No 7 & 8:

No 7:

1939 James & Mary Thompson (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1950s Harold & Gladys Wilson + Pat (School photo 1954)
1970s Stout family 1970s (daughter of Richardsons at No 8)
1970s Purchased by Richardsons at No 8 in 1970s to make one property
+ Willie and then Freddy Hall (See story below)

No 8:

1939 Marion Bell (Tomato Grader/1939 Census)

1940s/50s Jack and Mrs Fawcett - Teacher at Crofton School

1961-81 Ike & Madge Richardson (See story below) (Photo)

**No 9 & 10:****No 9:**

1939 William & Ethel Stoker (Horticultural Adviser/1939 Census)

1948-56 Williamson (approx.) See story below.

1960s – Biggs family

1970s - present day (2021) John & Sue Lane



Nos 9 & 10 being built

No 10:

1939 John & Francis Robinson (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1959-68 Henry & Kate Kenny

1968-93 Frederick & Amy Snowball (moved from No 28)

No 11 & 12:**No 11:**

1936-56 William & Francis Todhunter (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1960s Benson family

+ Bill and Margaret Irving

No 12:

1939 John & Mary Hunter (Smallholder/1939 Census)

Caulfield family
1950s Jack and Jean Blair
+ Raymond Irving
19?-2020 Ian Donaldson

No 13 & 14:

No 13:

1939 Hodgson(?) & Mary Steele (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1957 approx Don & Rose Huddart
+ George & Madge Stevens
+ Middlemas

No 14:

1939 Johnathan & Sarah Steele (Smallholder/1939 Census)
+ Stephenson
+ Don & Rose Huddart

No 15 & 16:

No 15:

1939 John & Francis Hodgson (Pigman/1939 Census)
+ Gordon & Joyce Donaldson
+ Steel

No 16:

1939 George & Elsie Moffat (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1948-54 Bob Irving
1954/55 Fraser First name emigrated to Toronto, Canada
1974 Ian & Carol Donaldson bought Nos 15 & 16 at the closure moving from No 35

West Park

No 17 & 18:

No 17:

1936 Mr & Mrs Mossop (First tenants) Ex-miner from Whitehaven.
1939 Jesse & Mary Wilkinson (Gardener/1939 Census)
19?-1947 Mr Danby "had to vacate due to theft of money from the office where he worked"
1947-52 Harry Carlton (son David, daughter Joan) after Hodgson
1952 Norman McAteer (after Carlton)
+ Walter Hodgson (Manager of Propagation Unit)

No 18:

1939 Andrew & Margaret Brown (Pig Technical Assistant/1939 Census)
1940s/50s/60s ?

No 19 & 20:

No 19:

1939 David McClaren (Pigman/1939 Census)
1946-1949 Walter and Jane Irving (Story below)
1950s Foster Laydon (Cynthia on School photo 1954)

+ Morrit + daughter Shirley

No 20:

1936-1944 Thomas & Sarah McDowell (Smallholder/1939 Census) Photo WI at Crofton Hall
– Sarah McDowell far left + Story below (+ Nellie Cruddace (3rd from left))



1944-58 Sarah & son Reggie McDowell

1980s Jeff Taylor (Previously Village Policeman in Thursby)

+ Geoff & Elizabeth Barton

+ Willis

+ Jim and Mary Johnson Lorry Driver

No 21 & 22:

No 21

1939 Christopher & Sarah Maxwell (Small Holder/1939 Census)

1948-57 Ian McGregor, school photo 1954 + Sons John, Duncan, Billy & Daughter Marjorie.

1950s ?? Bob Benson (son Keith in school photo 1954)

No 22:

1936 James & Margaret Sowerby (Smallholder/1939 Census) (See story below)

1979-present time John & Chris Blair (21 & 22)

No 23 & 24:

No 23:

1939 William & Violet Glanfield (Smallholder/1939 Census) + daughter's Mildred, Cicaline and Iris and son Robert - Mrs Glanfield worked on the railway maintenance team during the war at Carlisle lubricating rail lines and wheels (Audrey Studholme)

No 24:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)

1940s McWhirter (helped discover Tutankhamun)

1947-52 Harry Carlton (son David, daughter Joan)

1952 Norman McAteer (after Carlton)

19??-1983 Norman McTeer (Props) Left at closure to run a B&B in Carlisle

+ Avard

+ Norman & Betty Scott (Wagon Driver)

+ Harry & Audrey Carlton (Pigman)

No 25 & 26:

No 25:

1939 Joseph & Elizabeth Horlacker (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1940s Mr & Mrs Baker (Horticultural Adviser)

1949-19?? Mr & Mary Robinson (Mary worked in props and packing shed)

1945-60 Willy Hall (odd job man) LSA Maintenance man

1976-2014 Billy & Eva Grainger

+ Kathleen ? (Daughter of Mr/Mrs Mossop (No 17))

No 26:

1937-58 Thomas & Henrietta Britton (Smallholder/1939 Census) Son Tony born here in 1940. See story below.

1958-?? Robert & Audrey Studholme

+ David Graham (now at Dalston + father was on Broadwath LSA)

+ Peel

Present owners (2021) Roy & Aileen McGuffie,

No 27 & 28:

No 27:

1939 Charles & Agnes Scarr (Smallholder/1939 Census) + Paddy

1944-48 Bob & Ina Scott

1948-69 Thomas & Amy Bell + John, Brian, Irwin, Joyce & Janice. (Irwin & Joyce in 1954 school photo) Thomas moved to Wigton as Park Keeper.



No 28 1939 William & Ellen Waterhouse (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1942-68 Fred Snowball (Sunday School Teacher) (+ Estelle in school photo 1954) moved to No 10 (See story below)

No 29, 30 & 31:

No 29:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)

1950s/60s McNaughtons

+ George Sparks + Doreen and Gordon (in 1954 School photo)

No 30:

1936-65 Alexander (Andy) & Hilda Brunskill (Horseman/1939 Census) (Andy in Photo below)



No 31:

1939 Johnathan & Agnes Branthwaite (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1949-54 Thomas Mullen

1954-68 Joe & Mary Dixon

No 32, 33 & 34: (Photo in 1970s)



No 32:

1939 Herbert Smith (Pig & Poultry farmer/1939 Census)

1942-1967 Harold Fisher (later No 35) Photo cc 1947 Uncles & Aunty , Gordon Fisher , Joseph Fisher , Ruby Fisher , later Lightfoot . Front Row Grandad , Harold Fisher , Nana Mary Fisher & my Dad , Harold , on Grandad's knee (Stephen Fisher)



No 33:

1939 Thomas & Madge Elliott (Smallholder/1939 Census) & Auxiliary Fire Service

1953 -58 Ian McGregor moved from No 2

1958 Robert White (Kendal Archive Centre)

No 34:

1939 Robert & Sarah Eccles (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1946-58 Willie & Mary Teasdale + Abe & Billy



+ ????

Thomas & Amy Robinson/Bell (+ Joyce in 1954 school photo)

1954-65 Jimmy McKenzie

No 35:

1939 - Not on Census – vacant

+ Wilson

+ Harold Fisher (from No 32)

Gateway Lodge:

1956-1974 Gordon & Joyce Donaldson (then 15/16)

Bank End**No 36:**

1939 William & Rhoda Edgar (Smallholder/1939 Census)

19?? -1960 McKirdy – moved out early 1960s to become manager of a private estate at Edenhall near Penrith.

1960s Glaister + No 25 arrived in early 60's from Middlewich in Cheshire, stayed until the end of scheme. Mr. Glaister subsequently worked at Nestle and died in a dreadful accident there. *(Ian Jardine)*

No 37:

1939 John & Rose Tyson (Pig and Poultry Farmer/1939 Census)

+ Billy & Mary Wilson possibly original tenants. Always thought they were from agricultural background, family at Kelsick. Lived there throughout until Mrs. Wilson died several years ago. The son Brian is still alive and possibly living in Wigton. *(Ian Jardine)*

No 38:

1939 John & Annie Bell (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1958-19?? + Reg & Mary Lawman They had a television before anyone else and we would go to their house to watch "Hancock's Half Hour" *(Ian Jardine)*

No 39:

1939 John Williamson (Market Gardener/1939 Census)

1966 cc Wright family - Son, Ian, went to Nelson Thomlinson School and undertook exchange visit with pupil from Ghana who then stayed at No. 39 for several weeks.

No 40:

1939 George & Catherine Laybourne (General labourer/1939 Census)

1950s/60s – Lancaster family

1970s George & Dorothy Murray (family moved in early 70's at the end of the scheme and lived in the house but retaining some buildings. Mr. Murray helped repair cars in his spare time. The Reay family bought the land and expanded their market garden enterprise at Bank End to begin livestock at No. 40. The Murrays then moved to a house near Thurstonfield.

No 41:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)

1940s/50s Colin Hubbick (Story below)

Whinnow**No 42:**

1939 John & Florence Corkhill (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1939- Joseph & May Edminson (from Sunderland)

1960s-present time - Hans & Flo Pinske. (Flo's sister also married a German POW and occupied a holding in Dalston)

+ Roper (See story below)

No 43:

1939 George & Ann Wallace (1939 Census Trainee Land Settlement)

+ Archie & Mary Cowan (See story below)

No 44:

1939 John Robinson (Smallholder/1939Census)

1960 Suttie

+ Harry & Eileen Wilson

No 45: (Single)

1939-1960s James & Hannah Jardine (Smallholder/1939 Census) Jean in school photo 1954

1960s-present Jim & Freda Shimmin + Simon, Elixabeth, Penelope, Ernest & Tim (current occupant 2021)

No 46: (Single) Shaw Wood Road / Main Road, Whinnow.

1936-61 Joseph & Marion Reid (Market Gardener/1939 Census)

1961-95 Peter & Clare Devenney (See story below).

1995 -2020 Christine Dixon-Wright

No 47: (Single)

1939 John & Jane Byers (Smallholder/1939 Census)

+ Bill & Jean Rochester + Helen & Harold

1998-2020 Des & Evelyn Bitcom

Shaw Wood Road**No 48 & 49:**

No 48:

1939 Percy & Lily Teesdale (Smallholder/1939 Census) + Lenny & Sheila

1951-60 Tom & Nellie Thornthwaite

1960-72 Brian & Joyce Jackson + Martin

+ Pre-1967 Tom & Joyce Bowes

No 49:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)

1945 Dave Warwick - Daughter Hazel (Brownnett)

1940s/50 Ross (See story below)

1960's/70's Peter Jackson Mr Jackson built up a thriving mushroom business that created employment for local students during holidays and weekends. Employed Peter Bell from Thursby, who was to later move to a LSA property in Essex and create a successful business there.

No 50:

1936-72 Daniel & Mabel Hinde (Smallholder/1939 Census) (See story below)

+ Wright

No 51:

1939 John & Mary Branthwaite (Smallholder 1939 Census)

+ Jim & Beryl Britton

No 52:

1936-1957 Malcolm & Mary Smith (Smallholder/1939 Census) + Doris, Bill, Ted, Renee, Joe, Marie (mam) and Stan. (Photo)



+ Jim & Judith Carruthers

No 53:

1939-48 John & Margaret McGregor (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1950s-80s Alex & Ada Walker

No 54:

1939 Thomas & Ann Cleator (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1950-62 Adam and Mary Henderson

1962-2019 Fred Cornish, then his son.

Thornby Road

No 55:

1939- 52 Stanley & Sarah Hodgson (Trainee Smallholder/1939 Census) (See story below)
19?? Joe Bell purchased numbers 55 and 56 in 1970. He subsequently sold 56 to Bert and Muriel Rush and Joe lived in 55 until he sold it to a family called Underwood who sold it a few years ago to Paul Twentyman and family.

No 56:

1939 James & Sarah McTeer (Trainee Land Settlement Association/1939 Census)
+ Ward

No 57:

1939 William & Marian Hastie (Gardener Propagation/1939 Census)
1952-1959 Jack & Elsie Lupton
1959-2019 Wilfred & Joy Dinning

No 58:

1939 Alex & Elizabeth McCullough (Smallholder/1939 Census)
+ Owen

No 59:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)
1944 -2019 John & Agnes Keith (See story below)

No 60:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)
after 1957 Stuart Masson

No 61:

1939 Thomas & Margaret Roper Smallholder/1939 Census)
1940s/50s ?
1969 onwards Fred & Chris Dinning (See story below)

No 62:

1939 Mathew & Mary Graham (1939 Census)
+ Eric & Sheila Herron

No 63:

1939 William & Daisy Head (Market Gardener/1939 Census)
+ Hendry

No 64:

1939 George & Isabella McTeer (Smallholder/1939 Census)
+ Turner

No 65:

1939 James & Florence Dawson (Smallholder/1939 Census)
1971 -73 Tony & Molly Socha – moved from No 70 (See story below)
+ Jim Allan

No 66:

1939 – not on Census – vacant ?

+ Jonty & Jean Harrison

+ Harold Lloyd and his mother were in 66 till they moved to Wigton.

No 67:

Missing on 1939 Census

1960s-80s Bert & Quen Rowley + June, Caroline, Lorna & Lawrence.

No 68: (single house 2-bed) East Park?

1939-1956 Watson & Edith Telford (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1956-90 Andy & Ina Tinlin (See story below)

+ Juan and Joan Martos, then Reg and Ann Lathan, then Kevin and Sandie Bowman, who are there now (2021) Source: Dorothy Steele (No 69)

No 69: (single 2-bed) East Park

1937-42 John & Sarah Leeson (Smallholder/1939 Census)

1947-1950s Tommy Davey

1960s Ronnie & Eileen Graham (See story below)

1960s Leo & Marguerite Usher (prior to Steele in 1971)

1971-2015 Thomas & Thelma Steele

No 70:

1939 Vacant (1939 Census)

1945-60 Willy Hall - joiner/LSA maintenance man

+ Tony & Molly Socha – then moved to 65

1970 -present time George Simpson

.....

Crofton LSA: Stories: (35)

LSA Director & 2 tenants (no house number) & No 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, Manager's House, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 41, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 59, 61, 68, 69, 70, Crofton Farm (Bob Osborne) & Toad Hall (Hickman)

The following was part of a BBC Radio Programme recorded in Manchester and transmitted on July 20th 1937 8.40-9.00pm.

Announcer:

This is the Northern programme. Now listeners may hear something about some of the groups of modern settlers on the land of England and about one particular group at Crofton, in Cumberland. But first Laurence Gammans, Director of the Land Settlement Association, will explain what the work is.

Lawrence Gammans:

Land Settlement's like every other big event – there's a lot of nonsense talked about it. Let me explain some of things which it does not do. It is not our intention to create tens of

thousands of new smallholdings; our present programme won't exceed 3,000. We do not take any Tom, Dick or Harry onto the estates; each man and his family are carefully selected. We don't leave them to work their salvation; each family is given the benefit of expert training and constant skilled assistance in other ways which I will describe. And we don't seek to make our men glorified gardeners or farm workers; it's independence that we are striving for; our object is to give men who have been unemployed an opportunity to become self-supporting small farmers in a branch of agriculture that pays.

The reason for land settlement today is that over a million and a half people are still unemployed, of whom something like one third are middle aged men whose chances of re-deployment in their old jobs are poor. Not all of these men are, of course, suitable for land work and many of them don't want it. But there are a great many who, given the right opportunity and the right conditions would make a success of a smallholding.

There are five main conditions which govern success. First of all the man and his wife must like living in the country and be keen on the land; they must be healthy and ready to do a day's hard work. It's a sheer waste of time for anybody else to try it.

Secondly, the man and his wife have got to learn the job. Agriculture's a very skilled occupation. We can't compress a life's experience into 15 months, but we try in that short time to give the man the best possible instruction, so that at the end of it he knows enough about the work to take on a holding and run it under expert supervision.

Each settlement in Cumberland or elsewhere is under the charge of a Warden who lives on the place and he has specialists in poultry, pigs and market gardening under him. It's his responsibility to see that the settlers are properly trained.

Again the settler must have command of enough capital to give himself a fair start. Each holding costs the Land Settlement Association about £1,000 to equip. £700 of that represents the value of the house and land; the other £300 we advance to each tenant in the form of livestock, tools and other equipment. Part of this is a free gift; the balance a loan without interest repayable over a period of years. That is his capital.

Then, of course, there's the problem of marketing which is perhaps the most important of all. Our settlers must make a living and get a fair return for their labour. The average smallholder spends half his time growing his own produce and the other half trying to sell it. In the process he's at the mercy of all sorts of middlemen whose charges often eat up the whole of the profit. We meet that difficulty by organising all the buying and selling centrally, thus obtaining for our men the best prices for things they produce and the keenest prices for the things they require.

Lastly to help the men in their daily work and keep down costs, we also provide on each of our settlements a number of central farm services, such as ploughing, harrowing, and transport. We make a charge for such work which covers costs. You can imagine what a difference this makes to the expense of the small man.

The effect of all these provisions is that though the smallholder on our estates works individually, he is part of a very big organisation and shares its advantages. The Association is already one of the biggest producers of pigs, poultry and market garden food stuffs in the country and can make terms which no individual smallholder could hope to get by himself.

That's the scheme. What does it offer to the right man? Well, it offers a job and livelihood which many people think is the most attractive of any. It's an open-air life, working for yourself, in conditions which ought to bring happiness to the right home. Each holding has a new house on it, with three or four bedrooms, living room, scullery and all modern conveniences. The family generally come from the same neighbourhood and so are not strangers to each other.

There's only one snag – or perhaps I should say limit – to the scheme at present – it's confined for the most part to unemployed industrial workers. If it were open to agricultural workers in any part of the country, men with knowledge and experience of the land, the queue for applicants for places would stretch from here to Carlisle itself. For they would know what a tremendous chance it is.

Boiled down in terms of LSD it means that we're prepared to back each man to the extent of £1,000, provided only he puts his back into it.

We're making provision for 300 such men in Cumberland. We've got five estates, one at Crofton, another at Dalston, another at Wetheral and two at Wath head and Jenkins Cross. These five places cover 2,000 acres of land which is admirably suited for market gardening and poultry and pig keeping.

The market garden holdings are about five acres each in size and each one has a large glasshouse which itself can provide substantial return in hard cash. In addition the market garden holding carries a stock of 20 to 30 pigs and 100 to 150 laying hens.

About 2 acres of land is set apart for fruit and vegetables. Each poultry holding should ultimately carry about 700 laying hens and 30 to 40 pigs. Each one designed on an agriculturally balanced system so that the smallholder will never be dependent one on department alone, but will have three or four lines from which his income may grow and they can't all fail even in the worst times.

The Crofton Settlement is already at work. The others will all be ready shortly.

I'm sometimes asked how a man should apply for one of these holdings. The answer is that he should go to his nearest Employment Exchange where he'll get full information about the scheme.

Well that's my account. We've got some Crofton settlers here; but before they speak, it's reasonable you should hear some of the doubts of people outside. Here's Isaac Stevens from Maryport. You'll be able to tell from what he says why he doesn't like the idea of Crofton and why he turned it down initially.

Stephens:

With me it's a matter of doubts chiefly. We hear a lot of gossip about Crofton and I don't feel sure of the answers. I feel, for one thing, that if I have a family old enough to work on the allotment, they ought to get some sort of allowance for their work and not have to put so much money into the repayment of capital loaned. Anyhow, how much capital is loaned? And what is the period of repayment? What rent, rates and taxes have you to pay? What happens if a man goes ill? Will his family starve?

We're told that sometimes produce is collected when it's ready for marketing and so loses some of its value. We're told that some of the settlers withhold stuff from the marketing service and sell it privately. That's going to weaken the success of the scheme a lot, if there's much of it. Another thing that troubles me is that you can't choose your land and you might draw a poor bit and find yourself landed.

What we want to know is what kind of living you can make out of the settlement and what sort of stability there would be for a man's dependents. Suppose I go with my family and then I was to die – would they turn out for my family? Would they let my lad carry on?

We've got a sort of idea that there's bound to be a bit of regimental drill about an affair like this and it might be hard to stomach. For instance, I'm pretty handy; now if I wanted to build a glasshouse or a henhouse on my plot, would they let me make it myself and pay simply for the cost of material? Or would I be obliged to have the official pattern? Which would cost more? When you've been on the dole for a bit you get frightened. You look twice at anything that looks promising because you have been had too many times already. I'm not a young man. Suppose I go to Crofton and I was to work hard – really hard – for ten years, and suppose at the end of that time I found that I was making no more than I get on the dole – wouldn't that be like saying your labours worthless? That would be bitter after ten years hard and no further chance of change.

Gammans:

James Bell is one of the youngest settlers. What's the history of your arrival, Bell?

Bell:

I was an unemployed miner too – but it was the doctor who turned me out of the pit. I had to go.

At first I had plenty of hopes of getting a job above ground, but the collieries weren't having a good time. Nor was anything else – I must have answered hundreds of advertisements for jobs in the district and then I decided it was finished and I wrote to the Mayors of twenty boroughs all over the country in places where unemployment was least. Nineteen of the answers began "I regret". The twentieth turned me down.

One day, in January last year, the Labour Exchange Manager sent for me. He'd had a letter offering me a job in a southern town at a wage of fifty-five bob a week.

Splendid I thought. Then I discovered the house rents there were about thirty-five bob. So that was that.

I was turning over the vacancy lists, fed up one day when the manager said “what about the land settlement?”

I replied with a sniff “Land Settlement. What’s that?” And in answer was given a booklet setting out the scheme.

I read it over many times, then began to look at my surroundings. I asked myself “Am I dreaming or have I been knocked down by a bus or something and awakened in another world? Surely such a scheme like this was never evolved in this world”.

Anyhow the same officials were in the Exchange, so I must be alright. I was roused from my reverie by the manager saying “Talk it over at home and let me have your decision tomorrow”.

Unconvinced, I had another squint on my way home where, after answering “No” to my wife’s enquiry about work I said tossing her the LSA pamphlet. “Here read that”. Like myself she was very sceptical.

I ought to explain here that most of us miners in West Cumberland have had something to do with the land. Lots have come off farms as lads to make better wages in the pits. Anyway I applied and was accepted, after a long wait as a trainee.

I had my first impression of the ‘promised land’ on September 3rd and my initiation next morning – harvesting potatoes. Later I helped with road making, potatoes, tending poultry and pigs, building poultry houses, chick rearing and greenhouse foundations.

At the end of three months, I drew by lot the holding I fancied. I couldn’t get in at once because the water supply wasn’t fixed, but at least we made the break: my wife, a boy of eleven - I’ve two boys working in London as well – came across to our new cottage from the place where we’d lived for 21 years.

I’d had ten weeks working on the central farm, but since June of this year I’ve been working on my own holding, erecting poultry pens, planting potatoes and feeding what stock I had. I’ve also been trying to transform a miniature Sahara round my dwelling into something more pleasing to the eye. I have still a lot to do, so that if any listener cares to ‘slim’ a bit, a wheelbarrow, spade, shovel, axe and saw are at his (or her) disposal.

I’ve other things to do as well. In April I was elected Secretary of the settlers’ committee which helps with the working of the settlement and I hope one day will manage it.

You would scarcely credit the ink I’ve spilt in my short period of office. (have now 30 pigs, about 400 pullets, a half acre of potatoes and expect to have my complement of birds - 500 - very soon.

Mind you. It's not all beer and skittles. But it's a grand life. I like it, but it's the most appetite-creating job I know and I'm sure every housewife on the estate knows it too.

Whether I will be successful or not, nobody can tell, but if I can manage to get a living without resorting to the dole I shall consider I have achieved much of what I set out to do.

I should like to wish settlers everywhere the very best of luck in their efforts to regain independence and to continue as self-respecting citizens of the best country in the world.

****James Sowerby also took part in the programme – see No 21 below.**

No 3: (Maddison)

My Father, Bill, worked at Healey Hall Estate, near Riding Mill, Northumberland, as Head Gardener. We lived in a tied house on the estate and remained there while he was in the 8th Army during the war, serving in North Africa and Italy. When he returned in 1946 the gardens were in ruins and the heir had been killed during the war, so he was given a job working in the forests on the estate but obviously wasn't very happy. That would be the reason for our move to Crofton.

We left Crofton on 4 August 1953. My parents bought a property in Hayton, a village to the east of Carlisle, near Brampton. The property was the walled gardens plus some land, White House where we lived, and a small cottage known as the Bothy, all of which had belonged to Hayton House. Hayton House was pulled down just before we arrived as nobody wanted big houses in those days, and the gardens sold off. My parents developed the greenhouses and the potting shed and made it into a lovely market garden and lived there for the rest of their working lives.

When we first moved to Crofton, the primary school was housed in part of Crofton Hall - there were two classrooms and the largest of these was used as a community centre for gatherings, film shows of Laurel and Hardy, and Sunday services and Sunday School by a Mr. Snowball who was one of the tenants on West Park. The rest of Crofton Hall was used to house Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe and they were sent out to work on local farms. We had a concert in the large classroom one evening and one of the ladies had volunteered to sing for us. She was obviously an opera singer and sang beautifully and at the end all the men stamped their feet and whistled in appreciation whereupon she burst into tears much to the concern of the organisers. She explained that where she came from whistling and stamping was the same as our booing! She had to be comforted and assured that we had all loved her performance, which indeed we had. I don't think many in her audience would have heard singing like that before.

A few years after we moved to Crofton (I can't remember how many) a brand new Social Centre was built at the entrance to East Park. It was

used for all dances (I remember Audrey, Tony's sister who is a few years older than me dancing, I thought she was so glamorous), and any other occasion that required a public space. We children had to learn to dance the Maypole at some of the festivities, held in the grounds of the Hall, then when the new Centre was built the field opposite was used for summer fetes and games.

..... When Dad did return home his job was no more as the gardens were completely ruined by neglect, the son and heir Julian Ward-Aldham had been killed during the war, so he was given a job working in the forests, which he absolutely hated. I had to take his tin of sandwiches to wherever he was working and even at my young age I could see he was not a happy man. So the end of our time in Healey and Northumberland came to an end and we moved to Crofton in Cumberland in January 1946. The school was decimated by our leaving as there were so few pupils anyway. I can remember moving to Crofton very clearly – we and our furniture were packed into a lorry of ancient vintage – Mam, Allan and I squashed into the cab with the driver, and Dad sitting in the back amongst the furniture. How we got petrol to take us there I don't know, as it was so scarce. When I see Corporal Jones' lorry on Dad's Army, I think ours would have been very similar. However we arrived safely even though there was thick snow on the ground again and a new chapter started. We moved to a Land Settlement Association holding, No 3, East Park, Crofton. It consisted of a little house with three bedrooms, a small kitchen and living room and bathroom. The houses were built with a life expectancy of 10 years as they were built with drainpipe material, a bit like Lego. However I often see in the Cumberland News houses from the Crofton Estate for sale for over £300,000 so I guess they have hung out well! There was a byre with each holding and a battery hen house, plus a few more sheds etc. and several acres of land. The community were mostly lovely people and Dad and Mam quickly made friends. They seemed to all look out for each other after the bitter days of war. We soon had greenhouses and goat sheds and pig styes, and with Dad and Mam's work ethic and green fingers the holding flourished. All the produce from the holdings had to go to a central distributor, so Dad's extremely healthy produce was mixed in with others that weren't so good. The same price was paid whatever your produce was like which was a sore point to Dad who was always a perfectionist.

Another large hall became prominent in our lives – Crofton Hall where Allan and I went to school. Again the heir to this estate had been killed in the war and it was left to a distant relative, a lady who already had a big estate further south and had no use for it. The Hall was divided between the primary school, which consisted of two classrooms, cloakrooms and a part of the downstairs hall where PT lessons were taken. The hall was divided by a wooden partition to a height of about six feet, then the space above was filled by a wire netting screen, so that we could look through and see what was going on on the other side. There was a beautiful stairway leading up to a gallery with doors to rooms all around. Up above was a glazed cupola which let the light shine down. This side of the Hall housed the poor souls who were called Displaced Persons, mostly East Europeans who were put to work on the surrounding farms. A wedding took place one day between the manager, Mr. Barker, of the hostel and one of the displaced women who lived there. We all stood agog and watched in awe at the procession of brightly dressed people going up the

stairway to the strains of some lovely music, the likes of which we had never heard, from the musicians sitting on the gallery. The infants class (mine) was run by a formidable Miss Banks and the seniors by a Mr. Jack Fawcett (Allan) who had a nasty habit of fondling little girls. There would be about 30 pupils in all at this school – a considerable leap from the 8 at Healey. The Hall was quite a distance from home and I remember the winter of 1947 walking to school on the tops of the hedges the snow was so deep. Dennis was born February 5 1947 and this was the child Mam and Dad could bring up together. He was born at home and delivered by the local doctor.

There was no Church at Crofton, the nearest was at Thursby, but one of the families who had a holding on West Park called Snowball, was very religious. There were three children, Warwick, Arnold and a little girl. Mr. Snowball used to do fire and brimstone services in the big classroom at the school which we all attended.

The big classroom was also used as a social centre until a proper community hall was built some years later. There were film shows put on for us children of Laurel and Hardy which we thought were wonderful.

Allan and I were kept busy helping on the holding. There were eggs to collect and wash and pack every day, and we always had pigs. A new invention called an electric fence was used to keep the pigs together outside and when there were little piglets it was my job to round them up as they could just walk under the fence and run away. They could move like the wind and kept me fit. They were very cute. The old sow got very canny over the electric fence and used to just stand beside it letting her backside lean into it and let the current give her a thrill. Dad was furious. Every now and then one of the pigs was killed by the local butcher from Wigton called Jim Fox and the sides of ham were covered in salt petre to cure and Mam and I made sausages with a huge mincer. Food was still terribly scarce so this was a huge improvement to our diet. It was the done thing with all the neighbours that whenever anyone killed a pig a piece of it was handed round to the other families, so we had a fairly regular supply. Jim Fox told us that the pigs always knew when he was coming long before they saw him, as they started squealing their heads off.

We also kept goats, and they were our playmates and companions. Mam in particular loved goats and she always milked them. Allan made a little cart out of some old wheels and attached it to Nanny, who pulled us along, though rather reluctantly. Another goat was called Pansy and he/she followed us around like a dog. Pansy had a bit of gender problem and would probably be called trans today! One of the holdings was taken on by a family called Fraser and the father had been a prisoner of the Japanese. They had a little boy called Douglas and he was terribly affected by eczema, his skin was just covered in sores. Dad offered them a regular supply of goats milk, telling them that he felt it might help Douglas. This was received with much scepticism but Dad persisted that they at least give it a try. To everyone's delight the skin cleared up in no time. This family emigrated to Canada and we never heard of them again. While they were at Crofton the neighbours all tried to help them as Mr. Fraser had had such a bad time at the hands of the Japanese.

The goat herd expanded a bit and we became short of housing for them, so Dad decided to make a house for Nanny out of straw bales. He made a wonderful job and Nanny was duly ensconced in her new home. That night there was a terrible rain storm and whilst we were all sitting in the house we all felt so pleased that Nanny was comfortably dry. Next morning Dad went out to let her out and found her standing outside the new house, soaking wet, she had eaten her way out!

Dorothy Laverick (nee Maddison)

No 4: (Cruddace)

Our next door neighbours at No. 4 East Park were Bill and Nellie Cruddace. I think they were from West Cumberland. They had a child whilst we lived next door and I used to wheel the baby along the road in its pram. Dad accidentally shot Nellie whilst trying to get a rabbit out of the lettuce frame - the shot bounced off the metal frame and hit her in the leg. She gave a mighty yell and shouted "you bugger you've shot me". (Dorothy Laverick (nee Maddison No 3)

No 3 & 4:

Number 3 and 4 were semi detached houses and both were empty when we moved in (1971). They were rented to various people before becoming a council farm. (Dorothy Steele, No 69)

No 7: (Hall)

Willie Hall was estate joiner in the Maintenance Team and had workshop upstairs beside the now cheese place. Caleb Huddart wed Freddie and took on the holding after Willie. (Tony Britton)

No 8: (Richardson)

We arrived at Crofton in 1961 as a family - dad and mum, Ike and Madge Richardson farmed the 6 acre holding at No. 8 until dad's demise in 1981 at the age of 56, having purchased No 8 and No 7 in the late 70's making 12 acres in total. Mum remained at the property for a further 10 years after dad passed away.

Dad became quite renowned locally for his pigs, supplying local butchers, but initially they grew tomatoes, lettuce and chrysanthemums and had hens in battery cages - as far as I'm aware all the produce was dispersed through the packing shed where mum also worked part time. (Heather Stout, nee Richardson)

No 9: (Williamson)

Mr and Mrs Williamson, Daughters Pat and Pamela. Mr W was famous for riding about on his Motorbike. Entry circa 1948. Left about 1956 to Carlisle and kept a BB place. (Tony Britton)

No 11: (Todhunter)

My memories are from my early childhood of being 4/5yrs old (1956/57).

My paternal grandparents, Bill & May Todhunter, lived in 11 East Park with 7 acres of land. The first house next to Jacky Harrison's sand quarry.

They moved there from Distington and had 5 children (all born in Whitehaven) who in 1936 were Renee (15), Emma (13), Margaret (11), Norman (8) and Thomas (7). (Although in 1939 Renee was lodging in Workington and working as a Purchaser Dept. Clerk at the Iron Steel Co.)

They kept pigs, hens, and grew tomatoes.

They moved about 1957/58 to Colne, Lancashire where Grandad went to work in a mill.

The Benson family then moved into 11 East Park.

Norman Todhunter (my Dad) married Doreen May Edminson** in 1947 and they lived in a cottage just outside Wigton.

My maternal grandparents, Joseph & Elizabeth May Edminson, lived at Whinnow (No 42)

They moved there from Sunderland where Grandad had been a farm manager, and had 3 children who in 1936 were George (13), Wallace (11) and Doreen (9).

When Grandma died in 1960 he sold up (to Pinske's) and retired to Lindisfarne Street, Carlisle.

May (my Mum), worked in the Estate Office at Crofton Hall. She married Norman Todhunter in 1947.

Other Memories - The Caulfield's who lived next door to the Todhunter's were a youngish couple, possibly 30ish, no family, and they used to feed me and my brothers/sister.

I remember playing in Torkin Wood at the back of Grandad Todhunter's land.

And as a boy of 15 (1967) I worked for a Mr Scothern (No 1) who was a major chrysanthemum grower whose land was somewhere at the back of Grandad Todhunter's. John Todhunter (Grandson)

No 19: (Irving)

My parents Walter & Janie Irving with me (Mary) and my sister Elsie moved into number 5 East Park in 1942. Not sure how long we stayed there perhaps 2/3 years and then we moved to 19 West Park. My dad was horseman for the collective farming with two Clydesdale horses Enoch & Abel. My mother was caretaker for the school rooms in Crofton Hall. Next door to us was Mrs MacDowell and the next two houses along the road lived the Snowballs and the Bells. My sister and I went to Sunday school in Mr Snowball's Nissen hut. At school Mr Fawcett was head master and he lived in the first house past the community hall in East Park. The rooms upstairs were occupied by prisoners of war*. I remember while we lived on East Park we had a family of refugees staying with us.

(Mary Armstrong, nee Irving)

* Displaced Persons – Nationals from other lands affected by war. (Tony Britton)

No 20: (Neil)

We lived at No 20 West Park, you may remember the McDowells. I left Crofton when I was about 12 to live in Nottingham. Since moved to Norfolk, near the Broads. Yes, it seems a long time ago and the names are memories of former days! Eileen Neill (Webster). Also remember the Osbornes, and can remember my grandmother Sarah McDowell saying that Mrs. Osborne was related to her. (Eileen Neill)

No 21: (McGregor)

I have fond memories of the LSA. I was born in 1948 and lived there until we moved to Wigton when I was 9. I think it was 21 West Park where we lived and our neighbours were the Bensons with the Bells and Snowballs living opposite, Mr Snowball was the Sunday school teacher. Also remember the Osborne farmers and the Britton's. I moved back to Crofton when I was 15 until I got married. (Ian McGregor)

No 20: (McDowell)

I will do my best to give you what I remember about relationships and memories of 20 West Park, Crofton. My grandparents Thomas and Sarah McDowell lived at Seacliffe, Whitehaven before moving to Crofton in 1939. Tom worked as a miner prior to Crofton. Their sons, Jimmy and Reggie lived with them, and eventually they both served with the Border Regiment, airborne division during WW2. Sadly Tom died in 1944. My Father was also a soldier in WW2, and my Mother Florence and son Ronnie came up from London to be safe from the bombings. I (Eileen Neill nee Webster) was born at 20 West Park in 1941. Sarah's niece, Sally, and Daughter (also called Florence) came to live at 20 West Park for some time in the early 1940's, although I can't recall the circumstances, nor length of time.

There were several acres of land given over to wheat and corn, to sow, and harvest, and I can remember the combine harvester which did much of the work. There were also a good number of chickens (all free range), and I can remember closing the slats of the hen houses in the evening so that the foxes wouldn't have them. In the piggery we had numerous pigs which were fascinating to watch, especially mother pig with her piglets. In the autumn, my Grandmother would have one slaughtered, and afterwards she would take some of the pork to friends and members of the family. Mr. John Fox, butchers of Wigton, would make our sausages - the traditional way, made in a continuous strip and cooked as a spiral. We always had a ham shank hanging from the kitchen ceiling. Reggie after the war took it upon himself to do a vast amount of the work on the smallholding, although my Grandmother was a hard grafter too. From the top of our crop fields, plum trees grew, and down one side bushes of blackcurrants. We also grew gooseberries and one part of the garden was given over to apple trees. During the war years, I can only now marvel at how self-sufficient the folk on the small holdings were. In two greenhouses, tomatoes were grown, and lettuces and on the land carrots and potatoes. The Crofton Estate, in my opinion, was a vast playground for the children who lived there. We explored the wooded areas, played down by the River Wampool, climbed trees, and played at the site of the sand quarry on East Park, and down by the lake, and most probably did naughty things the grown-ups weren't aware of!

The wooded areas, especially in the springtime were clothed in hyacinths, aconites, wild anemones, and around Crofton Hall and abundance of snowdrops, and even as a child I appreciated their beauty.

Miss Banks was our infant teacher, and as already mentioned in the information Mary has given you, Mr. Fawcett taught the older children. Mr. Snowball taught the children in Sunday School, and at some point, in what I should think was the entrance hall, of Crofton Hall. I remember it had a damp musty smell in that part of the building.

When we were at the age for confirmation in St. Andrew's Church, Thursby, the Reverend Muirhead taught some of the children the catechism in the Social centre on East Park. I remember he came over on his bicycle. Sometimes I would walk with my Grandmother to attend the evening service at St. Andrews, which is also home to several memorial plaques of the Brisco family.

Over the years I have been back to Crofton several times and walked past 20 West Park, which seems quite small in comparison as to when I was a child. For any of the children growing up at Crofton it was, and hope it still is a wonderful place to live.

Eileen Neil (nee Webster) who now lives in Norfolk, gateway to the Broads.

In 2011 Eileen Neil wrote of her memory of Crofton Hall when it was used as a school. Crofton Hall has wonderful memories for me, because that is where I started school. The school was heated by a fire in the winter. We were allowed to play in the open spaces of the grounds, amongst the trees, and wild flowers. In the spring, I remember the ground at the front of the Hall covered by snowdrops and hyacinths.

Miss Banks was our infant and junior teacher (enough said) but she did teach the children to read write and spell. Mr. Fawcett taught the older children.

The Hall was an imposing building, and we children were convinced it was haunted. I do remember climbing to the top of the roof - but don't think the grown-ups ever found out!!

It was also where I went to Sunday School, where Mr. Snowball taught the children.

I have been back to Crofton several times; but it is not the same without the Hall (I now live in Norfolk).

They were happy days, skating on the lake, roaming in the woods, and climbing the beech trees.

<http://dixon.intco.biz/genes/palmer/crofton-estate-residents.htm>

No 21 & 22 (John Blair) & Parents at No 12

I lived at 21 West Park since 1979 and bought No 22 and made it into one property.

My father and mother Jack and Jean Blair had a holding where Ian Donaldson lives now - not sure of number 11 or 12?

This was in the early fifties as I was born in 1957 and moved to Wigton in early sixties .

I attended Carlisle technical college from 1973 on the bats engineering course where Mr Britton was a workshop tutor - small world ! (John Blair)

No 22: (Sowerby)

The following was part of a BBC Radio Programme recorded in Manchester and transmitted on July 20th 1917 8.40-9.00pm.

Well, that's straight. Now I'll ask James Sowerby to express his views. He's the eldest inhabitant of Crofton and has been there eighteen months.

For over twenty years I worked as a coal miner at Oughterside colliery and another ten years or so as deputy, till the colliery closed down after the war.

For some time, of course, we went on hoping that something would turn up. The pits couldn't be closed forever.

At last we came to the conclusion there was no chance of a job in the pit again. I had six to provide for. I'd always meant to give my children a better education than I'd had myself; but after all that idea went by the board. In that area matters went from bad to worse.

Well we had to do something. A few of us asked the Friends Allotment Committee to help; and they gave us each a holding of half an acre with garden, poultry and pigs. We got a lot of good out of that; not only for ourselves, in the way of occupation, but in the way of produce and profits. And so when Mr Malcolm Stewart came to Oughterside we begged for more land – we felt we could manage it and more land was promised. So then the Land settlement Association came into West Cumberland and we got our chance. We read all about the scheme and decided to give it a try.

Well we saw the selection committee and were accepted as trainees for fifteen months and we were promised smallholdings if we were successful at the end of that time. It was the 5th of March 1936 when we arrived. We were billeted in Crofton hall. I well remember that day. I was starting a new life at the age of fifty. But we were all as keen as mustard. Then the experts got busy on us. I had a few months on the central farm and chose a pig and poultry holdings sooner than market gardening. The houses for the settlers were being built and in October my wife and family joined me and now we've got a pretty snug cottage on our own bit of land and plenty of fresh air and sunshine. And we've pretty reasonable hopes of making a living out of it. It's hard work, but it's not all hard work and no play. I've always had a fancy to use my head and among my recreations are attending lectures [on poultry keeping, pig fattening and horticulture; going to WEA classes in the winter and a summer school at Durham in July. The children go to the school in the Hall and my wife keeps busy with all sorts of social activities as well as in the looking after us. I can assure you the trainees mean to make a job of it.

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James Sowerby, a former miner from Cockermouth, who was the first to take a holding at Crofton in 1937, spoke enthusiastically to a reporter from the Carlisle Journal "the men on the estate are not afraid of work and neither are the women , . . . it means day to day labour of most of the most strenuous kind and some keep at it on Sundays . . . there is no room for the slacker at Crofton Hall."

He went on to explain that each trainee was specially selected and if a man agreed, it was entirely voluntary. Training lasted for 15 months in every aspect of working the land, under a warden and superintendent. After a three month period, an individual's position was reviewed, but few were rejected. Some men did withdraw because they found the physical work too demanding, or that rural life was not for them, or that they had doubts about growing enough to make a living.

(Snaith Past and Present by Denis Perriam)

No 23:

"Holding failed due to wet ground, retained as staff house for mole catcher, etc". (Tony Britton)

No 24: (McWhirter & Carlton)

"Mrs McWhirter was there when I was born 1940, and left circa 1948 (we still miss the toffee she made!!) She was followed by Harry Carlton and Mrs, son David and daughter Joan. He was Pigman, and had a car! Left about 1951 back to the piggeries at I think Chopwell-on-Tyne". (Tony Britton)

No 26: (Tony Britton)

Thomas Britton had been a steel worker in Workington, then manager of a Duck Farm in Cockermouth prior to joining the LSA in 1936. His father, Tony's grandfather, had also worked at the steel works as a 'pig-lifter' – look that one up on google!

My early recollections of where I was born and lived took some time to develop, but eventually I became aware I was the youngest of the Britton family, which comprised two brothers and two sisters, and a step brother, living elsewhere.

The holding was about seven acres, but as there was spare land round about, it could be rented and the size became variable. Similarly there was a spare Piggery, and a spare greenhouse 60 x 24. These were coke fired horseshoe boilers set down in the what Dad referred to as the boiler hole. They also were carrying an amount of water which was beyond their thermal ability to get an optimum temperature for winters. The boiler hole on occasion also filled up with noxious fumes and you got out quick. (Dad had already got more than his share on the Somme). However, they were the mainstay for the annual tomato crop, and 3000 plants was the order of the day, and double that if we had the spare greenhouse taken. That was usually the summer crop, but occasionally cucumbers took over. If I remember right 2000 plants would yield some 10000 cucumbers, and a lot of hard work! stringing, watering side shooting and harvesting into LSA boxes, which empty weighed about eight pounds.

In the winter if we had coke a crop of Chrysanths would go in and completely fill the place, again much management needed, watering, side shooting, disbudding and careful harvesting and packing , all of the produce went via the LSA to market at Newcastle and a Mr Hardy seemed to be the recipient, so the greenhouses worked hard and cash crops of lettuce, radish and cress all featured. This tired the soil and also introduce some unwanted pests and disease. Three ways were safe and one was not! Digging in Formaldehyde liquid was done, but only in small doses for the diggers and then lock up the place for weeks. A product called Auto shreds could be burned in little piles and left to smoulder and its high nicotine content would fumigate everything in the place, An alternative was to completely change the soil. By hand in barrow loads. If we had any spare cultivated land nearby, I only saw it done once and wheeled a few loads. I must have been about ten at the time 1950. Then there was Steam sterilising, which involved steaming the soil at a depth of about 2 feet in six foot trenches all the way up the greenhouse. A week's job. and the steam generator was the size of a small locomotive, very impressive and cost a full load of coke to fire it. We all liked the steriliser!!

Outside we had hens, in free range, about five thousand! More work for us all, and anyone else who wanted to help. They needed to be fed daily, eggs collected and washed ! and

packed for the Lazonby egg packing station near Penrith. On top of this they needed to be "Mucked out"

The pigs when we had some, could be either good ones or not so good, I remember one lot who could jump clean over the pen fronts like greyhounds. Large whites were the most popular. and the occasional Wessex saddleback. I also remember in the mid-forties helping to scrub the washhouse floor with mother and sisters. In a couple of days I found out it was to be for a Pig butchering, John Fox our travelling butcher came and he and Dad went in to the piggery, I still remember the bang! and carrying boiling water to get it shaved before the rest of the job started. Still do not like black pudding!!

In the fields we grew potatoes and very good ones, the soil was nice and light which suited them, planted by machine, I remember doing that standing on it and drop one down the chute when the bell rang to get the spacing right. Fine in theory but when the thing got full to the top, it blocked we had missed a hundred yards planting. Carrots, cabbage and sprouts also featured. Harvesting sprouts in winter snow and freezing conditions was an everlasting memory.

Amongst our dad's treasured possessions was a 12-gauge shotgun, to keep vermin off the crops and stock, and his split cane Trout fly rod. By some stroke of luck our holding had the River Wampool as its boundary and it was as good a trout fishery as you ever would come across. Seasonal of course but we had many a good feed of fresh trout from it and a welcome diversion from the almost continuous work of keeping the place viable and in order. I was seven before I caught one on a fly, but have fished every year since 1947!

(Tony Britton, son)

No 26: (Studholme)

We had a packing shed worker Isabell Bell who travelled from the other side of Irerby daily until the LSA closed over 20 years. Also Denis Crawford cycled from Caldbeck daily to work in the propagating gardens for many years

I remember coming home from school and hearing a very loud noise opposite their house (Stephens) we had only been at Crofton a week we knocked at their door and asked what it was as a big red tractor came round the corner being in the town we thought it should have been on rails like a train this was one of many things we learned about. (Audrey Studholme)

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A social secretary was sent to Crofton by some officials from the London area she had no idea what the West Cumbria's residents were saying to her and thought some were Dutch because they wore clogs and the language was Dutch often she was told to shut her gob or trap by the miners and put men and took it as a west Cumbrians

During the war the army trained around the wooded area from Crofton Hall up to the Arch which was a well wooded area in those days we used to all meet together to walk to dances at Thursby or Rosley and all come back together on reaching the Arches a whistle blew and several loud guns were fired in the air sending us all running down the road followed by lots of laughter from the soldiers The residents were not at all pleased and the army was quickly removed elsewhere.

(Audrey Studholme)

No 26: (Graham)

I wasn't at Crofton very long please see below a brief outline on the different LSA properties I have lived in since I was born in 1965.

When I was born we lived at what is now called Sowerby Wood Farm at Lingey Close, not sure what it was called during the LSA period, then in 1968 we moved to no 44 Grace Lane which was part of the Dalston estate.

I lived there until 1989 when I got married and then moved to 26 West Park at Crofton. We bought no 26 in 1988 however we moved from there in April 1990 to 4 Lingey Close which had been my wife's family home since 1969 this was when her father purchased the house from the ministry of agriculture (I think).

We are still here 30 years later.

My parents continued to live at Grace Lane all their lives, from memory they purchased the house in 1974 for around £2,500. When we moved there in 1968 the piggery and greenhouse were still there and I can remember then being dismantled but not sure of the year.

My dad was brought up at 13 Broadwath, my dad Geoff and his brother Fred and Phillip together with their parents Thomas and Maud lived at Broadwath for many years working the holding until the 1968 or 1969 when they retired to Wetheral.

I would be interested to see the article you have on Broadwath.

Unfortunately my father is no longer alive however I may be able to find out more about their time at Broadwath from my uncles, I'll see what they can remember.

David Graham

No 27: (Scott & Bell)

Mr and Mrs Scott who took a refugee in name of Peter. 1940 until Thomas Bell and family came in from Bamber Bridge. (Tony Britton)

No 28: Snowball

A meeting of the LSA Conference of Tenants was held in Derbyshire in October 1894, chaired by Lord Elgin. Mr Crofton of Crofton suggested that tenants should be represented on the governing body that ruled their lives. Mr Aston of Sidlesham LSA suggested that it would be impossible for an active smallholder to take on such a role. My father took on such a role and set up National Association of Land Settlement Association Tenants (NALSAT) serving as its secretary from 1946-49. He was presented with a very nice clock from the tenants on his retirement. In 1953 he was appointed to the National executive of the LSA by the then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Tom Dugdale. He served for 10 years before retiring in 1963 when Christopher Soames was Minister. A two day journey from Carlisle to London and back every month was a considerable amount of devotion and loyalty to the cause.

(Arnold Snowball, son)

No 30: (Brunskill)

My grandparents Andy & Hilda lived at no 30 until 1965, my grandma died in 65, and my grandad in 66. I don't know when they moved in. Cannot remember how the properties were numbered, but it was a 3 block, No 30 was the middle one, on the left hand side were the Dixons, Joe and Mary (2 children, boy and girl, Robert and ?) On the right hand side were the Mcnaughtons, cannot recall any names, I think they had 1 son. Hope this helps (James Brunskill, grandson)

No 34: (Teasdale)

My Grandparents Willie and Mary Teasdale lived at No 34 West Park with their sons Abe and Billy (my Father) from 1946 – 1958. I lived there for a few months when I was born but left to live with my other Grandparents Tom and Ella Pears who owned Wood Farm, Thursby. This was while my Father Bill was away in the Navy doing National Service. When he came back he worked as an accounts clerk in Metal Box, where he stayed in various accounts roles and locations throughout his life, ending up here, on the south coast, at Poole factory as MD.

I have attached a photo showing left to right – Ella Pears, Tom Pears, unknown bridesmaid, Bill Teasdale, Joan Teasdale (Pears), Harry Chaplow (from Haltwhistle where the Teasdales came from), unknown bridesmaid, Willie Teasdale, Mary Teasdale and the little girl in the front is Gillian Pears my cousin. The wedding was at Thursby Chapel where Ella played the organ, Tom occasionally preached, Willie took the Collection and Mary gave out hymn books! I can remember going with the family up to the age of about 11.

There are a few photos on your site that have my Grandmother Mary Teasdale in, Womens Institute and the Crofton Choir, and one of the Crofton Christmas Party shots shows my Father back row on the right.
(Christine Grace, nee Teasdale, Granddaughter)

No 41: Hubbick

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbick were friends of my parents. I think they came from the North East. Mr. Hubbick was a keen amateur artist and I used to go to their house for art lessons, but I'm afraid I wasn't very talented. (Dorothy Laverick, nee Maddison No 3) Mrs. Hubbick was a stalwart of St Andrews Church in Thursby where she was the organist. (Ian Jardine)

No 42: (Roper)

Another family named Ropers lived where Pinskys lived. They fell on hard times and were evicted onto the grass in front of their house all the contents of the house including the mother and her new born child still in the bed the papers posted their photos I often wonder what became of them Elsie was one of my friends (Audrey Studholme)

No 43 (Cowan)

We moved from High Bridge, Raughton Head when I was 10 and spent one year at Thursby school. The school seemed large compared to Raughton Head. I remember the headmaster called me Alice in Wonderland.

Life on the holding was hard, there was always jobs for me to do in the evenings and weekends whilst at Wigton school and later when I worked in Carlisle. When I started work I purchased the Evening News for your grandad, Billy (this is Ian Jardine's grandfather Billy Bendle who lived at Hardcake Hall) and the Blamires farm. Billy would call to collect the paper and after tormenting me (which he enjoyed) he delivered the other paper to the farm on his way home.

Back to the holding, in the early 60's one of our pigs caught swine fever which meant the herd had to be destroyed. It was too expensive to re-stock which meant a large part of our income was lost. To supplement our income Dad had some casual work at Wigton Auction Mart, helped out at Blamires farm, was an official mole catcher and also a grave digger at Great Orton Church.

In 1966 I went to Australia as a "£10 pom." I found secretarial work at the University of Adelaide in the faculty of arts. After three years I married and our honeymoon was a six week cruise to Italy and then home. During my time away my parents decided to relinquish the holding and Dad found work at a Great Orton building firm. He wasn't very happy and it was fortunate that your uncle Ike (Ian Jardine's uncle, Ike Jardine) found him a job at the River Board.

Whilst at home we tried to purchase a holding but it became a bidding game. We returned to Australia (back to the Uni but this time it was the faculty of medicine/dentistry and adult matriculation) to sort out family matters. We worked hard for three years, Joe (Elizabeth's husband) sometimes had two jobs and we took no holidays. We returned home in April 1974, by then the tenancy agreement was changing. There was to be a different landlord or you could purchase the property. The property was purchased much to the delight of mam and dad.

When Dad died in 1984 your dad (Ian Jardine's father Jimmy Jardine) helped Mam by cutting a large portion of the grass and hedges and we helped out at weekends.
Elizabeth Morganella (Nee Cowen)

No 45: (Jardine)

I can only go back to the 1950's as I was born in 1950 itself. Having said that, my grandparents, Jimmy and May (James and Hannah) moved onto No. 45 before WW II with their five children, the sixth, Jean being born and brought up there. My grandfather was a Scot and the family lived in Eastriggs where his father was a stonemason. This may explain why he became a miner at the Harrington pit at Aspatria. My grandmother had an agricultural background through her family in West Cumbria.

My father, the eldest, also known as Jimmy, met my mother, Molly who lived about one mile up the road from Whinnow at Hardcake and they married although he then spent the war years in Egypt before returning and buying the property at Bank End where my mother lived until her death last summer.

My father's sisters all married and moved to Wigton and Carlisle although Jean Jardine, now Jean Smith, moved back to Thursby where she spent the bulk of her years. My father's brother Ike never married and stayed at home working for the River Board. After giving up No. 45 in the early 60's the family moved to another LSA property at Thornby, possibly 57, where the land had been sold off. My grandparents and Ike then moved into a bungalow in Thursby.

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I have a picture of the first class in the new school in Thursby. It would be during the Autumn term of 1957. I have a starring role! We had walked up the hill from the old school on the village green carrying our belongings. The Crofton children joined us at this point as the new building had the space. The old school was based on the National School principle of one big room. That one room had been divided into three sections when I was there. A new building was needed to cope with the growing population in Thursby, never mind allow for the Crofton intake. This was before the large council estate was extended. The road system had been laid out but there were no houses.

I started school (Thursby) in the old building on the village green. It was based on the National School model of one large room that contained all the children and one teacher. In 1956, when I started, the room had been divided into three, I was in the Reception (as it is called now) Class in an area partitioned off at the far end. The main body was then shared by two more classes. Another two classes were inside rooms off the main room, one would have been the teacher's office when the school was built.

I spent my first year with Miss Rickerby before moving on to Miss Gate the next year. I still remember doing maths ("sums", then) with a slate and pencil. Miss Gate would wipe the slate clean, then give me, say, half a dozen calculations, and I would go off and do them before taking them back to her with the answers. After checking (and praise) the process would be repeated.

At this point we moved across the village to the new school. Only the Infant buildings had been completed at this time. We were joined by the children from Crofton at this point. I can't remember the exact dates but I do remember doing a drawing and some writing in my book, top half plain for the picture and the bottom lined for the writing, which featured a horse pulling a cart full of turnips (swedes) and in the sky the Russian satellite containing Laika with the words "Bleep, bleep – Woof, woof" coming out of it. Miss Gate took it next door to show Miss Rickerby.

A disaster for posterity as I fear that this has been lost forever as it summed up life in Cumberland as we moved into the Space Age. The point of the story is that this took place in November 1957 which gives a date for the joining of the schools.

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I did enter Crofton Hall but as a small child and for a Christmas party so I do not remember anything. I do not know how I even got there. The party was for the children of the LSA and I must have been taken along with my aunt Jean who was only a few years older than myself. Given I was very shy anyway and the fact that I did not know any of the other children meant the whole thing was lost on me.

The children on the estate went to their own school, I am fairly sure it is the building that is now the community centre. I went to the Thursby school on the village green for just over a year when we, that is the two Infant classes, moved into the new school. This is 1955. They were still completing the Junior buildings. At this point we were joined by the children from the Crofton school given there was now space to join the two schools.

I do not remember many of Crofton children apart from a Scots family called White who had apparently just moved down to the LSA. There was a Benson who lived at How End.

All the (LSA) properties were built following a similar pattern. As well as the house, either semi-detached or detached there were a series of buildings. All the houses had a small hedged garden linking them to the road with a small gate

Close to the house was the large greenhouse which was heated, if necessary, by a boiler house at the rear of the greenhouse. There was a circuit of metal water pipes running around the greenhouse above ground level.

Across from the greenhouse would be the pigsties. They were in their own building with, I think, four separate enclosures, two each side of a central isle.

There were other sheds that were used for storage or for working.

An area of the land was divided into large pens for hens. Each area would have its own hen house. This was a large shed and along the side were built in boxes for nests. These could be accessed from the outside to collect the eggs.

The rest of the land was cultivated according to the decision of the tenant.

My grandfather used a horse (Dick) to cultivate the land and I can remember him complaining about the effort ploughing the large field on the north side of the holding. I thought there was a communal tractor kept at Crofton that could be called on by the plot holders.

The greenhouse was used to grow tomatoes in the summer but stood idle otherwise. My grandfather installed a large hen battery in the largest shed and abandoned the outside pens. Although he was proud of the 'modern' approach to egg production at first, he

became disenchanted with the constant problems with the hens given their living conditions.

The Wilsons, across the road from my house, kept a cow and it provided them with milk and they made their own butter. Mr Wilson would carefully clean all the eggs collected and place them on cardboard trays holding 30. These were then stacked in a wooden chest that held two stacks of trays, side by side.

The produce was collected by the LSA lorry that visited the holdings and took everything back to Crofton.

(Ian Jardine, grandson)

No 46: (Eileen Devenney)

The original Crofton Hall lake has been reinstated as a fishing club. There is a community hall at the entrance to East Park which was a community hub par excellence. Including, children's parties, sports days, Women's Institute, Committee meetings, regular dances (Gay Gordons and fox trots galore), and a yearly day trip to Morecombe or Blackpool. Very happy memories made there. Children's Disney films on a screen and projector by either Mr. Snowball or Mr. Studholme, there is a reference to this on the FB page.

The original tenants in our house, 46 were Mr and Mrs Reid, and our original neighbours in 45 were the Jardines, both of whom are mentioned in the original tenants lists you sent. My father was from Donegal, and agriculture worker in Scotland during the war, he had a number of skills including land drainage and stone wall building. When the LSA packed up he went on to start his own Land Drainage company and retired back to Drogheda in Ireland, my mum's home town in 1995. 46 has only ever had 3 occupants, Reids, Devenney and Christine Dixon since 1995.

We moved to Crofton from Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire Scotland, in 1961, I was aged 4.

We were 6 of a family, Peter, Clare,(parents); Sean (born 1950), Frank (born 1952),

Christopher (born 1955) and Eileen (born 1957). My parents were both Irish, Peter was a native Irish speaker from Donegal and Clare was from Drogheda in County Louth.

Peter worked in land drainage in Scotland and part time as a farm labourer which gave us access to farm cottages in Scotland. He joined his father in Scotland during the war, when his father managed a farm in Leith, near Edinburgh. See <https://duibheannaigh.home.blog> They met in Glasgow and married 1949.

We took over the smallholding in 1961, from Mr and Mrs Reid (Marion and Joseph), who were elderly and retired, though I am not sure where they retired to. Our neighbours were the Jardines, also original Crofton residents who retired to Thursby. (1.5 miles away, small village).

Our new neighbours were the Rochesters at 47, and Shimmins at 45. The Shimmins are still there now and run a log business, they no longer farm the land, and have it planted to trees I believe. They took over our 6 acres when the LSA folded up. My parents bought the house but no longer wanted the land.

My father bought a JCB and set up his own land drainage business. My mother went to work in Bulloughs department store in Carlisle. They lived there until they retired in 1995 and moved back to Ireland.

Initially we had battery chickens in the Battery Shed, which we called the black shed.

We had litters of pigs in the piggery.

My father and his brother built a mushroom shed and we farmed mushrooms for a while, which included trailer loads of horse manure being dumped in the front yard, my brothers were tasked with hosing it down and turning it.

We grew a lot of tomatoes in the greenhouse and installed two further greenhouses with a range of uses, Chrysanthemums, Radish, Lettuce.

At one time we kept sheep in the top field.

In the back field we grew strawberries, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower.

There was a washing shed with a huge metal sink over a brick fire, we used a glass framed scrubbing board, and the heat in there was overwhelming,

We kept turkeys for a while too, it was my job to help pluck them for Christmas sales. Other jobs were washing the eggs and stamping them with a Lion; weeding radishes with a hoe; side shooting tomatoes, but mostly a lot of house work and making meals for the 'men'.

At a young age I was well able to light the coal fire, scrub spuds and put the dinner on.

There was a mobile shop that called to the house with cakes and bread and other goodies.

The insurance man called in a disability vehicle, powder blue.

Mr. Bushby in Crofton took over selling insurance, he lived in East Park.

Our milk was delivered by Studholmes farm on the Cockermouth Road just past the Arches. Our newspaper was delivered into a drainage pipe at the gate, they used to buy the Irish Post, and we would check out small farms for sale in Ireland, we were always going to go home.

My parents both had Irish accents, my older brothers had Scottish ones, and I remember going to school in Wigton and learning to speak Cumbria. I was fascinated how they would say, 'that is the Spatry bus' when the bus had Aspatria written on it. But I have kept my Cumbrian accent to this day.

We immensely enjoyed the children's parties at the Community Hall in East Park, the sports days and the annual outing to Blackpool or Morecombe. The WI ladies baked amazing cakes, you would not believe the goodies we had at our parties.

On a Saturday there was a ballroom dance class in the Community Hall.

My parents went to Pea and Pie suppers in the hall and enjoyed the dances. My mother also attended the WI evenings, where they would dress up and play games as well as exchanging baking tips etc.

We got our first dog Ricky from Swainson's Farm, the local including Normna! milkman.

Dixons owned the farm at Whinnow. They gave us an accordion, as my brother Chris was having piano lessons and was musical. My mother bought an upright piano which we had for years.

We often drove to Scotland for family parties with my dad's family who remained around Glasgow and Paisley. Almost every year we travelled to Ireland for a holiday to see our parent's families.

Sean was friends with Hugh Masson from Thornby, LSAThey went to Wigton Secondary Modern School in Wigton

We went to St. Cuthbert's RC primary school in Wigton.

Chris and myself then went to Caldew School in Dalston, when the comprehensive system was introduced, but I changed to Newman RC Comprehensive in Carlisle as my friends from St. Cuthbert's were going there.

The parish priest conducted mass in the primary school in Thursby, he would collect us at the gate and take us to the mass in Thursday. There were not many Catholics in the parish. Wigton had St. Cuthbert's church, where we went to mass when we got a car. Initially my father drove a motorbike, and he would ferry us all in turns to a remote greenhouse we were using on the Irvings smallholding on the Cockermouth Road, to pick and side shoot tomatoes.

We wintered a Welsh Mountain pony which we christened Blossom.

My mother grew the flowers and tomatoes. The prices paid by the LSA were very low and it was not viable to support the family, she carried on whilst my father undertook land drainage jobs for local farmers.

He would also help at haymaking time with our neighbours.

On bonfire night each holding in Whinnow took it in turns to host the bonfire, complete with lovely home baked cakes and goodies. All us kids would spend weeks collecting rubbish to burn, and chopping down branches etc.

Because we went to a Catholic primary school we did not go to school with our neighbours who went to the C of E school in Thursby.

My brothers often said all they ever did was work as kids as the smallholding was labour intensive. Yet they also had fond memories of growing up there. But as teenagers they could not wait to get away to a different kind of life.

When we arrived there was a black range in the living room. There was no bathroom. In winter we would have to break the ice on the toilet to use it in the morning. The wind whistled through it as it was made from tile as they were meant to be temporary structures. The car lights would illuminate the bedrooms at night as they travelled on the A595. My parents bedside table was an orange egg crate which my mother decorated with dress material. My father used to put orphan lambs in the cooled oven of the range to bring them on.

When we arrived on the bus from Scotland, via Carlisle, my mother pointed out the house to us and my first thought was that it looked desolate (well the 4 year old equivalent: empty, barren, awful). However, I grew to love it and still feel very connected to Crofton. (Eileen Devenney No 46)

No 49: (Ross)

Mr. and Mrs. Ross lived on Shaw Wood Road and had two sons. Mrs. Ross used to invite us to their birthday parties and she made clootie dumplings instead of birthday cake as she said that was the Scottish way. (Dorothy Laverick, nee Maddison No 3)

No 50: (Hinde)

Daniel Hinde was one of only three miners to survive the William Pit Disaster 104 were killed, with only 'three living miracles' surviving.

<https://www.nmrs.org.uk/mines-map/accidents-disasters/cumberland/william-pit-explosion-whitehaven-1947/>

Although on the 1939 Census – it was assumed he had two jobs – smallholder and Miner as the bus stop to Whitehaven was only 10 yards from No 50! (Tony Britton)

No 51: (Socha)

Tony Socha was a Polish prisoner of war held by the Germans He dropped out of line into a ditch and made his way across Europe to Scotland where he met and then married Molly (Mary) who came from Sligo in Ireland. (Eileen Devenney No 46)

He built a splendid large windmill in the garden which was a feature for passing travellers (Ian Jardine)

No 52: (Smith)

Malcolm Smith had been a miner in the Whitehaven area and was a tenant until 1957. (Marion Gibson, granddaughter)

No 54: (Rush)

I worked with Maureen or Muriel Rush and her daughter started going horse riding with me at Silloth and we all went to a horse sale at Appleby and her parents bought her a black and white mare called Jinny in the early 70s. (Sandra Parker)

No 55: (Hodgson)

My grandparents, Stanley and Sarah Hodgson, along with my mother Freda and aunt Barbara relocated to 55 Thornby Road to a pig and poultry small holding in 1939. They lived there until approximately 1952. My mother who is still alive has fond memories of that time including my grandfather being part of Farm Watch. Checking the fields at night for invaders during the war. There is a photograph I think of them from that time. (Janice Akitt, Granddaughter)

No 59: (Keith)

In 1980 our neighbours John & Agnes Keith were offered No 59 which they were then renting. Mr Keith had moved to the holding in 1944 from Inverkip, Renfrewshire (where he had previously been an estate fencer on the Ardgowan Estate. They had no wish to purchase the property due to their age so I agreed to buy it on their behalf. Our solicitor arranged a contract allowing them to live there for life and pay an annual peppercorn rent,

with the property returning to my ownership on their death. Mr Keith died in 1993 and his wife last year aged 97. As you can imagine it was a very sad loss as they had been like grandparents to our two daughters. Our daughter Abigail resides there now with her husband and two children. As far as I know these are the only families to live at No 59. (1939 Census lists the property as vacant at that time.)

I have a copy of an LSA letter to Mr Keith regarding his initial application for the smallholding which makes interesting reading.

(George Simpson, No 70)

No 61: (Dinning)

Fred and me bought No 61/64 in 1969 renovated 64 and moved in. Then did the same to 61 and sold 64. We bought them from Cumberland County Council. Wilf and Joy Dinning (no relationship to us) lived at No 57 a Mrs Owen lived next door No 58. My maiden name was Burns and I believe several of my aunts and uncles worked for the LSA. Sorry I've not a lot more info but I'm sure it will start to come together.

(Chris Dinning)

No 68: (Tinlin)

My parents, Andy and Ina Tinlin moved to 68 East Park, Crofton in January 1956 from the Scottish Borders. Dad had worked for his Grandfather, Andrew Taylor, on his farm at Swinside Town Head, Jedburgh prior to their move to Crofton. My brother Ian was 10 months old and I was born in May 1959.

Dad initially kept breeding hens and supplied the hatchery with eggs. Pure Rhode Island Reds, Rhode Cross White, Sussex and Leghorn Crosses. Each day the eggs were collected separately and then cleaned and stamped with the breed on them and put into their respective boxes to be collected weekly and taken to the hatchery. The water and feed was barrowed to the separate runs and the eggs in buckets barrowed back uphill. My memories of a bath partitioned off in the kitchen with a board on top of the bath piled high with trays of eggs. Later Dad had hen sheds with 700 hens.

Dad also grew tomatoes and lettuce in glass houses and graded them to be collected to go to the packing sheds. He bred and fattened pigs, kept a few sheep and lambs and a cow and calves. Memories of taking the sheep to be dipped at Osbornes farm. The excitement of herding them along East Park and down to the farm.

We had the baker's van 3 times a week, the butchers van 2 times a week and Blairs the grocer from Wigton delivered weekly so we were well catered for.

We always had lots of relatives visiting at the weekend as they knew we would be home to feed the pigs, pick tomatoes etc. Always a good spread on the tea table with home grown tomatoes, lettuce and eggs included. Mum kept a well-stocked veggie garden with excellent soil replenished every year with barrow loads of pig manure/straw from the muck midden.

Allison Smith (nee Tinlin, now living in Australia)

No 69: (Leeson)

I lived with my family at Crofton from being a toddler until I was 8 years old (1937-42). We lived at 69 East Park which was owned by The Land Settlement Association. Dad looked after 5 large greenhouses, the main crop being tomatoes and other salad vegetables. He also had pigs and chickens.

It was a most enjoyable period of my life. With my two sisters Rebe and Doreen I attended Crofton School. The school was situated in Crofton Hall which is sadly now demolished. There was a small lake near the school and it often froze over in winter. My sister Rebe, who was the oldest, used to pick up a very large stone and throw it on to the ice. She always said that if the ice held the stone it would hold her, so we used to follow her out on to the ice. And go to the island in the middle of the lake. We never fell in or at least I don't think we did! We had lots of fun playing on the hill and we had many friends to play with us.

Once during the Second World War we were making a den at the top of the hill with a large white sheet. When we went home for tea the policeman from Thursby arrived and we were severely reprimanded. He said that if a German plane had seen the white sheet, they would think that England was surrendering.

Now thanks to Bob and John Osborne who kindly took my wife and me up that very hill and we saw it in all its splendour at bluebell time. I have so many happy memories of the years that I lived at Crofton with my family and it is a pleasure to recall them for you Bob. Yours very sincerely, John Leeson (in a letter to Bob Osborne, June 2020)

No 69: (Graham)

Ronnie & Eileen Graham 1960s 4 boys – Brian, Keith, Roland & Leslie – the family moved to a farm near Cockermouth. (Alison Smith, nee Tinlin No 68)

No 69: (Steel)

My parents Thomas and Thelma Steel bought 69 East Park in June 1971, from a couple called Leo and Marguerite Usher. My father died in 2015 and my mother sold the property in 2016. My memory of Crofton is from 1971. At that time, LSA was wound up and tenants were moving out or buying their holdings. West Park was empty and many of the houses had been ransacked. We bought the empty house and never met the owners. The people who owned it lived in Morecambe. They then moved to a rented property in Carlisle. They had owned 69 for a couple of years, having bought it as a private house without the adjoining land. Andy Tinlin had been given the land belonging to 69 in exchange for 2 fields which he farmed across Matty Beck. (Dorothy Steele, Daughter)

Dorothy gave information about the occupants of several of the neighbouring houses.

No 70: (Simpson)

I find it very interesting that the houses were only built to last nine years, but like the one you have dismantled in Sidlesham our house will last forever. It is built with Kirkhouse bricks and has a slate roof unlike the semi-detached ones which are built of red tiles and initially a flat roof. (George Simpson)

Osborne (Crofton Farm)

The Osborne's moved into Crofton Farm on 2nd February 1937, as they were moving into the farm some of the fathers and their families were moving into Crofton Land Settlement. The men moved into Crofton Hall in 1936 and they had planted various vegetable plots and greenhouses so that the land was ready for the families moving in.

Mr Johnstone (Bob's grandfather) and family lived at Jenkins Cross Farm which didn't have a sheep dipper. In 1937 they walked 1000 sheep to Crofton farm to get them dipped, as they came to Crofton arches they had a job getting the sheep through as both sides of the arches were covered in ivy which the sheep kept stopping and eating, as they were passing Crofton Hall the gate had been left open and a lot of the sheep went into the grounds where there were around 30/40 goats tethered up and the sheep got mixed in with them, they had such a job trying to get the sheep out as the sheep dog couldn't tell the difference between the sheep and the goats. Once the sheep made it to Crofton farm they were all dipped and left to graze on the land for a week or two.

In 1938 the Land Settlement bought Jenkins Cross farm and Wathhead Farm (totalling approx 334 acres) to turn them into smallholdings. So Mr Johnstone had to leave the farm and move to a farm at Carlatten but still had to work his notice off, unfortunately WW2 broke out before the two farms had been turned into smallholdings so it was decided to leave them as farms.

In 1937 part of Crofton Hall was getting turned into the school but wasn't ready in time for the children from Crofton to start so they had to attend Thursby School for around 3 months until Crofton school was ready. Bob & John Osborne started school in 1941 and there were roughly 100 pupils. There were 4 teachers Mr Jack Fawcett, Ms Banks, Ms Armstrong and Ms Johnstone. Sometime during 1942 there 2/3 evacuees attended Crofton Hall school.

In 1942 after the summer holidays Bob can remember starting school, they used to have classes in the morning then go home for lunch and return for classes in the afternoon. On his second day he decided he wasn't going back and hid under a binder in the Dutch barn but was found by the hired man (Bob pleaded with him not to tell his dad) the hired man told his dad (William Osborne) who then went and got Bob, put him on the milk bike and peddled him back to school and passed him through an open window to Ms Banks.

In 1942 Bob was in school and tying his shoe laces when one of the evacuees ran past and knocked his leg with his clog, when Bob went to stand up his leg gave way so Kenneth Kenmore carried him back into the school where his leg was bandaged up and told it wasn't broken then Mr Fawcett put him on a bike and with the help of Elsie Osborne (Bob's sister) pushed him back to Crofton farm, nurse Greenup came from Thursby and confirmed it was broken so Bob's dad (William Osborne) carried him on his shoulders to Shawood to catch the bus to Carlisle - they got off on Wigton Road and Bob was carried up to the hospital where it was set in plaster. Bob often tells people he can remember sitting in his pram in

front of the fireplace at Crofton Hall but it wasn't because he lived there as people first thought but because he was wheeled to the school Christmas party in the pram with his broken leg.

The land army girls, who were stationed at Causeway Head near Silloth, used to come to Crofton Hall and put sticks in the ground in front of the hall to make a course to learn how to drive tractors.

Around 1942 the first prisoners of war to work on Crofton farm were Italians and after that came the Germans, they were being held at Moota. After the war finished some of the German prisoners were moved to the Air Force camps at Wath Head But they still travelled to Crofton Farm by bike to work.

Throughout the war Crofton Hall housed DP's (displaced Persons) and conscientious objectors. Once the DP's had left farm workers from Ireland and Newcastle lived in Crofton Hall and they all worked on local farms.

In 1942/43 a British plane crashed near Crofton lake and on the walk home from school Bob, John & Tommy Osborne tried to have a closer look but the land army girls stopped them and wouldn't let them climb over the wall (even though the land army girls had) so the boys made it home to the farm and walked back over the fields to the crash site and spoke with the pilot.

I hope this is helpful to you. We have been in touch with a lady who was born at Crofton but emigrated to Australia for any information she might have and dad has also received a letter which I will email to you. (Emma Osborne, Bob's daughter)

Hickman: (Sunny Croft)

My family moved to Crofton approximately in 1951. There was Dad, John, Mam, Maisie, younger sister Doreen and myself, Margaret. Our surname was Wilson. We moved into a cottage "Sunny Croft". It's original name was "Toad Hall", but Mam soon changed the name. The cottage was attached to some outbuildings which in turn were attached to Crofton Hall. When we moved into the cottage, Crofton Hall was occupied by quite a number of men (mostly foreign). They did not go back to their own countries after the war. There was a lady warden in charge. Think they all left around about 1954/55, but not sure.

There was also a small school in the Hall. My sister attended this school. Mr. Walker was the Headmaster at the time and Miss Banks was also the other teacher. There was also a Sunday School in the Hall. This was led by Mr. Fred Snowball. Both my sister and I attended the Sunday School.

While the Hall was empty for those few years, quite a few of us would play hide and seek in the Hall. We knew how to get inside the Hall, and in fact, my sister and I have actually walked on the roof.

My Dad worked in Wigton and Mam worked on what was affectionately known as the "The Prop". (This was originally the large walled kitchen garden for Crofton Hall). All kinds of plants were grown here, eventually going to the tenants of The Land Settlement Association. This is now a small caravan park.

The cottage we lived in and the attached outbuildings have been renovated and are now small business units. The same thing has happened to what were the LSA offices. I really enjoyed living at Crofton - happy, happy days.

Arrangements were being made on the demolition of Crofton Hall just as we were leaving Crofton, around 1960.

Margaret Wilson (nee Hickman)

A fourth LSA in Cumbria

It would seem that there had been the possibility of a fourth LSA scheme using land purchased at Wath Head/ Jenkins Cross on the A595 between Carlisle and Cockermouth. As it was simply across the Wampool from Crofton this would have made good sense as it would have been able to access the existing growing and marketing structure rather than starting from scratch.

The threat of a coming war had already prompted the government to start building airfields across the country from as early as 1938 and it is likely that this meant the land was seen as a potential airstrip rather than go ahead with the LSA scheme. The beginning of the war saw many new airfields being built, Silloth and Kirkbride being prominent, bases for bomber command as well as Great Orton which was fighter command.

In addition to these major airfields with their concrete runways, hangars and associated buildings the government started to set up Satellite Landing Grounds which would act as areas to disperse and store planes. A damage limitation exercise in case of an attack. This began in December 1940 and No. 10 SLG/RAF was set up at Wath Head. Given there were 50 SLGs set up it would seem Wath Head was an early example. It opened on March 23rd 1941. Initially it was linked to the Kirkbride airfield but towards the end of the war most machines came from the base at Dumfries.

"Wath Head was a grass strip, roughly 24/06, parallel to the A595, heavy rolled to take the weight of the Bothas and Wellingtons that mainly used it. They were pushed back into the trees to the south of the strip for camouflage and the gaps cut in the trees can still be seen. The receipt and Dispatch Hut and the remains of a Lewis Gun post are still visible. On the north side of the A595 remains one of the 12 Nissan huts that housed the personnel. As part of the concealment policy the field continued to be grazed – the sheep had to be cleared from the runway to accommodate arrivals." Extract from information on all the Wartime Airfields A-Z.

The airstrip closed on Dec 1st 1945.

(Ian Jardine)

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Any corrections, amendments and/or additional information please contact:
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