

Newsletter

No. 34 Summer 2018

Welcome to CCHT'S quarterly e-newsletter keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.

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Welcome to our summer 2018 newsletter - and what a glorious summer it is turning out to be! I am now back in post as Assistant Editor for the VCH. I hope you have all enjoyed getting to meet and work with James Bowen over the past 12 months. He has done a huge amount for the project and I hope you will join me in wishing him all the best for the future.

Sarah Rose

Drafters' Meeting and Guest Lecture

On 1st June, VCH drafters and CCHT members met in Penrith to hear Professor Richard Hoyle speak about border service and tenant right in the 16th and 17th centuries. This is a highly complex issue but, as Professor Hoyle reassuringly explained, it was confusing for contemporaries too! Tenant right was a form of customary land tenure that was widespread in northern England, especially Cumbria. It was popular with tenants because it allowed them to inherit property or to transfer it in their lifetime, although arguably less popular with lords as it meant they had less control.

During the 16th century, tenant right became increasingly associated with border service, whereby customary tenants provided mounted military service at their own cost. By the 1580s, when relations with Scotland worsened, the Crown officially recognised claims of tenant right and later



upheld the connection with border service in a parliamentary bill in 1596.

However, the Union of the Crowns in 1603 ended the need for border service and so also raised questions about the existence of tenant right. This resulted in several decades of legal wrangling, with the decisions of the courts being much influenced by political circumstance. For example, the outbreak of war with the Scots in 1639 led judges to fly in the face of many previous court decisions by affirming that border service was a condition of tenant right.

CCHT Life Membership

CCHT has always relied on the generosity of its members. In addition to our existing annual and three-year membership arrangements, we have recently introduced the option of Life Membership. You can become a life member, whatever your age, for a one-off payment of £1000. If you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid making your gift worth £1,250. (Higher rate taxpayers can reclaim tax, which means that a gift worth £1,250 to us costs only £750 if you pay tax at 40%). If you wish to become a Life Member please contact Bryan Gray: bryangray@bryangray.co.uk; The Chapel, Hunsonby, Penrith CA10PN

Keep those facts coming!

Hopefully you will have noticed our ever-expanding collection of historical facts about Cumbria on Twitter [[@VCH_Cumbria](https://twitter.com/VCH_Cumbria)] and the CCHT website. They have been hugely varied so far, ranging from the [invasion of Cumbria](#) via Piel Island in 1487, to the impact of the [1660 Post Office Act](#). We still need interesting or unusual facts about Cumbrian history so please keep sending them in! Email s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk



Piel Island: where Lambert Simnel landed in 1487 to challenge Henry VII

The Kirkoswald 'Short'

Thanks to the hard work of Richard Brockington and James Bowen, the final draft of the Kirkoswald 'short' – our first official VCH publication – was recently submitted to the VCH Central Office for publication! The Central Office team will now look after the typesetting and cartography. This process and the eventual printing will take about six months, which means we may have the published book in time for Christmas. Fingers crossed!



Datestone at Huddlesceugh Hall, Kirkoswald

CCHT Trustees

At the CCHT AGM, Mary Wane, who served as the representative for FOCAS, stepped down as a trustee. We would like to thank Mary for all the support she has given the Trust over the years, and to welcome Lorna Mullett of FOCAS who has joined the Board of Trustees in her place. We also offer our thanks and say farewell to June Hill, who has stepped down as an elected trustee.

Wanted - Web Wardens!

The Townships covered by the CCHT website are grouped into eleven wards, five in the historic county of Cumberland (Eskdale, Cumberland, Leath, Allerdale Above, Allerdale Below), four in the historic county of Westmorland (East, West, Kendal, Lonsdale), and one each for the parts of the historic counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire West Riding which are now in Cumbria. The aim is for each of those wards to have a Web Warden who will oversee the content posted to each Township Page within their respective wards. Currently we have Wardens for Leath, West, Cumberland and Eskdale Wards. We need seven more volunteers! If you are interested, please contact bill_shannon@msn.com

This role does not involve original research, but rather looking out for and posting relevant content to enhance each Township page by providing additional material for anyone interested in that place. A detailed step-by-step guide to editing the site will be provided. No special IT skills are required beyond the ability to cut-and-paste from Word or similar documents, to handle jpegs, and create pdfs.

The main tasks involve, first, checking each Township page to ensure there are no errors, that all the links work, and that no wrong or 'inappropriate' material has been posted to the page. Then, every now and again, posting new links or pages relating to the township, at the sole discretion of the Web Warden. This could include in particular adding links to other relevant web pages, and links to or copies of relevant books, and articles and papers, published or unpublished - written by yourself or by other local historians or local societies. We would also like you to review the 'Historical Buildings' list for each township, and comment upon it or add to it as desired.



Bill Shannon

CCHT in the Spotlight

Those of you who read the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* family history magazine will have seen that the summer issue includes an article on Cumbria and the resources available to family historians. We are delighted to see that the [CCHT website](http://www.cchtcumbria.org.uk) is included among the online sources featured.

Volunteer Profile: Ruth Lawley

Croglin has been our family home for nearly forty years. My work as an Obstetrician in Carlisle and four children left little time to explore the history of Croglin Parish. My partner's business, 'Croglin Toys' ensures we have a place in Croglin's history. Now as a novice historian a new more detailed world is opening up which enriches our lives.

Through Kirkoswald and Renwick History society I met Richard Brockington who has encouraged me to participate in the VCH project. A fast learning curve requiring much background reading. I am becoming familiar with available resources online and at the archive centres in Carlisle and Whitehaven, and have attended VCH drafters' meeting and a Palaeography course at Arnside.



Ruth Lawley

Croglin may be small with an estimated population peak of 345 in 1688 and its location on the East Fellside dictates that it has forever been remote from major centres. However, the river Croglin gave it a mill dating back to at least the 12th century and the churchyard has a tombstone to Robert de Chalize, Bishop of Carlisle d. 1278. The first Lord of the manor was Phillip Hastings who was given the parish by Richard II for services rendered in the Crusades. From then it passes through marriage to the colourful Wharton family with whom it remains until 1739, when it passed to the Earl of Somerset.



Westminster Lying in Hospital, London

Croglin had an endowed school from 1723 and includes amongst the alumni Dr John Leake, founder of Westminster Lying Hospital, one of the first maternity hospitals in the UK. This is of personal interest as I have spent the last 7 years supporting the Ethiopian Ministry of Health to strengthen their Maternity service, which includes establishment of many more maternity services.

Ruth Lawley

News from the Archives

As many of you already know, Kendal Archive Centre is closed until 7th November for essential building works. Whitehaven Archive Centre is also expected to close towards the end of 2018 for around 12 months. Sarah is happy to talk to any VCH volunteers who may be affected to see what other sources can be consulted at other repositories or online.

EXHIBITION: The Voyages of Abram (1806-1862)

Until 9th September there is an exhibition at Lancaster Maritime Museum all about the ship Abram.

This is based on the book *The West Indies and the Arctic in the Age of*

Sail: the Voyages of Abram (1806-62), by Rob David, Michael Winstanley and Margaret Bainbridge. This touring exhibition will move on to other locations visited by the vessel, including Shetland and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.



New book: Henry Hobhouse's tour through Cumbria in 1774

In 1774 (four years before West's *A Guide to the Lakes* was published), Henry Hobhouse and three friends spent ten-days touring Cumbria on their way to Scotland. Hobhouse's comments cover an array of subjects, including landscape, geology, farming and industry. The book is edited by former VCH Cumbria project leader Angus Winchester, together with Christopher Donaldson and Robert W. Dunning, and published by CWAAS. Orders to Ian Caruana, 10 Peter Street, Carlisle CA3 8QP. (Tel: 01228 544120) For queries email librarian@cumbriapast.com

Celebrating Morecambe Bay

Morecambe Bay Partnership is hosting a number of activities during the summer to celebrate the heritage of the Bay area. This includes a walk around Jenny Brown's Point, led by local historian Simon Williams on Wednesday 11th July and an excursion across the sands from Walney Island to Piel Island on 19th August. For those interested in archaeology, The Dock Museum at Barrow is running an exhibition from 8th September until 4th November, which showcases finds from the past five years. The full programme is available [here](#).

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