



# Cartmel Peninsula Local History News

Business Name

January 2013

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- Hatchments in Cartmel Priory p.3
- Book Review, John Wilkinson, King of the Ironmasters p.3



Henrietta Beck Arkwright



Sophia Mary Arkwright

## THE ARKWRIGHT SISTERS

Henrietta Beck Arkwright and her sister Sophia Mary Arkwright, born in 1839 and 1841 respectively, were the daughters of Revd Henry Arkwright, vicar of Bodenham, Herefordshire from 1842-1889, and his first wife Harriet Thornycroft. But their most famous ancestor was their great great grandfather Sir Richard Arkwright, whose spinning machines revolutionized the manufacture of cotton, and who was the founder of the modern factory system. At the time of his death in 1792, his wealth was rumoured to have been 'little short of half a million.' This was mostly inherited by his son, also Richard, who by means of careful investments eventually died a far richer man than his father, with an estate estimated at over £3 million. It was their share of these riches, passed down through the generations, which enabled Henrietta and Sophia to be ladies of independent means.

It was the elder sister Henrietta who first arrived in Grange about 1875 in order to take care of her uncle, the Revd Edward Massie, who had married Henrietta's aunt Sophia Thornycroft in 1845. He then became vicar of Gawsworth, Cheshire, 1½ miles from Thornycroft Hall, the family home of the Thornycrofts and the birthplace of Henrietta. He had retired to Grange following the death of his wife in 1872 (further information on the Revd Massie can be found in the Grange worthies section of the CPLHS website). Henrietta's younger sister Sophia spent most of her life at the family home in Bodenham until their father died in 1889. She then moved north to join Henrietta. After the death of their uncle on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1893 the sisters moved from Nutwood to live at Eggerslack House. Both Nutwood and Eggerslack were properties belonging to the Wakefield family of Sedgwick; between 1895 and 1910 Nutwood was occupied by Mary Wakefield. Barred by the conventions of the day from pursuing a career as a professional singer, Mary poured her love of music into a desire to make music more available to rural communities, and founded the annual music festival held in her name in Kendal. Following her death in 1910, Sophia was able to move back to Nutwood, where she lived for the rest of her life.

The two Arkwright sisters were very generous to the town of Grange-over-Sands and the surrounding district, and were well loved and respected. In 1886 Henrietta subscribed to the fund for enlarging the national school which had been opened on Kents Bank Road in 1864, and was one of the ladies in charge of the bazaar to raise money for purchasing the new school playground. Henrietta died on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1906, aged 67. Her obituary in the Westmorland Gazette noted that *it was partly owing to her instrumentality that a "village nurse" was established, and she was treasurer to the nurse fund from its commencement many years ago.*

**Henrietta had contributed greatly to the social life in Grange, but Sophia was to leave an even more permanent legacy. She had already built almshouses at Bodenham, at a cost of £1,700, in memory of her father. These four houses were endowed by Sophia and Henrietta with money producing about 5s per week for each occupier, together with a supply of coal. They were intended for three aged widows and a nurse to care for them and others in the parish.**

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Following the death of her sister, Sophia purchased from William Blair a parcel of freehold land (1,210 sq yards) opposite Front Row, Higher Grange, for the 'Fell Mission Church', for which she met all the building costs, in memory of Henrietta.



The Fell Mission Church

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1912 Sophia laid the foundation stone for the Parish Hall on Kents Bank Road, which was built primarily as a venue for services whilst the Parish Church of St Paul was being altered, and it was possibly Sophia who was the *lady member of the congregation who wiped off the deficit of the building costs* at the harvest festival service in St Paul's in 1914.

Sophia was a talented artist and exhibited her work at the Art Exhibitions held annually in the Victoria Hall. She was President of the Nursing Association, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Church Missionary Society. She frequently held meetings of the Society in her drawing room at Nutwood, and entertained visiting missionaries. During this time, Sophia's coachman was a Mr Steen, who lived in the lodge at the bottom of the drive on Windermere Road, with the horses stabled next door. He and his wife adopted a little girl, Marguerite (1894-1975), who became the noted novelist and playwright.

**Sophia survived Henrietta for 23 years; when she died on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1929, the Westmorland Gazette noted that *the town has lost one of its leading and most esteemed residents*. Following her funeral at St Paul's, she was buried with her sister in Grange Cemetery.**

**Penny Ward and John Beckett**

## Highfield, renamed Kilmidyke: update

Former resident Edith Smitham put me in touch with Tony Sheldon who has carried out extensive research on Kilmidyke and finally I have a possible answer to why the house name was changed. The estate was built on two fields named Highfield and Kilmidyke. To prevent confusion when Highfield Road (between Grange Fell Road and Fell Drive) was developed from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the house was renamed Kilmidyke. Thank you Edith and Tony for solving the mystery.

Pat Rowland

### The Cumbria County History Trust

The Cumbria County History Trust 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.

In recognition of the Queen's Jubilee Year it was suggested that a short Digest of each parish could be published on the Cumbria County History Trust website. These shorter parish digests would encourage researchers to make a start on their parishes. Some members from Cartmel Peninsula Local History society researched and published digests on the parishes of Lower and Upper Allithwaite, Upper and Lower Holker, East Broughton and Grange-over-Sands. These digests can be found on the Cumbria History Trust website – [www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk).

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## Hatchments in Cartmel Priory



The five hatchments high on the north wall towards the west of Cartmel Priory, which are paintings on wood, are heraldic memorials for a deceased person who is entitled to bear arms. Their use evolved from the medieval practice of placing the achievements of the deceased on the coffin to accompany the funeral cortege and remained with the coffin until burial. The word hatchment is a corruption of the word 'achievement' and these are represented by the armorial devices such as shield, helmet, crest etc., which the deceased person would have been entitled to use in their coat of arms. After the funeral the hatchments would be transferred to the deceased's home and displayed on an outside wall, usually above a door, for a period of 6 months to a year. They served a dual purpose of proclaiming the death and indicating a period of mourning after which they were transferred to the parish church. Many perished through lack of care, so we are fortunate that the Priory hatchments have been preserved, albeit they are a little inaccessible.

Two of the Cartmel hatchments are for members of the Lowther family (l-r hatchment 2 and 4) and three are for the Cavendish family (l-r hatchments 1, 3 and 5). Gordon Gilby has identified that hatchment 1 is for a bachelor of the Cavendish family name unknown, hatchment 2 is for Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Holker, son of William Lowther who died on 13th March 1745; hatchment 3 is for George Augustus Henry Cavendish, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Burlington who died on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1834; hatchment 4 is probably for Margaret Lowther, sister of Thomas Lowther who was buried in Cartmel on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1751; and hatchment 5 is probably for Lord George Augustus Cavendish who died 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1794. The features painted on the hatchments are drawn from the rules of heraldry, and need careful interpretation, but the arms for the Lowther and Cavendish families can be clearly seen.

The above is extracted from "The Hatchments of Cartmel Priory", an aide memoir by Gordon Gilby with the photograph courtesy of Freddy Perry

Nigel Mills, Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society.

December 2012.

## Book Review—John Wilkinson, King of the Ironmasters by Frank Dawson (ed. David Lake), History Press, 2012

This is a comprehensive account of John Wilkinson's life and career. It is of interest for the Cartmel Peninsula area as it covers his father, Isaac's, time at Backbarrow and at Wilson House Lindale, John's retained connections with the area, his building of Castlehead at Lindale and his burial at Lindale.

John was baptised in Workington in 1727 but the family moved south and Isaac Wilkinson's arrival at Backbarrow Ironworks in 1735 is documented in the Rawlinson family papers. John grew up at Backbarrow and there is a chapter devoted to Isaac's work at Backbarrow. The family moved to Wilson House in 1748 and a chapter is about that era. In 1753 Isaac moved to the Wrexham area but Wilson House was retained by the family. Stockdale's account in *Annals of Cartmel* is quoted extensively as the families were closely involved with each other. James Stockdale, the grandfather of James the author, was a friend and business partner of John Wilkinson. In 1778 John returned to Wilson House and experimented with iron smelting there for 5 months. It was during this time that he purchased large areas of salt marsh in the area and purchased Castle Head Hill in order to build his new house at Castle Head. Stockdale was left in charge of the project as John went back to the Midlands to his businesses. A chapter based on contemporary documentation describes the building of 'The Northern Sanctuary'. In 1791 William, John's brother, married Elizabeth Kirkes a widow and a daughter of James Stockdale. John fell out with William and the friendship between John Wilkinson and James Stockdale was seriously compromised because of disputes over an engine that John had given to James. You will have to read the book to understand the complex situation.

Chapters about his children and his later life show that he spent much time at Castlehead. John died on 14 July 1808 at Bradley in Staffordshire. Details of his burial at Castlehead and subsequent removal to Lindale Church are well researched.

Pat Rowland

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## Treasurer’s Report for Year Ending 30/10/12

The Society achieved a membership of 85 (including 3 Honorary Members) which was slightly down on last years 100 members. However the income from visitors rose from £78 to £144 largely due the lecture on Cark by Les Gilpin in March which attracted many Cark residents. As to be expected the lecturers’ expenses were higher this year ,reflecting both the cost of travelling and the expertise of the lecturers themselves. The Society funded the Barrow Records Office visit and the walk

around Cark, whilst the tour of the Steamboat Museum was funded by individual members at no cost to the Society. There were the usual admin and website running costs which were partly offset by the sale of Cassini maps raising £55 for the Society. Overall we made an overall loss of £25.68 which came from our reserves. At year end these stood at £1010.39. The Society is considering the purchase of its own screen and projector to further meet the Society’s aims of promoting lectures and encouraging

local research and presentation by its members.

At the AGM it was agreed that subscriptions for 2013 should increase from £7 to £8 a year and visitors from £2 to £2.50 a year. The presented accounts had been kindly certified by Louise Shrapnell and were accepted and approved at the AGM. I

f you have any questions please contact the Treasurer Nigel Mills.

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## Subscriptions for 2013

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form for membership of CPLHS for 2013 as I hope you will wish to renew your subscription to the society for another year. Financially our year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October so that at the AGM I can present year end accounts. In 2012 we made a small loss and as our plans for 2013 will see a modest increase in expenditure it was agreed at the AGM that annual membership for 2013 should be £8.00 with a visitors fee of £2.50.

As a member you may attend lectures at no extra cost, join in our field trips, receive our Newsletters, participate in the research meetings and of

course have your say in the running of CPLHS.

It would helpful if as many members as possible could renew their membership using the enclosed form, or print one from the website, in advance of our first lecture to help our me as Treasurer and avoid un-necessary queues at the first lecture.

Another option for renewal this year is by using Internet banking. If you wish to do this our bank account is with Lloyds TSB, sort code 30-14-40 account number 00716089.

Please ensure that you put your name as a reference otherwise I will not know who

the payment is from!

Thank you in advance.

Nigel Mills, Treasurer.

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## The House History Group

We still only have one group concentrating on the history of houses and that has been meeting about three times per year for a number of years.

It was originally set up by two members of this Society (Nigel Mills and Stuart Harling) and is confined to the Parish of Broughton East.

At first it was entirely independent of the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society but for two years has now been run through the C.P.L.H.S.

Detailed histories of three houses have so far been prepared and (although not on the Society's web-site as some of the details are confidential) these can be available for perusal by prior arrangement.

The small group now comprises up to ten interested parties and experiences and research are exchanged at the group's meetings.

If others are interested in undertaking research into house history this group is happy to assist. There may also be individual members who have undertaken research and might be happy to share their ideas and results. If so, please contact Nigel or Stuart.

It was interesting that the theme of the annual convention of The Cumbria Confederation of Local History Societies held in the autumn at Higham Hall was house history research and it seems that interest in this subject is growing.

As a brief example of progress made, Members may find the following of interest:

### **Whitrigg (formerly Laburnum Cottage), Field Broughton**

A note from Stuart Harling, our Secretary

When we bought our house in 1976 we were told by the late Arthur Frearson (an architect who lived in Barber Green) that it probably dated back to the mid 1700s.

The deeds show it was first sold by the Hibbert estate in 1928 and was then occupied by Millicent Rogers, a spinster. Research of the census records showed that Miss Rogers was born in Killington and we discovered that her late father, Whitwell, had died in 1901. Over the years we have studied many old maps available from the Records Offices in Kendal and Barrow-in-Furness, the earliest (from about 1800) showing no front garden and the village road passing directly in front of the building to Broughton Grove Farm.

More recently, we have been able to identify the house as a "two-unit small house" as described by R.W. Brunskill in his book "Traditional Buildings of Cumbria" (2002). This appears to confirm the development of the house (as had been suspected) from a single room at ground floor level into a double room, then with a staircase and a first floor and finally (by extension at the rear) into its present form.

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## Villages Research Group

Having written and published on the CPLHS website, ([cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk](http://cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk)) a Village History for Grange, Allithwaite, Ravenstown, Field Broughton and Kents Bank as well as a history of the historic schools in the peninsula, we are looking to expand our interests to include our other hamlets and villages. The meetings are quite informal and wide ranging in discussion

so if you are interested in, or are actively researching any aspect of our area, I am sure you will find them of use. Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Cartmel Village Hall Supper Room. All members are welcome.

If you would like more information please contact me (Nigel

Mills), or any member of the Committee.



Ravenstown 1918



St. Peter's Church  
Field Broughton 1897

## Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

Newsletter Editor: To be confirmed



**Our society was founded over 11 years ago to promote the history of the Cartmel and District area. Some years ago we changed the name of the society to more accurately reflect the geographical area which our Society encompasses.**

**We try to arrange, for each lecture session, a wide variety of topics to interest all our members and visitors.**

**The new programme for the 2013 series of lectures is included with this newsletter. We hope you will agree that it promises to be another exciting year with excellent speakers and interesting and informative talks.**

**We hope you will join us.**

**We are always open to suggestions from our members about the way this Society can grow; lecture topics; lecturers; field trips you would like us to organize etc.**

**WE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB AT:**

**[www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk](http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk)**

**Please come and visit us there.**

### Committee Members 2013

Chairperson: Mike Hornung

Treasurer: Nigel Mills

Secretary: Stuart Harling

Committee Members: Pat Rowland

Barbara Copeland

Ken Howarth

Frank McCall