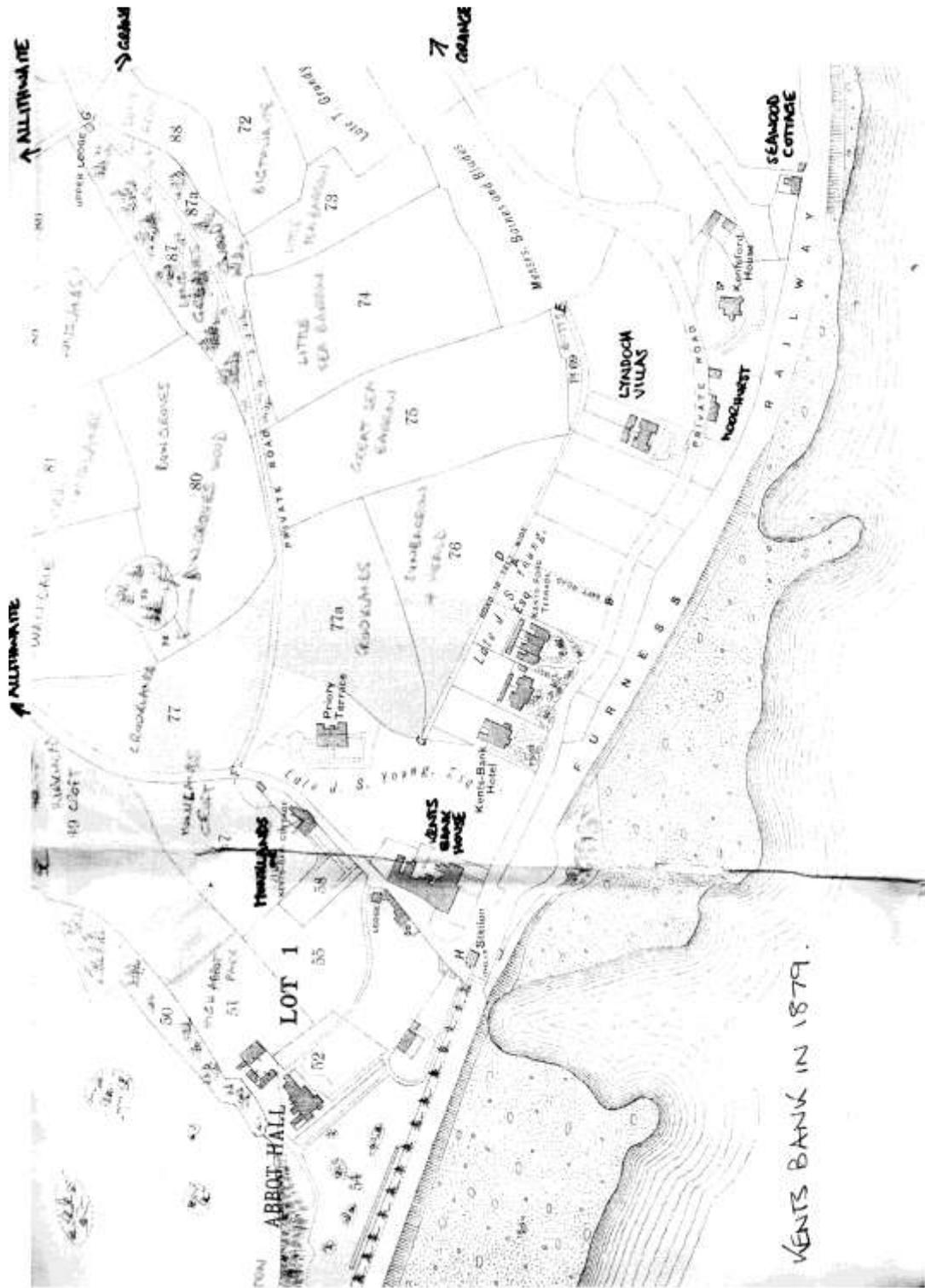


## **Abbot Hall, Kents Bank**

Abbot Hall is located on the coast at Kents Bank at the bottom of the hill known as Barrow Head or Kirkhead. A road now know as Kirkhead Road leads to Allithwaite, Cartmel and Flookburgh.



Pat Rowland 2015



Plan from 1879 sale of Abbot Hall (Lot 1) following death of James Simpson Young.

Abbot Hall is located on an ancient site dating from about 1160 when the Abbey of Furness acquired the land to pasture cows to provide milk for the brethren (Dickinson, J C, Lands of Cartmel (1980)). The Furness Monks had other possessions in Lancashire and Yorkshire and Abbot Hall would probably have been a resting place on the journey to and from Furness Abbey. It is on the edge of Morecambe Bay across which a route for pedestrians, horses and animals existed from very early times. Tides dictated when crossings were safe and so travellers might have to wait for suitable conditions and weather before venturing over the sands and for those arriving after crossing the sands they would need rest, food and drink. The location of the channels would dictate where travellers accessed and exited the Bay and may not always have been at Abbot Hall. Another access place is at Cart Lane, close to Guides Farm that is to the east of Abbot Hall. Possibly in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century a guide was appointed to see people across the Sands. There is a record of a man named Edmondson who in 1501 held the office of “Carter upon the Sands”. Stockdale (p505) mentions ‘ *a tradition that there was a chapel near Kirkhead and Abbot Hall – some remains of which, even graves it is said, existed in the last century*’.

### **Barrow family and Abbot Hall**

On the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537 the land and buildings became the possession of Henry V111 as Duchy of Lancaster. Subsequently it was granted to Thomas Fletcher and others and was then granted to the Barrow family of Kents Bank who were customary tenants. In 1597 one of the sidesmen of the Parish was William Barrow of Abbot Hall. Barrows of Abbot Hall were recorded in the Cartmel burial register of 1637, 1650 and 1660. In 1709 and 1710 Barrows of Kents Bank were buried at Cartmel. Robert Barrow of Kents Bank, who died in 1739, managed the Allithwaite estate of Edward, his brother, who had emigrated to America and was living in Virginia. Edward was probably one of the early settlers in that area.

Abbot Hall was conveyed to William and Anne Barrow in Feb 1780 for £2041.

William Barrow (1719-1780) married Anne Spencer (1733-1789) and had at least 7 children. 4 of their sons became mariners.

### **Barrow Memorial**

There is an impressive memorial to the Barrow family in Cartmel Priory

In Memory of William Spencer, Gent. late of Allithwaite  
who died December the 12<sup>th</sup> 1793, aged 92

Also of Sarah his wife, who died October the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1790 aged 84  
and of Thomas their son, who died April the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1800 aged 65

Also

In Memory of

William Barrow , Gent. late of Abbott Hall  
who died May the 7<sup>th</sup> 1780 aged 65

also of Ann, his wife, who died May the 8<sup>th</sup> 1789, aged 56  
and of their sons and Daughters, viz

William Barrow, who died in 1764, aged 6

Thomas Barrow, Mariner, who died in 1771, aged 17,  
Alice Barrow, who died February the 14<sup>th</sup> 1788, aged 17  
William Spencer Barrow, Mariner, who died on the Coast of Guinea, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1793,  
aged 22  
Robert Barrow, mariner, who died in Norway, in 1795, aged 33  
Richard Barrow, Mariner, who died in Lorraine, in France, in 1796, aged 22  
and Margaret Barrow, who died November the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1798, aged 39

### Edward Barrow of Kents Bank and Allithwaite Lodge

Edward Barrow was the youngest son of William and Anne Barrow born in 1777 and was their only son to still be alive after the death of his brother Richard in 1796 and would have probably inherited Abbot Hall Estate on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 1798. Edward Barrow also inherited the Spencer family estate of Allithwaite Lodge on the death of Thomas Spencer in 1801. Thomas was Edward's uncle, the brother of Edward's mother Anne. Thomas was the last of the Spencers and was unmarried.

Abbot Hall was advertised for sale in 1807, Thomas Marshall being the tenant.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
ON TUESDAY the 3d day of November, 1807, at  
the house of Mrs. HULLAND, in Cartmel, in the  
county of Lancaster, at six o'clock in the even-  
ing,

TOGETHER OR IN PARCELS ;

**A**LL that capital *FREEHOLD MES-  
SUAGE* or MANSION-HOUSE, three good  
Barns, Stables, and convenient outbuildings ; Or-  
chards, Gardens, and appurtenances thereunto be-  
longing, situate at Kentsbank, in the division of  
Lower Allithwaite, within the parish of Cartmel,  
in the said county ; together with 110a. Or. 25p. of  
good arable, meadow, and wood Ground, lying  
contiguous thereto, now in the possession of Tho-  
mas Marshall the elder, as tenant.

And also, all that other *FREEHOLD MES-  
SUAGE* or DWELLING-HOUSE, Barn, Stable,  
Cow-house, Orchard, Garden, and six acres and a  
half of rich fertile Land, adjoining thereto, situate  
at Kentsbank aforesaid, now in the possession of  
Anthony Winder, as tenant.

The said estates are tithe-free, well watered and  
fenced, distant about twelve miles from Lancaster,  
seven from Ulverston, and two from Cartmel, all  
good market-towns. The land-tax thereof is pur-  
chased. The turnpike-road between Lancaster and  
Ulverston runs through part of the said estates ; and  
are, either as an entire estate or in lots, well worthy  
the attention of persons desirous of realizing.

\*{\* Further particulars may be known by apply-  
ing to EDWARD BARROW, Esq. at Allithwaite  
Lodge (who will appoint a person to shew the pre-  
mises) or to Mr. PARKER, solicitor, in Lancaster.

LANCASTER, SEPT. 24, 1807.

I do not know if a sale took place at this date.

Edward Barrow married Miss Mary Palmer on 30 May 1809. They had at least one son and one daughter who were christened at Cartmel, John Palmer Barrow was baptised in 1810 and Mary Anne Barrow was baptised in 1811.

Edward Barrow, only 37 years old, was buried on 23 Jul 1814 at Cartmel.

When Edward Barrow of Allithwaite Lodge died, Abbot Hall was possibly acquired by Mrs Mary Askew who was the only surviving sister of Edward. She was born in 1771 and she had married Thomas Askew in 1806. Thomas died in 1809 and Anne in August 1814. They did not have any children.

### **Ownership and History after 1814**

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the parish poor house but that function ceased in 1822 (Stockdale, J. Annals of Cartmel p 312) and the building fell into a ruinous state.

### **A description in Sketches of Grange published in 1850 (p36-37)**

After talking about the Inn at Kents Bank and Miss Lambert building it, the article continues

*'who also built near it a very spacious and handsome house on the site of the ancient mansion of Abbot Hall. The latter once venerated building stood adjoining the shore, and under the shelter of Barrow Head. Its antique gables, high chimnies, and mullioned windows are still regretted by those who knew it in former years. True, the old oaken beams and floors and spacious staircase had suffered much from the effect of age: the rats had been allowed free warren, and the grounds were over-run with brambles and nettles; but a ramble about its precincts, and a pilgrimage through its rooms, are amongst the cherished reminiscences of those who visited this locality in their youthful days. There were traditions, too, of fair and beautiful ghosts, said to haunt the place, which gave it an additional interest. Relations they were said to be of a certain Abbot who lived in retirement here, when he needed relaxation from his duties elsewhere. But these rumours receive no confirmation from the actual appearance of these shadowy inmates of the dwelling, and the new erection looks little fitted to afford them an asylum.'*

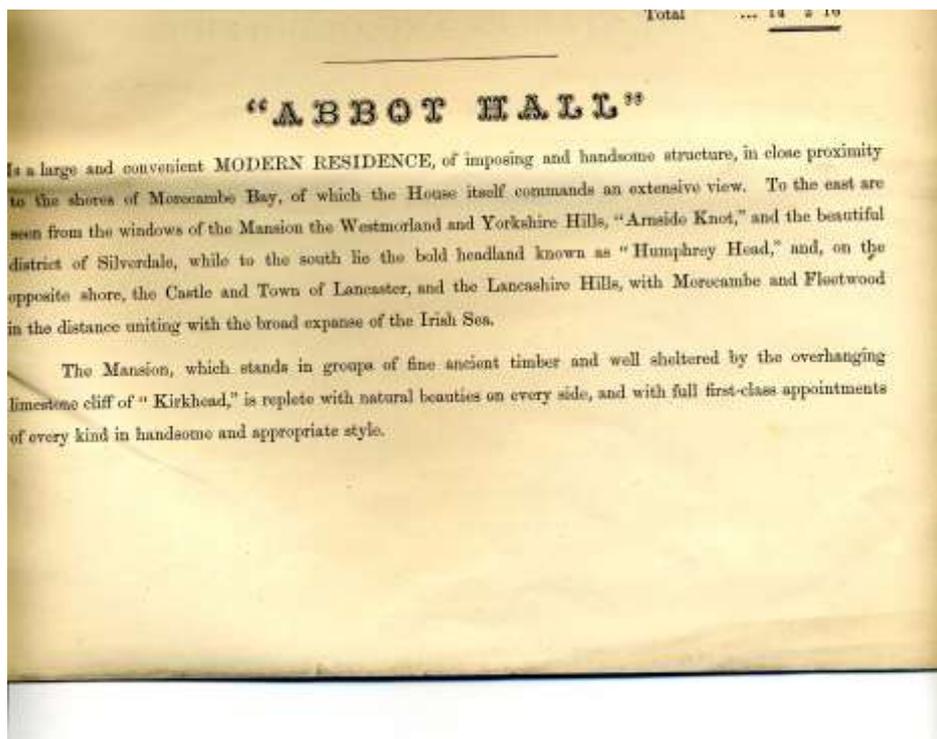
Stockdale reported that Mr Askew sold it to Mrs Carter possibly just before her death in 1835. I have not been able to verify when Mrs Carter acquired it and from whom. However Mrs Carter left it to her niece Mary Winfield Lambert. The current building was erected in 1840 by Miss Lambert of Boarbank House, Allithwaite.

Subsequently the estate was auctioned on 23 August 1858 following Miss Lambert's death in 1857 and Mr Tulk was reported to have purchased it. However James Simpson Young, a wealthy Scottish landowner, calico printer and coal mine owner who had purchased other lots in Kents Bank at the same auction became the owner and he moved in to the house soon after. He was starting a new life in the area. His first wife had died following the birth of their 5<sup>th</sup> son in 1853. He married Alice Ann Riley, a cousin of his first wife, in 1857. She was living in Grange with her brother Richard having recently moved from Preston where they had owned a cotton mill. James and Alice had a further 12 children. James and Alice and their large family lived at Abbot Hall until his death in 1879. He extended it as his family grew.



This undated picture of James Simpson Young has been provided by Margaret Robinson from the Grange Then collection.

Description of the mansion from the 1879 Auction particulars



# THE MANSION

COMPRISES —

## ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

DRAWING ROOM (including large bay, with fine view), 24ft. 6in. by 17ft. 10in., and 12ft. 4in. high.

DINING ROOM, 31ft. 6in. by 17ft. 0in., and 12ft. 5in. high, exclusive of recesses, (a particularly handsome and well-proportioned Room).

LIBRARY, 20ft. 0in. by 18ft. 0in., and 12ft. 6in. high, exclusive of recesses.

MORNING ROOM, with Plate Glass Door leading into Conservatory, and fine Bay Window (a very pleasant and elegant Visitors' Room) 23ft. 4in. by 17ft. 8in., and 12ft. 4in. high.

Also, UPSTAIRS DRAWING ROOM, with fine Bay Window and magnificent view, 24ft. 4in. by 17ft. 9in., and 10ft. 2in. high.

Also, BUSINESS ROOM, with Iron Safe and Private Entrance and Lobby.

The RECEPTION ROOMS are all spacious and lofty, with a fine sea-prospect and beautiful views from the windows of each of them. They are tastefully decorated throughout; the cornices and ceilings are handsome, and in harmony with the large size of the Rooms.

There are FIFTEEN BEDROOMS, including SERVANTS' ROOMS and DRESSING ROOMS, the front Rooms being of spacious proportions, — 24ft. 6in. by 17ft. 8in., and 11ft. 8in. high (with fine Bay Window); 20ft. 1in. by 17ft. 8in., and 10ft. 1in. high; 16ft. 10in. by 11ft. 4in., and 10ft. 3in. high; 16ft. 9in. by 11ft. 7in., and 10ft. 3in. high, with other good Rooms.

The ENTRANCE HALL, and the Halls and Corridors throughout, are lofty and spacious, being handsomely decorated and well lighted. The STAIRCASES are massive, and in accordance with the proportions of the Mansion throughout. The Halls are heated by steam pipes, communicating with the Conservatories, and arranged and laid by Weeks and Co.

The KITCHEN accommodation is good. The Kitchen measures 22ft. 8in. by 21ft., and 10ft. 3in. high, fitted with excellent Range, &c. There are also SCULLERY, COOK'S and BUTLER'S PANTRIES, and BACK HALL measuring 17ft. by 11ft. 8in., and 10ft. high. The LAUNDRY is also fitted with all necessary Machinery and Appliances.

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## THE STABLES AND OUT-OFFICES

are excellent. The buildings are handsome and compact, and of comparatively recent erection, the interior being fitted with excellent iron fittings and mouldings, by Messrs. Musgrave Brothers, of Belfast.

The property was offered at auction on 30 July 1879 but failed to sell at that time and for several years after his death due to a severe economic depression. The 1881 census record the Wilman family, gardener and housekeeper in residence and Abbot Hall Lodge as uninhabited. However it was eventually purchased by Revd Henry Robert Smith in 1883. In 1889 H Lowery purchased the estate and it became a boys' preparatory school.

The 1891 census record Hubert Lowery, born in 1861 in Northleach, Gloucestershire, schoolmaster, living at Abbot Hall. He was married to Frances and they had a young baby named Maurice. Four scholars are recorded on census night aged between 10 and 12 and also in residence was a matron and four servants. On 5 Oct 1891 a newspaper birth announcement recorded a daughter born at Abbot Hall to the Lowery family.

In Robin Webster's book 'A Walk around 'Old' Grange' he states that Mr R Weir was running Abbot Hall Boy's Preparatory School in 1895. However Grange Red Book 1899 and 1901 shows Mr Lowery is still occupying the property.

The 1901 census record Abbot Hall as unoccupied. In 1902 Jonathan Uttley purchased Abbot Hall (Grange Red Book 1903). The 1911 census shows Jonathan Uttley, his wife and a servant resident at Abbot Hall and he has no occupation (private means).

In 1915 the Wesley Guild purchased it and it became holiday accommodation. It remained in their ownership and in use as a hotel until Aug 2018 when it was sold to the Carlauren Group. It is subsequently continuing to be run as a hotel whilst refurbishment and development plans are being planned. In January 2019 the development was renamed Lambert Manor.

### References

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Pat Rowland - March 2019