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Cark Manor ; a house of many names.

Cark Manor as it is known today lies on the road leaving Cark in Cartmel towards Holker Hall. The road from the lower part of Cark to Holker did not pass by the west end of the cottages at High Row, according to Stockdale¹, until about the year 1815. Prior to 1815, the road went from Cark House through what is today a lower gateway into the Cark Manor estate and went up the hill and through where the Cark Manor coach house and stable-yards are at present. Whether Stockdale owned this land and a sale was made to the first owner of Cark Manor, James Newby which then prompted the relocation of the Holker road, is not apparent at present.

Cark Manor was built for a plantation owner of the name of James Newby, who not only had a sugar plantation with 5 slaves² in the parish of St. Ann, Jamaica but held many offices there and rose to the rank of Major to become the Superintendent of the Artillery in the County of Middlesex, Jamaica. He resided at Rio Nova Bay³, in the Parish of St. Ann.

On his death, as recorded in the Lancaster Gazette of January, 30th. 1869, his final residence was St. Anne's Cottage, Cark, Cartmel and that he was formerly of St. Anne's Plantation, Jamaica.

James Newby was one of several sons of a local yeoman from Barber Green in the parish of Upper Allithwaite. As was the case with many young men of prosperous farmers, because of the Act of Settlement of 1688, the English practice of primogeniture (whereby land and its income was

¹ Stockdale, J. 1872. The Annals of Cartmel p. 389

² James Newby received in 1836 £135.12s 0d. As claim on the 5 slaves he had on his plantation.

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³ Jamaicanfamilysearch.com

inherited solely by the eldest son) was strengthened. Thus, in the late seventeenth and eighteenth century, many well connected and educated young men needed to earn their own living. Not only did the sugar plantations of the West Indies but also colonial administration provided a means of advancement for such young men. The private fortunes made from sugar plantations seem according to Morgan⁴ to have been channelled not directly into industrial investment but into the construction of country houses and the laying out of landscaped gardens. Also as Perry⁵ has pointed out, the growing prosperity of Atlantic ports such as Lancaster had a profound effect on the visual landscape and architecture in the North West of England in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth, transforming relatively unproductive uplands into sites of 'aesthetic and spiritual sustenance'.

Thus a fine Georgian house was fitting for James Newby, who at the time of its construction was about 55 years old and as Perry⁶ has pointed out Caribbean merchants on their return to England often became patrons of fashionable architecture, art and landscape design as well as being investors in agricultural improvements and turnpike roads. Cark Manor is an example of such practice albeit on a smaller scale than houses such Storr's Hall, on the Westmorland shore of Lake Windermere, and built for Ulverston merchant, Sir John Bolton.

From the census records from 1840, the house is known as Cark Villa but when it was built in about 1815-20, it was referred to in county directories⁷ as St. Ann's cottage and Cark Cottage. It is now a listed Grade 11 building and its design was attributed to the Kendal based, Grange-living architect George Webster.

Cark Manor was lived in by its original owner and on his death it passed to his brother's widow Susannah Newby and their only daughter, also named Susannah Newby. After a disputed inheritance involving James Stockdale, the property finally passed to Thomas Newby Wilson who it was noted in 1864, gave Cark Villa as his residence⁸. However, he did not remain in the house for very long⁹ moving to another inherited property; The Landings at Lakeside and it finally passed out of the hands of the Newby family at some date in the late nineteenth century with only servants being recorded on the census records from 1871- 1891.

In 1894, alterations and additions were made to Cark Villa¹⁰ for E.C. Knight¹¹ and again it was altered in 1901 by the Ulverston architects Settle & Farmer for Roger William Wakefield (b.1866). His great grandfather was John Wakefield, Banker and Gunpowder Manufacturer who lived at Broughton Lodge, Cartmel.¹² According to census records, Roger and his wife Ethel Mary Knott moved from Beckenham, Kent and two of their three children were born in Cark.¹³ The principal

⁴ Morgan, K. (2000) *Slavery, Atlantic trade and the British economy 1600-1800*, Cambridge University Press

⁵ Perry, V.J. 2009 *Slavery, Sugar and the Sublime* PhD Dissertation University College London.

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ Baines, E. & Parson, W. 1828 *History, Directory & Gazeteer of the County Palinate of Lancaster* Volume 2

⁸ *The Westmorland Gazette*, Saturday, February 13th 1864. 4th Westmorland Rifle Volunteer Ball.

⁹ According to the census for Lower Holker 1871-1901, only household staff or the gardener were recorded as being resident at Cark Manor.

¹⁰ Map of Lower Holker, 1889 Lancashire XVII.6 National Library of Scotland.

¹¹ BSRDNL/1/538 Barrow Archives

¹² Born 13th March 1761 and died 30th October 1829

¹³ William Wavell Wakefield b 10 Mar 1898, Beckenham Kent d. 12 Aug 1983. 1st Baron Wakefield of Kendal, noted rugby player and sometime owner of Ullswater steamers and Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway (both of which are owned by his descendants)

John Dickens Wakefield b 17 Dec 1899, d 10 Feb 1938

Edward Birkbeck Wakefield, 1st Baronet Wakefield of Kendal, was born at Cark 24 Jul 1903. MP and Civil Servant

Roger Cuthbert Wakefield, b 27 Jun 1906 at Cark.

distinguishing features of Cark Manor at this time were the square entrance tower with swept pyramidal roof and Tuscan porch, and a West end with an 8-bay verandah with 3 fluted Tuscan columns.

The new hall with the pyramidal roof is Settle's work. Roger Wakefield who was the son of the Kendal banker, William Wakefield, had become a surgeon and part of Settle's work included a surgery and waiting room. By 1911 Dr. Wakefield, his family and domestics had removed to Winder¹⁴ the name by which Cark Manor was referred to at this time.

The Lodge to Cark Manor was also done by Webster, and is also grade 11 listed. In addition, the wrought iron railings on the opposite side of the road to the Lodge are also Listed.

At some point after the Wakefield family left, the house became known as Cark Manor. In the twentieth century, the house, stables and coach house have been sold off separately. Later twentieth century residences included Colonel Cody and his family, the Harrisons and the Wallaces.

Rose Clark

¹⁴ Map of Lower Holker, 1910 Lancashire XVII.6. National Library of Scotland.