

Mary Winfield Lambert

Background

When Richard Winfield purchased the farm known as the Outerthwaite Estate on the edge of Allithwaite in about 1799 he could not have envisaged the changes that would occur in the area sixty-five years later as a consequence of this purchase. Until 1865 Allithwaite was just a cluster of cottages and scattered farmsteads between Morecambe Bay to the south and the village of Cartmel (Churchtown) to the north. In 1851 Mary Winfield Lambert put land at Little Templand in trust as the site for a church and school¹⁸. Her will¹⁷ left adequate money to enable the Church, Vicarage, School and Schoolmistress's house to be built. She died on 29 November 1857 and so the bequest became a reality when the buildings came into use in 1865. The hamlet became a village.

What is known about Mary Lambert

Local historians James Stockdale¹, Sam Taylor³, and John Dickinson⁴ mention the generous benefactor. All these authors note that the wealthy Mary Lambert of Boarbank House, Allithwaite was responsible for the Church and School being built. There are several paragraphs devoted to her in a booklet about the History of Boarbank Hall⁵ written by the current owners, the St Augustine Sisters. There is the comment that little is known about Mary's parents or background. Ron Stevens's History of Allithwaite⁶ published in 1990 to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of Allithwaite Church devotes a chapter to Miss Lambert and her will, focusing on the bequest of money to build and maintain the church and school and its associated buildings. David C Mycock⁷ has two chapters on the area in his history of Abbot Hall, Kents Bank, which Miss Lambert had inherited from her Aunt, Harriot Carter in 1835. The book draws on all the local histories but does not expand on Miss Lambert's background.





2 views of Allithwaite Church 2005 (Pat Rowland)

Introduction

Who was Mary Winfield Lambert? Why was she so generous to the inhabitants of Allithwaite? The following explains the background to her life and describes life in Allithwaite at the beginning of the 19th century. The story traces her connections with the Cartmel Peninsula where her grandfather, Richard Winfield purchased land. It examines the scandal surrounding her Aunt Harriot. It tries to explain where her wealth came from and how she bequeathed her fortune to the community, her family and friends.

Her parents, grandparents and early years in Kendal

Mary was born at Watchfield Kendal on 25 October 1787, the only daughter of Josias and Beatrice Lambert. Josias had married Beatrice, the eldest of two daughters of Richard Winfield, on 22 January 1787 at Holy Trinity Church Kendal. Josias was an attorney of law, the last in a long line of Lamberts who practised law in Kendal. He was the eldest son of John and Margaret Lambert and he was baptised in January 1763. The Lambert family had lived in the isolated 17th century farmhouse known as Watchfield, south of Kendal town and Kirkland hamlet for over a century until 1801 when the house was sold on the death of John Lambert. His estate was valued at under £1000. The house is now known as Wattsfield and is a listed building within the boundary of the borough of Kendal.

Beatrice died in Kendal at Soutergate aged 28 on 10 November 1793 when Mary was only 6 years old. Josias remarried on 24 March 1794 at Addingham in Cumberland and on 28 November 1794 Margaret de Lambert was born at Lazonby where Josias and his second wife Mary (formerly Bardgett of Lazonby) lived. At least eight half brothers and sisters to Mary Winfield Lambert were born in subsequent years but not all survived childhood. Josias Lambert's second wife Mary died on 30 April 1827 and was buried at Lazonby. In 1829 Josias was living at Helsington Laites Kendal close

to Watchfield¹¹. He died in 1841 and was buried in the family vault at Kendal Holy Trinity Church. There is no record of him leaving a will.

Richard Winfield, Mary's grandfather, was a wealthy Kendal manufacturer of linsey-woolsey cloth⁹. This cloth was a combination of the rough wool of the fells and the flax of the lowlands produced and grown locally. Much of the wealth of Kendal at this time came from this type of cloth manufacture. The family first appear in Kendal records in 1771 when the baptism of Harriot, Beatrice's younger sister is recorded and shows they were then living in Wildman Street. Richard, who was from York, and his wife Mary Corbett had married in Selby, Yorkshire in 1765. Beatrice was born in the following twelve months but I have not been able to establish where she was born or baptised or when the family arrived in Kendal.

Richard Winfield established his textile firm at 125 Soutergate⁹ (now Highgate) Kendal and the family, having moved from Wildman Street, set up home in the house that fronted the long narrow plot, which ran down to the River Kent. On 6 May 1788 Richard was appointed a trustee²³ of Kendal Fell Trust and he served until 3 May 1792. This illustrates that by this time he was a substantial property owner with the desire to do some public duty as the Kendal Fell Trust⁸ was set up to manage the town (paving, lighting cleansing etc) and the poor. The Trust comprised the Mayor and twelve inhabitants of the borough who were owners of property of the yearly value of £10 and rated and assessed to that amount. Each trustee served for four years. Another example of his wealth was the loan of £1050 he had made to the Lamberts which was secured on their Wattsfield estate.

By 1799 Richard Winfield, though living in Kendal, owned the extensive Outerthwaite agricultural estate at Allithwaite. The land, about 200 acres, was bounded by Applebury Hill, Boarbank Lane on the edge of the hamlet of Allithwaite, Humphrey Head, Morecambe Bay and Flookburgh. Cartmel Peninsula was a remote peninsula. Its main access was 'over the sands', an ancient route over the Kent and Leven Estuaries of Morecambe Bay linking Lancaster, Kents Bank, Flookburgh, Ulverston and then over the Duddon Estuary onward to Whitehaven. The old packhorse road between Cartmel and Kendal over Cartmel Fell and Whitbarrow Scar was the only other transport route at this date. The Kendal towards Ulverston track was improved into a road and subsequently turnpiked in 1763²¹. The Levens turnpike (the route of the present day A590) was not opened until 1818. However the toll-free, treacherous over-sands route remained the preferred route²¹, until the Carnforth-Ulverston railway, which opened in 1857, passed through the area. Investing money made in manufacturing to buy agricultural land enabled him to earn income from the land. Money made in industry was considered vulgar and to be accepted socially in upper class society a person had to be a landowner living off income from land holdings. Perhaps he was also advised that the purchase would be a good investment as common land in Cartmel would soon be enclosed and local landowners would be able to purchase more land. Several other Kendal industrialists owned land in the area.

The Cartmel Land Enclosure Act of 1796 appointed commissioners, who first met in January 1801, to divide the allotments amongst the seven townships of the parish for

rating and other parochial purposes. Richard bought four pieces of land totalling about 48 acres in the Lower Allithwaite Township¹. His purchases, totalling £1199, made him the 6th largest purchaser (in money terms) of Cartmel common land. His purchases were land at Moss Ellerside, Winder Moor and Templand Bank, all in Lower Allithwaite. John and Jacob Wakefield were the biggest purchasers and they were also linked to Kendal¹. These brothers were sons of the Wakefield family who had established a bank in Kendal in 1788 and they resided in Field Broughton.

Richard died on 27 November 1820 aged 79 and was buried at Holy Trinity Church, Kendal. His wife Mary had predeceased him on 12 August 1806. His estate was left (by a will dated 10 July 1816)²² to his only surviving daughter Harriot and his 33 years old granddaughter, Mary. Harriot inherited his Kendal, Cartmel and Crook of Lune properties. Mary inherited all his Westmorland land and buildings excluding the Kendal property left to Harriot but individual addresses of these properties were not included in the will. The estate was valued at about £10000 when the will was proved on 22 January 1821.

Harriot Winfield

Curwen⁹ recounts that Harriot, Mary's aunt, ran away to Gretna Green to marry Thomas Carter whose family lived close to the Winfield's on Soutergate. Thomas was appointed Dean of Tuam in 1813. Curwen says that Richard was so annoyed by the marriage that he cut Harriot's dowry short and only allowed her £10000. In fact Harriot and Thomas married at Holy Trinity Church Kendal on 21 July 1821, eight months after her father's death and Mary was a witness. At this date Harriot was 50 and Thomas was 56. Thomas had married Ann Collison in Hitchin, Herts in 1797. He had been appointed Prebendary and Rector of Ballymore, Armagh in 1803 and their home was at Tandragee. His wife, Ann, died in 1815 leaving Thomas with eight children aged between 15 and 2 years. Thomas remained rector of Ballymore until his death from cholera in 1849 when he was 84. He is buried at St Patrick's Church, Tandragee in the Parish of Ballymore, Armagh¹⁴. I have not been able to establish if Harriot moved to Ireland or if the couple lived in Kendal.

The Boarbank Hall booklet⁵ states that the marriage was short lived and Mary Winfield Lambert paid Thomas £10000 to go away and give up all claims to Harriot's wealth. Harriet's will describes the legal steps taken to protect her fortune and how Mary helped her to leave the marriage. My understanding of the will is that they entered into a pre-nuptial agreement. It describes the way her fortune was put into a trust; that she would pay her husband a monthly allowance on account of him losing control of the inheritance; and when the marriage broke down in lieu of alimony and loss of income etc how her niece Mary Winfield Lambert paid him £10000 so that Harriot could live 'apart from him and entirely free from his control'. He renounced all claim to her estate in return. Presumably she did not have access to enough money to separate from him.

Harriot, a very wealthy heiress, was well advised in 1821 as the law was entirely in favour of the husband. All the woman's goods and money became the property of her husband. It was not until 1870 when the first Married Women's Property Act became law, that it was recognised that married women in certain circumstances could own

and control their own earnings, savings and legacies. In 1882 the second Married Women's Property Act became law and enabled married women to have the same rights over their property as unmarried women.

Mary and the Cartmel Peninsula

According to directory entries Mary Lambert was the only named resident at Allithwaite Lodge, Allithwaite in 1824 but in 1825 Harriot and Mary were recorded as residents. I have not found any information about when Mary moved to Allithwaite so where she lived between 1821 and 1824 is unknown. Harriot died on December 4 1835 and was buried at Cartmel Priory Church. An extract of the proving of her will dated 5 February 1836 states that Mary Winfield Lambert was the sole Executrix of the estate that was valued under £3000 but unfortunately the will does not set out the land holding at the time of her death. Mary had a grand house, with a porter's lodge on the cross sands road, built on the site of Boarbank Cottage, Allithwaite¹.



Boarbank 1863 (from 1903 Cartmel Almanack)

From 1837, until her death in 1857, she lived at the renamed Boarbank House. Stockdale states that Harriot acquired Abbot Hall Estate just before her death and a new mansion was also built there by Mary. Subsequently she acquired more agricultural land and farms in the locality. In the 1851 census she is described as a landed proprietor with 400 acres employing 10 labourers. Four servants were registered in her house and her coachman and his family lived at the porter's lodge.

Mary's will

Mary died on 29 November 1857, aged 70. A total of £60000 was specifically bequeathed in the will. The sale of her estate (now over 500 acres) realised £30000 at auction in 1858 but she also had other investments. Her will¹⁷ was lengthy and complex. She was very generous to her relatives and also made provisions for her friends, her servants and the poor of the Parish. Bequests were made to charitable organisations. She specified that she should be buried in the same tomb as Harriot at Cartmel Priory Church. She instructed that her Grandfather Winfield's tomb at

Kendal should be maintained and £350 was left to cover the maintenance of both the Kendal and Cartmel tombs. Not only were the land and the money for building and furnishing the Allithwaite church and school complex bequeathed, but also provision was made that the Minister and Churchwardens should invest a bequest of £1500 to produce income for the schoolmistress. It was specified that the Schoolmistress should not be a resident of Cartmel Parish prior to her appointment and the children should leave at age 14. A sum of £500 was set aside for books for the school. £5000 was to be invested by the Bishop of Chester to produce an income for the new Church minister. The National School for Girls in Kendal was bequeathed £500 to augment the schoolmistress's salary, 'to procure a respectable and more competent Mistress'. The Girls School at Grayrigg (north of Kendal) also benefited from the will as she left £500 for investment 'to procure an additional income for the Mistress of the school'. Her farm servant Edward Wilkinson and Mary his wife were named in the will. She left them specifically, and all other servants living at Boarbank at her death, a full years' wage and two full suits of mourning. Sarah Turner, also living at Boarbank, was bequeathed £3000 but there is no information in the will about her relationship with Mary. £500 was specifically bequeathed for investing and the income was to be used for purchasing coals and clothes to be distributed on Christmas Eve to the poorest in the parish.

The Bequest to the City of York

£2000 was bequeathed to the Lord Mayor of York for charities in the City Of York. The details of how this bequest was used were recorded in a plaque that was displayed in the Guildhall at York. When the building was destroyed in the Second World War the reason for and details of the bequest perished. However newspapers reported the bequest and some details have been found.

A report dated Saturday 19 December 1857 in the York Herald states

' that it was Miss Lambert's wish, though it was not mentioned in her will, that the charities in St Luke's parish (probably St Crux is meant), should be particularly remembered, in consequence of her grandfather's father and another (a Mr and Mrs Winfield), being interred, as Miss Lambert supposed, near the pulpit in that church.'

St Crux, situated on The Shambles, was demolished in 1887

The story also appeared in Yorkshire Gazette, as reported in The Blackburn Standard on Wednesday January 13 1858, but stated

'Of course, our readers are aware that there is no church in York dedicated to St. Luke; but probably it may be ascertained what church and parish is referred to.'

The York Herald carried a further piece of news of the legacy on Saturday April 17 1858. The Lord Mayor reported that

'a great many applications had been made to him by individuals who wished to be recipients of the bounty and others recommending persons as worthy of it.'

He went on to say that he now had an extract of the will and a letter suggesting

‘apparently some difficulties as to paying over the amount.

A letter from Mr Woodburne, of Ulverstone, solicitor, was then read, and it stated that it was the intention of the testatrix, had she lived a little longer, to have made inquiries as to the most deserving objects of charity in York, and appropriated the amount, or defined them by her will, but unfortunately she was cut off in the meantime. In consequence of the validity of the bequest being somewhat doubtful, he thought the point must be submitted to the Court of Chancery, which might be done at a slight cost by the executors paying the amount into Court under the trustee act.’

It was decided to obtain a full copy of the will and to adopt proceedings as thought necessary.

The York Herald reported on Saturday Nov 17 1860 that the bequest had been

‘distributed among the charitable institutions of York, and that £670 10s fell to the share of the York County Hospital.’

A report in the York Herald dated Saturday February 9 1861 about the York Penitentiary Society annual meeting stated that

‘deposited in York Savings’ Bank, being part of Miss Lambert’s legacy, £150.’

The legacy’s use was described in the York Penitentiary Society annual meeting reported in the York Herald dated Saturday February 7 1863. Miss Lambert’s legacy of £178 16s together with a legacy of £50 from Miss Ann Whittle enabled the Society

‘to provide the much needed addition of a probationary ward. This has been for many years deemed an essential part of the household arrangement; each matron has felt the need of it, and urged its adoption.’

Mr Taylor, the architect drew up plans and they were laid before the committee to approve during the course of the year. The estimated cost was £182 13s. The work had already commenced by the time of the annual meeting. The ward would be used for

‘the immediate reception of anyone who presented themselves. Hitherto if any lady or gentleman had made an application for the immediate admission of any poor creature walking the streets, the application had to come before two committees, and thus considerable delay was occasioned. They hoped that when the ward was completed, it would tend to the admission of a much larger number of persons into their institutions, and be attended with a great blessing.’

I have not found any reference to other uses of the bequest. (Research upto 1 July 2010)

The 1851 Trust and the legal challenge to Mary’s will

Mary’s will was contentious and her step brother and sisters challenged it through the Courts (Fisher v Brierley, House of Lords Appeal) thus delaying the settlement of the

bequests. Since 1849 Mary Lambert's solicitor had been Samuel John Reveley of Harrison and Reveley of Cartmel. On 21 April 1851 she instructed him to draw up her will. She intended to give Little Templand Field as a site for the erection of a church, parsonage house and schools and she wanted to make provision for them in her will. However Mr Reveley advised her that she could not do this by a will but would have to execute a deed of conveyance of the land and have it enrolled in Chancery twelve months before her death. She instructed him to proceed with this and she wished to reserve the profits of the field to herself during her life, the deed only to take effect after her death. The solicitor immediately set about preparing the documents. He was advised that if a life interest was reserved to Miss Lambert it would invalidate the deed and so the deed that was prepared made no reference to a life interest.

The indenture was made on 14 May 1851 selling the land to James Brierley, Robert Wilcock and Samuel John Reveley for 5 shillings. James Brierley was an unbeneficed clergyman who was a close friend of Miss Lambert. He lived in Cheshire and had been visiting and staying with her regularly since about 1837. Robert Wilcock was Miss Lambert's steward or bailiff who had been employed by her, and previously by her Aunt for many years. He had also been Miss Lambert's coachman at one time. Samuel John Reveley was her confidential solicitor and advisor.

The deed was enrolled in Chancery on 25 June 1851 and on 30 July 1851 Miss Lambert executed her will including leaving legacies to build the church, parsonage house and schools on the land and providing an endowment for the church. The documents were retained by Miss Lambert in her safe. Subsequently Miss Lambert changed her solicitor to Thomas Woodburne of Ulverston. She made a new will on 6 Nov 1857. On 12 Nov 1857 she made a codicil to this will. She died on 29 Nov 1857.

On 6 Dec 1858 the main benefactors of the will, her half brother and sisters and families started a law suit claiming that the indenture of 1851 was null and void because Miss Lambert had remained in possession of the land and therefore all her bequests to build and endow the church and school were also null and void. On 16 January 1860 the Master of the Rolls agreed that the indenture was contrary to law and ordered the trustees to deliver the indenture to be cancelled. They were also ordered to execute the will ignoring all legacies connected with the church and school. James Brierley for the executors appealed to the Court of Appeal and the case was heard on 24 February and 5th and 6th of March 1860. On 4th May 1860 the earlier decision was ruled to be wrong and the bequests were allowed to stand. One of the beneficiaries, Mary Fisher, appealed to the House of Lords. Delays ensued because several of the beneficiaries who were now defendants were declared bankrupt or had died and trustees had to be appointed to represent their interests. Finally the case was heard in 1862 and the decision was handed down on 20 February 1863. The case was dismissed. The Law Lords agreed with the Court of Appeal that the indenture was not null and void and also that the will should be executed in accordance with Miss Lambert's wishes. The cost of all the litigation was taken from the estate of Miss Lambert so her beneficiaries received considerably less than originally intended.

Allithwaite and area in the early 19th century

In 1829 Lower Allithwaite Parish, comprising the villages of Cartmel and Cark and the hamlets of Grange, Allithwaite, Cartlane and Kent's Bank, had 839 inhabitants¹¹. Possibly no more than 100 lived in the hamlet of Allithwaite. Fishing and agriculture were the main occupations. Listed by Parson and White¹¹ were a flour dealer, blacksmith, grocer and draper, lime burner, victuler and maltster. At Kents Bank the New Inn served the over-sands trade and the guide lived at Cart Lane. Cartmel, a lively market town dominated by the ancient Priory dedicated to St Mary lay two miles to the north of the Allithwaite hamlet. It was the commercial centre of the peninsula having a tea and coffee dealer, a rope and twine manufacturer, painter and glazier, paper manufacturer, solicitor, millwright, baker and flour dealer, clog and pattern maker, wholesale confectioner, hoop and hank maker, skinner and fellmonger, druggist, cooper, chair maker, clock and watch maker, brazier and tinmaker and shopkeepers. There were five Hotels, Inns and Public Houses. Carriers connected Cartmel to Hawkshead, Kendal, Lancaster and Ulverston. One carrier John Picthall did two trips each week on a Wednesday and Saturday departing at 1 in the morning, and arriving in Kendal at the Fleece Inn at 8; departing Kendal at 1 and arriving back at 9 in the evening. Another carrier George Rigg left the Woolpack at Kendal also on Wednesdays and Saturdays arriving at 9 and departing at 2. Cartmel was on their route between Kendal and Ulverston.

Mary Lambert's farms in Allithwaite Lower

Affidavits produced for the will dispute court case contain information about the farms and details of some of the locals employed by Miss Lambert. However these statements were unable to be questioned in court and the correctness of some of the information is doubtful. How much the court accepted the information depended on the credibility of the person who had made the statement.

The estate produced income of about £2500 per year. It consisted of 3 farms respectively Lane Side Farm, Kent's Bank Farm and Outerthwaite Farm. Lane Side and Kent's Bank Farms were occupied by Robert Wilcock as tenant and Outerthwaite was managed by Robert Wilcock as bailiff. Robert died in August 1857, a couple of months before Miss Lambert. He was described in the case as her confidential adviser and the general manager of her affairs. He occupied two farms and a hotel (Kent's Bank Hotel or Inn) belonging to Miss Lambert and resided at Boarbank Hall. It was stated in Reverend Brierley affidavit that Miss Lambert left everything connected to the management of the estate to Robert who gave all orders and directions respecting her farms. Reverend Brierley stated that Miss Lambert had complained frequently in the 3 or 4 years before her death about Robert not settling accounts between him and her and that he was always making excuses to avoid settlement. However he had been 20 years in her service and in her Aunt's service before that and though she was dissatisfied with his conduct she would not dismiss him. On his death it was discovered that the estate accounts were in a confused state and his affairs were in a state of great embarrassment. He died very largely indebted to Miss Lambert but as there was no hope of recovering anything from his estate all claims were abandoned

Various statements were made about Little Templand Field. It extended to about 2 acres and was worth about £80 or £3 per year if let in 1851. Reverend Brierley stated

that Little Templand Field was formerly part of the Commons and waste ground. It was quite separate and distinct from any other property of Miss Lambert. It was no way desirable or convenient for the occupation of Boarbank House. He stated that Miss Lambert had let Robert Wilcock use Little Templand Field as he was always complaining of being short of grass. Robert Wilcock's nephew, Thomas Ball, lived at Cart Lane and described himself as a Marine Lodging House keeper. His affidavit for the family confirmed that he had worked for Miss Lambert for about 18 months 12 years ago. He had then worked for his Uncle Robert. His description of the agricultural use of Little Templand Field stated that hay grown there was taken to Boarbank House and was consumed by her horses. Grain grown there was chopped for her carriage horses. Sheep and horses were grazed there but the field was unsuitable for cattle as there was no water supply. This contradicted Reverend Brierley's statement that he believed he saw Robert's cattle grazing on the field. Edward Wilkinson, now a farmer of Rusland, had been bailiff to Robert Wilcock from 1854 and he lived in Outerthwaite farmhouse until 1858. He said that horses, sheep and cattle were kept on the farms. William Green of The Green, Farmer recounted that Little Templand Field was sown with oats or barley and hay grass. William Stainton of Silverdale, station master stated that he was groom and coachman to Miss Lambert between 1848 and 1851. In 1849 Little Templand Field was in green crops; in 1850 it was down to barley; and in 1851 it was seed grass.

Education in the 19th century

Early in the 19th century education was not the concern of the state¹². The Tories thought a child's parent should be responsible for the child's education. It was not a state function. Schooling of a kind was available if the parent chose to allow the child to attend. Private schools existed for those who could afford the fees but for the majority of the population there was little provision. The Established Church was very much involved in providing education as it was considered that this was the way to ensure the Church flourished. Children were taught to read so that they could study the Bible. The National Society was founded in 1811 and it based its religious teaching on the catechism and the Anglican prayer Book. The British Society, officially founded in 1814 after seven years under different names, taught Christianity from the Bible. These societies were funded by voluntary public subscription and built and ran many schools. In 1833 Parliament made its first grant of £20000 towards a school building programme that was shared equally between the two societies. For several years further grants of £20000 per year were made. However politicians were less than enthusiastic about becoming involved in education. Social Reformers obtained some relief for the child apprentice when provision was made for the children to be allowed free time for schooling.

The quality of teaching was poor. Older pupils instructed the younger pupils and the teacher's role was to monitor rather than teach. Many teachers had resorted to teaching after failing in other jobs. Concern about the quality of these untrained teachers led to the establishment of the first privately sponsored training establishment in Battersea in 1838. In 1843 the National Society took over the running of it because the government would not fund it and the founder could no longer find funds to keep it going. However by 1846 Russell's Whig Government

decided to support the voluntary bodies and the prime aim became the improvement of the supply and quality of teachers. Reformers continued to campaign for improvements but there was no political will to do it until closer to the end of the century. Compulsory attendance was far in the future.

Against this background Mary can be seen to be in touch with the reformers' ideals as demonstrated in her will¹⁷. She was keen to see girls receive an education. She must have received some education, as she was a very prolific letter writer⁵. Beside providing for a school to be provided in Allithwaite she bequeathed money to The National School for Girls in Kendal and Grayrigg School to help them improve the pay and living conditions of a schoolmistress. The National School for Girls in Kendal was established by public subscription in 1823. In 1829 120 females were educated there¹¹. Charity schools in Kendal and Kirkland were educating a total of 700 children in 1829¹¹. Grayrigg School, built in 1818, also by public subscription, was in an agricultural area like Allithwaite. It educated 33 free scholars belonging to the chapelry in 1829¹¹. Mary's connection to this area was a farm at Crook O' Lune that she owned, which was on the edge of the Howgills, mid-way between Grayrigg and Sedbergh. The area is a remote farming area similar to the Cartmel Peninsula.

Education however continued to be a problem in rural areas as identified in the Royal Commission report of 1867¹³. The inspector for Lancashire decried the lamentable state of things. He thought that education reform would be unable to effect changes because their cause was economic. He described the plight of the poor farmer and the even poorer farm labourer. He considered that parents could not be blamed for preventing the child from attending school as child labour was essential to do jobs such as scaring birds from the crops, weeding the garden and fetching the labourers' dinner to the field. The labourer depended on the farmer for his job and housing and if the farmer demanded the child should work for him what could the labourer do?

Allithwaite Institute was originally intended to be a chapel-school and its site was conveyed in 1853². It was vested in the vicar and churchwardens of Cartmel and there is no evidence that Mary was involved in its establishment. However Mary's death in 1857 enabled the much larger project that she had envisaged come to fruition. She wanted the labouring classes of Lower Allithwaite to have access to education and religion within their own community. She was very particular in specifying the pay and accommodation for the schoolmistress, as she wanted quality education for the children. Other communities such as Cartmel, Flookburgh, Grange, Staveley in Cartmel and Rusland had schools and churches². A Grammar school had been established in Cartmel in 1624 but the children of the poor did not attend it even though it was constituted as a free school²⁴.

Mary Lambert's relatives

Mary chose to be buried with Harriot at Cartmel¹⁷ and not in the Lambert family grave at Kendal. She made no provisions for the Lambert tomb to be maintained but she left money for the maintenance of the Cartmel tomb and her grandfather's tomb¹⁷. This bequest strongly supports my view that she was closer to Harriot and her

grandparents than to the Lambert family. Alternatively it may also be explained by the fact that the Lambert family were much larger in numbers and she left them to look after their own family members. The Winfield family appears to have been very small.

Members of the Corbett family were named in her will¹⁷. Mary's grandmother, Mary Winfield, was Mary Corbett before she married Richard Winfield in 1765. She had a brother named William and he was the father of Elizabeth (who became Robinson on her marriage), James and Thomas. James's son was Thomas who lived in Kendal and Thomas's (son of William) son was Christopher. James's son, Thomas, was bequeathed £3000. He had been born in Kendal on 29 January 1819. James Corbett was described as a manufacturer and he had died in Kendal in 1821. By 1841¹⁹ Thomas lived in Stricklandgate with his wife and his occupation was a tobacconist. Mary left the Crook of Lune Farm to Christopher Corbett. His father, Thomas, was bequeathed Helsfell Farm on the edge of Kendal. Thomas and Christopher were wood turners and Thomas was also a farmer and the owner of 25 acres of land at Wortley Bank, Sheffield.²⁰ Elizabeth Robinson was living with Christopher in Sheffield in 1851²⁰ and Mary left her £200.

Mary's half brother and sisters were the main beneficiaries of her will¹⁷. She bequeathed £4500 to support each of her surviving half-brother, Robert and half-sisters, Jane, Margaret, Mary, Harriet and Elizabeth. Josiah Rogerson, the son of another half-sister, Isabella, was also bequeathed £4500. However a codicil to the will, just 6 days after making the final will and 17 days before she died amended the legacies to £4500 to Robert and Jane only. The others had a reduced legacy of £3000 and the residue of the estate was to be shared between them all because there was concern that her estate would not be large enough to cover all of the legacies that she wanted to make. She had never married and these people were related to her and she must have felt some responsibility for them. There is no evidence that she ever lived with her father's second family but she ensured that they benefited from her wealth.

Robert Lambert was Miss Lambert's half brother and heir in law to the estate. His affidavit in the will dispute case stated that he lived at Common Head near Staveley and he described himself as a gentleman. He heard 'casually' of his aunt's death and immediately wrote to her solicitor asking why he had not been informed and if he would be permitted to attend the funeral. He went to Boarbank House where the body was lying and arrived the day before her interment. He claimed that he was told he could not attend the funeral though this was refuted by Rev Brierley in his affidavit. A letter that had been written to Mr Lambert stated that

'in consequence of the late Miss Lambert having in her lifetime given directions that her funeral was to be conducted in a similar manner to that of her aunt Mrs Carter the executors had no alternative. This however will not prevent your attendance at the funeral (which will take place on Monday next at half past 10) if you are so disposed And the executors will be glad if you can make it convenient to be at Boarbank House at half past 1 on the same day to hear the will read.'

Robert Lambert complained that he was not consulted or kept informed of matters in connection with the selling of the estate. He and his sisters attended the sale but he

was not involved in any of the decisions made by the executors despite being the heir in law.

Thomas Woodburne and William Fryer Daniel Dickinson , 2 of the executors, in their affidavit claimed that Robert Lambert and Miss Lambert were not on good terms and that Miss Lambert had refused to see him when he had called on her.

Religion and Mary Lambert

Mary was a very religious woman and many of her friends were connected with the Church. Her father's brother, Robert, was a clergyman. She had a pew at Cartmel Priory and Flookburgh Chapel. She was a regular correspondent with the Bishop of Chester according to the Boarbank booklet⁵ but none of that correspondence has survived. James Brierley who was one of the trustees of the 1851 trust and one of the executors of the will, was the perpetual curate at Mossley, Congleton, Cheshire. He states in his affidavit in the will dispute that he was on terms of great intimacy with Miss Lambert, frequently visiting her and talking over her affairs with her. He knew Miss Lambert 12 to 14 years before 1851 and had occasionally visited her, generally once a year, staying with her for about a month each time. She discussed matters with him as a confidential friend and advisor. He knew a good deal about her affairs from her own communications from him. He stated that

'she was by no means of penurious habits, but on the contrary of a liberal turn of mind. She lived within her income.'

Mary bequeathed money to members of Reverend Brierley's family¹⁷. His daughter Elizabeth Crockett of Eccleston Parsonage, St Helens was left £1000 and James was left £3000 plus a cottage at Kents Bank.

Conclusion

Mary lived during a time of great political and social change. The industrial revolution changed the way of life for the Victorians. Towns grew at a fantastic rate. Agriculture had to become more efficient in order to feed the towns. The large landowners with their tenant farmers were able to introduce the efficient methods that in turn forced the agricultural labourers to move to the towns. Prices of the crops rose and so the rich became richer. Mary and her farm manager, Robert Wilcock, would have overseen these great changes. Her already considerable inheritance from Richard and Harriot continued to grow in value. She made astute decisions and added to her land holdings in the area and increased the value of her estate. She would have taken advice but she controlled the estate. Her will shows great and deep thought. She was aware of the poverty in the countryside as it surrounded her but she lived in luxury in comparison. Her will tried to redress the balance by returning some of her wealth to the inhabitants of the parish that had increased her wealth.

Mary's provision of a church and school for the inhabitants of Allithwaite led to a steady growth of the village. She had sold land at Kents Bank to the railway company and a station opened there around the time of her death. The first train passed along

the line in August 1857¹⁵. This improvement in transport links helped the expansion of the area. In the decade following the consecration of the church 132 baptisms and 24 marriages were recorded. By 1881 the school had 60 pupils and in 1889 an additional classroom was built². In 1888 a churchyard adjoining the Church was consecrated². Mary had made no specific provision for a cemetery in the village in her will¹⁷ but in the 1851 indenture¹⁸ reference was made to the establishment of a church or chapel with or without a cemetery. New houses were built opposite to the Church and school site. During the 20th century the village continued to expand but today it is still very much a village with little industry. Many of the villagers travel to work away from the village. The school has grown even bigger and has been further extended. In 2000 a new hall was built between the School and Church to give both of them much needed modern facilities and additional meeting space. It was named the Mary Lambert Hall, which is a fitting way to remember the farsighted lady who contributed so much to the development of the village.



Mary Lambert Hall and Allithwaite School 2005 (Pat Rowland)

Pat Rowland
July 2013

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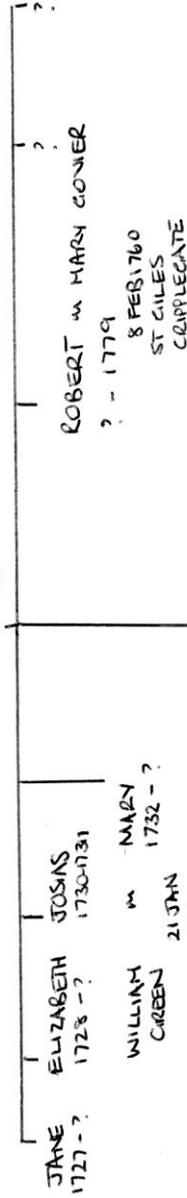
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LAMBERT FAMILY

✓ BENEVOLENT MENTIONED
IN MARY WINFIELD LAMBERT'S WILL.

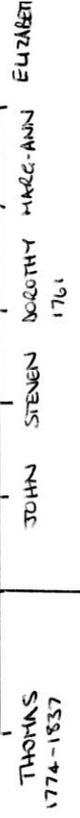
JOSHUA

JOSIAS LAMBERT m MARY FENWICK
JUNE 1726 1694-1760
HEYSHAM



ROBERT m MARY GONNER
? - 1779
8 FEB 1760
ST GILES
CORPLEGATE

MARGARET
HUJISERSTY
19 APRIL 1739 1734-1801
UNDELSBERGOW
WESTMORLAND

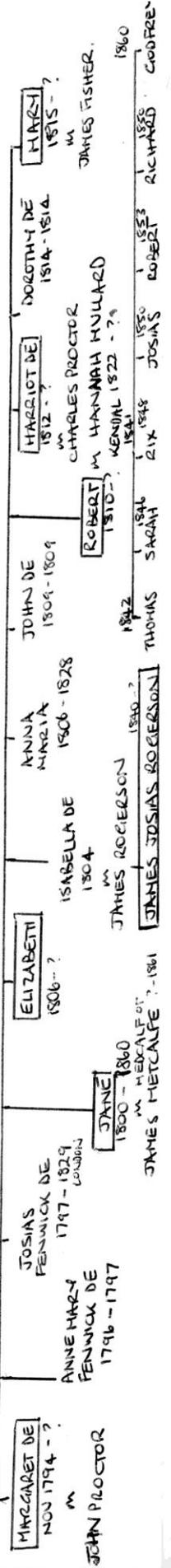


MARY
GARDGETT
1773-1827
m
24 MARCH
1794
ADDINTHAM
CUMBELAND

JOSIAS m BEATRIX WINFIELD
19 JAN 1763-1841
AT WATCHFIELD, KENDAL

22 JAN 1781
KENDAL

MARY WINFIELD LAMBERT
1787-1857



MARGARET DE
NOV 1794-?
m
JEAN PROCTOR

JOSIAS
FENWICK DE
1797-1829
LONDON

ELIZABETH
1806-?
m
ISABELLA DE
1804
m
JAMES ROGERSON
1840-?

JOHN DE
1804-1809
m
ANNA
MARIA
1806-1828
m
THOMAS
ROGERSON
1840-?

THOMAS
1774-1837
m
JOSIAS
1762-1837
OF KIRKLAND
KENDAL

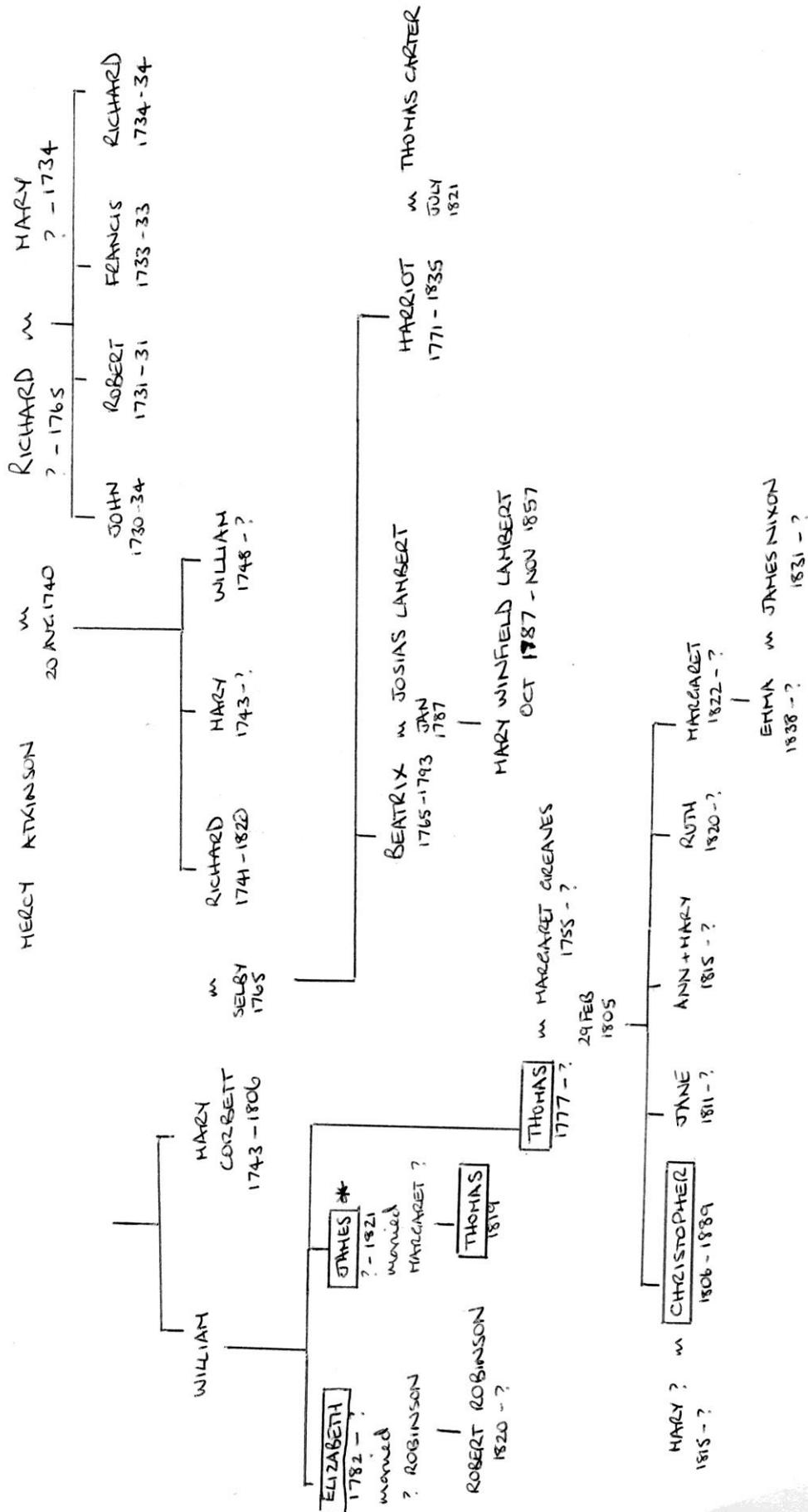
ROBERT
1810-?
m
HANNAH MULLARD
1822-?
m
CHARLES PROCTOR
1822-?

HARRIOT DE
1812-?
m
CHARLES PROCTOR
1822-?

DOROTHY DE
1814-1814
m
JAMES FISHER.
1860

WINFIELD FAMILY

□ BENEFICENCES MENTIONED
IN MARY WINFIELD LAMBERT'S WILL



* JAMES CORBETT WAS A MANUFACTURER IN VERMONT WHEN HE DIED IN 1821