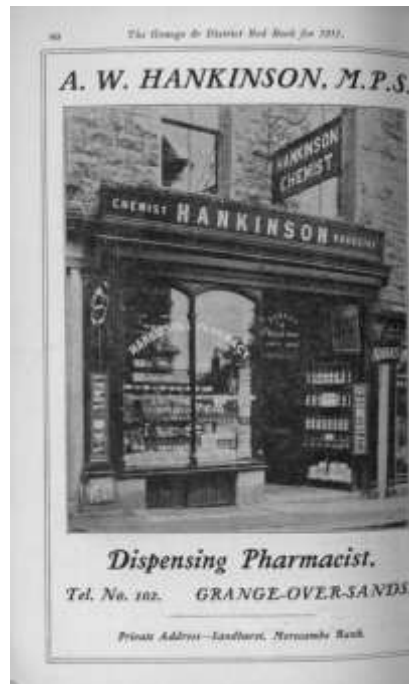


Henry Thomas Mason and the *Grange Red Book*

In 1964, J. Wadsworth Ltd, who was then operating the Grange Printing Works on Hampsfell Road, published a booklet “to mark the completion of one hundred years of quality printing.” It is recorded therein that in 1864 George Samuel Hankinson acquired a printing press in order to produce labels for the bottles in his chemist’s shop in Main Street.



Then in 1877 Charles Turner, a compositor from Chichester, Sussex, arrived in Grange and began to use Hankinson’s printing press in order to become a self-employed printer and stationer. In 1883 he issued an *ALMANACK*, containing a residential directory of Grange and Kents Bank; lists of places of worship, schools, and members of the Local Board; and postal information. He also printed sermons by Canon Henry Robert Smith, vicar of Grange from 1858-1887, including the one he preached in Carlisle Cathedral on St Thomas’s Day 1879. Charles lodged with William Lawfield and his wife in Devonshire Buildings on Kents Bank Road, and moved with them when William became coachman to William Greenwood at Oaklands on Fernleigh Road. At some point during the 1890s he gave up the business, and in 1901 he was living back in Chichester with his widowed mother.

George Hankinson’s son Alfred William advertised the business in the *Westmorland Gazette* for 4th June 1898:-

For immediate sale Excellent PRINTING PLANT and BUSINESS for disposal, the only one in Grange-over-Sands. An excellent opportunity for a practical printer. – For particulars and permission to view, apply A. W. Hankinson, Chemist, Grange-over-Sands.

The business was acquired by Henry Thomas Mason and he issued his first *Grange & District Red Book* the following February, but on the title page of the 1901 volume he described it as the 19th issue, which takes the publication back to 1883. If Charles Turner had continued to publish his *Almanack* during the time he was in Grange, it must have been the forerunner of the *Grange Red Book*.

Henry Thomas Mason was born in Matlock, Derbyshire, in 1859. By 1881 he had moved to Hinckley, Leicestershire, where his occupation was given as “printer”. The following year he married Emma Rosanna Nixon, and their son Ernest Henry was born in 1885. In about 1893 Henry and family moved to Ulverston, where he was a foreman in a printing business. In 1898 he acquired the printing business in Grange, and two years later he moved the equipment to his new shop, on the opposite side of Main Street.



This photograph appears in Wadsworth's centenary publication; there is also a photograph on page 19 of *Grange, Cartmel & district in times past*, by John Marsh (1988) which, looking down Main Street, shows Hankinsons's shop on the left and Mason's shop on the right. It was there that he began to print business posters and notepaper, etc., and, more importantly, to publish the *Grange Red Book*. "Red Book" is the generic name for a publication, in red covers, containing official information and/or a directory of persons. Mason's *Grange Red Book* for 1901 comprised

Tide table, Diary, Illustrated almanack, Illustrated literary companion,
Local, postal, and general information, Summary of local events in 1900,
Cyclists' lighting-up table, Residential directory, List of fairs, &c.

It included two especially interesting local views by Gilbert Wilson – the interior of Grange Public Hall, and Grange New Pier – and a much extended summary of local events in the past year. Revenue from advertisers enabled it to be distributed free to householders in Grange and Kents Bank, and also principal residents in the district; otherwise the book sold for 3d.

In 1901 the Masons were living at Orchard Bank on Kents Bank Road in Grange, and it was there that Henry's wife Emma Rosanna died on 1st January 1903 aged 48 years. The following year, on 13th October 1904, Henry married Mary Taylor Hilton at Grange Parish Church, and they lived at Holly Cottage, Windermere Road at the other end of Grange, where Mary had been looking after her father until his death the previous December.

In 1905, the twenty-third year of issue of the *Grange Red Book*, Births, marriages, and deaths were included, and also General local information, a Residential directory, and other useful matter concerning Arnside, but this coverage of Arnside only lasted one year. Mason had then also extended his business into a Stationery and Fancy Goods Stores, offering special value in fancy goods of every description, including Grange Arms China, Devon Motto China and Dolhain View China, &c.

The *Grange Red Book* was published annually until 1916, but then there was a gap until 1923, the thirty-fifth year of issue, when the price was increased to sixpence, and the following year the summary of local events was discontinued. These had given fascinating accounts of the activities of all the institutions, societies and clubs in the area, as instanced by the following example from the issue for 1916:

"The Grange and District Pigeon, Poultry, and Cage Bird Society made an auspicious start with an open show in 1914, and has since held two members' shows. The vicar as president, Mr W. G. M. Townley as treasurer, and Mr E. H. Harper as secretary, backed by an enthusiastic committee, are all keen on helping forward the welfare of this newly-formed institution in Grange."



In 1927 Henry Mason disposed of his business to John Wadsworth, and he was able to enjoy six years of retirement before, after a few days' illness, he died on 24th August 1933. He had been a staunch supporter of St Paul's Church in Grange, and had printed the Parish Magazine from 1899, the year following its inception. He also appears to have supported the work of the London Missionary Society, printing annual reports from their Anglo-Chinese College in Tientsin, North China. Following a service in the Church conducted by the Rev George Vickers-Gaskell, Henry was buried on 28th August 1933 in Grange Cemetery.

The *Grange Red Book* continued to be published by Wadsworths, annually until 1941 and for three years after the War, before becoming irregular and finally ceasing with the 67th issue for 1975/76. A "one-off" millennium edition was published by In Essence.

Grange Library holds: 1909, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1928-1932, 1934-1941, 1947-1949, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1964-1966/67, 1969, 1972, 1975/76, 1999/2000, and a Cumulated index to Advertisers in *Grange Red Book* 1883-1938.

Besides the *Grange Red Book*, Henry Mason also published and/or printed many books of local interest, viz:

Mason's illustrated Grange-over-Sands and district. 1902.

A descriptive album of 60 oblong quarto pages and containing 30 excellent full-page photographs, with map, plan of mountains, &c. Lists of Public buildings, Places of Worship, Private



Schools, Hotels, Recreative clubs, Walks, Cycle runs, Places of interest in the district. Photos include St Paul's Church, Convalescent Home, St Charles's Church, Wesleyan Church, Hazelwood Hydro, Bigland Hall, Friends' Meeting House Cartmel, Congregational Church Grange, Grange Council buildings and Victoria Hall, Meathop Sanatorium. Copy in National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.



Mason's pocket guide to Grange-over-Sands and places of interest around. 1905. Several later editions. Essentially the same text as *Mason's illustrated Grange-over-Sands and district*, but without the photographs, except for a frontispiece of Grange-over-Sands from Hotel Grounds, by Gilbert Wilson.

Copy of 1st edition in National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. Copy of 8th edition (1930s) published by Wadsworths in Ulverston Library.



Picturesque Grange-over-Sands & district.

1907. Several later editions. Numerous photographs by Gilbert Wilson, many the same as those in *Mason's illustrated Grange-over-Sands and district*.

Copy in Harris Reference Library, Preston.

Hazelwood Hydro, Grange-over-Sands. c.1907. Illustrated with black & white full-page photographs. "The Hazelwood Hydropathic Establishment is a large and handsome building, pleasantly situated in its own grounds just off Lindale Road, and has large accommodation" – *Mason's illustrated Grange-over-Sands and district*, 1902, p.11. Subsequently the Golf Hotel, the Grand Hotel, and now the Cumbria Grand Hotel.
No known library copies.

Cartmel Priory and sketches of North Lonsdale, by Mary Wakefield. 1909. Chapters on Cartmel, the Quaker Meeting House at Height, St Anthony's Chapel at Cartmel Fell, The May trees of Holker Mosses, Early recollections of Grange, Cockling at Morecambe Bay, and the breeding season at the gullery on Walney Island. 59 illustrations from photographs mostly by Stella Hamilton and Gilbert Wilson.

Copy in Grange, Kendal and Barrow libraries.

School life at Lindale, by Nina Beatrice Deakin. 1912. Miss Deakin (1864-1942) was the daughter of Joseph Deakin, a barrister, who lived at Eller How. After her father died in 1892, she continued to live there with her mother until the latter's death 1918, when she moved to Kilnotts in Lindale. For over 50 years she taught at the Sunday school, and acted as voluntary organist. She took great interest in the day school, was a manager, and for a long time correspondent. Miss Deakin was also a benefactor of Lindale Church.

Copy in British Library (St Pancras).

Cartmel: a haunt of ancient peace. 1915. Contains extracts from the writings of the late Rev William ffollriott (*Cartmeliana*, 1854), Dr Whittaker (*An account of the Parish of Cartmel*, 1818), and Mary Wakefield (*Cartmel Priory and sketches of North Lonsdale*, 1909). The title is taken from the first chapter of the latter. Full-plate illustrations mostly by Gilbert Wilson.

Copy in Kendal and Barrow libraries.

The last wolf: a story of England in the fourteenth century, by Mrs Jerome Mercier. 1914. The story of the slaying of the last wolf on Humphrey Head. This was originally published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1884, one of several “Books for the young” which they issued in that year. Henry Mason re-issued the book under the direction of the Committee of General Literature and Education appointed by the SPCK. The author was born Sarah Anne Northwood; in 1868 she married the Rev Jerome John Mercier, Rector of Kemerton, Glos. She helped to found the Girls’ Friendly Society, as well as the Girls’ High School at Tewkesbury. She died in 1917, aged 74.
Copy in Kendal and Barrow libraries.

Eggerslack Auxiliary Military Hospital, Grange-over-Sands 1916-1919. 1919. The hospital in Eggerslack House, owned by William Henry Wakefield, opened on 17th July 1916 with 14 convalescent patients.
No known library copies.

A legend of the Great Fire: an old Westmorland story, by Mr Thompson, “The Connoisseur”. 1920. The author was possibly Edward Thompson, who was born in Kendal in 1851 and lived there for half a century, before moving to Grange to become manager of the gas works, a post he held until his retirement about 1915. He took a keen interest in the formation of the Grange Institute, acting as secretary for some years. He lived firstly on Eden Mount, and subsequently at Sea View House on Church Hill on Grange.
Copy in National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

I am grateful to Harry Pearson and Penny Ward for help in compiling this account.

John Beckett
2014