

JUNE 2014

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

It's staying put and we are working on it!!!

Since our last report William Field's journal, that records events in the area between 1754 and the 1890s, continues to be transcribed by a group comprising Margaret Brandon, Barbara Copeland and Pat Rowland. Updates are below.

Headless Cross

The Cross stands on the outskirts of Cartmel at the crossroads of the ancient over sands routes. The old road sign situated in the wall diagonally across the road from the Cross illustrate this.

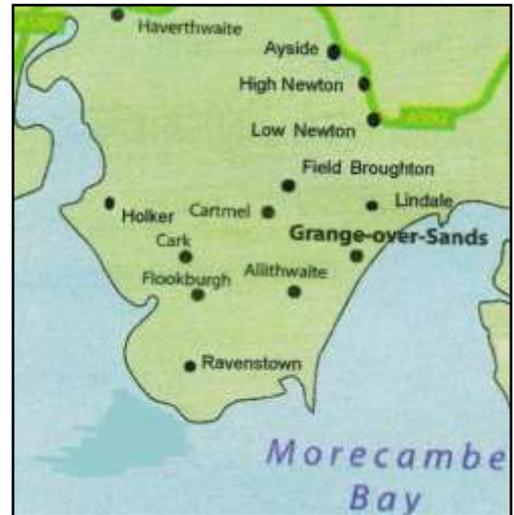


Its origins appear to be unknown. Below are some thoughts on the Cross' origin and history from past writers on the history of Cartmel.

Could the crossroads be the sole reason for the erection of the Cross?

James Stockdale, *Annals of Cartmel* (pub. 1870) p.531, states that stone crosses were often set up where any remarkable event had occurred, or at any remarkable place, before the church or chapel was built. At these crosses, prior to the church being built, people and clergy met to worship. He adds that in Cartmel parish there are not many cross roads. *At these places in former days, criminals executed used to be buried, a stake being driven through their bodies...* but this does not mean that this happened in this place!

The fact that the Cross was erected on a crossroads and in close vicinity to Cartmel Priory could indicate that the Cross was part of the Priory lands.



Sam Taylor, *Cartmel People and Priory*, pub. 1955 p 121, paraphrasing James Stockdale ..., *or because there was once a cross here ("Egg Pudding Stone") dedicated to St. Andrew to mark the northern approach to the Priory in the same way as the "Headless Cross" marks the approach from the south-west.*

Rather than being erected as a topographical or religious reason, could it have been for a political reason, that is Charles the First's execution, or is the following poetic licence?

*Tom Cromwell who long since is dead
Decreed that I should loose my head
And since I met with that great loss
I have had the name of Headless Cross
Tom next lost his – twas flesh and bone
See mine is here yet its made of stone*

(William Field Log Book 1853)

It appears to have a colourful history!

JC Dickinson, *The Land of Cartmel A History* pub. 1980 p.84

South of the village, where the main roads of the area intersect is Headless Cross of which the present head is a modern restoration, but one or two of the stones on which rests are ancient. Like the neighbouring crosses it may well have been broken up by the Roundheads who visited Cartmel in 1643

Mr Field, who wrote the poem referring to Charles 1, in his Log Book sets down that , 1780 *The new cross built at Cartmel Town, 1794 Feb 17 Cartmel Cross knocked down by John Atkinson.*

James Stockdale , Annals of Cartmel, p 27

At Headless Cross, where four lane ends meet and the Parish church first comes into view in journeying from the lower part of the parish, there used to stand a cross of some considerable size, but now nothing remains of it but four or five stones of the base, and these would long ago have been destroyed but of the care of the late Mr.Field – an antiquarian, indeed!

If anyone has any other references to the history of the Headless Cross please contact a committee member of Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society.

Cartmel Clockmakers in 18th Century

Nigel was asked recently if he knew anything about a clockmaker in Cartmel in the 18C named John Dickinson, and not one to resist a challenge, he said “not yet but I soon will”. In future he might be a bit more circumspect in his response!

The name rang a *bell* (!), but not surprisingly, he failed to find a link between the 20th century J.C. Dickinson and an 18th century clockmaker named John Dickinson. There may be no connection to find but he did discover that John Dickinson, Clockmaker of Cartmel, did exist and that there are at least 2 long case clocks still ticking away after 250 years. A John Dickinson clock, sold recently, was described as “*an oak thirty hour clock with 12” square brass dial signed by John Dickinson, Cartmel on a silvered disc to the matted centre with faux winding holes and arched calendar aperture, the case with long mahogany crossbanded door flanked by quarter pillars and the hood surmounted by a stepped cornice over a dentil frieze, 84” high; weight and door key*”.

The John Dickinson in question was the son of a tanner in Lancaster. He was born circa 1724 and aged 26 became apprenticed to Jacob Housman, a clockmaker who lived in Warton and then Lancaster and traded with Gillows the furniture makers.

John married Catherine Noble of Lancaster by licence at Lancaster Priory Church in 1750, moved to, and worked in Cartmel sometime between 1750 and 1779. He had 5 children.

John does not seem to have been a prolific clockmaker and although noted in records in 1758 as living in Church Town, Cartmel and again in 1764 he was by 1767 recorded as in Egremont. He retained his links with Lancaster. John having been made a Freeman of Lancaster in 1750 his sons were also made Lancaster freemen in 1779. John and Noble did not follow their father's trade being described as husbandmen of Bardsea and Egremont respectively.

Looking further afield both Cartmel Fell and Cark also had clockmakers in the 18th century. The delightfully named Cornelius Clarke and his son Thomas Clarke were watchmakers and clockmakers of Cartmel Fell again with connections to Lancaster. At Cark there was William Lawrence in the 1780's and later at the turn of the century a Robert Sinkinson was described as a clocksmith. In April 1802 the Lancaster Guardian reported that Robert Sinkinson had run away from Cark Cotton Works. Because of his knowledge of gearing he would have been valued by the mill owners of Cark and probably under contract as the article states that “*anyone employing him was warned they would be dealt with according to the law*”.

The occupation of clockmaker or clocksmith was obviously of sufficient standing in this area in the 18th century that it was added to entries in Cartmel Priory records of births deaths and marriages; e.g. Thomas Knowles, Cartmel, and Edward Knowles, Backbarrow. Several other clocksmiths and clockmakers are mentioned as living in Cartmel in the early 19th century.

A potentially fascinating research project would be the “*occupations of Cartmel people in the 18th and 19th century*”. For additional information, contact Nigel

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William Field's Journal – progress

Good progress has been made with the transcription. The part written by William Field, which was quite comprehensive until the beginning of the 1850s, has been finished. Following his death in 1860 there is a gap until September 1870 when a near daily diary was begun. The writer of this section is Ann, wife of William's nephew James, who lived at Tower House in Cartmel Square. Her youngest son Willie may have written a few early entries. *If anyone wishes to be involved in this project please contact a member of the committee.*

Cartmel's Great War – as reported in the parish magazine

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of The Great War in July 1914. To remember this anniversary the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society invited Howard Martin to talk to us about the local men who lost their lives and are forever remembered on our War Memorials.

If you read this to your grandchildren please let us know how they respond.

How did the Christian community in Cartmel react to the announcement of war? How did they cope with an event that affected all the families in and around the area?

The Parish Magazine during the early months of 1914 consisted of between 2 and 6 pages of community and church news which included reflections on the recent services, upbeat reports from various groups like The Girls' Friendly Society and Cartmel A.F.C. and extracts from the Church Accounts. Content varied month on month but a very detailed weather report was given every month along with, Baptisms and Burials.

From the August 1914 edition all this changes and a more sombre tone becomes pervasive. The first paragraphs of each edition, probably written by the vicar Rev. Smith, reflect the need for prayer and practical help whilst following editions have news about war casualties. The August 1914 edition opening paragraph reads:

"The gloom of a great catastrophe is hanging over us all, and we expect each morning when we open our papers to find that we as a nation which sought no quarrel, but only asked for peace, are caught in the maelstrom of European strife."

In the September magazine the Rev. Smith prepares the people of Cartmel for what is to come saying *"The time is coming when we must be prepared to face bravely the death of those very dear to us."* and urges readers to *"think very much of the Kingdom of God of which we are members and we must feel that even if called from this world they are still with us at home and under the care of the one Father."*

The magazines show that very quickly after the declaration of war the Associations, Guilds and the general Cartmel public were encouraged to help with the war effort in various ways and it seems they did not disappoint.

The magazine records that during the month of September garments were made for The Red Cross depot at Holker Hall; for the Belgian Refugees sent via the Belgian Refugee Committee, Warwick Square, London; for the Soldiers and Sailors at the front sent to Mrs Gandy, Heaves, Kendal and to Mr L. Slingsby, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

It is clear that Cartmel's War Effort was quite impressive for such a small parish. Cash was raised, material purchased and garments made but what were these garments? The list is extensive and included shirts, bed jackets, pyjama suits, socks, vests, petticoats, knickers and chemises. Remember these garments were not just for our soldiers and sailors! Other items listed included scarves, mufflers, mittens, fomentation wringers and helpless case shirts, a prize to whoever identifies the latter two items!

From October 1914, the magazine records the names of the young men who have joined the various regiments including the 4th Kings Own, the 7th Kings Own, the 17th Lancers, the 3rd West Lancs, the Field Artillery and 10th Highland Light Infantry.

It is in later editions the names recorded on our War Memorials start to appear.

Fuller documentation of his research is available from Nigel Mills.

Local History Month

If you did not go to the Library in May you missed our display put on by the Society. We will bring it along to the next lecture for you all to see.

Belgian Refugees living in the Cartmel Peninsula

A request for information was received in January from Peter Scholes who is currently researching for a PhD regarding the munitions industry and the conditions in the town of Barrow-in-Furness during WWI part of which covers foreign workers. A **Times** article, see below, refers to talks about Belgian engineers living in the Cartmel Peninsula area and he wondered if additional information on the situation and hope we could help and would be happy to visit to view any documents held.

Monday 8 Feb 1915 – Belgian Workers at Barrow – Dearth of Workmen's Houses reported there has been a very big demand for engineers for war work and the supply was insufficient. A small party of Belgians were employed to begin with, and this was so successful that at the time of the report 900 Belgians were employed. However it was difficult to find accommodation. A large number of houses had been built but another 2,000 houses were needed to house locals and it had been necessary to run trains to Barrow from outlying towns and extra trains were required on the line from Grange. Some 250 Belgian workmen were now living in the Cartmel Peninsula in space usually taken up by visitors in the summer months. Houses have been adapted and two mansions altered to accommodate as many as possible. Temporary accommodation was also provided for the men and for their families.

Pat committed herself finding information for him. She found the Grange Red Book, 1916, reported a club was opened in 1915 *for the benefit of the Belgians living in Grange*. At the opening ceremony, Mr Eden Smith voiced the welcome to the Belgians in French. Miss Cranston (junior) has helped as interpreter to the men and their families.

Subsequently she found passages the 1916 Cartmel and Lower Holker Almanac. Page 18 - November 1914 - *A Dance was held in the Carke Club on the 6th; proceeds for Belgium Relief. It was so well attended that we heard of frocks getting torn and toes trampled upon in the squash of dancers, but all enjoyed themselves, and lots of them wore buttonholes of sweet peas from a garden in the vicinity, thereby adding a few shillings to the total amount.* Page 26 - April 1915 - *The district filled up very well for Easter as some of the people had rather jibbed at the notion of filling their houses with Belgian Munition Workers just when they were expecting their usual Easter lodgers; but the Workmans' early train was pretty well patronised, as some of the fishermen left their sea shells alone and turned their attention to shells of a fiercer and more up to date nature.*

By March she had looked at the rate Book for Grange for April-Sept 1915 and five properties include the wording 'for Belgian Refugees'. These were Kents Bank Road 2 properties, Yewbarrow Terrace 2 properties, 2 Ashmount Villas providing in total more than 34 rooms. Many more could have been in other buildings where just one room was being made available. The county archivist suggested any enquiry about school records be addressed to the record office. All the information was passed to Peter Schofield who replied a database was being compiled of Belgian workers in Barrow and any details he found about those the Cartmel Peninsula would be copied to the Society.

Watch this space!

For more detail of her research contact Pat direct.

Cricket in Cartmel

Barbara came across a couple of sentences referring to cricket matches in the area in Field's journal. She mentioned this to a friend who knew someone called John who had written about the history of cricket in the area. John knew about the matches and added the following:

"Apparently the matches were part of a cricket festival that lasted several weeks that summer, involving other teams as well. He also said that after one of the games against Lancaster, the Lancaster team were travelling home across the sands and were literally seconds away from being drowned when they arrived at Hest Bank. Apparently, there is an unauthenticated painting at Lords thought to be depicting the scene on the sands."

Pat has also come across references to cricket in 1873 when Willie Field started to play. The entries are below with my remarks. The book Barbara refers to is the source for my remarks. I was particularly interested as the Grange club included H H Palariat who lived at Moorhurst, Kents Bank and one of his sons went onto play for England. With Barbara's item we have the start of an article on cricket as John's book(my husband has a copy) is fairly scant for the period.

William Field's Journal- Cricket

- 1872 Sept 14 William Field gone to play in a cricket match at Carnforth on the Grange Side against ??
- 1873 May 17 Allithwaite played their opening game of cricket
June 7 Willie went to Holker to play in a cricket match against Dalton (score, Dalton 24 Allithwaite 94 he bowled 5 out 1st Innings)
June 28 Willie gone to Ambleside to play in a cricket match between Holker and Ambleside the former winning by 5 runs he(Willie) bowl'd 3 out + got 4 runs, not out
July 26 Fine day Willie gone to Levens to play cricket
Aug 8 Willie gone to Holker to play in a cricket match against Carnforth
Aug 16 Willie went to Dalton to play cricket

In John Glaister's book '*Twixt cock and fairy, 150 years of cricket on Cartmel Park*', privately published in about 2002, he states that Cartmel Cricket club was squeezed out of existence as other clubs sprouted up in the 1870s. A club was set up in Grange in 1869 and in Allithwaite in 1870. The founding of a club at Holker in 1871 attracted many ex-Cartmel players following the Cartmel Club end in 1872. Lord Cavendish and his estate manager Mr Drewery with several other members of the Drewery family were keen cricketers. T Reveley, a friend of Willie was also a cricket player and is named as a player in the 1872 match Holker v Grange.

Subscriptions for 2014

If you have not yet paid them please contact Nigel Mills – Treasurer at nigelmills@btinternet.com.

Discussion Group

We know from brief chats at lecture evenings and the enthusiasm at our last two AGM's that many members are carrying out their own personal research and may welcome the opportunity to share their findings with others and perhaps learn from others about websites, information sources and other techniques including the use of software and images in reports and articles. We regularly receive little bits of information found by one of two members about the houses and residents of Nigel's pet subject "The Houses of Field Broughton" which will be a great story of the settlement he can find the time to write it.

The CPLHS will happy to arrange a meeting place but only if there is a sufficient number of members wishing to participate. If you wish to participate please contact any member of the Committee as soon as you can or email Nigel.

The Chairman's New Toys

We applied to the CCC Community Fund through the Neighbourhood Forum and we were awarded £550 towards projection equipment. You will have noticed that we used a new projector and stand at Howard Martin's lecture in May and it was fantastic.

For agreeing to keep the kit in safe custody Stuart is allowed to twiddle lenses, press buttons, dismantle stands and read the 250 pages of instructions. the projector will not only project files from a laptop but also a memory stick, dongle, hard drive and the *piece de resistance*, an i-pad. Mind you a suitcase is needed to carry all the wires needed!

Lindale Village Working Group.

Progressing our Villages Project we have decided to make 2014 the year for Lindale. To assess the level of interest in the history of Lindale we are holding an informal meeting in Lindale Village Hall on Tuesday 15th July 2014 at 7.30pm to look at the possibility of forming a group of like-minded people who are interested in the history and development of the village.

So if you live in Lindale, have an interest in its history, own some old photographs or documents about life in Lindale, know your way around a Records Office or are just interested in helping discover the village history please come along. We will even provide tea and biscuits and will make it a chocolate biscuit if you can bring along something relating to Lindale's history. We will be arranging to display posters notifying the meeting in Lindale nearer the date.

If you are interested or wish to know more please ring Nigel on 36603 or e-mail him on nigmills@btinternet.com. We hope to see you on the 15th.

Anglican Clergy in the Cartmel Peninsula.

The Society is a member of the Cumbria County History Trust CCHT and has the opportunity to contribute to a research project about the local Anglican clergy. We have been asked to research the names, dates and influence of the clergy in our area.

These men were, in the 17th and 18th centuries, and probably still are, complex personalities and very influential in their local communities. This should be a straightforward and worthwhile piece of research especially if you are new to local history research. We have some guidance from the CCHT having attended a briefing and am looking for a few volunteers to work with me on this. If you want to know more please contact Nigel on 36603 or e-mail him on nigmills@btinternet.com.

MEMORIAL

A local history project, which encourages primary schools in Cumbria to help commemorate the Centenary of the First World War in which 720,000 British soldiers died. A Resource Pack is now available on the Cumbria County History Trust website: www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/. Are you involved?

A History of Field Broughton Parish Sports Club 1948 – 1955

Nigel has undertaken research in to the Club. The paper, which includes images, provides information about membership and fixtures. His thanks go to Derek Birch for the loan of photographs, accounts and scoring books and to George and Marion Airey for the fixtures card and to all three for their time and in answering his many questions. Please contact him direct for more information

Henry Thomas Mason and the *Grange Red Book*

Henry Thomas Mason began as a printer and publisher in Grange in 1898 when he purchased the existing business off Alfred William Hankinson. A comprehensive and informative article on the business and new owner by John Beckett can be found at <http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/id25.html>.

Website and contacts, <http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

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