Hazelwood Hydropathic Hotel

Thomas Holme Maude was a member of a well-to-do Kendal family of merchants and bankers. The family held considerable estates in Westmorland and North Lancashire and by 1848. Thomas Holme Maude is recorded as living at Blawith Cottage – “A neat house……… it has a southern aspect, commanding an extensive view over Lancaster sands”

Thomas H Maude died without issue and on his wife’s death, the estates passed to her nephew, William Edward Maude around 1857. William Edward’s father, William Maude, had married a Manchester girl, Jane Greenway, whose family owned a calico print works in Darwen, where William Edward eventually started out in his working life. The Darwen mills were eventually to become Crown Paints and Wallpapers.

William Edward’s interests moved to ventures in Acton Bridge, Cheshire and Liverpool, where he was involved with sheet zinc – used in the production of printing cylinders – saw mills and animal manures. This latter interest included imported guano, from which saltpetre can be extracted – a basic ingredient of gunpowder. In 1852 saltpetre was being shipped to Milnthorp Station for John Wakefield of the Sedgwick Gunpowder Mill. Subsequently, in 1871, William Edward took up an interest with John Wakefield in the gunpowder works at Low Wood,
Haverthwaite, and at the time of his marriage in 1858, was resident in both New Brighton and Blawith, still at Blawith in 1881.

In 1863, Maude was involved, along with others, including the Furnace Railway Company, in the promotion of a share issue to raise funds for the building of the Grange Hotel.

In 1879 construction started on a new house and the 1881 census records an establishment called Maude’s Mansion standing un-occupied or in the process of construction, with the Maudes living at “Blawith”.

Grange is built on limestone, and has a climate similar to Devonshire and the Isle of Wight, the temperature being mild and uniform. In addition therefore to its other advantages, Grange, as a Winter residence for Invalids, is probably equal to the most favoured spots in the South of England.

No complete railway communication existed between this district and other places until 1857, when the line connecting Lancaster with Ulverstone, via Carnforth and Grange, was opened.

Grange is now within the following distances of London and other cities and towns: London, 7 hours; Manchester, 3 hours; Liverpool, 3 hours; Birmingham, 5 hours; Leeds, 3 hours; Bradford, 3 hours; Preston, 2 hours; Coniston Lake, 14 hours.

In consequence, however, of the very limited Hotel and Lodging House accommodation at present existing at Grange, great numbers of visitors and tourists have been unable to enjoy the advantages it offers—and it is confidently believed that a good Hotel, with Salt-water Baths, Stabling, &c., would be a great advantage to the neighbourhood and to the public generally, and be highly remunerative to the Proprietors.

The promoters of this Company have, on consideration of these circumstances, and in conjunction with the Directors of the Furness Railway Company, determined upon the formation of THE GRANGE HOTEL COMPANY (Limited), for the purpose of building and furnishing, at Grange, an Hotel of the best description, with Baths and Stabling, on a very eligible site of about 3 acres, directly adjoining the Station of the Furness Railway Company at Grange. A provisional agreement has been entered into with the proprietor of the land for the purchase of the site, and he has agreed to take out the whole price of the land in paid-up shares of the Company.

The Hotel will be directly opposite the Grange Station of the Furness Railway, on which the Furness Railway Company are now expending a large sum of money.

It is proposed that the Hotel shall at first be built to contain 50 beds and so planned as to be capable of extension to 100 beds, the capital remaining un-called, after first completion of the Hotel, to be reserved in case future extension shall be deemed desirable. A swimming-salt-water bath in the grounds is part of the plan and open to the South, with the whole of Morecambe Bay before it. The neighbourhood abounds in beauty—will be adopted.

Applications for Shares to be made on or before the 1st day of October, 1863, to WILLIAM WELCH, Sharebroker, Lancaster.

Prospectus of the Grange Hotel Company.
William Edward Maude is recorded as 62, owner-occupier of 200 acres, employing three men and one boy. His wife, Ruth, is 50 and the household is supported by a cook, a parlour maid and a scullery maid.

It seems that William Maude found the finished house, now called Brown Robin Mansion, too large for his needs. It was offered for auction in 1884, failed to sell and was subsequently sold privately, possibly to the Furness Railway Company. The property was extended and opened as a hotel.

19th Century

An extract from History, Images and Maps of Grange-over-Sands by Nick Thorne:-

*Alterations were carried out to turn it into a Hydropathic Establishment in around 1887, and by 1891 facilities included a billiard-room and a dark room for the new hobby of photography. Dancing and concerts were also provided as entertainment, and the ballroom is still in good condition downstairs. A cycle house was also built where machines were stored at a charge of 1/-per week, including free insurance against burglary and fire.*
Possibly about this time, the room at the top of the tower was decorated as a nursery, presumably for the use of guests’ children and their nannies.

An early advert, from the Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 02 July 1888, reads as follows:-

**GRANGE-OVER-SANDS--HAZELWOOD HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT** --This beautiful health resort occupies an airy and bracing position half a mile from the station; magnificent sea and mountain views; central for Lakes; terms moderate. Physician Dr Anderson. Apply Manageress.

By the 1891 census, the Hazelwood Hydropathic is up and running, with 50 guests and 17 staff in residence at the census date, the last mentioned being Sarah Fryer, Lady Manager of the institution.

Of the 50 guests, most are either professional or merchants and quite a few are living on their own means.

**20th Century**

The 1901 census records 90 guests and 21 staff with the manager as Eli Martin assisted by his wife Alice. The guests are of a similar status to the previous census, with several married women, some with children, holidaying without their husbands.

*An advert appears in ‘Picturesque Grange-over-Sands and District’ published about 1908 by Henry T Mason, Grange-over-Sands.*
In 1911 there are 73 guests and 22 staff under the management of Frederick Wells.

The censuses only record persons present on the night of the census, any off-duty, non-resident staff will be missing from the record. This may explain why, in 1911, only a male bath attendant, John Wood is shown. In 1901, Sarah Brown and John Askew are bath attendants, whilst in 1891 only Mary Morris is listed.

The Grange Red Book of 1913 shows that Wilton Bradshaw, erstwhile manager of the Hazelwood Hydro, is the new proprietor of the Grange Hotel.

The Red Book of 1914 shows that a new company has been formed at the Hazelwood Hydro and Mr Frederick Wells is still the manager. In 1913 Richard H Doorbar was manager at Imperial Hydro Hotel, St. Annes-on-Sea. During 1914 Imperial and Hazelwood were run together and Richard H Doorbar was named as manager of both.
An advert in the Birmingham Daily Post of 8th May 1914 reads:-

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS--HAZLEWOOD HYDRO. 35 acres beautiful grounds: Tennis, Croquet, Golf - R H Doobar, Manager. Also of Imperial Hydrotel, St Annes-on-Sea.

By 15th July 1914, the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer had an advert referring to new management.

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS
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HAZLEWOOD HYDRO
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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
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Souvenir and tariff on application.
Terms from 7s. per day inclusive.      Tel. 100.

On 10 April 1915, the Westmorland Gazette reported as follows:-

A good class of visitors put up at Grange this Easter, but the place hardly seemed as busy as in some previous years. Nearly all the chief boarding places however had booked up well before Easter and on Thursday quite as many trains arrived as usual notwithstanding the lack of cheap bookings. Hazelwood Hydro had over 100 visitors, and The Grange, Commercial and Crown Hotels all did well and Berners Close had as many as usual. St Pauls was crowded Easter Sunday. On Easter Monday a large number of motor driven vehicles of all descriptions passed through and raised such clouds of dust that on Tuesday morning (a wet one) the water cart turned out and helped. The golf course was well patronised by visitors on Bank Holiday and there was a considerable amount of driving and rambling done.
The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer, on 23rd November 1915, carried the following advert:-

**GRANGE-OVER-SANDS**
**HAZLEWOOD HYDRO**
Electric light throughout. Terms from 5s per day.
Also in conjunction with Imperial Hydrotel, St. Anne’s.

The Westmorland Gazette on 29th April 1916 had the following report:-

**Grange**
The Easter weekend has for many years been regarded as one of the busiest periods of the whole year in Grange, and this year it has been no exception. On Wednesday last week a good number of visitors came in, and several hundreds more arrived on Thursday, and all the hotels, hydros and boarding houses were well filled.

On 17th June the report reads:-

**Owing to the curtailment of the holidays Grange has not been as busy as compared with previous years, but nevertheless there has been quite a good number of visitors in the place.**

**Inter-hotel Air Service**

An intriguing advert in the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of 9th April 1920 says:-

**ST. ANNE’S IMPERIAL HYDRO HOTEL**
Turkish, Russian and all kinds of Electric Baths.
Large Sea Water Swimming Bath.
AEROPLANE SERVICE between St. Ann’s and Grange-over-Sands, landing at HAZLEWOOD HYDRO
It seems that the landing field may well have been the golf course or the adjacent farm.

The Imperial Hydropathic Hotel

The Imperial Hydropathic Hotel was built between 1909 and 1910. It was re-named The Majestic in 1920 and continued up to WW2, when it was requisitioned for war service. It changed hands after the war, along with two other hotels, presumably the Golf and the Grange. The Majestic was demolished in 1972.
The Golf Hotel

By 26th May 1920, the Hazelwood Hydro had changed its name to the Golf Hotel and seems to have been part of the Hamilton Islands Holidays Group along with the Hotel Majestic at St Anne’s and the Grange Hotel.

The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer carried the following advert, showing Richard Doorbar as manager of both hotels:-

A brochure published in July 1920 covers both hotels and also the Grange Hotel.
The brochure states that the Golf has 100 rooms, with plans to double the number. The Golf Course is now part of the establishment, as is The Golf Hotel Home Farm, adjacent to the links, which supplies produce to ‘the two hotels’ - presumably the Golf and the Grange.

The hydropathic side of the hotel is still going strong, Turkish, Russian, Vichy and Slipper baths are advertised. A swimming pool is under construction below the ballroom, alas, never to be completed. It currently sits, nearly 100 years later, as a rough concrete shell, with a spring, which makes some areas of the bottom wet.
The Golf Hotel Orchestra on Air

By the late 1920’s the hotel had its own orchestra, J H Walton and his ‘Sparks’ Band, at least until 1929, as an advert in the Western Daily Express of 13.09.1927 shows.
“Broadcasting Experience” results from several airings on the BBC’s Manchester service (Call Sign 2YZ: 780Kc 384.6 metres). An entry in the Radio Times of 18.10.1927 lists:-

16.00 THE GOLF HOTEL ORCHESTRA, relayed from the Golf Hotel, Grange-over-Sands.

One of the last advertisements under the name Golf Hotel emphasises “Dancing de Luxe”.

The Grand Hotel

By 1933 the Hotel had become The Grand Hotel and boasts 160 rooms, as in an advert 07.07.1933 from the Yorkshire Post.

In March 1939, the Hotel is still in the holiday business.
The Grand in WW2

A major change to the Hotel occurs in the Second World War. In early 1940, two existing RAF training units were amalgamated and located at the Grand Hotel. The new unit was RAF Grange-over-Sands Equipment Officers Training School, under the command of Squadron Leader A W Wall, who took up his post at the Grand on 5th June 1940. The unit was to remain at the Grand until March 1944. A small calibre rifle range was set up in the unfinished swimming pool for training purposes, the sandbags associated with the range are still in place.

In order to defend the hotel an anti-aircraft machine gun post was stationed on the roof. In May 1941, the hotel became the target of a German bomber pilot, who dropped flares around the Grand and on a second pass, dropped two high explosive bombs, which missed the target and are said to have exploded on Hampsfell.

By late 1941, the number of Pupil Officers was 327, with an establishment of 220 personnel. It was at this time that WAAF Officers were sent to the school for training. The ladies were, however, billeted on Holm Island, with a guard mounted on the causeway.

On 15th March 1944 the School was withdrawn from the Grand Hotel and transferred to RAF Stannington.

Post War Operations

By March 1946 it’s business as usual, again referring to an orchestra.
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS.

GRAND HOTEL. Telephone Grange 431.
Fully licensed. 150 rooms, beautifully
situated, overlooking Morecambe Bay. Golf,
tennis, ballroom, orchestra, billiards, American
bar, etc. Telephone in every bedroom. Special
Winter Terms; also Special Week-end Terms.

GRANBY - Excellent full board accommodation.

HOLIDAY ENCHANTMENT

With its baronial atmosphere and
24 acres of beautiful grounds the
GRAND will enchant you. Ball-
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Golf course near. Fully licensed.
Central heating. Lift. Garage and
lock-ups. 9 to 13 gns a week according to
season. A.A. & R.A.C. appointments
Write for brochure

The GRAND
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS
A TRAVCO hotel
PHONE: GRANGE 431-5  GRAMS: GOLFING

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, GRANGE HOTEL.
Tel. 104, standing on its own attractive
grounds overlooking Morecambe Bay; fully
licensed, cocktail bar, h. and c. in every room,
tennis courts, billiards room, spacious com-
fortable lounges, etc.

YOUR EASTER HOLIDAY should be in the
English Lake District this year. There
will be special attractions at the GRAND
HOTEL GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, where all are
heartily welcomed. The time to book is now
Grange 431.

Adverts from the 1950’s

Yorkshire Post 06.03.1951
THE GRAND HOTEL

R.A.C.

***
BADMINTON.
***
TENNIS—FOUR COURTS.
***
PUTTING GREEN.
***
BILLIARDS.
***
TABLE TENNIS.
***
BRIDGE.
***
OWN 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE.

A.A.

***
200 BEDROOMS.
HOT and COLD WATER IN BEDROOMS.
CENTRAL HEATING.
HUGE FIRES.
EXCELLENT CUISINE.
FULLY LICENSED.
CLOSE TO RAILWAY STATION.
LARGE GARAGE FOR 60 CARS.
HEATED LOCK-UP GARAGES.

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HOTEL ORCHESTRA PLAYS FOR DANCING EACH EVENING.

Is the largest and most luxurious and comfortable first-class hotel in the English Lake District.
Overlooking Morecambe Bay with sunny aspect, and standing in 24 acres of well laid out grounds and Woodlands. 200 yards from Promenade.

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