

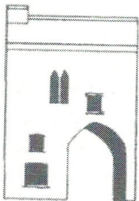
# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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**Special points of interest:**

- Lectures alternate between Cartmel Institute and the United Reformed Church Hall in Grange
- We still need a new Treasurer
- We would love to hear from you if you have personal stories about life in war time



## THE MARY WINFIELD LAMBERT LEGACY TO ALLITHWAITE

BY PAT ROWLAND

I have been researching the family history of Mary Lambert for about 10 years after reading in the Boarbank booklet that little was known about her parents. I have discovered that her grandfather, Richard Winfield, was a wealthy manufacturer in Kendal and he started purchasing land in the Cartmel Peninsula in 1799. His eldest daughter Beatrix had married Josias Lambert, a Kendal attorney, in 1787 and their daughter Mary was born later that year. When Mary was six years old her mother died and it appears that her mother's sister, Harriot, raised Mary as Josias remarried and raised another family in the north of the county. Harriott inherited the Cartmel estate on the death of her father in 1820. In 1821, eight months after her father's death, Harriott who was then 50 married widower Thomas Carter who was Dean of Tuam. He was born in Kendal and his parents lived close to the Winfield family, so it is possible that she had known him for many years as

they were of a similar age. When Harriott died in 1835, Mary Lambert inherited the Cartmel estate but Thomas Carter did not die until 1849. Under existing legislation Thomas should have been the owner.

Before 1870, when a woman married all her goods and money became the property of her husband. In 1870, when the first Married Women's Property Act became law, it was recognised that married women, in certain circumstances, could own and control their earnings, savings and legacies. In 1882 the second Married Women's Property Act became law and enabled married women to have the same rights and interests over their property as unmarried women. How could Harriot protect her vast inheritance when she married Thomas Carter in 1812?

Harriot's will holds the explanation of the complex settlement trusts and leases that were set up prior to the marriage and the agreement that was reached with Thomas when the marriage failed

less than a year after the wedding. Harriot and Thomas married at Holy Trinity Church, Kendal, on 21 July 1821 but on 9 April 1822 a document was signed unravelling all the trusts and leases. Thomas received £10,000 for agreeing to forgo all rights to Harriot's estate and she regained full power and control to enjoy and dispose of the estates as if she had never been married. Thus she was able to leave the estates to Mary Lambert. When Mary died, in 1857, the estate was sold and Allithwaite church, school and vicarage were built with the proceeds.

I have found researching family history very absorbing and in recent years the internet has made the task easier. Locating a copy of Harriot's will had been troublesome. Preston Record Office had mislaid their copy. However, a chance search of the Public Records Office database on the internet identified that they had a copy of the will and, within minutes

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## DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE USED IN ASSESSING 'RIGHTS OF WAY'

In January Nick Thorne of the National Parks Authority, introduced us to some of the complex issues and interpretations surrounding the task of determining 'rights of way'.

Nick complemented his talk with a Powerpoint presenta-

tion, which included images of the various documents that need to be consulted when boundaries, footpaths, bridleways, etc., are under dispute.

Nick also brought along a wide range of books and maps, from his own collec-

tion, which generated a lot of interest.

I personally identified three books which I must add to my own collection—not sure that the long suffering husband will be too pleased at that!

## THE 'FINSTHWAITE PRINCESS'

BY TREVOR MOORE

We are quite used to visits by members of the Royal Family to the Lake District, and during the Second World War Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands was in residence at Rydale Hall in the early 1940s. Long before this, the village of Finsthwaite was the home of a Princess ..... or so the legend relates.

Following the march of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, through Carlisle, Kendal, Lancaster as far south as Derby, and his later retreat north followed by an avenging Duke of Cumberland—a young child, together with two servants, came to live in Finsthwaite.

The child's name was apparently Clementina Johannes

Sobieski Douglass, and was said to have been the illegitimate daughter of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

With few roads, and access to the area restricted to a dangerous journey over the sands, Finsthwaite would be an ideal hiding place for someone in great danger from the King's supporters! Bonnie Prince Charlie was known to use the pseudonym 'Douglas' during his illicit travels in England.

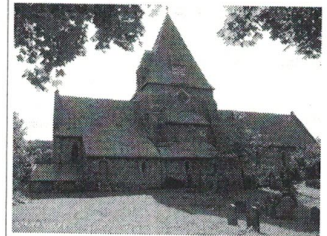
Clementina first lived at 'July Flower Tree Farm' and later at Waterside House where she died in 1771. She was buried in the village churchyard and her grave can be found today, at the rear of the church, and is well worth a visit.

A booklet by Janet D Martin can be purchased in the church which gives a very comprehensive account of the short life of the 'Princess'.

But how true is the story?

July Flower Tree Farm, Waterside House and Clementina's grave are all there to be seen, and a number of families in this area were supporters of the Jacobite cause. However, with no firm historical evidence to support the story it must remain a legend.

It would be rather sad, I think, to see this romantic local historical tale disproved.



Finsthwaite, St. Peter's—re-built after the old church was demolished in 1873

## COWP SCAR AND ITS ANCIENT FISH TRAPS

BY JACK MANNING

I suppose it was in the early 1990s that the channel of the river Leven started to work its way eastward. It was a slow, almost imperceptible process at first, but gained impetus as it progressed. Of course, the channels in Morecambe Bay have continually moved but seldom carved in one direction over a period of several years. It is normally a sequence of weeks or months in one direction then moving back in the opposite direction, or even a sudden break-away from a particular area.

By the year 2000 the channel had carved its way completely across the estuary from Bardsea to Cowpren Point on the south-western end of the Cartmel peninsula, south of Flookburgh. In the process, it uncovered a great stony tidal outcrop of ground of about 300 acres, known locally as a scar, which, for almost 200 years, had been covered by up to fifteen feet of sand. As no one living had seen this scar

great surprise. The existence of such things is usually passed down by word of mouth through the generations, but in this case—nothing.

I first went to the scar in May of the year 2000 and was amazed to see low stone walls of up to 200 metres in length running in various directions and stakes or posts interspersed along some of these walls. Although the walls were only about eighteen inches high, I assumed that they had been higher and more substantial, but had been felled by tides and weather. After having spent some time there on several occasions, I came to realise that the stones were only put there to fill up the gaps under the wattle hedging, of which the traps had been formed. It is obvious that there had been a great investment of time and energy into the building of these structures, so it follows that they were intended to be used for long periods

took many photographs, and put together a small booklet, just as a record so that when the area is again covered by sand, as it inevitably will, its existence will be known.

In 2004, a small group of people came together to form the Cowp Scar Research Group. We have taken measurements and collected artefacts from which we are hoping to determine the age of the fish traps. We believe that they were put there by monks at Cartmel Priory, before the dissolution of the monasteries. A sample of wood has been sent to a research laboratory, and we await the result. We realise that if the traps were used for several centuries, then the posts would be replaced from time to time so it is unlikely that our samples are from the original constructions.

We are somewhat disappointed that none of the archaeological bodies have



Cowp Scar fishtraps

## THE BEGINNINGS OF THE WESTMORLAND SANATORIUM AT MEATHOP

BY BARBARA COPELAND

The Westmorland Sanatorium at Meathop was established in March 1900 by two medical doctors, and was one of the first to be opened especially to deal with poor consumptives, remarkable in an area that was acknowledged for its low incidence of tuberculosis mortality.

The impulse to establish a sanatorium came from Dr W Paget-Tomlinson who had studied medicine in Berlin and Vienna. It is stated that he 'reluctantly relinquished his medical work' when he succeeded, in 1889, to the family estate at the age of forty-one years.

However, the inheritance gave him the advantages of money, time and connections. His connections led to Mrs T. Bagot, wife of the south Westmorland MP, J Bagot, taking up the chair of the Sanatorium Committee and the Earl of Derby performing the opening ceremony. The Earl of Derby had an estate at Witherslack and was also Chairman of the Organising Council of the British Congress on Tuberculosis in 1901.

Dr W.R. Parker assisted Dr Paget-Tomlinson in the initial stages of establishing the sanatorium. Dr Parker worked from his home in

Stricklandgate, on the corner of Maude Street, and was the predecessor of Dr J. L. Cochrane, the founder of Maude Street surgery. Dr Parker was also a health correspondent in the Westmorland Gazette under the pen-name Aesculapius (God of Medicine), and in the Gazette he had already suggested suitable places for a sanatorium which included the Shap Wells Hotel, north of Kendal.

The building chosen at Meathop belonged to the North-Eastern Counties Friendly Societies who had built a larger convalescent home closer to Grange-over-Sands. The sanatorium was equipped and converted at a cost of £1,200 and both this amount and the annual rent of £70 was paid by Dr Paget-Tomlinson. This was a cheaper option than the original £4000-£5000 required to build a new sanatorium.

The building was secured for a number of years 'to allow them ample time for experiments', and was situated in grounds suitable and large enough for patients to exercise in. Despite much discussion concerning the climate of the area, an important element in open-air

treatment (some believed Meathop would have too much humidity being so close to the sea), there were factors in its favour.

Meathop sanatorium was situated on dry limestone soil, sheltered by woods, and optimistically 'said to be favoured with abundant sunshine'.

Subscriptions were the main source of income for the sanatorium. These ranged from contributions from general subscribers who had no claim to a bed, to a few private patients and public bodies who, depending on their contribution, had access to one or more free beds. Local Boards of Guardians, those of Kendal Union, together with East Ward and West Ward combined, also supported the sanatorium and through these bodies the sanatorium had direct access to the very poor, those who they really wanted to treat.

If anyone has any memories of Meathop Sanatorium, or any memories of health and medicine in the past, we would be pleased to hear about them.

*"Meathop sanatorium was 'said to be favoured with abundant sunshine'."*

## MEMORIES OF MARITAL SEPARATION IN WARTIME

In February Dr Yvonne Simm, of Manchester University, gave us a talk concerning the effects of marital separation on families during WW2. Dr Simm presented a very personal talk in which she explained why she was so interested in the topic and why she had opted to concentrate on this area.

We were treated to some oral histories which Dr Simm had collected for her PhD thesis and which illustrated the

points she was making in her talk.

As always our audience had a number of questions to put to the speaker.

Dr Simm's talk linked in well with our intended exhibition on personal experiences of life during the two World Wars, to be held in Grange Library between 7 and 21 May.

We are still collecting personal reminiscences, photographs of artefacts, and photocopies of letters, ration books, etc.,

and would love to hear from anyone with a story to tell.

**Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society**

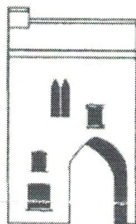
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We will shortly be on the  
web—keep watching this  
space

*Local History News*



Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society was established over ten years ago under the name Cartmel and District Local History Society. Three years ago the Society changed its name to reflect more accurately the historical interests and area that our members encompass. Our aim is to cover as broad a spectrum of historical enquiry as possible in order to reflect the interests of members, and to interest and include non-members in what is, we feel, a very exciting and enjoyable subject. One of the ways we plan to further this aim is through the pages of this newsletter and by having and maintaining a presence on the World Wide Web.

We also plan to hold a series of informal meetings in which specific themes will be discussed and in which our members can play a more active role if they so wish. These meetings have not yet been set and we would welcome suggestions as to possible themes for discussion. For example, a number of you may have a specific interest in the history of Cartmel Priory and the Augustinian monks who lived there; others may be interested in architectural history and would welcome a chance to discuss this interest with other like-minded people; still others may have an interest in archaeology, a subject the Society has not really addressed but to which it is open to suggestions. The list of possible discussion topics is endless.

If you are interested in joining an informal discussion group please contact either myself or Mrs Barbara Copeland who will be pleased to provide further information.

**REMINDER:** Our last talk, for the spring season, is on 28 April in the United Reformed Church Hall in Grange. Peter Adams will be telling us all about his hobby of metal detecting, and of his nationally important discovery of a Viking burial ground in north Cumbria.

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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of paying my £3 fee, the document was downloaded to my computer. It extends to 55 pages and more than 18,000 words, and has taken me several months to transcribe.

If anyone is able to understand and interpret complex legal documents, I would be pleased to share the document as I am not sure if I have interpreted or fully extracted the details correctly. Also, if anyone has any unpublished information about Mary Lambert I would love to hear about it.

Pat Rowland

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Mr Trevor Moore  
Mr Peter Le Mare

Articles for publication in this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact either Barbara or Ruth on the above numbers.

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the site, because we believe this is part of our local history and heritage.

Jack Manning

### Stop Press

It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of Eve Bernstein. Eve gave us a wonderful talk last year on the changing face of Morecambe Bay, and followed that up with a guided walk along the Flookburgh peninsula sea defences. Those of us who attended both the talk and walk found both absolutely fascinating.