

Victoria County History of Cumbria Project. Draft parish/township histories

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Parish/township: GAMBLESBY

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GAMBLESBY¹

Gamblesby is a rural township of 9,810 acres (3,970 ha) lying on the Pennine edge about nine miles north-east of Penrith and three miles east of the River Eden. It was absorbed into the civil parish of Glassonby in 1934.² The township forms a rectangle, running from west to east up the Pennine slope and across the watershed. Settlement was restricted to the lower land in the west at around 650 feet (200 m) above sea level, where the village of Gamblesby and hamlet of Unthank lie; to the east, the land rises steeply up the Pennine scarp to the watershed at 2,082 feet (634 m) on Fiends Fell, before dropping down to the headwaters of streams feeding the South Tyne. The northern boundary running west from Hartside Height to Viol Moor, followed no particular topographical feature, the line across the formerly unenclosed commons running between boundary markers: Hartside Cross and Greenfell Raise ('raise' meaning 'cairn') on Gamblesby Fell and Grey Stone on Viol Moor.³ The southern boundary followed Gill Beck, which separated Gamblesby from Melmerby, then traversed the fell to cross the watershed at Little Knapside Hill (2153 ft; 656 m)

¹ The author would like to thank Lydia Gray and the staff at Carlisle Archive Centre for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

² Cumberland Review Order, 1934.

³ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867). Greenfell Raise is mentioned in the boundary perambulation of 1805 (printed in Jefferson, *Leath Ward*, 327n), meaning these early boundary markers were existence before enclosure.

before descending to the headwaters of Aglionby Burn. At its western end, the township was separated from Glassonby by minor watercourses: Swathy Gill and Sandwath Beck. The eastern boundary across moorland from Hartside Height to Rowgill Burn separated Gamblesby from Glassonby Fell. This detached portion of rough fell land containing 706 acres (286 ha) was added to Gamblesby in 1888, thus increasing the township's acreage to 10,516 acres (4,256 ha).

The name Gamblesby derives from the Old Norse personal name *Gamel* (meaning 'the old'),⁴ almost certainly referring to Gamel son of Bern, recorded as the previous owner when Gamblesby was granted to Hildred of Carlisle in the early twelfth century.⁵ The name of the subsidiary hamlet of Unthank, first recorded in 1254,⁶ derives from the OE *unþanc*, denoting a piece of land held 'against the will' or 'without consent'⁷ and probably indicating an origin as a squatter's holding.

Landscape

Gamblesby straddles the North Pennine fault. In the west of the township the bedrock geology is of undifferentiated Triassic rocks, including mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone, plastered by drift of till, sand and gravel.⁸ Glacial meltwater channels run from Whinny Hill and Boorick Hill to Hazelrigg Beck. To the east, the township is underlain by the uplifted Carboniferous rocks of the North Pennine massif, bands of limestone with sandstone capping the highest points, the moorland carrying an overburden of peat. The Whin Sill outcrops along the scarp slope. The soil is free draining and slightly acidic, and of a loamy texture in the east of the township and sandy further

⁴ *PNC*, 192.

⁵ '...the land which was held by Gamel son of Bern...': *PNC*, 192; R. Sharpe, *Norman Rule in Cumbria, 1092-1136*, CWAAS, Tract Ser., XXI, 7-14.

⁶ *PNC*, 193.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ <https://www.bgs.ac.uk> [accessed 26 March 2014].

west.⁹ The acidity of the soil results in low natural fertility. The fellside was long exploited as summer pasture, and has been mined for coal and lead, and quarried for ironstone. Away from the fells, the landscape is hilly grassland, criss-crossed by stone walls, hedgerows (including many mature trees) and narrow lanes.

Settlement

Settlement in the township is concentrated in the village of Gamblesby and the hamlet of Unthank. The latter comprises a cluster of buildings to the north of Hazelrigg Beck, while the former lies on a north-south axis along the road from Melmerby to Renwick and forms a regular row plan around a village green, with long tofts radiating out behind the houses.¹⁰ Gamblesby's position, off set from the older north-south route, raises the possibility that the village was at one time re-positioned. The only solitary farmstead in the township is Hazelrigg, recorded from 1285.¹¹ As is typical in the Eden valley, red sandstone is the dominant building material. In 1860, the northern extent of the village ended at the adjacent farms of Town Foot and Town End.¹² Before 1900, the village had extended northwards, following the construction of a Congregational Chapel (1864), a new school (1877), and a few houses.¹³ Further new houses were built at the northern end of the village during the twentieth century, including several bungalows and two pairs of semi-detached council houses. Approval for the latter was granted in 1949.¹⁴ In addition to these new accretions, several older buildings were converted into private dwellings in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. These included several barns, the Congregational Chapel (converted 1939-40),¹⁵ the Red Lion Inn (1998),¹⁶ and St John's

⁹ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> [accessed 26 March 2014]; Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* (1894), 17.

¹⁰ Brian K. Roberts, *The Making of the English Village* (Harlow, 1987), 173-174.

¹¹ *PNC*, I, 193.

¹² OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

¹³ OS, 1:10,560, second edition (revised 1898; published 1900).

¹⁴ CAS (C), SRDP/3/PLANS/982.

¹⁵ CAS (C), SRDP/3/PLANS/473.

Church (2010).¹⁷ By 2012, there were seventy-two residential properties within the village.¹⁸ Until the nineteenth century, Gamblesby contained a small tarn which was filled in and built over by St John's Church. In 1894, water was laid on for Gamblesby and Unthank from a spring in Shields Plantation, around one and a half miles from the village.¹⁹ Much of Gamblesby village was designated a conservation area by Eden District Council in 1994.²⁰

Communications

The Penrith-Alston route, crossing the Pennine watershed at Hartside Cross (1903 ft; 575 m.), ran through the township. Before the construction of Thomas Telford's new, carefully graded road (the modern A686), one mile to the east of Gamblesby village in the 1820s, the old road passed through the village before heading up the steep scarp slope. The village itself sits at the confluence of several minor roads. The main road through the village, running south to Melmerby, and north through Unthank towards Renwick, may have been an early route linking the fellside villages. Before Unthank this road intersects the old route north and south along the fell edge, bypassing Gamblesby village.²¹ Another road heads west out of the village towards Glassonby and Little Salkeld. In 2014 public transport in Gamblesby was limited to just two services a week (Tuesday and Thursday), to and from Penrith. These services were operated by Fellrunner Buses, and driven by volunteers.²²

¹⁶ *Cumb. & West. Herald*, 28 Nov. 1998. <http://www.cwherald.com/a/archive/eden-council-planning-decisions.248316.html> [accessed 26 Apr 2014].

¹⁷ <http://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/detail.asp?AltRef=10/0725> [accessed 26 Apr 2014].

¹⁸ <http://www.colinday.co.uk/maps/EdenMaps/Gamblesby.pdf> [accessed 15 February 2014].

¹⁹ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* (1910), 25.

²⁰ <http://www.eden.gov.uk/planning-and-development/planning-policy-for-eden/conservation/conservation-areas/list-of-conservation-areas/?entryid33=17345> [accessed 28 Aug 2014].

²¹ The '*magna via de Appelby*', was recorded in 1167 and probably linked Brampton to Appleby though the villages along the foot of the Pennine scarp: *Lanercost Cart.* 87 (item 34); [RENWICK ARTICLE](#).

²² <http://www.fellrunnerbus.co.uk/index.htm> [accessed 26 Apr 2014].

Population and Social Character

The population of Gamblesby has never been large. The Protestation Return of 1642 names forty-four males, which suggests a total population of around 150. In 1801 there were 222 inhabitants, which fell slightly to 215 in 1811 but rose to a peak of 301 in 1831. This may have been due to mining activity in the area, but if so it was short-lived. The population had fallen back to 259 in 1841 and to 244 by 1851. Despite climbing again over the next two decades, reaching 273 in 1871, the township's population went into continual decline thereafter, until arriving at a low point of 189 in 1921. It stood at 197 in 1931, the last census year for which separate data are available.²³ Gamblesby was a predominantly farming community, without a resident lord or squire. Until the twentieth century, the township was dominated by yeoman farmers. In more recent decades, the dominant sector of the population has shifted from those working the land to commuters and retired people.

LANDOWNERSHIP

The manor of Gamblesby (also known as Gamblesby and Unthank) can be traced to the reign of Henry I, when it was granted, together with the neighbouring manor of Glassonby, to Hildred of Carlisle, to hold by cornage.²⁴ Gamblesby and its adjoining hamlet of Unthank descended with Glassonby to Hildred's heirs for several generations [[SEE GLASSONBY ARTICLE](#)]. However, following the forfeiture of Christopher de Seaton for siding with Robert de Bruce in 1306, Gamblesby and Glassonby were divided, with Gamblesby being granted in fee to William, 2nd Lord Latimer (d.1326).²⁵ The manor descended regularly to William, 4th Lord Latimer, on whose death in 1385, it passed to his daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, the second wife of Sir John Neville of Raby

²³ Gamblesby was absorbed into Glassonby CP in 1935.

²⁴ *Abbreviatio Placitorum* (1811), 66; Denton, *History*, 147; Denton, *Perambulation*, 331; Sharpe, *Norman Rule*, 7-14.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat., 1301-07*, p.434; *Complete Peerage*, VII, 465.

(d.1388).²⁶ On her husband's death, Elizabeth took livery of her father's lands.²⁷ Her son and heir, John Neville (d.1430) was a minor at the time of his mother's death in 1395,²⁸ and he did not inherit until 1403.²⁹ Divorced from his wife and lacking issue, in 1417 John Neville demised Gamblesby and two manors in Yorkshire³⁰ jointly to his half-brother, Ralph Neville, 1st earl of Westmorland (d.1425), who had acquired the honour of Penrith in 1397-8, and to the latter's second wife, Joan Beaufort. For this the earl and countess gave £300.³¹ At the time of the agreement, Gamblesby was held for life by William de Lowther.³²

In 1430, Joan and Ralph's third son, George Neville (d.1469), succeeded to the former Latimer estates, and he was subsequently summoned to Parliament as Lord Latimer.³³ However, Joan Beaufort continued to hold Gamblesby of George until her death in 1440.³⁴ In 1451, George was declared insane and custody of his lands was granted to his eldest brother, Richard Neville, earl of Salisbury (d. 1460).³⁵ Salisbury had already acquired the honour of Penrith in the settlement of the Neville inheritance in 1443, and so Gamblesby may have effectively been administered as part of the honour from the 1450s. Following the death of Salisbury's son and heir, Richard earl of Warwick in 1471, Gamblesby became a possession of the crown. It was subsequently granted by Edward IV to his brother, Richard duke of Gloucester, along with the lordship of Penrith and other Neville possessions.³⁶ Christopher Moresby, Richard's steward of Penrith, was also made steward of

²⁶ *Complete Peerage*, VII, 475.

²⁷ *Cal. Close, 1385-89*, pp.545-546.

²⁸ *Complete Peerage*, VII, 475-476.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 476.

³⁰ Scotton in Richmondshire and Drydale.

³¹ TNA, CP 25/1/291/63.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Complete Peerage*, VII, 479.

³⁴ TNA, SC 6/1124/3.

³⁵ *Cal Pat., 1446-52*, p.430; this grant was renewed by Edward IV in 1461: *Cal Pat., 1461-67*, p.71.

³⁶ *Cal. Pat., 1471-76*, p.266.

Gamblesby in 1484, 'with governance of the king's tenants there'.³⁷ He continued in post under Henry Tudor.³⁸

During the reign of Henry VIII, Gamblesby and the honour of Penrith were granted to the wardens of the West March in order to fund repairs and pay the wages of soldiers at Carlisle Castle.³⁹ In the seventeenth century, Gamblesby was included within a collection of manors known as Queen's Hames, whose revenues were assigned to the Queen.⁴⁰ This continued until 1696, when it was arranged that on the death of Catherine of Braganza, the Queen Dowager (d.1705), Gamblesby and the honour of Penrith would be granted to William Bentick, earl of Portland.⁴¹ In 1787, Bentick's great-grandson, the 3rd duke of Portland, sold Gamblesby and the rest of the honour to his brother-in-law, William Cavendish, 5th Duke of Devonshire (d.1811).⁴² The manor of Gamblesby remained in the Cavendish family to the time of writing.

The lack of demesne or free rents in Gamblesby was noted in 1688.⁴³ The majority of tenants continued to hold by customary tenantry until copyhold tenure was abolished in 1925. This was despite a serious challenge to this form of tenure in 1609, when the crown attempted to convert customary tenants who owed border service into leaseholders unless they could produce evidence of their copyhold status.⁴⁴ The tenants won their case on this occasion. In the absence of a resident lord, local society was headed by the yeomanry. In 1839-41 there were forty-two individual

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 1476-85, p.453.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 1485-94, p.91

³⁹ TNA, E210/9784; *Letters & Papers, Foreign & Domestic*, Henry VIII, iv, 749-757; vii, 462-475

⁴⁰ Queens Hames, which included the honour of Penrith, had been created on the marriage of Margaret, daughter of Henry III to Alexander III of Scotland in 1251: N&B, ii, 397.

⁴¹ *Cal. of Treasury Books*, XI (1696-97), 126.

⁴² *Complete Peerage*, IV, 346-347.

⁴³ Denton, *Perambulation*, 331.

⁴⁴ CAS (C), P 90/15.

landowners, of whom thirteen possessed fifty acres or more.⁴⁵ The majority (thirty-two in all) were also occupiers,⁴⁶ by far the largest landowner amongst them being John Falder, with 174 acres [70 ha].⁴⁷

Enclosure had a significant impact on landownership in Gamblesby. Forty-two individuals benefitted from the enclosure of Low Fell in 1860, half of whom were resident in the township.⁴⁸ Substantial allotments were made to resident yeoman farmers, including Thomas Watson, Benjamin Salkeld, John Morton Jnr, and George Falder, each of whom acquired between 90 and 110 acres. Holdings were further increased by the enclosure of Gamblesby High Fell in 1868.⁴⁹ Again, the largest allotments were made to resident yeomen, the most significant being some 223 acres [90 ha] acquired by George Falder, who purchased several allotments from other tenants. According to the 1871 Census, George Falder owned 600 acres in total.⁵⁰ Similarly, John Morton, whose father held 60 acres [24 ha] in 1839,⁵¹ possessed 317 acres [128 ha] by 1871.⁵² Both the Falder's and Morton's ties with Gamblesby can be traced back to the seventeenth century.⁵³

By the early twentieth century, the number of landowners had remained stable, but there was a significant decline in owner-occupation. By 1910, three quarters of the total acreage in Gamblesby and Unthank was tenanted, and of the forty-three landowners listed, only fifteen were occupiers.⁵⁴ Among the most substantial estates was that of the Falder family (represented by John George,

⁴⁵ CAS (C), DRC 8/76.

⁴⁶ This included ten individuals with more than fifty acres.

⁴⁷ Will of Anthony Falder of Unthank, 1672.

⁴⁸ CAS (C), QRE 1/111.

⁴⁹ CAS (C), QRE 1/113.

⁵⁰ Census 1871.

⁵¹ *Ibid.* John Morton moved his family to Gale Hall Farm, Melmerby after 1831: QRP 2/1/2.

⁵² Census 1871.

⁵³ Will of Anthony Falder of Unthank, 1672; will of John Morton, yeoman of Gamblesby, 1688.

⁵⁴ CAS (C), TIR 4/5/9.

Joseph, and Thomas Falder⁵⁵), who possessed 621 acres [251 ha] at Unthank, which were then leased to a single tenant. The Rowleys, a Yorkshire family who owned Glassonby Hall, had amassed a significant estate within Addingham parish, including 653 acres [264 ha] in Gamblesby (mostly on the Fell), which was divided between three tenants.⁵⁶ However, there were still several owner-occupiers with fairly large estates. William Westgarth and Joseph Benson⁵⁷ owned and farmed 183 and 160 acres [74 and 65 ha] respectively, while Mary Jane Toppin of Hazelrigg had 225 acres [105 ha].⁵⁸ But by far the most significant owner-occupier was George Morton, with 487 acres [197 ha] at Unthank.⁵⁹ In 1938, he was named as one of Gamblesby's principal landowners.⁶⁰

ECONOMIC HISTORY

The township's economy was largely agricultural, with pastoral farming coming to dominate by the twentieth century. By the eighteenth century, agriculture was augmented by mining, while several ancillary trades met the needs of a growing population in the nineteenth century.

Agriculture and woodland

There is evidence of open fields in the township from an early date, with extended field plots radiating out from houses in Gamblesby village.⁶¹ Access to these open fields was provided by the numerous lanes radiating out from the village, including 'Robertlands Lane'. There were large areas of common for summer grazing on Gamblesby High Fell on the slopes of the Pennines (indicated by numerous sheep folds and names like 'Weather Lair'), and on Gamblesby Low Fell and the area

⁵⁵ T.F. Falder was living in New Zealand in 1931: CAS (Carlisle), PR 29/92.

⁵⁶ CAS (C), TIR 4/5/9.

⁵⁷ His ancestor and namesake, Joseph Benson of Gamblesby, was an associate of John Wesley.

⁵⁸ CAS (C), TIR 4/5/9.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ Kelly, *Cumb. Dir.* (1938), 24.

⁶¹ Roberts, *English Village*, 173-174.

known as Viol Moor (so named in 1723)⁶² in the north-west of the township. In 1860, 1,480 acres [599 ha] of common were enclosed on Gamblesby Low Fell and Viol Moor, by act of Parliament, followed by the enclosure of 1,720 acres [696 ha] on Gamblesby High Fell (Hartside Fell) in 1868.⁶³ Private enclosures had occurred before this time: in 1825, approximately 150 acres [61 ha] of stinted pasture at Unthank Grassing was divided among eight individuals.⁶⁴ The name Moor Thwaite, meanwhile, suggests early enclosure of moorland. The fell allotments were not only utilized for rough grazing but also as grouse moors. From the late nineteenth century, shooting rights were frequently leased out.⁶⁵ By 1930 there were 947 acres [383 ha] of permanent grazing, with a further 594 acres [244 ha] for temporary grazing and grass for mowing in the township. In addition, there was 2,950 acres [1,194 ha] of rough grazing under occupation, including 800 acres [324 ha] of common grazing.⁶⁶

All tenants in Gamblesby anciently held by tenantright and paid a fine of two years rent on a change of tenant.⁶⁷ They also paid a heriot, although this was commuted to a money payment before 1600.⁶⁸ In 1688, the yearly copyhold rents were said to amount to £16.⁶⁹ Most estates were copyhold until the twentieth century. The process of mid-nineteenth century enclosure served to increase the size of existing farms. At the time of enclosure, several of the larger farms (100 acres or more) were in the hands of owner-occupiers. Among them was Thomas Watson, who owned and farmed some 300 acres, while John Armstrong had a farm of 180 acres.⁷⁰ But by 1910, the largest farms were in

⁶² PNC, 193.

⁶³ CAS (C), QRE 1/111 & 113

⁶⁴ CAS (C), PR 29/92.

⁶⁵ CAS (C), DB 74/3/2/414, 1116, 1130.

⁶⁶ TNA, MAF 68/3505.

⁶⁷ Denton, *Perambulation*, 330.

⁶⁸ CAS (C), P 90/15.

⁶⁹ Denton, *Perambulation*, 330.

⁷⁰ Census 1871.

the hands of tenant farmers, four of whom held over 300 acres [121 ha] from a single landlord.⁷¹ Meanwhile, just four owner-occupiers possessed more than 150 acres.⁷² Among them was Joseph Benson, who had added to his own 160 acre [65 ha] farm by leasing a further 198 acres [80 ha]. Farming remained the single chief occupation of Gamblesby's residents throughout the nineteenth century. In 1841, nearly two thirds of households were headed by farmers or agricultural labourers.⁷³ By 1891, the heads of just over two thirds of households were involved in farming.⁷⁴

By the sixteenth century, various crops were grown in the township, including wheat, oats, turnips, barley and rye.⁷⁵ A high state of cultivation was reported in 1847.⁷⁶ In the early twentieth century, over three hundred acres were devoted to growing crops, with oats predominating.⁷⁷ Produce was susceptible to damage by the Helm Wind.⁷⁸ Livestock rearing was also important, with sheep farming being favoured by the early twentieth century. In 1920, 4,287 sheep were recorded, compared to 491 head of cattle. There were 5,082 sheep a decade later, compared with 519 cattle.⁷⁹ The importance of pastoral activity is also noted in the numerous sheepfolds on Gamblesby Fell, as well as names such as 'Weather Lair' and 'Shiel Side'.⁸⁰

⁷¹ CAS (C), TIR 4/59.

⁷² *Ibid.*

⁷³ Census 1841.

⁷⁴ Census 1891.

⁷⁵ CAS (C), DRC 8/76; Kelly, *Dir. Cumb* (1910), 25. Barley and rye were particularly common in sixteenth and seventeenth century probate inventories.

⁷⁶ Mannex and Whellan, *Dir. Cumb.*, 228

⁷⁷ 296 acres of oats were grown in 1920 and 208 acres in 1930: TNA, MAF 68.

⁷⁸ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* (1894), 17.

⁷⁹ TNA, MAF 68/3505

⁸⁰ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

In 1688 there was a ‘young spring of oakewood’ worth £200,⁸¹ perhaps to be identified with Oak Bank, on the edge of the township next to the border with Melmerby. According to the Tithe Award of 1841, there was 54 acres [22 ha] of woodland in Gamblesby township.⁸²

Manufacturing

A corn mill was in existence from at least 1230, when reference was made to Robert *molendinarius de Gamelesby*.⁸³ The corn mill was the only freehold property described in the enclosure award of 1860⁸⁴ and was still in use by at the turn of the twentieth century.⁸⁵ The mill was powered by a man-made beck, which ran from Hazelrigg and was also fed by Dale Sike. By 2014 the mill pond belonged to the neighbouring Bridge Farm. A second mill dam to the north of the village is shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps,⁸⁶ but was subsequently filled in. This may have fed the saw mill, which was in existence by 1860 and still there by 1898.⁸⁷ The saw mill subsequently became Bridge Farm.

Mining and ancillary trades

Coal and lead in the Carboniferous rocks on Hartside (Gamblesby) Fell were being mined by 1688, when it was said that they ‘might be of good profit if any would be at the charge to search for the same’.⁸⁸ In 1709 the coal seam at Hartside Colliery was said to be ‘about half a yard thick’.⁸⁹ In the early nineteenth century development drifts were made to open up the seam before coal was

⁸¹ Denton, *Perambulation*, p.331.

⁸² CAS (C), DRC 8/80.

⁸³ PNC, 193.

⁸⁴ CAS (C), QRE 1/111.

⁸⁵ Census 1891; CAS (C), TIR 4/5/9.

⁸⁶ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867); OS, 1:10,000, second edition (revised 1898; published 1900).

⁸⁷ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

⁸⁸ Denton, *Perambulation*, p.331.

⁸⁹ R. Smith and S. Murphy, *Mines of the West Pennines* (British Mining, no.191, 2011), 16.

extracted.⁹⁰ By 1837 the Duke of Devonshire (lord of the manor) possessed a colliery in the township.⁹¹ Ironstone mining was also in operation from the mid-nineteenth century. In 1849 several applications were made to the duke to extract ironstone. Dues paid for the privilege were a rent of £25 plus a royalty on one tenth of other ores found in the manor.⁹² In 1872, Benjamin and Joseph Salkeld leased some of their land on Gamblesby Fell to William Barrow Turner (a civil engineer from Ulverston), William Crossley (an ironmaster from Askham in Furness), and their associates, in order for the construction of a tramway to transport ironstone and equipment to and from their mine on the fell.⁹³ The Gamblesbly Iron Mining Company was formed in c.1915 to exploit limonite iron. This was an open cast operation, with the ore being transported by road to Langwathby station.⁹⁴

In addition to mining, there were also numerous small quarries within the township by the nineteenth century. The quarrying of limestone led to lime production. A lime burner lived in the township in 1847, and there were four limekilns by 1860, three of which lay at Sail Rigg Quarry on Gamblesby Fell.⁹⁵ The Greenfell quarry, which lay by the Penrith-Alston road, had closed by 1929 and the quarry plant moved to a quarry at the summit of Hartside.⁹⁶ The Whin Sill dolerite quarried there was used for road surfacing. Several quarries were also created west of the village after 1860, but many of these were disused by 1900. The exceptions were those at Woolhead and Crofton Sike.⁹⁷

⁹⁰ I. Taylor, *Cross Fell and the Mines of the Cumbrian Pennines* (Carlisle, 2013), 238.

⁹¹ CAS (C), DPH 2/2. A coal mine is marked between Hartside Cross and Rowgill Cleugh on the first edition OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ CAS (C), DX 1491/18. The tramway is marked on OS maps.

⁹⁴ Taylor, *Mines of the Cumbrian Pennines*, 238.

⁹⁵ Mannix & Whellan, *Dir. Cumb.*, 227; OS, 1:10,000, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

⁹⁶ CAS (C), C/C/3/2/155.

⁹⁷ OS, 1:10,560, second edition (revised 1898; published 1900).

Service Industries and other businesses

The only commercial site within the township was Gamblesby village. By c.1800 there were two inns in the village: the Pack Horse, which was a location for manorial courts,⁹⁸ and the Red Lion, which was in existence by 1741.⁹⁹ By 1847 there were four shopkeepers in the township, in addition to a grocer and baker.¹⁰⁰ By 1861 several tradesmen often practiced a second occupation. Thus one shoemaker had on a secondary role as a bacon factor, while his mother became a grocer.¹⁰¹ The stonemason, both innkeepers and the miller, meanwhile, were all additionally described as farmers. By 1891 the population of Gamblesby had begun to decline,¹⁰² and the Pack Horse Inn had long since closed.¹⁰³ Yet the village still boasted a blacksmith, stonemason, publican, tailor, and shoemaker – all of whom now lived by a single trade. Only the grocer and miller continued to ply their trades in conjunction with farming. In addition to these tradesmen, there was also a game watcher and gamekeeper by 1891, which coincided with the leasing out of shooting rights.

In c.1900, local carpenters Moore & Son were commissioned to build a new smithy and cottage,¹⁰⁴ with the Old Smithy (referred to as such by 1900) being converted into a dwelling. The Red Lion Inn (then the only public house in the village) had been acquired by Glasson's Penrith Breweries before 1910. By 1938 there was a single shopkeeper who also ran the post office.¹⁰⁵ In addition, a new business had been established at Unthank: Dixons Motor Omnibus. At that time, John William

⁹⁸ Parson and White, *Dir. C. & W.*, 450; CAS (C), DMBS 5/51; QL 3/6.

⁹⁹ The door lintel reads 'Thomas Harrison and Jane Harrison 1741'. The building was listed in 1984: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1137274> [accessed 26 April 2014]

¹⁰⁰ Mannix & Whellan, *Dir. Cumb.*, 227.

¹⁰¹ Census 1861.

¹⁰² Census 1891.

¹⁰³ The Inn was sold by Thomas Parker to Joseph Parker in 1861: CAS (Carlisle), DMBS 4/53. It was recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867, and it appears to have closed before 1871 as there is no mention of it in the Census of that year.

¹⁰⁴ CAS (C), DB/88/7.

¹⁰⁵ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* (1938), 25.

Dixon was recorded as a carrier to Penrith.¹⁰⁶ In 1934 the ‘Helm Wind Café’ was built at the summit of Hartside Pass on the A686.¹⁰⁷ It lies on the very edge of the township boundary at just over 1,900 feet (579 m) above sea level.

Economic History Since 1945

During the twentieth century, livestock farming continued to predominate, with growing investment in dairy farming. Between 1947 and 1963, at least seven new byres, two cooling rooms, a dairy and a milk room were built on a dozen farms in the township.¹⁰⁸ Other farms continued to focus on sheep rearing, including Church View, which had specialised in sheep farming since the early twentieth century.¹⁰⁹ In the twenty-first century, the same farm rears Swaledales and Greyfaced Mules.¹¹⁰ Gamblesby was hard hit by the epidemic of foot and mouth disease in 2001.¹¹¹

During the course of the twentieth century, the number of amenities and tradesmen in the village declined. In 1956, plans were approved for the old corn mill, which had previously been converted into a dwelling (Old Mill House), to become a post office (closed by 2014).¹¹² The former corn mill barn was converted into a dwelling (Old Mill Barn) in c.1990 and used as holiday accommodation:¹¹³ one of several such lets in Gamblesby. In 2014 there was also a Bed and Breakfast business in the village. The ‘Summit Café’ at Hartside was re-opened in 1957, after being derelict for many years.¹¹⁴ An application was made at the time to erect a hotel, motel, café and petrol filling station on the

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ CAS (C), C/C/3/1/28.

¹⁰⁸ CAS (C), SRDP 3/PLANS/676, 904, 1010, 1121, 2163, 2414, 2956, 3016, 3358, 3512, 3730, 3993.

¹⁰⁹ CAS (C), DB 74/3/2/1130.

¹¹⁰ *Cumb. & West. Herald*, 26 Sep. 1998; <http://www.swaledale-sheep.com/05salereports/Laz280905.htm> [accessed 16 October 2013].

¹¹¹ *Cumb. & West. Herald*, 21 Apr. 2001; 16 Nov. 2007.

¹¹² CAS (C), SRDP/3/15686.

¹¹³ <http://www.oldmillbarn.co.uk/> [accessed 4 April 2014].

¹¹⁴ CAS (C), C/C/3/1/28.

existing cafe site, but the plans were rejected.¹¹⁵ Applications to extend were also refused in 1959-60.¹¹⁶ However, the existing timber café was rebuilt using permanent materials in 1962, and again by a different owner in 1972 using stones from Nenthead smelt mill.¹¹⁷ It is now called the Hartside Café.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Throughout its history, Gamblesby lacked a resident lord or a significant gentry presence. Instead, local society was dominated by yeoman farmers, several of whom became quite prosperous: in 1860, Thomas Benson of Unthank was described as a ‘gentleman’,¹¹⁸ although the 1861 census lists him as a farmer who employed a dozen people.¹¹⁹ Of the fifty-six households recorded in 1861, eighteen (32%) contained farm and domestic servants. However, by the century’s end, Gamblesby’s population began to decline, with a notable loss of farm and domestic employees. Out of forty-eight households in 1891, only nine contained servants, while just six were headed by agricultural labourers.¹²⁰

The twentieth century saw an increase in the number of dwellings in Gamblesby. Two sets of semi-detached council houses were built on the Unthank road by Penrith Rural District Council in 1949.¹²¹ An agricultural worker’s bungalow was also constructed in 1963,¹²² but most new houses since then have resulted from the conversion of agricultural and other buildings, including several barns and stables, the mill, the Red Lion Inn, and both the church and Congregational chapel. The

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ CAS (C), C/C/3/1/155.

¹¹⁷ CAS (C), SRDP/3/PLANS/3693; C/C/3/2/155; Taylor, *Mines of the Cumbrian Pennines*, 238.

¹¹⁸ CAS (Carlisle), QRE 1/111.

¹¹⁹ 1861 Census.

¹²⁰ Numbering 14 individuals: Census 1891.

¹²¹ CAS (Carlisle), SRDP 3/PLANS/982.

¹²² CAS (Carlisle), SRDP 3/PLANS/3883.

later twentieth century saw the arrival of more professionals, including those working in education, management, or IT services.¹²³

Education

There was a school in Gamblesby 1751 when John Wesley preached in the school house;¹²⁴ it probably stood at the centre of the village at the north end of the village green.¹²⁵ The schoolmaster at the time, Richard Matthews, became a Methodist preacher.¹²⁶ In 1818 the school was attended by thirty children.¹²⁷ In 1846 the school was said to be unendowed and the children, then numbering eighteen boys and nine girls, paid ‘quarter pence’ for their schooling.¹²⁸ At one time it received an ‘ancient’ endowment of 5s p.a., but by 1878 it was reported that this had been lost.¹²⁹ A Board School, built on a new site to the north of the village at a cost of £470,¹³⁰ was opened in January 1877.¹³¹ It was endowed by William Harrison of London, one of Gambelsby’s absentee landowners, with £600 invested in the French *Rentes*.¹³² In 1878, this yielded an annual income of £30 p.a.¹³³ The school consisted of two rooms, one larger than the other, and could accommodate forty children and twelve infants.¹³⁴ A canteen kitchen was added in 1947¹³⁵ and a hot water system installed over Christmas 1958.¹³⁶ The old school building was afterwards used as a smithy.¹³⁷

¹²³ See Baptism Register: PR 29/97.

¹²⁴ *The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley*, vol ii (London, 1827), 183; G.H. Bancroft Judge, ‘The Beginnings of Methodism in the Penrith District’, *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*, 19.7 (1934), 154.

¹²⁵ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1860; published 1867).

¹²⁶ ‘Beginnings of Methodism’, 154.

¹²⁷ PP (HC) 1819 [224], *Digest of parochial returns made to select committee appointed to inquire into the education of the poor*, 115.

¹²⁸ Jane Platt (ed.), *The Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1855* (Surtees Society Vol. 219, 2015), p. 200.

¹²⁹ CAS (C), PR 28/55.

¹³⁰ Bulmer, *Cumb. Dir.* (1901), 368.

¹³¹ CAS (C), CE 8/2024.

¹³² Bulmer, *Cumb. Dir.* (1901), 368.

¹³³ CAS (C), PR 28/55.

¹³⁴ CAS (C), CE 8/2024.

Nineteenth-century schoolmasters served for long periods. William Richmond was schoolmaster for over thirty years, between 1829 and 1861.¹³⁸ Robert Walker (b.1859) was appointed headmaster by 1884,¹³⁹ and was still there in 1911.¹⁴⁰ Both men resided in Gamblesby, although no dwelling was provided.¹⁴¹ Robert Walker's daughter, Marion, taught the infants as a probationer for a brief period in 1903,¹⁴² although the first formal appointment of an infants-only teacher was not made until the mid-1920s.¹⁴³ In 1930, it was reported that there had been five head teachers in three years and several changes of assistant, but the situation had since settled down.¹⁴⁴ Mrs M.J. Addison was headmistress from 1949 to 1962,¹⁴⁵ followed by Mrs C.W.M. Hedworth.¹⁴⁶ Several children came on the school bus, which sometimes had problems getting through the snow - as did the cook and head teacher on occasion.¹⁴⁷ Secondary school age children from Gamblesby and other east fellside villages went to Lazonby School until 1961. Afterwards, they went to Penrith: the girls to Tynefield County Secondary; the boys to Ullswater High School.¹⁴⁸ In the 1960s, children from Gamblesby competed at the annual East Fellside Schools sports day held at Culgaith.

¹³⁵ CAS (C), SRDP/3/PLANS/725.

¹³⁶ CAS (C), SSR 1/64 (Gamblesby School Minute Book 1959-1970).

¹³⁷ CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/2.

¹³⁸ Parson and White, *Dir. C. & W.*, 450; Census 1841, 1851, 1861.

¹³⁹ CAS (C), CE 8/2024.

¹⁴⁰ Census 1891, 1901, 1911.

¹⁴¹ CAS (C), CE 8/2024.

¹⁴² CAS (C), CE 8/2024. The relationship was confirmed by descendant, Pamela Cooper.

¹⁴³ CAS (C), CE 15/Box 1/2024.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ CAS (C), SSR 1/64.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

There were twenty-one children on the roll in 1959; this rose to a peak of twenty-nine by the summer of 1961.¹⁴⁹ However, the 1967/68 school year started with just fifteen children on the roll, and by June 1970 it was found that only five children would be attending in September. Parents granted permission for their children to be transferred to Langwathby¹⁵⁰ and Gamblesby School closed in July 1970.¹⁵¹ The head teacher, Mrs Hedworth, spent some of the remaining school funds on £1 book tokens as gifts to the departing children.¹⁵² The board of managers, composed of individuals drawn from the local community, was still in place until May 1971.¹⁵³

Community Activities

There has been considerable change to the number and variety of communal spaces in Gamblesby, particularly during the twentieth century. Plans to convert the Old Smithy into a social hall were abandoned in 1951,¹⁵⁴ and the building instead became a private dwelling. This was also the fate of the Red Lion Inn, which became 'Red Lion House' in 1998.¹⁵⁵ By the 1960s the school was used to host various communal activities, including meetings of the Women's Institute and youth club.¹⁵⁶ Following the school's closure in 1970 the building was used as a village hall. However, after being declared structurally unsound, it closed in 2001.¹⁵⁷ The Gamblesby Village Hall Committee subsequently formed with the aim of building a new village hall on the same site as the former

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ CAS (C), CE 8/2024.

¹⁵⁴ CAS (C), SRDP 3/PLANS/298.

¹⁵⁵ *Cumb. & West. Herald*, 28 Nov. 1998. <http://www.cwherald.com/a/archive/eden-council-planning-decisions.248316.html> (accessed 25 October 2013).

¹⁵⁶ CAS (C), SSR 1/64 (Gamblesby School Minute Book 1959-1970).

¹⁵⁷ ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria), 'Case Study: Gamblesby Village Hall Renewable Energy Project', December 2010.

school, which would run on renewable energy.¹⁵⁸ The first phase of the project, completed in 2003, focused on insulating the walls and roof using locally-sourced sheep wool, and the installation of a ground source heat pump. Much of the work was done by local residents, and over eighty per cent of funds came from grant sources. The second phase saw the replacement of the old extension (housing the kitchen and toilet block), and the addition of a six kilowatt wind turbine. The village hall re-opened in 2007.¹⁵⁹ It has continued to be used by meetings of the Gamblesby and District WI. Since 2002, the annual Gamblesby and Unthank Garden Gadabout has raised money for the village hall fund.¹⁶⁰ Gamblesby and Unthank have played host to an annual snowdrop walk from 2008 for the same purpose.¹⁶¹

Gamblesby possesses a cricket green, the uneven ground of which was not levelled until the 1960s.¹⁶² Gamblesby Cricket Club, a founder member of the Eden Valley Cricket League, raised funds for a new pavilion in 2007.¹⁶³

Charities and Poor Relief

The poor of Gamblesby could get support from two charities based in Addingham parish: Lowson's Charity and Hutchinson's Charity, both of which were established in the eighteenth century. [[SEE GLASSONBY and HUNSONBY ARTICLES](#)].

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

¹⁵⁸ For details of the project see: http://www.cse.org.uk/pdf/cafe_case_study_gamblesby.pdf

¹⁵⁹ Local info.

¹⁶⁰ *Cumb. & West. Herald*, 2 Jul. 2010.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 7 Feb. 2008.

¹⁶² John Hurst, *Come Back to Eden: Lakeland's Northern Neighbour* (Cheshire, 2000), 79.

¹⁶³ *Cumb. and West. Herald*, 1 Jun. 2007.

By the seventeenth century, the inhabitants of Gamblesby were regularly baptised, married and buried at the parish church of Addingham, St Michael's church in Glassonby.¹⁶⁴ Gamblesby's tithe rent charge, owed to the vicar of Addingham, amounted to £49 in 1878.¹⁶⁵

A chapel of ease, dedicated to St John the Evangelist, was built in Gamblesby in 1868. The site for the chapel was granted by the lord of the manor, the Duke of Devonshire, at the request of the vicar of Addingham, Rev. Edward Brown.¹⁶⁶ As this site lay over the in-filled tarn on the village green, the south end of the chapel suffered gradual subsidence in later years.¹⁶⁷ The building was largely paid for by private subscription,¹⁶⁸ the total cost of which amounted to £1080¹⁶⁹ (far greater than the '£240 or £300' estimated by the bishop)¹⁷⁰. The chapel was dedicated in December 1868.¹⁷¹ Built of red hammer-dressed sandstone, quarried at Lazonby,¹⁷² St John's is a Gothic Revival church, designed by the Carlisle architect, C. J. Ferguson. It has a five-bay nave and three stained glass windows, with a wooden bell turret (containing a single bell) and spire.¹⁷³ Electric lighting was installed in 1935,¹⁷⁴ and electric heating in 1952.¹⁷⁵

The first two baptisms at St John's took place on the day of the chapel's dedication, and the Baptism Register ran until 1999.¹⁷⁶ The Chapel was not licensed for marriages until 1884,¹⁷⁷ but only forty-

¹⁶⁴ The Addingham Parish Register begins in 1601.

¹⁶⁵ CAS (C), PR 29/55.

¹⁶⁶ CAS (C), PR 29/93 (requested in 1866).

¹⁶⁷ CAS (C), PR 29/104. This pond is named as 'The Tarn' on the first edition OS map.

¹⁶⁸ CAS (C), PR 29/93.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ CAS (C), PR 29/97, 104.

¹⁷² CAS (C), PR 29/104.

¹⁷³ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, 361.

¹⁷⁴ CAS (C), PR 29/64.

¹⁷⁵ CAS (C), PR 29/27-28, 88.

¹⁷⁶ CAS (C), PR 29/97.

¹⁷⁷ CAS (C), PR 29/63.

eight marriages ever took place there. By 2001, there had been only one wedding in twenty years and two baptisms in the last five.¹⁷⁸ As St John's lacked a churchyard, burials took place at the parish church in Glassonby, although funeral services were sometimes held at Gamblesby.

The incorporation of Addingham Parish into a United Benefice in 1975¹⁷⁹ appears to have had little immediate effect on services, with Holy Communion and Evensong continuing to take place on alternate weeks.¹⁸⁰ Some financial support to help pay St John's parish quota came from the two trusts established on the closure of Hunsonby and Maughanby schools.¹⁸¹ But by the decade's end, the chapel was in financial trouble, largely due to its dwindling congregation, which averaged between four and six.¹⁸² One service in 1982 was cancelled after no one came.¹⁸³ By 1983, services were more erratic, with the introduction of a family service and more group services at other churches in the parish.¹⁸⁴ During the 1990s, there was approximately one service a month at St John's.¹⁸⁵ In 1999, approaches were made to Gamblesby's Methodists by the Rev. Richard Moatt about the shared use of the building,¹⁸⁶ and a public meeting was held to discuss its fate.¹⁸⁷ But, in need of expensive repairs and with an annual income of just £250, St John's closed in 2002.¹⁸⁸ The final service (Holy Communion), held on 30 June 1999, was attended by 110 communicants.¹⁸⁹ The chapel was sold in 2010 for conversion into a dwelling¹⁹⁰ and the building was subsequently used as

¹⁷⁸ CAS (C), PR 29/99; PR 29/104.

¹⁷⁹ With Langwathby, Eden Hall and Culgaith: CAS (Carlisle), PR 105/48.

¹⁸⁰ CAS (C), PR 29/99, 104.

¹⁸¹ CAS (C), PR 29/104.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ CAS (C), PR 29/99.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*; PR 29/104.

¹⁸⁶ CAS (C), PR 29/104.

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*; DRC 22/1.

¹⁸⁹ CAS (C), PR 29/99.

¹⁹⁰ <http://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/detail.asp?AltRef=10/0725> [accessed 25 October 2013].

a holiday let. The renovation featured on Channel 4 Television's 'Restoration Man' programme in 2012.¹⁹¹

Nonconformity

Methodism was strong in Gamblesby from an early date. John Wesley made several visits there from 1749, facilitated by Gamblesby's position on the old Alston-Penrith road.¹⁹² Local tradition states that Wesley planned the village's first Methodist chapel,¹⁹³ which was not constructed until 1784, at a cost of £100.¹⁹⁴ Prior to this, Gamblesby Methodists had worshipped at a house in Melmerby.¹⁹⁵ In 1864, a larger chapel with a school room was built on the same site. The new building incorporated the date stone of the first chapel (inscribed 1784).¹⁹⁶ The stone laying ceremony took place on 27 April 1864,¹⁹⁷ while the dedication ceremony followed on 14 April 1865.¹⁹⁸ The cost of the building work amounted to just over £685.¹⁹⁹ The chapel is still in use and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2014.

Three women numbered among Wesley's first adherents in the village: namely, Sarah Sawyer, Fanny Falder, and Mary Watson, the latter of whom donated the site of the first chapel.²⁰⁰ By 1791 membership of the Gamblesby class included twenty-four women and thirteen men.²⁰¹ In 1802 there

¹⁹¹ Televised January 2012.

¹⁹² G.H. Bancroft Judge, 'The Beginnings of Methodism in the Penrith District', *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*, 19.7 (1934), 153-157.

¹⁹³ CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/2.

¹⁹⁴ CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/2.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ *Cumb. & West. Advertiser*, 3 May 1864.

¹⁹⁸ *Cumb. & West. Advertiser*, 18 Apr. 1865.

¹⁹⁹ CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/2.

²⁰⁰ *Cumb. & West. Advertiser*, 1 July 1884; 'Beginnings of Methodism', 156.

²⁰¹ Durham Record Office, M/BC/2.

were fifty-one members.²⁰² In 1841 it was noted that seven or eight Methodist families lived in Gamblesby, all of whom were ‘regular at church and sacrament’.²⁰³ One of the first chapel trustees, Joseph Salkeld, together with his brother, Benjamin, had been preachers before the chapel was built. Joseph, who later moved to Kirkby Lonsdale, set up a pulpit in his home, which was later used in the chapel.²⁰⁴ Other trustees of the first chapel were local yeomen farmers, John Faulder, Thomas Benson of Unthank, Anthony Benson, and James Atkinson.²⁰⁵ By 1864, trustees of the new chapel still included representatives of the Salkeld and Benson families.²⁰⁶ By 1893 only three trustees remained and numerous appointments had to be made in order to raise this to number to twenty four, as required by the chapel’s model deed.²⁰⁷ A similar situation occurred in 1949, by which time fourteen trustees (all of whom had been appointed in or before 1923) had died.²⁰⁸ The new trustees appointed in 1949 were all farmers from Gamblesby or neighbouring townships.

On 27 June 1884, a large party was held to celebrate a centenary of Methodism in Gamblesby.²⁰⁹ Two large marquees were erected to accommodate the 1,500 people who attended, 300 of whom were seated for lunch. It was reported that over 1,000 people attended the meeting that evening.²¹⁰ The chapel received several legacies, including £100 left by George Dufton in 1922, for the benefit of the chapel’s Sunday School. The money was duly invested and used to provide prizes for the

²⁰² *Ibid.*

²⁰³ *The Diocesan Book of Walter Fletcher, Chancellor of Carlisle Diocese 1814-46*, ed. V.J. Platt (forthcoming 2015), 127.

²⁰⁴ From the reminiscences of his great nephew, Benjamin Salkeld: *Cumb. & West. Advertiser*, 1 July 1884.

²⁰⁵ CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/2.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ CAS (C), DFCM 4/5/115.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁹ *Cumb. & West. Advertiser*, 1 July 1884.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

children who attended.²¹¹ Electric lighting was installed in 1934, together with redecoration and water being laid on.²¹² A new organ was purchased in 1941, while a lavatory and cloakroom were added in 1949.²¹³ Part of the Kirkoswald Methodist Circuit since 1871, services were held at Gamblesby every third Sunday in 2013.²¹⁴

The Congregationalists had their first place of worship in Gamblesby by 1824.²¹⁵ This was replaced in 1864 by a new chapel, which cost £400 to build and could accommodate 200 people.²¹⁶ In 1929, the Charity Commissioners appointed the Lancashire Congregational Union as trustees for the chapel building and the cottage and land which belonged to it.²¹⁷ By 1928, services were only held every third Sunday²¹⁸ and the chapel closed in the 1930s. The cottage was sold off in 1938,²¹⁹ followed by the chapel itself in 1939.²²⁰ A year later, the former chapel was converted into a dwelling called Hazelgarth.²²¹ In 1954, the owners, Mr and Mrs James Purvis, gifted the house to the Kirkoswald Methodist Circuit for use as a manse.²²² The building became a private house again after it was sold in 1962, a new manse having been built at Langwathby.

LOCAL GOVERNEMENT

Manorial Government

²¹¹ DFCM 4/5/115. Legacies of 100 were also left by a Sarah Cowen and Anthony Metcalf.

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ CAS (C), PR 29/104.

²¹⁵ *Congregational Magazine*, vol. 7 (1824); Bulmer, *Dir. Cumb.* (1901), 368.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.* 'Independents Chapel' is marked on the first edition OS Map of 1860/1867, but is in a different place to the later chapel built 1864.

²¹⁷ CAS (C), DFCCL 13/39; the cottage was then leased out for £5 p.a.

²¹⁸ CAS (C), DFCCL 13/32.

²¹⁹ CAS (C), DFCCL 13/39.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ CAS (C), SRDP 3/PLANS/473 & 509.

²²² CAS (C), DFCM 4/6/7/1.

Gamblesby was administered as part of the honour of Penrith by at least 1500. Court records for the honour survive from 1701 through to 1947. These reveal that Gamblesby manor court was held annually in June at the Pack Horse Inn at least until the late 1820s.²²³ By the 1850s, the courts were more commonly held in Penrith.²²⁴ As well as dealing with surrenders and admittances, the courts also made a perambulation of the boundaries. In 1805, those present at the perambulation included the steward of the manor, William Atkinson, the bailiff of the honour of Penrith and Forest of Inglewood, Thomas Lewis, as well as representative from key tenant families, like the Bensons, Mortons, Falders and Westgarths.²²⁵

Township Government

No records of Gamblesby's township officers are known to survive from before 1834, from which time the township became part of Penrith Poor Law Union. The role of the constable in keeping the peace was aided by the stocks on the village green, which were still there c.1955.²²⁶ In 1934, Gamblesby was absorbed into Glassonby civil parish²²⁷ and has since been administered by Glassonby Parish Council.

²²³ CAS (C), DMBS 4/49-51, 60, 61.

²²⁴ CAS (C), DMBS 4/53. One exception was in 1862 when the court baron was 'held at the house of William Sisson, Inn Keeper at Gamblesby'.

²²⁵ CAS (C), DMBS/60.

²²⁶ CAS (C), DX 483/3/6.

²²⁷ Cumberland Review Order, 1934