



Cartmel Peninsula Local History News

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

August 2012

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Bridge over the Ulverston Canal—now Grade 2 listed

FRANK STILEMAN—a short family biography

Frank Stileman, who was born in Grange-over-Sands, became a famous engineer who was responsible for the major dock complex at Barrow and the hydraulic railway bridge over the Ulverston Canal. Research, using census records, baptism records, newspapers, internet articles and books, has uncovered the following information about him.

Frank junior (christened Francis), was born at Morecambe Bay House, Cart Lane in Grange on 9th August 1851 and was baptized at Cartmel Priory on 10th September. He was the first child of Francis C and Frances E Stileman. His father, Francis Croughton Stileman, was described as a coal engineer. The 1861 6inch OS map identifies the house which still exists today. F C Stileman's obituary states that he was resident in Furness from 1850-1853. However, the 1851 census, taken on 30th March, records the Stilemans living at 3 Westbourne Grove in Paddington. It appears that the family did not fully move to Grange until later in that year. A daughter was born on 14th May 1853 at Warwick Terrace, Belgrave Road in London, confirming that the family had left the area by this time.

Between 1844 and 1849 F C Stileman was articled to the engineer J R McClean, working in Staffordshire where they were resident engineers on the South Staffordshire Railway, Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton Railway, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Reservoirs and the South Staffordshire waterworks. In 1849 they went into partnership together as McClean and Stileman. The firm was appointed to prepare the Parliamentary plans for the Ulverstone and Lancaster railway but they resigned in 1853 and Brunlees took over. Their plans had included wooden viaducts across the Leven and Kent but, due to timber shortages, iron was recommended by Brunlees in 1855, influenced probably by John Brogden's purchase of Tondy Ironworks in Glamorgan. When foundations were built for the Leven Viaduct McClean and Stileman's proposed design was changed from sinking them deep into the sand to resting them on large stone blocks.

In the 1861 census the Stileman family (now including four children) were resident at 29 Princes Square, Paddington. Later they arrived at Arndene, Abbey Road, Barrow. In 1868 FC Stileman succeeded his partner, John Robinson McClean as Furness Railway (FR) engineer in chief. Both exerted considerable influence on the FR boardroom. The firm were engineers for most of the large works in Barrow. It was claimed in 1875 that they had made a mistake in joining the sewage and rainwater outflow at the docks because, 'when a high tide coincided with heavy rain, effluvium and noxious matters poured out of street gratings and infectious gases were forced back into houses'. However, they were regarded as men of considerable standing and wide experience both nationally and internationally.

The 1881 census shows Frank junior's family living at 8 Cavendish Park in Barrow. Frank junior had married Angelina Sophie Knott from Rock Ferry, Cheshire, in London in 1876. They had 3 children. Francis C (senior) was also resident (on census day at

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least. His wife was registered at a hotel in Marlborough, Wiltshire). In 1884 F C Stileman recommended the replacement of the main girders on both Leven and Kent viaducts. Work was carried out without closing the line. F C Stileman died in 1889. Frank Stileman and Frank McClean carried on their fathers' work as advisors to the FR.

In the 1901 census Frank junior and his family were at 347 Abbey Road in Barrow. In 1907 concern was expressed again about the viaducts and in 1908 Frank Stileman reported on them again and some strengthening work was authorized. The 1911 census shows Frank junior visiting 7 Conan Mansions, West Kensington. He died in London on the 14th June 1912.

Pat Rowland, July 2012.

Sources:

Cartmel Baptism Register: Baptisms 1851-1852 from the Bishop's Transcripts, p.14. Source: LDS Film 104030
 Gilpin, L, R, (2008), *The Ulverstone and Lancaster Railway*, Cumbria Railway Association
 Marshall, J. D., (1981), *Furness and the Industrial Revolution*, Michael J Moon, Whitehaven
 William Barrow Kendall: Historian, Naturalist, Engineer, 1851-1919, <http://www.jpbc.co.uk/dialect/kendall.html>
 Obituaries from *Institute of Civil Engineers Proceedings*

Update on Kilmidyke Mansion

The January 2012 newsletter included a brief piece about a house at Kents Bank and asked for more information.

John Beckett found an announcement of a marriage on 17th July 1878 in Edinburgh, reported in the Liverpool Mercury of 20th July 1878, and traced the Sibbald couple in the 1881 and 1891 Scottish census. Helena Grace Kerr (born 1851), the youngest daughter of John Kerr of Constantinople, married John Edward Sibbald (born 1838) who, in later censuses was described as a retired manufacturer. His father employed 36 people according to the 1871 census.

Chris Wright, who is researching architects and builders in Cumbria, has identified that the house was designed by Joseph Parkinson, architect of Lancaster, for Mr R. Illingworth and that it was built in 1895.

Pat Rowland has subsequently found, in the 1891 census, Robert Illingworth living at Heatherlea, Kentsford Road, and that he died in 1897. He was a retired merchant and was possibly the youngest brother of John Illingworth who set up Illingworth's Snuff Manufacture of Kendal.

Thank you to John and Chris for the information, Pat is still mystified about why the house name was changed!

Information:

Several members of the society have been working with the Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT) which was launched in May 2010 to coordinate and gather resources for the Victoria County History of Cumbria.

To coincide with Jubilee celebrations, 60 Jubilee Digests were initially published on a new section of the CCHT website. These included Upper Holker and Lower Holder, Upper Allithwaite (including Lindale), Lower Allithwaite (including Cartmel), and East Broughton (including Grange up to 1894). To access these digests please go to the CCHT website <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk> and follow the directions under Jubilee Digests.

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Update on Villages Group and Broughton East House History Group research

Villages Group

This small, informal group, meets about every three months to discuss our progress and to swap ideas. As well as those already published, the group is starting to think about the villages of Cark, Flookburgh, and Newton as possible subjects for research. The written histories are deliberately very idiosyncratic rather than papers of detailed historical research, as this allows the less 'academic' people like myself to look into and record aspects of village history that is both interesting and accessible. We always welcome new members to this small group so, if you wish to contribute, write a history, or just learn more about our area, please come along. The next meeting is on Thursday 6th September 2012 in the Supper Room at Cartmel Village Hall.

Broughton East House History Group

Centred on the hamlets of Wood Brooughton and Field Broughton, about 10 local inhabitants are mapping the dwellings in the area looking at the development of the hamlets and finding out about their own house history. This includes the inhabitants, ownership, changes and architectural features of each property. We have work in draft form on three dwellings with only 33 to go!! We are looking at the feasibility of producing a series of images (photos to you and me), to record the houses and homes as they appear today, as a record for future generations.

If you wish to do the same, and live in the Cartmel Peninsula, please have a word with me, Nigel Mills.

Please contact me by phone on 36603, or email me at nigelmills@btinternet.com.

CPLHS lecture 17th May 2012: Lady Anne Clifford, A 17th century lady who is a legend in Yorkshire and Westmorland

At our May meeting, an entertaining and informative lecture was given by Walter M Johnston who has recently celebrated 50 years of lecturing. He explained Lady Anne Clifford's childhood at Elizabeth 1st's court, her connection to Westmorland, why she did not inherit her father's estate, and her two marriages. To illustrate her forceful and forthright nature he recounted stories about her re-acquisition of castles and land that had once belonged to her father, and her defiance of King James by declaring herself Sheriff of Westmorland. Caring acts towards her servants illustrated another side of her personality. Her philanthropy was reflected in her many renovations and refurbishments of buildings on her estates in Westmorland and Yorkshire. The lecture was illustrated with slides of portraits, many of the buildings Lady Anne renovated, and monuments erected.



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.

Still to come this year: David Fellows on 20th September giving a talk on Ulverston Architectural clues (this lecture was postponed from last year); Paul Hindle on 18th October giving a talk on Estate, Enclosure and Tithe maps; and our AGM on 22nd November.

We hope you will join us.

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

Please come and visit us there.

Committee Members 2012

Chairperson: Mike Hornung

Treasurer: Nigel Mills

Secretary: Stuart Harling

Committee Members: Pat Rowland

Barbara Copeland

Ruth Hughes

Ken Howarth

Frank McCall