

## THE GREENWOOD INHERITANCE.

We had lived on Cartmel Fell for nearly thirty years and were very involved in its local history. We knew that a Miss Lucie Carr was the landlady of several farms in the district and that she had visited her tenants on an annual basis until she was extremely old, chauffeured by her agent.

As we were about to move to Grange over Sands, our neighbour, who had been able to purchase their farm when Miss Carr died said to us “ You knew that Miss Carr owned your cottage too did you?” We did not, and so began the detective work.

I checked Lucie on the 1911 census and found that she was the daughter of the curate of Newlands near Keswick, who was born of a Yorkshire farming family, but her mother Alice, nee Greenwood, had roots in Cartmel Fell and through the default of male heirs, Alice inherited a number of properties, three in Cartmel Fell, three in Grange and others on Walney Island, including the golf course. There must be a connection between the Greenwoods of Carmel Fell and Witherslack and those of Walney but it has been hard to trace. Alice’s grandmother, Susannah Greenwood of Cartmel Fell did not need to change her surname when she married William of Walney Island in June 1821 at Cartmel Fell. The couple then settled in North Scales, Walney where there is a house called Turner Hill, an echo of a Susannah’s uncle’s property in Witherslack.

Alice Carr, born in 1862 was the daughter of Robert Greenwood who had been born in Walney in 1822. After his marriage, he lived in Lancaster where Alice was educated, but she sometimes stayed with her Aunt Mary in Rose Cottage, Grange. Mary, Robert’s only sibling was born in 1826 and never married. She lived here in Grange after parents died with her cousin Elizabeth Kinnish, and also owned the adjoining Fern Cottage, which is very much older.

The puzzle is whether Mary Greenwood actually built Rose Cottage or if her father William did. It is grade two listed and has pretensions of grandeur, with marble fireplaces in all the front rooms and a row of bells for servants in what was the kitchen. This, all in a tiny dolls house of a cottage, four up and four down. Whilst searching for clues as to the age of Rose Cottage, I came across the plans drawn up for a small two storey wing at the back, dated 1891. This was to accommodate the latest amenity, a W.C. upstairs but no bath and a sort of scullery underneath. I imagine that this was perhaps when mains water and drainage came to Grange. Miss Greenwood also installed a W. C. in Fern cottage for her tenant, Mrs. Just.



We still have no date for Rose Cottage as we only have abstract of title going back to Miss Greenwood’s death in 1906, probably because none of the family’s holdings had ever been sold before. Lucie, the heiress to so many valuable properties was the little Lucie, heroine of the Tale of Mrs. Tiggywinkle, and the farm which Beatrix Potter painted was at Newlands where Lucie was born in 1900. She died aged 102 in Oxford, where her father later in his career became promoted to canon.

Jennifer Forsyth