

Introduction to the Jubilee Digests

Victoria County History (VCH) and Cumbria County History Trust(CCHT)

Founded in 1899 and originally dedicated to Queen Victoria, the VCH is an encyclopaedic record of England's places and people from earliest times to 1900. It aimed to produce a record of every county but it did not and amongst the missing ones were Cumberland and Westmorland. The Cumbria County History Trust, a registered charity, was launched in May 2010 to coordinate and gather resources for the [Victoria County History of Cumbria](#) project, a collaborative community project created to research and write the histories of all parts of Cumbria, and to make historical information generally available, within the framework and standards of the Victoria County History of England. Cartmel and Furness Peninsulas (previously Lancashire North of the Sands) were included in the Lancashire Red Book. Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent were in Yorkshire at the time of the project and information for those areas also exists. The existing information needs to be reviewed and updated for inclusion in the Cumbria edition.

Jubilee Digests

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Queen re-dedicate the VCH. To mark this occasion, a set of historical data for every community in Cumbria, called 'Jubilee Digests' were compiled. Volunteers gathered a set of specified historical facts for each of the places for which separate VCH articles will eventually be written: that's 311 parishes/ townships in Cumberland and Westmorland, a further 30 in Furness and Cartmel, together with 3 more for Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent. These digests of information are publicly available on the Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT) website and form a really valuable resource as a quick reference guide to the history of each and every Cumbrian community up to the present day.

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society was involved. Members Barbara Copeland who lead the team, Nigel Mills, Pat Rowland and Tiffany Hunt who is a trustee of the CCHT volunteered to do this for the Cartmel Peninsula for part of the Ancient Parish of Cartmel.

The following Townships were completed

Allithwaite Lower

Allithwaite Upper

Broughton East

Lower Holker

Upper Holker

Grange-over-Sands

The areas that we researched were:

Acreage

Population

Landownership

Economic Activity

Places of Worship

Schools and other institutions

The digests were submitted in 2012 and we have decided to put this information on the website for research purposes. Since then we have carried out much more research and are aware that there are some errors and omissions.

The information was substantially rewritten by Angus Winchester and included in Cumbria: An Historical Gazetteer which was published in 2016 by Lancaster University Regional Heritage Centre.

Pat Rowland

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