The Development of the village of Allithwaite in the second half of the 19th Century: the agricultural labourers, stonemasons and shop keepers.

The village of Allithwaite is located within the local council district and ancient Township of Lower Allithwaite, within the Ancient Parish of Cartmel. It is located on elevated ground approximately half a mile in land and north of Morecambe Bay. The name suggests it is of Viking origin and dating back to the Norse inhabitation of the region in the 10th century. We know from the earliest survey of the Parish in 1685 that Allithwaite only consisted of the road from Lane Ends down Jack Hill to Outerthwaite and consisted of farms plus Allithwaite Lodge and the Mill [1]. The village appears to have developed from the beginning of the 19th Century. The objective of this article is to describe the village, and township, and present information from the 1841 to 1911 census record on population and occupations changes during the period. The article will show how the village developed into a strong, independent and thriving community by the beginning of the 20th century.

The Lower Allithwaite Township is within the ancient Parish of Cartmel, (Fig 1) and until 1974 located in the county of Lancashire, North of the Sands. The Township included the eastern part of the village of Cartmel, the village of Allithwaite and extended westwards towards the edge of Flookburgh and Cark-in-Cartmel. Part of Lower Allithwaite was transferred to Grange Civil Parish in 1894 and further land was transferred to Grange in 1914. Subsequently, Lower Allithwaite was enlarged by absorbing the Township of Upper Holker in 1949 [2]. Since 1974

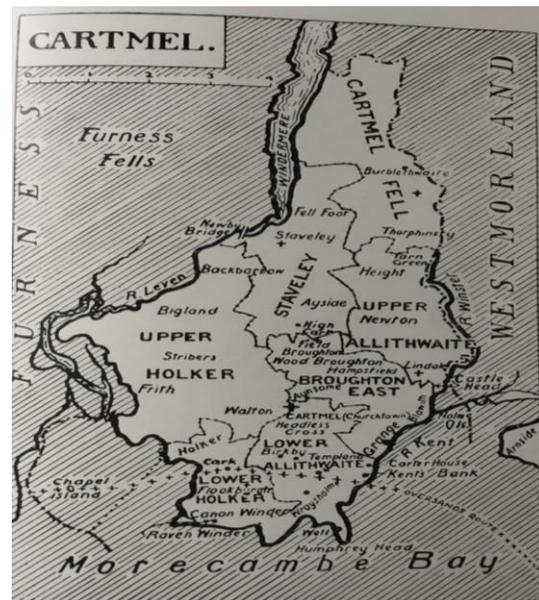Lower Allithwaite is located within South Lakeland in the county of Cumbria.

Fig. 1 Map of the Ancient Parish of Cartmel [3]

In 1841 the population of Lower Allithwaite was 902 and 25% resided in the village of Allithwaite, 50% in part of Cartmel village and 25% distributed in the farms of the surrounding area (Table 1). By the beginning of the 20th century the population in the Township had increased by 25%, with increases in the population of the village of Allithwaite and Kents Bank, and a decrease in those living in the part of Cartmel in the Township. This is clearly reflected in the increase number of properties in the village of Allithwaite and Kents Bank, whilst no increase in Cartmel (Table 2). The population in the rest of the

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Fig. 2 OS Map of Allithwaite 1851

rural area remained relatively stable, with virtually no increase in the number of properties recorded in the censuses.

In the 21st century the village of Allithwaite extends from Templand southwards to Four Lane Ends at the south end of Holme Lane. At the beginning of the 19th Century, the village was little more than a collection of farms (Barn Hey, Yew Tree, Blenkett and Allithwaite), Allithwaite Lodge, a few cottages, a public house (Guide-over-Sands) and a Mill (Fig 2). The two farms at Templand were quite detached from the village and for this study not considered to be within the Village.

Earlier census information collected for the Cartmel Parish in 1821 and 1831 appears not to have survived. The census data from 1841 to 1911 shows that the population in the village was 196 in 1841 and by 1871 it had increased to 250 with an increase of 10 properties between 1861 and 1871 (Tables 1 & 2). For the next 30 years there was little change in the number of residents or number of properties. There then followed a population increase of 81 between 1901 and 1911 with 20 new

properties being built in the village. The profile of the residents during the period of the censuses is 50% adults, 40% children and 10% youths (Table 3).

Census enumerators appear not to be issued with guidelines for the recording of occupation. There are over 320 listed occupations in the censuses for Lower Allithwaite. The main occupations groups in the village are in farming (as farmers, their family and agricultural labourers), domestic work, and to a lesser extent fishing and in the construction industry (as builders and stone masons) (Tables 4-7).

The Mill in Allithwaite, probably the oldest known building in the village, was shown on a map of 1685 [1].   Robert Benson was a flour dealer in the village (Parson & White 1829) and it continued as a corn mill until 1838. From then to 1845 it was used as a bobbin mill [4] with four wood turners in 1841 (Table 6). It returned to milling after 1846 (John Borrowdale was the master corn miller in 1851 & 1861 census) and it is shown as a corn mill on the 1851 OS map, surveyed 1847-8. By 1871 it changed to a brewery [5] with brewers recorded in the census from 1871 up to 1901 (Table 5) and a cooper was also

recorded there in the 1871 census (Table 6).

The Enclosure Act of 1796 was a significant development on the Peninsula, with the commissioners allocating and selling off plots of common to land owners and tenant farmers. Some plots were allocated to land owners in other townships resulting in detached plots of land. For example, there is a plot allocated to Upper Holker just north west of the Village. In 1807, the quarry was established by the Commissioners:

"...and next to the allotments and parcels of ground necessary to be set out upon the said several commons waste grounds and mosse for getting stone and gravel by the owners and proprietors…for buildings, burning into lime and for repairing the ways and roads within the said parish of Cartmel. We the said William Dawson, William Whitelock and Robert Waddington do allot and set apart a parcel of ground on Wartbarrow containing in statute enclosure 2 roods and 2 perches bounded on the east by allotments being severally awarded to John Wainhouse and John Harrison" [6].

The limestone quarry is located to the East of the village on Wartbarrow with adjacent limekilns (fig 2). The quarry provided employment for the village throughout the 19th century, increasing from 4 in 1841 to 12 in 1911, with 19 stone masons in the village in 1881 (Table 6). Richard Burrow employed 3 masons in 1861 and the family continued in the trade up to at least 1881. James Akister and family were masons in the census from 1871 to 1911, and in 1871 he employed 8 men. The Akisters were credited for the construction of the church, school and vicarage [7] and the fairly crude stone work suggests the stone on these building is from the local quarry. However a press article of the topping off celebration meal quotes C Bayliss as the stone mason [8]. The Blairs were masons and builders from 1881 to 1911. There will have been plenty of work for the builders, plumbers, painters and joiners in the area. The view of the quarry at the beginning of the 20th century shows the quarry has a bright white limestone face indicating that rock is still being extracted (Fig 3). Bulmer's directory of about 1912 [9] lists Joseph Jackson as the quarryman, Thomas Dickson as a stone breaker, John Thompson and Fred Rawlinson as masons, and William Blair as a monumental mason. Adjacent to the quarry there are three limekilns (Fig 2) and there are 2 lime-burners listed in the 1871 census (Table 6).

Fig. 3 A view towards the Quarry around 1900. Note the current village shop / post office on the right.

The Guide over Sands public house (other names include the Royal Oak and Yakkers), established at the beginning of the 19th Century on the crossroads where the road to Cartmel ascends the bank, will have been used by cross-bay travellers and visitors keen to take the waters at the Holywell Spa at Humphrey Head. Joseph Brown, a blacksmith, purchased the pub in 1831 and perhaps the blacksmith shop was in the adjacent stable where he would have replaced horse shoes. There were up to 4

blacksmiths in the village from 1841 to 1911 (Table 6). The Farmer's Arms (also named The Pheasant) at the bottom of the village, close to the mill was also built at the end of the 18th Century. The census information suggests that farming was the main occupation of its residents and therefore it may have been a beer or brew-house until later in the century. Throughout the period of the published census records alcoholism was of widespread concern and the Temperance Society held meetings in the village Institute in the second half of the 19th century [10].

In 1829 the farmers living in the village were Thomas Bigland (yeoman), John Lawrence, Christopher Orr and William Winder [11]. The number working in the agriculture sector remained similar over the period, with a decrease in agricultural labourers balanced by an increase in those employed as gardeners (Table 4) who were probably mainly employed in the French Garden business established at Allithwaite Lodge by Mr. Molyneux by 1911.

John Storey of Wraysholme sold a parcel of land for the erection of the Institute in 1853 [10]. The Moore family of John, Margaret, John and Thomas were noted as farmers living at Blenkett, Yew Tree and The Farmers Arms between 1841 and 1891. William Nash from Allithwaite Lodge was described as a farmer of 500 acres employing 9 people in 1861 and 1871. The Jackson family farmed in the village with William Jackson living at Hillside Farm in 1911 and Matthew Hudson (stalwart and warden at St Mary's Church) farmed at Blenkett from 1881-1911. There are over 100 records of butchers and their families in census database working in the Peninsula, However there are only 3 records of butchers in the village (Table 5), with

Arthur Crewdson the tenant at the Royal Oak, described as innkeeper and butcher. The journeymen butchers will probably have helped the farmers in the village to prepare their meat for market.

There are three families involved in the fishing industry in the village: the Relphs (1841-91), Paisley (1851-1911), and the Dickinsons (1851-1911). Why did fishermen live in Allithwaite when the fishing industry was centred on the coast and in particular in Flookburgh? Many women were thought to be involved in cockling in 1841 [12] and the Dickinson family in Allithwaite were related to a large family involved in fishing in Flookburgh.

For such a small village Allithwaite had a large number of people involved in shop keeping. Thomas Hogarth ran a beer house and was a shop-keeper [13] (1851 census) and John Parkinson was a tea dealer and grocer [13]. Samuel Hudson sold the produce from his grocery business (Census 1851 & 1861). He had retired by 1871 and then Thomas Dixon is the grocer in the village in 1881. James Hadwin, was a grocer from Prospect House in 1891. Henry Hadwin, a farmer on Jeremy Hill in 1901 and younger brother of James, operated a grocery business with his son Thomas and daughter Edith in 1911. The other grocer in the village was William Robinson who resided at the Grocer's Shop (Fig 4) from 1891 to 1911 with his family, daughters Mary, Martha and Rose. William was also a draper and sold insurance.

Fig. 4 The Grocers Shop in The Square at the beginning of the 20th century [14]

The premises in the Square continued as a shop and towards the end of the 20th century it was selling antiques. The location of the Post Office in 1881 is opposite the Public House then known as the Royal Oak in the Square where James Lambert's occupation was blacksmith, agricultural implement maker and postmaster [15] and Emma Lambert was the post mistress living with her brother William (a blacksmith and the son of the brewer) in the 1901 census (Fig 5).

Fig. 5 1893 OS Map, surveyed in 1890

In the next census the only postal worker recorded was John Rigg, a messenger and by then the post office had moved to new premises 50 yards up the road (Fig 6).

Fig. 6 Post Office around 1902

The tailors in the Peninsula were established in Grange-over-Sands as early as 1841 with none in Allithwaite. However some women were described as dressmakers and seamstress and this cottage industry mainly occupied the Burrows family from 1871-1911. Sarah Trenouth gave her occupation as a dressmaker in the '81 and '91 census, and it was her son Edward who was working in the Outfitters in Grange in 1911, and later went on to take over the Tailors (and Tobacconist) in 1927 which remained in the family until 1984 [16]. The baker / confectioner appears to have started the business in the first decade of the 20th century. The baker (Fig 7), William Askew (Bulmer's 1910) was supported by wife Mary and daughter Frances (1911 census).
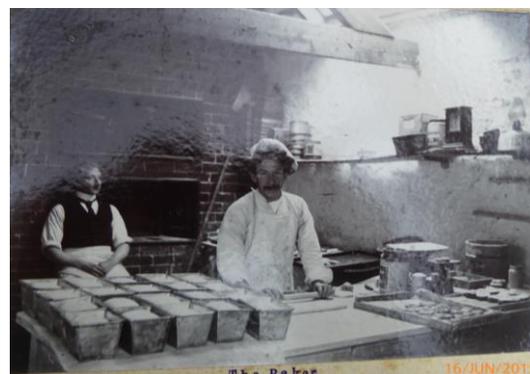

Fig. 7 The baker around 1902 – Could this be William Askew?

There were many people from Allithwaite who described themselves as employed in general domestic work and were generally described as servants up to 1911. There were also cleaners (charwomen), laundresses and housekeepers (Table 7). The number of people employed in this sector increased from 6 in 1841 to 38 in 1911. At Allithwaite Lodge there were 3 farm servants in 1841, and from 1861-1911 the Nash family and the Molyneux's had 2 live-in servants. There were 3-4 servants at Allithwaite Vicarage for Rev. Robert Townson in 1871-1881, whilst his successors Reverends Hammersley and Gilbertson managed with just one servant.

From 1851 the village population grew steadily and with it came community facilities. The Institute opened as a chapel school in 1854 [10] and the church and school in 1865 [8]. Clearly the school and church provided a focus for various meetings and fellowship [10] [8], there were others organisations and facilities being established as the population and community grew. A second pub, the Farmers Arms (now named the Pheasant) became an established hostelry in the second half of the 19th Century. After the school opened the Institute became a Reading Room, a place for church socials and entertainment; for example the Allithwaite Minstrels performed to packed houses in the 1890's [10]. A further community hall with an adjacent croquet and bowling club was opened in 1909 higher up the village on the junction between Church Road and the road to Boarbank. A football club was established in 1896 and there were occasional cricket matches in the 1870's in the time of Walter Winson, the school master [17]. A volunteer fire brigade formed in 1902 under the leadership of William Lamb (Fig 8), operated from Allithwaite Farm [18].

Fig. 8 Chief Fire Office Lamb

By the time of the 1911 census, the village was well-established and self-contained, and there is a great sense that it was by then a thriving community,

Now in 2018 the church and primary school are both well supported and there is a local post office /shop and a pub (The Pheasant).

The Institute was sold in 2018 and the Community Hall which later became the United Reformed Church was demolished a few years ago. However the new Community Centre off Quarry Lane, built by local tradesmen in their spare time and opened in the 1987, is still widely used by Societies, for example Adult Education, the Bridge Club and the Football Club. There is also a Bowling Club which opened in 1992 [19] adjacent to it.

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Tables

Table 1: Population within Lower Allithwaite from the Census.

Location	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Allithwaite village	196	228	201	251	252	238	256	337
Allithwaite South	29	25	46	55	48	58	57	32
Allithwaite West	47	66	72	60	65	54	76	71
Cartmel	397	448	419	352	375	302	315	323
Cartmel area	33	14	19	19	29	21	16	16
Flookburgh area		4	11	10				
Kents Bank, Cart Lane &c.	64	60	104	214	182	247	242 (43)	201 (45)
Templand, Birkby &c.	53	57	74	62	45	61	58	73

Table 2: Occupied Properties in Lower Allithwaite from the Census.

Location	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Allithwaite	39	37	40	50	52	55	57	77
Allithwaite South	5	4	8	7	7	7	7	6
Allithwaite West	8	11	13	12	11	12	16	13
Cartmel	89	93	97	87	89	80	88	91
Cartmel area	4	2	2	2	4	4	2	2
Flookburgh area		1	2	2				
Kents Bank, Cart Lane &c.	11	11	17	31	30	37	43(6)	48(10)
Templand, Birkby &c.	10	9	12	11	9	11	9	12

Note: For Tables 1 & 2 - in 1901 & 1911 part of Kents Bank became part of Grange – those remaining in Lower Allithwaite figures accordingly decrease and are shown in parentheses.

Table 3: Allithwaite village: Age profile of the residents (where age is provided).

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Adults	92	109	88	108	123	119	133	176
Youths	24	17	16	26	21	21	25	28
Children	79	92	87	107	96	94	90	126

Note – Children <15; Youths 15-20.

Table 4: Allithwaite Village Agriculture Occupations.

Agriculture	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Farmer	8	3	4	7	7	6	4	2
Farmer's Family		7	3	2	4	3	4	
Ag Lab	21	26	16	15	14	6	6	9
Dairy Maid					2			
Gamekeeper							1	1
Gardener		1	1	3	5	7	10	8
Market Gardener								2
Seedsman &c.						1		
Wood Cutter							1	1
Wool trade								1

Table 5: Allithwaite Village Food drink & retail occupations.

Food - retail	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Baker or Confectioner				1				2
Brewer				1	2	1	1	
Victualler	1	2	2		2	2	2	3
Butcher		1				1	1	
Fish Dealer		1	1		2	1		
Fisherman / Fishing	9	12	3	5	10	12	5	1
Grocer		1	1	1	1	4	3	7
Miller		2	1					
Post Office							1	1
Retail			1		2			1

Table 6: Allithwaite Village Tradesmen Occupations.

Tradesmen	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Basket Maker				1				
Blacksmith	1	2	1	4	1	1	4	3
Boot or Shoe Maker			2	1	2			2
Bricklayer					1		1	
Builder							2	8
Carpenter	3	1	2				1	
Cooper				1				
Cotton								2
Dressmaker		1	3	5	6	5	5	4
Coal								2
Engineer					1		1	1
Joiner			1	1	1	4		4
Lime Burner				2				
Labourer, General			4	5	4	5	2	2
Milliner							1	
Miner		1					1	
Painter				1				3
Plasterer						1		
Plumber								5
Quarryman					2		1	1	2
Railway			1	4	1	1	2	2
Seamstress				1	1			
Stone Mason	4	3	7	18	19	13	14	12
Upholsterer								1
Wheelwright		3						
Wood Turner	4							

Table 7: Allithwaite Village Domestic workers Occupations.

Domestic	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Charwoman				6	8	2	3	4
Cook				1	2	1	3	
Domestic Nurse				2		2		
Domestic work	6	4	7	10	8	10	8	21
Errand Boy							2	2
Groom				1	1			
Housekeeper			3	6	6	1	1	7
Laundress			2	2	2	1	2	2
Hotel Staff			1					
Lodging House Keeper								2
Waitress			1				1	