

Welcome to the CCHT e-newsletter. Keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.



CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Save the Date: CCHT AGM Monday 20th June 7.30 pm via Zoom

We would like to remind anyone who has not paid their subscriptions for this year to please to do so soon. Many thanks to those of you who already have. We are always delighted to welcome new members if you know anyone who might like to join? Please note that the membership secretary, Pam Cronin, can be contacted via a new email address: cchtmembership@gmail.com

Meetings & New Volunteers

Spring is finally here, though things are still not quite back to normal. VCH research has resumed in the archives, though volunteer meetings are still being held online for now. This does have the benefit of being able to invite speakers from further afield, so we will probably keep this as an option even after in-person meetings have resumed.

Nine of our volunteers were able to make a meeting via Zoom on 23rd March. Among them was Jenny Braithwaite, one of two new volunteers to join the project. Jenny will be working on the township of Skirwith in the Eden Valley. The other new volunteer is Kim Kirkbride, who is taking on the ancient parish of Kirkbride to the west of Carlisle. Kim, who lives in California, has traced her family's connection to Kirkbride over several centuries. Even though she lives far away, Kim will be able to contribute to the project by using an increasing number of online resources.

Completed draft article for Corney

Given how the pace of research has been greatly affected by the Covid-19 restrictions, it is commendable that Alan Clegg, author of the draft article for Waberthwaite, has completed a draft for neighbouring Corney: https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/vch_corney_full_draft_complete.pdf

Subject to securing funding and some additional research at the National Archives, it is hoped that these drafts can form part of a future VCH publication. You may have seen

Alan's piece in the latest CWAAS *Transactions* (2021), on using dendrochronology to investigate the history of Waberthwaite church.



Training Programme Success

With thanks to a grant from CWAAS, VCH Cumbria and Morecambe Bay Partnership (MBP) were able to create a free historical skills training course for the public. The course initially ran to capacity during six weeks in the Autumn and, with a waiting list of participants, was repeated earlier this year.



Map from Thomas West's Guide to the Lakes (1778)

Online workshops covered the use of historical documents, maps, and place-names. There was also an archival visit and an outdoor landscape history session. The course had been well received by those who took part. Many thanks to Claire Bradshaw of MBP for organising and hosting the workshops, and for much of the delivery; to Susan Benson at Barrow Archive Centre; and to Ruth Lawley, for giving her take on being a VCH Volunteer.

Plans for the Future

The VCH Cumbria project operates on a three-year funding cycle, the latest of which will come to an end in October this year. CCHT membership subscriptions provide vital support to the project, though we also rely on grant funding. We are currently exploring funding options for the next phase of the project, which runs from October 2022 until September 2025.

As well as seeing the Lonsdale Ward volume (our first red book) come out in print, the main focus for the next phase of the project will be to undertake work on the townships and parishes in Lonsdale over the Sands. This area was covered by volume eight of VCH *Lancashire*, published in 1914. However, the content does not match that of a modern VCH article, particularly in terms of social and economic history, so these entries will need to be revised and brought up to date. We plan to use volunteers to help with this, particularly on the history of these places from the 19th century to present day. Given the demand for historical skills training, we also propose a workshop element, and to produce a publication for the west of Cumbria, using Alan Clegg's work on Corney and Waberthwaite.

Township in Focus: Middleton

Closer to Sedbergh than Kirkby Lonsdale, the township and civil parish of Middleton is bounded by the Rivers Lune and Rawthey to the west and north, and by the former county boundary with Yorkshire in the east. Despite being the largest township in Kirby Lonsdale ancient parish, Middleton is sparsely settled, with no central village. In the 1800s, the population rose above 300, but in 2001 was just 109. In the east, Middleton's landscape is dominated by unenclosed fells, which rise to 610 m.. The Roman Road connecting the Roman forts at Burrow and Low Borrowbridge ran through the township. A well-preserved Roman milestone dating from c.200 AD, was discovered in 1836 and now stands in the church yard. The modern main road through the township, the A683, was formerly part of the Kirkby Stephen – Sedbergh – Greta Bridge turnpike (1762).

The Ingleton to Lowgill branch of the London and North-Western Railway also ran the length of the township. Middleton had its own railway station, which closed to passengers in 1931. The construction of the line was met with some local resistance; the lord of the manor kept watch to prevent surveyors coming onto his land, and so they waited until he was from home.



The Head, formerly the Railway Tavern, was one of two pubs in Middleton. It permanently closed during the pandemic.

The name Middleton, possibly meaning ‘middle farm’, is recorded in Domesday. The oldest building is the former manor house, Middleton Hall, which had a private chapel. First recorded in the 1300s, it was home to the Middletons, who were lords of the manor until the later 17th century. They were succeeded by the Moores, a yeoman family of some influence in the neighbourhood. In 1639 Roger Moore was described ‘as very rich.....and so great an oppressor that almost no poor man dares speak against him for fear of him and his sons who are

are the rudest, most drunken, desperate young men in the county’. Thomas Machell’s view of the Moores was more favourable when he visited John Moore, benefactor of the village school, and declared Samuel Moore to be ‘a very good botanist’. William Moore of Grimeshill (1809-62), schooled at Sedbergh and St John’s Cambridge, was a JP, Deputy-Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Westmorland.

The Moores lived at Grimeshill, one of three properties between Lancaster and Sedbergh mentioned in Cary’s *Itinerary* of 1798. The house was rebuilt in 1836 to a design by George Webster, but was demolished in 1938. Another substantial house, Becksid Hall, was the birthplace of the MP and vice-chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, Sir John Otway (d.1693). Hawkin Hall was home of the Bainbridge family; Thomas Bainbridge was master of Christ’s College, Cambridge from 1622 to 1646.

Margaret Bainbridge of Hawkin Hall was burgled in 1676. She was the likely victim of her neighbours, the notorious Smorthwait brothers of Abbey Farm. After a determined campaign by Sir Daniel Fleming of Rydal, William (High Constable of Lonsdale Ward in 1677/8) was hanged with his brother Henry in 1684.

The Bainbridge family gave land on which the chapel was built (or rebuilt) in 1634. It was licenced for burial in 1671. The chapel was rebuilt in 1813 before being replaced by the present church, which dates from 1879.



Dating from the 17th century, Middleton Bridge on the A638, crosses over the River Rawthey in the north west of the township. The Rawthey meets the Lune 220 m. downstream of the bridge.

Website News

The CCHT website continues to act as a major draw for those interested in Cumbria's history. It had just short of 7,000 unique visits in February! As you read this, the website is about to undergo some upgrade work which will improve its usability. We hope to make significant changes to the interactive map, and to the arrangement of both the 'About County' and the 'Resources' sections. There will be a freeze on new content while the upgrade takes place, but you will still be able to access the website as normal during this time.

One recent addition to the website is the contents of James Clarke's *A Survey of the Lakes* (1789, 2nd edn). James Clarke was a Penrith-based surveyor who published a large (elephant folio) sized book on the Lakes, containing eleven maps, plus two other engravings (one of the view from Penrith Beacon, and one of the thistle brooch found at Flusco in 1785), aimed at the tourist trade. The first edition was published in 1787, the second in 1789. The maps were notable for the large scale, and for such details as field boundaries, and landlords' names. The maps all folded out of the volume - and the biggest was that of Derwentwater, which measured 133 x 49 cms.

Visit: <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/gallery/james-clarke-survey-lakes-1789-2nd-edn>



Winter Talks

During the winter, CCHT hosted two online lectures. The first was by Dr Jackson Armstrong, based on his prize-winning book *England's Northern Frontier: Conflict and Local Society in the Fifteenth-Century Scottish Marches* (now available in paperback). The other was by CCHT's own Roland Jackson, on the subject of 19th century scientist and mountaineer John Tyndall, about whom he had also published a book. Until the website upgrade work is done and we create a proper home for video content, those of you who missed it can view Roland's talk [here](#).

New Local History Film, Remembering Kirkby Lonsdale

A new two-part film, 'Remembering Kirkby Lonsdale' has recently been released by local filmmaker John Hamlett. It contains rare archive film and photos combined with oral history interviews, to give some fascinating insights into Kirkby Lonsdale during the 1930s and 40s. You can watch the film on YouTube for free, via [this link](#).

Behind the Lens: Burton's Women Photographers

March is Women's History Month—an opportunity to celebrate the role of women in the past. Although the VCH framework does not allow the stories of individuals (particularly women) to be told in great detail, research into parish history does uncover some interesting characters. The village of Burton-in-Kendal had not one, but two professional female photographers working in the early 20th century. Elizabeth Eleanor Sutcliffe was the wife of Leeds-born photographer John Francis Sutcliffe (1836-91), who established studios at Burton-in-Kendal and in Kirkby Lonsdale. He was photographer by royal appointment to Edward, Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) and trained another local photographer, Charles Rowbotham. John and Elizabeth lived in Burton, where Elizabeth had been born in 1849.



Mrs Elizabeth Eleanor Sutcliffe

Following John's death aged 55, Elizabeth took over the business. She continued to run both studios (recorded in Kelly's *Directory* of 1914), cycling to Kirkby Lonsdale with her equipment. Elizabeth's legacy was not only in capturing numerous images of the area, but also in training Beatrice S. Corless. Beatrice later bought the Sutcliffe business and had a studio at the Square in Burton (recorded in 1938).

The image above is reproduced by kind permission of Kath Hayhurst of the Holme and District Local History Society. The Society holds many photographs taken by Elizabeth Sutcliffe and Beatrice Corless.

The National Archives

This is a reminder to check the TNA website before visiting, as there are still restrictions in place. You can book a Standard 1-day visit, which allows you to view up to 12 documents from multiple series, or Bulk Order 1-day visit, which allows 20 to 40 documents from the same series. You may book up to 36 visits in a rolling 12-week period.

Pg. Cert. in Local and Regional History

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University re-launched its Postgraduate Certificate in Local and Regional History last year and is now taking enquires about entry in October 2022. To find out more, visit <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/regional-and-local-history-distance-learning->

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