

## Victoria County History (Cumbria) Project

### Form 3 (Jubilee Digest)

<b>Name of Place:</b>	Upper Holker
<b>Status</b> <i>[anc. parish, township or chapelry]</i>	Township that in 1901 included Backbarrow, Brow Edge and Low Wood. By 1934 Backbarrow, Brow Edge and Low Wood had become part of Leven Valley. Upper Holker became a ward in Lower Allithwaite.
<b>Parish:</b>	Ancient Parish: Cartmel Civil Parish: Upper Holker
<b>Ward:</b>	Lonsdale Hundred, North of the Sands
<b>Historic County:</b>	Lancashire, North of the Sands
<b>Survey date of 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map &amp; revision date of 2<sup>nd</sup> edition</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS Map – 1847-48 ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS Map 1890
<b>Modern local government boundary change</b>	Upper Holker Civil Parish 1801 - by 1934 had become part of Lower Allithwaite
<b>Acreage</b> <i>[acres and hectares]</i>	7140 acres (2890 ha) in 1850, increased to 10388(4204 ha) in 1890. 4208 acres(1703 ha) in 1931
<b>Extent of common moor or fell</b>	Estimate area 8000 acres (3237 ha) Commons, waste grounds, mosses – in townships of Staveley, Lower Allithwaite, Broughton, Upper Allithwaite, Lower Holker, Cartmel Fell, Upper Holker
<b>Date of enclosure</b>	Cartmel Award Enclosure Act 1796. Date of the Award 1809.
<b>Population</b>	835 in 1811 rising to 1134 in 1851 but falling back to 1035 in 1861; 825 in 1901; 223 in 1931 1821 population increase attributed to prosperity of trade and improvement of medical knowledge. 1861 population decrease attributed to destruction by fire of a cotton mill and fewer hands employed when rebuilt. 1871 population decrease due to closure of 2 cotton mills. 1931 Backbarrow, Brow Edge and Low Wood had become part of Leven Valley.
<b>Landownership</b> <i>[summary manorial descent (if known); other major estates (if known)]</i>  (Please limit to 5 lines maximum)	The manor of WALTON recorded in Domesday Book was held by Walton family. In 1342, it was transferred to the Prior of Cartmel but is now part of the Holker estate. The remainder of the land in Upper Holker was held by customary tenants of the priory of Cartmel. Bigland Hall estate belonged to Cartmel Priory. From 1508 Bigland belonged to the family until 1980s.
<b>Economic Activity</b>	Hill mill near Walton Hall Farm in 1850 and 1890.

<p><i>[excluding agriculture; i.e. mines, quarries, manufacturing, markets etc]</i></p> <p>(Please limit to 5 lines maximum)</p>	<p>Backbarrow, Brow Edge and Low Wood have been associated with various industries since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A paper mill burned down in 1782 and was rebuilt as a cotton mill. This in turn burned down in 1856 and was rebuilt, becoming in 1895 the Blue works (ultramarine production), closed in 1982. The Whitewater Hotel and Lakeland Motor Museum now occupy the site. Historically important Blast Furnace in Backbarrow 1711-1965. Gunpowder Works at Low Wood from 1798 – 1935. Furness Railway was extended in 1868 to transport iron and products, closed early in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Basket making and provision of refreshments for travellers also shown. Timber Merchants in Backbarrow were established in 1858 and an electrical outlet at Low Wood was established in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
<p><b>Places of Worship</b></p> <p><i>[date of foundation and denomination]</i></p> <p>(please limit to 5 lines maximum)</p>	<p>Wesleyan Methodist church, Backbarrow 1850 - 1991</p>
<p><b>Schools and Other Institutions</b></p> <p>(Please limit to 5 lines maximum)</p>	<p>Brow Edge charity school 1685          Brow Edge/Haverthwaite elementary school 1872 – 1929          Leven Valley CE Primary School 1929 to date.</p>
<p><b>Compiled by</b> [name in full]</p>	<p>Barbara Copeland; Pat Rowland; Nigel Mills</p>

Please tick if checked:

Source	
<i>VCH Lancs.</i> VIII	x
OS 6" 1 <sup>st</sup> edn	x
OS 6" 2 <sup>nd</sup> edn	x
Census data	x
Yates Map	
Parson & White (1829)	x
Mannix (1851)	x
Mackereth (1901)	
1851 Religious Census	x
1818 Returns of Schools	x
Enclosure award handlist	x
<i>Fleming's Description</i>	
Hyde & Pevsner	x