

A History of Field Broughton.

This short history covers the period up to about 1950 and uses sources as obvious as the visual built environment, e.g. the houses and other buildings that can be seen by wandering around the village, Census records from 1841, a limited amount of oral history and the result of several visits to Kendal and Barrow Records Offices. The history of the people, buildings and community of the hamlet of Field Broughton is perhaps typical of how a small valley settlement, originally consisting of a few small farms and subsistence holdings, survived and adapted to the challenges of poverty, enclosure, influences of the Church, wealthy landowners and newly affluent industrialists. Improvements to the public roads and tracks following general enclosure from around 1800 and later the arrival of the railway to the peninsula at Grange-over-Sands in 1857 allowed greater mobility to and from the area. The wealthy of Manchester and Preston invested in the area and they saw Field Broughton and neighbouring hamlets as peaceful and attractive country locations where they could entertain and gain a respite from their busy city lives. It was a place where they could buy land, build grand houses and have influence.



Location of Field Broughton.

The hamlet of Field Broughton is situated in the Cartmel valley, 2 miles to the north of Cartmel village at grid ref 33820 481370. It's name may derive from the old English: Feld or Field meaning a land free from wood, Brocton or Broughton, meaning on a brook or stream. (*Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names 4th edition.*) The River Eea, a small stream flows near White Moss Common, now a registered Village Green, on its way to Cartmel. Known today as Field Broughton the village is part of the civil parish of Broughton East which until 1914(?) covered a much larger area and included Grange-over-Sands.

Early History within the Cartmel Valley.

Up until the 18th century the area was generally referred to as Broughton and

was within the ancient Manor of Cartmel. It was also sometimes referred to as Broughton-in-Cartmel to differentiate it from Broughton-in-Furness some miles to the west. As part of the Manor of Cartmel, the fields and wastes around Field Broughton were held by customary tenants of the canons who had over time acquired or purchased the various small tenements in their manor. They were therefore entitled to collect rent and tithes from the tenant. An early example is recorded for 1508-9 when William Mokeld took a tenement at:

“a rent of 19d. each term, paying 15d. for service and 20d for ingress, with 1d. and a hen and a half for tithe hay and 9 bushels of oats and 6 pecks of barley for tithe corn”. note 1

The Manor of Cartmel consisted of the seven townships of Cartmel Fell, Lower Holker, Walton, Lower Allithwaite, Broughton, Staveley and Upper Allithwaite. The modern administrative divisions are remarkably similar. Each Township was represented at the vestry meetings held at Cartmel (Church Town) and their duty was to appoint church and chapel wardens, overseers of the poor, surveyors of the highway and other township officials. The church records for 1716 show Mr John Fletcher appointed for Broughton as a Trustee appointed

“for taking account and disbursing of the fines and amercements of the courts within the Mannour of Cartmell”. Note 2

The enclosure of the commons and waste in the Manor of Cartmel started in 1796 and although they were significant in parts of the parish there appears to have been little impact on the ancient enclosures around Field Broughton

Development of Field Broughton.

The earliest maps and records indicate that Field Broughton was and still is a small rural hamlet in the shallow valley of two streams known as the River Eea and Muddy Pool respectively. The latter is aptly named as even today, at its nearest point to the village, Muddy Pool is a marshy environment that in spite of the attempts to drain it remains boggy during the winter months. The hamlet was surrounded by marsh and moor e.g White Moss and St Andrew Moor, and consisted of a few farms on dry land at approximately 100ft above sea level and about half a mile from the low lying stream and valley floor.

By far the oldest property in Field Broughton is Hampsfield Hall which lies at the foot of Hampsfell and was the residence of the Thornburgh family in the 14thC. As it is outside the centre of the village of Field Broughton it is excluded from this account although may be included later when the scope of this history is expanded. The hamlet appears to have developed more quickly from the 18th Century as more farms and labourers cottages were built. In 1740 the first place of worship was established near the village green (White Moss Common) with the village pound and smithy also located here. Unusually further development appears to have evolved in several small areas away from the village green. This history therefore investigates this development

from the perspective of its buildings, their function and who owned and lived in them.

The Buildings of Field Broughton.

As with most villages Field Broughton has religious and community buildings, houses, farms and cottages. There are also a variety of other structures large and small that contribute to the local history of the community. Churches and chapels usually have a well documented history. Significant and grand houses are usually built to plan, extended by architects and often passed down in generations of the same family. These houses are mentioned in numerous source materials and if they are sold there are auction papers, photographs and plans that help the historian.

Tracing the history of a small farmstead or cottage is however far from straightforward and Field Broughton has many of these. According to Brunskill dwellings fall into 4 types. ^{note 3}

They are (I paraphrase) :

- Great Houses occupied by people of national importance, elaborate mansions and imposing country seats of the 16C & 17C and swollen villas of the 19C.
- Large Houses occupied by people of some local importance including the unusually successful yeoman, the highly favoured parson, the small country squire. Also the wealthy tenant farmer and the clothier or mill owner lived in a Large House.
- Small Houses forming the backbone of the nation. Occupied by the yeoman or tenant farmer, the miller, the smith, the minor official, the unfavoured parson and other people of significance in the village but of little standing nationally.
- Cottages occupied by those at the bottom of the social scale and only just above the subsistence level, the labourers and artisans who had no wealth apart from the strength of their limbs and skill of their hands.

Arguably Field Broughton has all these. The 1851 National Census lists for the centre of the village 16 households as Field Broughton in addition to Broughton Grove, Broughton House, Chapel House and Stony Dale.

Places of Religious Worship – Church of England.

A Chapel of Ease was consecrated June 30th 1745 by Bishop Samuel Peploe, D.D., of Chester with £450 left by Miles Burn ^{note 4} as the population in and near Field Broughton felt they were somewhat remote from the Parish Church in Cartmel and needed a place of worship. Incidentally the first chapel to Cartmel was at Flookburgh probably founded in the thirteenth century with the second one at Cartmel Fell founded in the early 16th century. Lindale and Staveley-in-Cartmel also had a chapel before Field Broughton. ^{note 5}

A school house was also built (date unknown) on the same site in glebelands in the SE corner. ^{note 6} The entry in the 1829 Parson & White Directory reads:

“The Chapel of which the Rev. Philip Knipe was the Incumbent was in 1827 endowed with £1000, of which £600 was a parliamentary grant and £200 was given by Thomas Newby Esq., and £120 was left by the late James Crosfield Esq., Lord Cavendish and the curate subscribed the remaining £80”.

As Field Broughton and the outlying community grew and became more prosperous the chapel was replaced in 1894 with St Peter's Church.

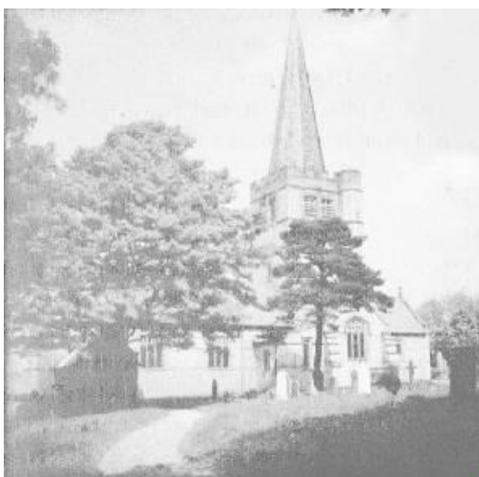


Chapel of Ease Circa 1850. Courtesy of St Peter's PCC.

The chapel and school house (the schoolhouse was described as derelict in the 1891 Faculty application by Henry Ransome, Incumbent. ^{note 7}) were both demolished to make room for the church dedicated to St Peter and built to an Austin & Paley design and financed by the prosperous and influential Hibbert family. The Right Rev. John Wareing Bardsley, D.D., Bishop Of Carlisle consecrated the church on St Peter's Day 29th June 1894. ^{note 4} An entry in the Cartmel and Lower Holker Almanac of May 1892 reads:

“The foundation stone of a new church at Field Broughton was laid on the 10th, by Mrs Hibbert, who, we understand, is willing to go to an expense of £3000 in erecting it. This should be enough to supply the wants of the small but rather aristocratic parish”

Mrs Harriet Margaret Hibbert first appears in the Field Broughton Census in 1871 when she is shown as living at Broughton Grove with her husband Thomas Johnson. Hibbert a Magistrate and Landowner from Oldham. Also shown in the household is an unmarried brother in law Henry and 4 servants. The servants occupations are described as Cook, Waitress, Kitchen Maid and Housemaid. In the 1881 Census Thomas Hibbert is described as a Justice of the Peace. In 1891 only Harriet Hibbert and her brother-in-law are resident and in 1901 only Henry resided at Broughton Grove. Records show he died on 19th February 1913.



St Peter's Church Circa 1900. Courtesy of St Peter's PCC

An example of the extensive property and land holdings of the Hibbert family in the first quarter of the 20th century can be seen in the sales particulars for an auction on 5th June 1928 of the Hampsfield Estate. This auction was on behalf of the executors of the late P.J. Hibbert and Henry Hibbert and included many buildings, farms and land in the Cartmel valley.

The Parish Rooms.

The Valuation Books for the 1910 Finance Act (The Domesday Survey) shows the Parish Rooms (Parish Room) owned by the S.J.Hibbert Trust. The building was given to St Peter's Parochial Church Council in the 1930's for the use of the parishioners and has been used for various purposes over the period since. A more detailed history is being researched.

The Old Vicarage.

As the name implies this dwelling was used for many years as the vicarage until the new one (now known as Field Broughton Place) was built adjacent to the new St Peter's Church. It is believed that The Old Vicarage was originally a cottage dating back to the 16th century which would make it the oldest dwelling in Field Broughton. It has been used as a school with the 1851 Census showing William Wilson, Incumbent with 11 boarders, boys aged between 7 and 15. They came from as far afield as Canterbury and Liverpool. A more detailed history is being researched.

Great and Large Houses.Broughton Grove.

This impressive mansion was built for Henry Hibbert by William Fletcher in 1710, according to a date stone. The original dwelling has been added to and included bay windows, a laundry and other extensions. Plans by Austin and Paley dated 1889 are held in the Records Office. It formed part of the Henry Hibbert estate in the 1910 Valuation records. The gardens became a feature of the property and were illustrated in 1948 in the book "The English Counties". Notice the spire of St Peter's in the background.

The historically muddled annotation reads "*Crocuses in bloom at Field Broughton, near Cartmel. Although Furness shares the diverse beauty of the Lake District, of which it forms part, it is administratively part of Lancashire*".

note 8

Further research has commenced on Broughton House, Whitrigg, Grove Cottage, Rusko and Walnut Cottage.

The Farming Community.

A walk round the village today reveals only one working farm, Broughton House Farm, but the house names and styles indicate that several other buildings were working farms in the past. These are Wellbank Farm, Stonelands and Broughton Grove Farmhouse. Research into the history of these farms is ongoing.

Other Features.

As the land was enclosed and improved as part of the natural process of settlement, a working pound on White Moss Common, a lime kiln to the east of the church and several other features appeared. These are being researched and so far the following is known.

Village Pound.

A village pound has probably stood on the common for over 200 years. It is today a reminder of the times when the village and the Cartmel valley were occupied by numerous farms and smallholdings and stock was prone to wander onto common land. A Pinder was appointed to round up and impound straying animals in the pound to be released only on payment of a fine. The land in this area was all common land until 1796 when it was purchased by several wealthy landowners.

Lime Kiln.

These lime kilns are a common feature in the landscape but the Field Broughton one is unusual for its size and situation. It appears to have been carved out of the land and the stone used in situ to produce the lime spread on the surrounding fields. It is said to have been used up until 1922.

The Villagers -Trades and Occupations.

The earlier records show that most residents were employed as farmers but over time they were joined by a variety of people in occupations ranging from domestic servant and kitchen maid through to coachman, bailiff, and railway guard with more and more people shown as "living on own means". More research is underway to investigate how these occupations reflected life in Field Broughton.

Nigel Mills v1.

Sources:

- note 1. Victoria County History ref to Duchy of Lanc. Rentals and Surv. Bundle 4 no. 9.
- note 2. Annals of Cartmel, James Stockdale, page 168.
- note 3. R W Brunskill's "Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture".
- note 4. History of St Peter's Church leaflet. Parochial Church Council.
- note 5. The Land of Cartmel – A History by J.C.Dickinson.
- note 6. Kendal Records Office ref KRO/WPR/86.
- note 7. Kendal Records Office ref KRO/WPR/86.
- note 8. The English Counties Illustrated. Odhams. Contributed by Malcolm Slater.