

# Cartmel Peninsula Local History News

## Special points of interest:

- First lecture 16 Feb Margaret Reid, 'Sizergh Castle'
- Local histories pages 2 & 3—perhaps you can help fill in the blanks?
- Village Histories—next meeting p.4
- T. H. Mawson p.4
- Memoirs of Cecelia Mathieu p.5

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

January 2012

## The Windermere Steam Boat Museum & Historic Boat Collection



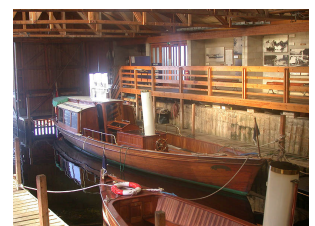
On the 22 September 2011 Charlotte Upton, from the Lakeland Arts Trust Windermere Steam Boat Museum, kindly stepped in to replace the programmed speaker and told a lively audience about the Lakeland Arts Trust and their latest project to restore the historic boat collection and reopen the Lakeland Steamboat Museum.

The Trust are responsible for restoring and running Abbot Hall and the Lakeland Life and Industry Museum in Kendal and Blackwell, close to Bowness and added the Steamboat Museum and its collection in 2007. The Steamboat Museum, founded by George Pattinson, a local

builder, land owner and collector of steam boats, originally opened in 1977 on a former sand and gravel wharf on the shore of Windermere. It had been a popular attraction with over 80,000 visitors a year at its peak but closed in 2006 after George's death. Eleven of the historic boats, considered to be a nationally important collection, were accepted in lieu of inheritance tax on George's death and were passed to the Trust. The remaining boats along with the museum were transferred to the Trust. A small grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for conservation work, part of an application for £7.5 million for conservation, restoration work and new buildings to enable the museum to reopen and operate, has recently been received. A further £2.5 million will have to be raised to match Lottery funding. A competition for a

suitable design for new buildings is currently running and public consultations are planned for November 2011.

Charlotte gave us a brief description of the highlights of the collection and described the project including what work was planned to enable reopening to happen in 2015. It will be an active museum where visitors will be able to watch boats being restored or built and there will be boat trips on the lake. Details of the project can be found at <http://www.steamboats.org>. Currently the museum is not open to the public but guided tours can be arranged and if there is enough interest we will organise a trip in the future.



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## LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2012

**16th February:** Margaret Reid—House Manager at Sizergh Castle, ‘Sizergh Castle and other local National Trust properties’.

**15th March:** Les Gilpin—Currently Chairman of Cumbria Railway Association and author of several books about the area, ‘Watermills in Cark from the medieval to the 1960s’ (including fulling, paper, corn and cotton plus a forge).

**19th April:** Jamie Quartermaine—landscape archaeologist/project manager for Oxford Archaeology North, ‘Cumbria to Cambria: a comparison of the prehistoric archaeology of two upland regions’.

**8th May:** Evening visit to Cumbria Record Office, Barrow. Details to follow, and booking is essential.

**17th May:** Walter M. Johnston—local history lecturer at Alston Hall College, Preston, 1968-2002. ‘Lady Anne Clifford’, a 17th century lady who is a legend in both Yorkshire and Westmorland.

**19th July:** Morning visit to Windermere Steamboat Museum. Details to follow, and booking is essential.

**20th September:** David Fellows—local historian with a wealth of knowledge especially concerning the history of Ulverston. ‘Ulverston Architectural Clues’.

**18th October:** Dr Paul Hindle—a returning popular lecturer who is widely published and has family connections to Cartmel. ‘Estate, Enclosure and Tithe Maps’.

**A poser for you: if you can provide any more information please let us know.**

### Why was Highfield renamed Kilmidyke Mansion?



The house now known as Kilmidyke at Carter Road, Kents Bank was built in 1895 and was known as Highfield. Mrs Eliza Kerr and her daughter Mrs Helena Sibbald were living there in 1906 according to Grange Red Book. Mrs Kerr had been living in Grange at Kerrenrea on Eden Mount from about 1901 and Mrs Sibbald joined her in 1905. Mrs Kerr died in 1914, aged 88 and soon after Mrs Sibbald changed the house name to Kilmidyke Mansion. She remained there until her death in 1941, aged 90. During the following war years the house was used as an evacuee hostel.

The Kerr's originated from Liverpool where John Kerr was a provisions merchant (1851 census). Helena was born in about 1851 and had an older sister called Elizabeth. Following the death of John the family lived on the Wirral at Bebbington, Birkenhead and Tranmere according to the next 4 census. In 1901 they were visiting Liverpool.

Does anyone know anything about Helena Sibbald (nee Kerr) or why the house was renamed during her occupation of it?

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**Richard, James Rostron and Alice Riley. A family from Preston who were involved in the growth of Grange from the 1860s.**

Richard and his adult children, James Rostron and Alice, moved to Grange from Preston where Richard had owned a cotton mill. They had been tenants of Eliza Horrocks of Preston who left Preston in 1856 when she bought Merlewood, Windermere Road, Grange. In James's obituary it said that when Richard built Underwood in about 1858 there were no houses between it and Mossop Corner (today's Spar shop). Underwood is located on Fernhill Road just above Berners Close and the Fire Station. The house became James's family home following the death of his father in 1865 and his marriage in 1866.

Richard was a church warden at St Paul's from 1860 to 1863. He was born in Preston in 1801 and died in Grange in 1865.

James Rostron was church warden at St Paul's Church, Grange for 19 years (from 1866 until 1884) and secretary and treasurer of Grange National School for 30 years. He was born in 1833 in Preston and in his obituary (Grange-over-Sands Parish Magazine March 1908) he was described as a founder of Grange School which was built in 1864 and he and his wife were very involved in the school as Teachers and Superintendents. He was also a Trustee of the Grange Institute.

Alice, born in 1829 in Preston, married James Simpson Young at the end of 1857 and lived at Abbot Hall, Kents Bank, which they bought in 1858, until her husband died in 1879. They had at least 13 children. She continued to live in Kents Bank until her death in 1899. James Simpson Young was very involved in the development of Grange and Kents Bank in the 1870s.

James Rostron Riley married Rose Cooper in 1866 at Staveley in Cartmel where her brother, Thomas John Cooper who was incumbent there, officiated. He became incumbent of St Paul's Church in Grange in 1888. Rose was from Suffolk but had lost her parents when very young. James and Rose had 3 children. Rose died in 1899 in Brentford, Middlesex. Subsequently James Rostron returned to Grange and lived at Oakdene on Rocklands Road.

**Thomas John Cooper. Incumbent of St Paul's Grange 1888 -1907**

Thomas John Cooper was a minister for 47 years – 2 years in Stoke upon Trent in Staffordshire and 45 years in the Diocese of Carlisle: 2 years as curate of St Mary's, Windermere, 10 years at Staveley-in-Cartmel, 9 years at St Cuthbert's, Carlisle, 5 years at Dalston and 19 years at St Paul's, Grange. He was Rural Dean of Wigton for 5 years, Rural Dean of Cartmel for 15 years and Secretary of the Carlisle Diocesan Conference for 24 years. He retired on 15 August 1907 to Staveley-in-Cartmel, to a small house built by a friend, where he died on 25 January 1911 aged 73. He was born in Brantham, Suffolk.

Thomas had first visited Grange in 1858 and had met his future wife there. He married Ann Eliza Arkwright, the younger daughter of Richard Arkwright of Preston, at St Paul's Grange-over-Sands on 26 June 1861. She was the niece of Rev R H Smith, incumbent of St Paul's, who officiated. They had at least 11 children. Ann died in 1902.

When, in 1888, he was appointed to St Paul's Church Grange-over-Sands, he succeeded the first incumbent Canon R H Smith. His ministry marked a period of consolidation at the church. The vestry was enlarged in 1905 and the Fell Mission Church was built in 1907 and one of his final services was held there. He introduced the surpliced choir. The rebuilding and enlargement of the church was an aim and when he retired £1000 had been accumulated for the project (Grange-over-Sands Parish Magazine June 1907).

# Cartmel Peninsula Local History News

## Village Histories in 2012



St Peter's Church, Field Broughton, 1897

Our first meeting of the year is on Thursday 23rd February and will take place in the supper room at Cartmel Village Hall from 7.30pm.

We will recap progress so far and plan for 2012, when we hope to include more villages in our research.

We will also discuss how CPLHS is working with the Victoria County History

## Thomas Hayton Mawson—Garden Designer, Landscape Architect and Town Planner

Thomas Hayton Mawson was the subject of Bette Kissack's lecture to our society on 23 September 2010.

Bette has written a biography of TH Mawson and her lecture informed the audience of Mawson's working life, the grand houses being built in the Lakes area at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the details of garden design in that period. The lecture was illustrated by Bette's beautiful slides that showed the full glory of Mawson's gardens.

Thomas' family had a landscaping business in Windermere and Thomas' first contract was to landscape a gar-

den for a new house, Briars Wood. He was then commissioned by Colonel Sandys to redesign Graythwaite Hall. His work became much sought after and he designed the gardens of Brockhole, Langdale Chase and many more of the great gardens in the Lake District including Rydal Hall. Bette pointed out Thomas' recognisable style of garden architecture together with the popular garden designs at the time, the Dutch garden the Japanese garden and she stated how Thomas always wanted the garden to appear that it wrapped itself around the house.

In addition to garden design

and architecture Thomas also designed his own buildings and homes in Windermere and Hest Bank. After his third son was killed in the First World War, Mawson built the Westfield Memorial Village in Lancaster on land given by Herbert Storey for disabled soldiers who returned from the war.

An appreciative audience asked further questions and Bette's book was popular.



## Subscriptions for 2012

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form for membership of CPLHS for 2012 as I hope you will wish to renew your subscription to the CPLHS for this year. Financially our year will run this time from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 so that at the AGM I can present year end accounts. We have

maintained our membership fee at £7.00 and the first lecture is in February as usual.

It would be helpful if as many members as possible could renew their membership using the enclosed form, or print one from the website, in advance of our first lecture to help our me as Treasurer and avoid un-necessary queues at

the first lecture. Thank you in advance.

Nigel Mills



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## CARTMEL MEMORIES - HELP TO MAP OUT A MEMOIR, PLEASE

Please see the request below from Paul Mathieu, son of the late Cecilia Mathieu nee Townley . If you can help, please contact Paul Mathieu direct or if you prefer through me. Thank you. Nigel Mills.

***“THE PAST is a foreign country: they do things differently there,”*** wrote LP Hartley in *The Go-Between*. Just how ‘foreign’ Cartmel was 90 years ago, CPLHS members can judge for themselves when a contemporary memoir is published later this year.

The 6,000-word chronicle is the work of the late Cecilia Mathieu [née Townley], who was born in Cartmel in 1915. She recalls it as, “A simple village; there were no trippers and no souvenirs, which was nice.”

There were, though, any number of small, practical shops and craft workplaces, the likes of which have long been lost, and not only in Cartmel.

They certainly did things differently in those days. Children roamed the fields and woods freely, playing, picking flowers, exploring streams, fishing with worms and wandering among farm animals, without regard to risk assessments or ‘elf and safety rules’.

If some of the passages read like a prelapsarian idyll – “When we walked through the

fields our shoes were yellow with pollen and we decorated ourselves and the cows with buttercup daisy-chains” - one has to remember that it wasn’t invariably so.

We wouldn’t willingly swap today’s medical knowledge and drugs for their equivalents in the early 1900s. Cecilia’s account tells of six children dying from diphtheria in one house at Barngarth. When she herself had chilblains, her nanny, “Produced strips of fat white bacon which she wrapped in an old stocking. She then rubbed me with eucalyptus. I was encased in this stinking mixture and put to bed.” In her teens, she would spend almost a year confined to bed with tuberculosis.

It was, though, a time and a place of community and simplicity: “When you passed anyone they always greeted you with, “How do” and you said the same. When I got into the wider world and found that people just passed you by I didn’t like it. It took me quite a long time to stop saying, “How do” to everyone. But then we knew every face in Cartmel.”

The memoir has an unusual structure, linked as it is to a map of the village at the time. So we learn not only that a Mr Campbell was very large and sold Eccles cakes from a glass stand in his window, but we

also know his address. Ditto Miss Overend, whose back door was almost underneath the Gatehouse, while her shop faced onto the square. “She would ask, ‘What was you wanting?’ When the reply came, ‘elastic’ (it was to refurbish hideous blue serge knickers), she used to say, ‘Oh, for your unmentionables’.”

Cecilia started the memoir in her 70s. Inevitably there are one or two gaps in the map, or slight ambiguities as to who-lived-where.

Her son is printing the document in her memory, and to raise funds for local charities. He’d love to hear from any CPLHS members who might know of any local old-timers who can provide extra clues, going back to the period immediately after the first world war. Some of the family names in the memoir are still represented in the village today, but there may be less obvious links to the oral history of those years. All suggestions will be welcome – as, needless to say, will be the loan of any contemporary photographs, postcards, etc.

Cecilia’s son is Paul Mathieu. He can be contacted at 10 Marlborough Road, Ealing, London W5 5NY; on 0208 567 9010; or by email: [write-firsttime@paulmathieu.co.uk](mailto:write-firsttime@paulmathieu.co.uk) Thanks in anticipation of your help.



*“They certainly did things differently in those days. Children roamed the fields and woods freely, playing, picking flowers, exploring streams, fishing with worms and wandering among farm animals, without regard to risk assessments or ‘elf and safety rules’.”*

## Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

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**Our society was founded over 11 years ago to promote the history of the Cartmel and District area. Some years ago we changed the name of the society to more accurately reflect the geographical area which our Society encompasses.**

**We try to arrange, for each lecture session, a wide variety of topics to interest all our members and visitors.**

**Over 2010 we had lectures on Shap Abbey, Lakeland Architecture, Shorts' Flying Boats, Yeomen Farmers and the Reformation, the life of Thomas Hayton Mawson, and Cumbria in the Dark Ages.**

**This year we have another varied programme which can be found on page 3. We hope you enjoy it and look forward to seeing you at our meetings.**

**We will also be arranging field trips and visits, one of which was to the Kendal Record Office in April. We hope to arrange a visit Barrow Record Office next year for any who missed the visit this year.**

**We are always open to suggestions from our members about the way this Society can grow; lecture topics; lecturers; field trips you would like us to organize etc.**

**WE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB AT:**

**[www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk](http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk)**

**Please come and visit us there.**

### Committee Members 2011

Chairperson:	Mike Hornung
Treasurer:	Nigel Mills
Secretary:	Stuart Harling
Committee Members:	Pat Rowland
	Barbara Copeland
	Ruth Hughes
	Ken Howarth
	Frank McCall