

THE DEVELOPMENT of GRANGE-OVER-SANDS and its SURROUNDING AREA.

Until the railway from Ulverston to Carnforth was opened in 1857 there were less than a dozen buildings of significance in the Grange area, and all were built by the Kendal firm (but Grange and Lindale residents) of Francis Webster (1767-1827) and his son George (1728-1808).

The earliest of these is Castle Head, Lindale (1780, by Francis Webster) for the ironmaster John Wilkinson (1728-1808), who earlier came from Backbarrow via Coalbrookdale and established his iron works in Lindale, and where he is buried.

In 1832 George Webster built Holme Island House for the Warrington lawyer John Fitchett (1776-1838). Fitchett sold the house in 1839 to a John Thompson and in 1844 Webster (or Miles Thompson of the Webster firm) did the 16-columned Corinthian Temple in the garden and the lodge at the island end of the later causeway. Thompson sold the property to John Brogden (1798-1867), a coal mine owner, railway contractor and ironmaster of Ulverston, who commissioned Sir James William Brunlees (1866-1892) to construct the Ulverston-Lancaster Railway, whose viaducts across the Leven and Kent were completed in 1857. Also in 1857 Brogden's second son, Liberal MP Alexander (1825-1892) built the causeway that connects the island to the shore.

Miss Mary Winfield Lambert (1737-1857), a daughter of the Winfield and Lambert union of Kendal, got Webster to build her the Jacobean/Tudor Abbot Hall, Kents Bank, in 1840, and he also did for her the Kents Bank Hotel in 1845. By her will monies were provided for the building of the Church of St. Mary, Allithwaite, designed by the Lancaster firm of Paley & Austin in 1865. Miss Lambert inherited Boarbank Hall from her grandfather Richard Winfield, who had commissioned Webster to build it in 1837. Boarbank was extended by James Wright Grundy (1820-1897) in 1876 for Henry Chandler (1813-1889), a cotton spinner of Manchester.

In 1840 Webster built the 'Old Wing' of Holker Hall and three cottages at the entrance gates for William Cavendish (1805-1891), 2nd Earl of Burlington and future 4th Duke of Devonshire. Paley & Austin did the entrance gates in 1875 having done their most magnificent domestic work in 1871, the magnificent Elizabethan style West Wing, built on the footprint of Webster's 'New Wing' which had been destroyed by fire.

George Webster built for himself Black Rock Villa, Main Street, Grange, in 1840, on the suggestion of his doctor, Dr. William Longmire of Highgate, Kendal, for his health, the intention being that Webster should have hot and cold brine baths in the basement, taking water directly from the sea. Webster produced drawings in 1845 to protest against the Bill of Parliament for the construction of the railway, which showed how its embankment

would cut off his access and views of the sea. This fate also fell upon Richard Wright, a Liverpool seed and spice merchant, and his wife Ellen, who got Webster to design Bay Villa in 1849 in order to live next door to his father Robert, a retired master mariner. Wright was horrified when the Furness Railway built their embankment, which ruined his view !

In 1842 the Rev. Thomas Machell Remington (1836-1900) got Webster to do some Tudor additions to Aynsome Manor and commissioned him to design the Kirkby Lonsdale Savings Bank in The Square, Cartmel, in 1847.

In his retirement at Eller Howe, Lindale, "to oblige a neighbour" in 1853 Webster built Merlewood, Windermere Road, for Manchester-born Alfred Binyon (1800-1856) a partner of the calico printing firm Thomas Hoyle & Sons. Sadly Mrs. Binyon died 6 months after the foundation stone had been laid, and Binyon himself died three years later and only 18 months after moving into his new home.

If 1853 was the retirement of George Webster it was the year in which the Church of St. Paul, Church Hill, Grange, was built, to the designs of James Murray (1831-1863). Paley & Austin added the S porch and chancel with its polygonal apse in 1932.

The Furness Railway Co. secured the services of Lancaster architect Edward Graham Paley (1823-1895) of the firm Paley & Austin to build their railway station in Grange in 1865, and the firm did all the stations on their coastal Cumbrian line, building the Grange Hotel and its Stables in 1866, and extending the Station in 1872.

In 1879-81 Paley & Austin did Hampsfield House, Lindale-in-Cartmel for John Tomlinson Hibbert.

"A plain stone country house, but the entrance front is picturesquely disposed. Inside there is a very fine hall and with a pretty arrangement of staircase. The plaster cornices have a refined and pleasing effect, with delicate reeding and mouldings. The total cost of Hampsfield is about.£7000. Of the other houses by Messrs Paley & Austin, it may be interesting to here state the cost, viz: Witherslack, the seat of Col. Stanley MP, £17,000; and the cost of the complete works, at Holker, after the fire, about £38,000." (Quotation by T. Raffles Davison in *British Architect* v16 12 Aug 1881 p407).

Sir John Tomlinson Hibbert KCB PC JP DL DCL (1824-1908) was born in Oldham and became a barrister and Liberal politician. At one time he was Chairman of Lancashire County Council and was MP for Oldham three times between 1862-95. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury and then Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, at various times under W. E. Gladstone's parliament between 1872-95. J. T. Hibbert, as he preferred to be called, is buried in Webster's church of St. Paul at Lindale-in-Cartmel. The Hibberts were the benefactors in 1892-4 of the grand (but with alien red clay tiles) Perpendicular Church of St. Peter, Field Broughton, designed by Hubert Austin of the practice Paley, Austin & Paley. Successors Austin & Paley designed the substantial Romanesque Church of St.

John, Flookburgh (1897-1900), the gift of the Cavendish family of Holker Hall at a cost of £12,000.

The opening of the railway saw the four principal architectural practices of Kendal and Ulverston busy in Grange – J. W. Grundy and W. M. Settle of Ulverston and John Hutton and Stephen Shaw of Kendal.

James Wright Grundy (1820-1897) did the Cumbria Grand Hotel in 1876 and extended it in 1882 (and John Hutton extended it further in 1892); and did Sandyfield (the Hampsfell House Hotel) in 1884.

Stephen Shaw (1846-1931) came on to the local scene in 1882 with Wycombe Villa, The Esplanade, for the grocer James Wilson Jopson, followed by Berners Close, Park Road (1883) for the Quaker James Henry Midgley (1854-1929). He did the Sunday School for the Wesleyan Church in 1902 and extended Abbot Hall in 1915-16.

John Hutton (1866-1937) was born in Kendal and had been articled to Stephen Shaw but died while living at Meadow Grove, Kents Bank. He did Milton Terrace, Grange Fell Road (1890), extended Grundy's Cumbria Grand and did Thornleigh, Park Road (both 1892); Hazelwood Court, Lindale Road (1895); Victoria Hall (1898); the distinctive shopping terrace Yewbarrow Terrace (1900); and Morecambe Bank (1901)

William Moss Settle (1876-1905) is perhaps best known for the development of Vickerstown, Walney Island, Barrow (1900-1905), but he did not appear in Grange until 1903, when he did Mount Pleasant (now called Sunny Bank) 57 Grange Fell Road, for the Misses Airey; and Kirk Hey, Kirkhead Road, Kents Bank, for Mrs. Anna Adelaide Baynes of the cotton-spinning firm in Preston. The practice became Settle & Brundrit in 1905, and in that year Cardrona, Allithwaite Road, was built for W. Dalglish. In 1907 Grangethorpe, Charney Road, was built for Prof. P. Henri M du-Gillon and was a day school 1913-1944. (Prof. Du-Gillon was born in France in 1838 and was a Professor of French Literature. Was he a tutor at the Charney Hall School (built 1888, now demolished) ? He had architect Herbert Preston of Chapel Allerton, Leeds, build for him The Cottage, Ashmount Road (1899, now demolished but replaced by a modern house called Brambles); Fell Villa & Easedale, Grange Fell Road (1900); and Nos.1-6 Ashmount Road (1901).

The development of the 'parallel' roads across the Grange fellside was somewhat haphazard – Kents Bank Road with the Wesleyan Methodist Church (Ernest Bates of Manchester, 1874) and the Church of St. Charles Borromeo and Presbytery (both 1883, by

Edward Simpson (1844-1937) of Bradford, for the Rev. Father (later Canon) Richard T. Langtree); followed in 1886 with the National School (Joseph Bintley (1837-1921) of Kendal; Burton House (by builder Arthur Thoms of Mayfield Terrace, Kents Bank Road).

The majority of Rockland Road was developed in 1888 by the well-known Windermere firm of builders G. H. Pattinson; Eden Mount Road in 1895-97 by local builders Nelson Brothers; Charney Road, Grange Fell Road and Fernhill Road, 1907-1909; and Highfield Road in 1923 with properties by Hutton, Settle and Grundy.

A number of other architects did only one building in Grange:

Netherwood Hotel, Lindale Road, by Willink & Thicknesse of Liverpool (1893). Built as a private house for Bolton cotton merchant George William Deakin (1856-1897).

Willink & Thicknesse's most celebrated works are the Queen Victoria Memorial in Liverpool (1902) and the Cunard Line Building at Liverpool Pier Head (1913) Congregational (United Reform) Church (1894-5) by Ernest Howard Dawson (1864-1896).

Bank of Liverpool (later Martins Bank, now Barclays Bank (1905) by John Flavel Curwen (1860-1932) of Kendal. Curwen did other Liverpool Banks in Coniston (1905) and Penrith (1912).

Highfield (Kilmidyke), Carter Road, by Joseph Parkinson of Lancaster (1895) for Robert Illingworth, snuff manufacturer of Kendal.

Graythwaite Wood (now Manor), Fern Hill (1899) by James Ledingham of Bradford for Bradford accountant William Markells Gray. (His date-stone is difficult to find !).

Co-operative Store (No.4 Branch), Kents Bank Road (1906) by Herbert Edward Illingworth of Leeds for the Carnforth Co-operative Society. (Illingworth had built only one other property in Grange, a semi-detached pair of houses in Fernleigh Road (1905) for his retired and widowed merchant father Thomas, who lived in the house called Glenholme).

Working Men's Convalescent Home (Cartmel Grange Nursing Home) by William John Wadman of London (1914-16).

Cinema & Ballroom, Main Street, by George Edward Tonge of Southport (1919). He also designed a cinema in Bowness but it wasn't built: a design by Walker, Carter & Walker of Windermere was chosen and is today's "Royalty."

London Joint & Midland Bank (became HSBC Bank), Main Street, by Woollfall & Eccles of Liverpool (1921).

The Convent of Our Lady of Lourdes, Boarbank, for the Catholic Friendly Society, by Thomas P. Rigby of Warrington (1926-39).

In all, where I have found archive material, some 30 different architects did some 103 buildings in the Grange area in the 120 years 1810-1930 – too many to mention here. If readers know of any architects who built their house, the author would be most interested to hear from you.

Chris Wright, June 2017.

Chris is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. An illustrated talk on this topic is in the course of preparation.