

Cartmel Peninsula Local History News

Special points of interest:

- Programme of lectures for 2011 on p.3
- First lecture 17 Feb Paul Hindle, 'Turnpikes & Tourists in 18th Century Lakeland'
- Committee Members p.4
- Subscriptions for 2011 are now due. Please complete and return attached form with your cheque as soon as possible

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

A Letter from South Australia

Dear Members and Friends,

In June and July this year, I travelled to England for a 4-week holiday originally to attend the Blencowe family reunion at Blencowe near Penrith.

My Great Grandfather, Thomas Cartmel Caddy, had married Florence Bayliss, whose mother was Mary Anne Blencowe, and following on from this event I travelled through Kendal to Cartmel where I had the most enjoyable time of my trip to England. Driving into the village I was immediately struck by the village atmosphere and quaint, picturesque setting. Nigel Mills had recommended that I stay at the Market Square B & B and I was truly amazed at this beautiful centuries-old house. Duncan and Eileen welcomed me into their home, and when it was time to leave I didn't want to go. I was overwhelmed by the feeling of 'stepping back in time' the aged beauty of all the buildings and the pace of life. From my bedroom I could look over the Market Square and having morning coffee out the front, imagining life going on in the years of my ancestors as people passed through the square was something I think only a relative could feel.

There is nothing like the ancient beauty of the buildings, roads, cobblestones, bridges and landscapes in Australia, and I marvelled that it was all still there in Cartmel after so many centuries.

I walked to the Cartmel Racecourse, and through the woods at the side of the Racecourse, and was reminded of the song "Teddy Bears Picnic." "If you go down to the woods today, you better not go alone, Today's the

day the Teddy Bears have their Picnic" As a young child my parents had bought this 78RPM record for me, but an Australian child has no idea of what a 'woods' is like. The walk through these woods brought the song back with so much more meaning than ever before in my childhood.



I found the Racecourse quite stunning and so much like a racecourse called Oakbank not far from where I live, at Mount Barker. My Dad, Max Caddy, Mum and I, went as often as possible to the Easter Race meetings there and I remember walking the course with him. Dad and I both enjoyed racing and I am sure he was with me in spirit as I walked the course. It was an amazing feeling. I talked to some young men repairing the fences at the race course it was so interesting to hear how it was all done, and by hand of course!

I decided to try each pub for my evening meal and was not in the least disappointed. I would like to bring them all back to South Australia. The warm friendly and ancient atmosphere was like a

personal club for locals, with simple but very tasty and plentiful food, although as an Aussie I found it hard to get used to your 'warm beer'. In Australia all beer is chilled to about 4degrees C, but with some more practice I might better appreciate it! I was somewhat surprised when one of the locals came into the pub with his dogs, ordered his meal and then he and the dogs sat down. This would absolutely NEVER happen in Australia, Food & Health Act and all that stuff, but I loved it. How friendly, relaxed and like a home away from home.

I made several visits to the Priory; I seemed to want to go back again and again. In the church graveyard I found two Caddy Family Memorial Gravestones with most of my relatives mentioned on them. The first going back to 5 times Great Grandfather Jonathon Caddy 'Maltster' who married Margaret Dixon in 1756. And the second in memory of Henry Caddy, his wife Ann and their son Jonathon who was my Great Grandfather Thomas's father. I was absolutely stunned to think these Memorials were still standing in the Church yard after so many years. Thomas Cartmel Caddy never returned to England after he migrated to South Australia in 1877, and I would be the first direct descendant to see them since then. It made the shivers go up and down my spine, but it felt so right to be there.

I enjoyed a lovely meal in the Royal Oak Pub, with some of the members of the C.P.L.H.S. and I had fish and chips, the biggest, most delicious fish and chips I have ever had. There is some-

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Lodore Falls

'I had not anticipated at all the amazing effect that the Village of Cartmel was to have on me; it was like I had come home'.

thing so special about English Pub fish and chips! It was such a delight to meet some of the group and to understand the amazing work you are doing all over the Peninsula. Nigel Mills had previously taken me for a drive through the little villages and then to meet you, and I now know exactly what is being referred to in your correspondence which makes it doubly interesting.

I was very honoured to be invited by Nigel's wife, Sandra, to attend Sunday Communion Service at the Priory and having been there several times I knew it would be special, but was not ready for my reaction. Having been brought up in the Anglican Church [Church of England] I knew the order of service well, but found it all so overwhelming and beautiful, I still can't control the tears of joy as I realised my ancestors must have done exactly the same as I was, all through those many many years. It left me without words, and for someone known to be able to talk under wet cement with a mouth full of marbles that was something!

In the afternoon after Church I went for a drive to see if I could find "Green Bank Farm" where Thomas had spent most of his childhood until the death of his Father Jonathon and Grandfather Henry. It is now the home of the Black Horses of Cartmel, I intro-

duced myself to Tracy and Ryndard Venter and enjoyed a lovely coffee in their delightful old farm kitchen. They let me take photos of the stables, house and amazing views over the farm from the front garden. It was then I realized how close it was to the Village and the Racecourse not even one mile away, and wondered how often my ancestors would have walked into the Village.

I had not anticipated at all the amazing effect that the Village of Cartmel was to have on me; it was like I had come home. Without the very generous gift of Nigel Mills's time and knowledge my stay in Cartmel would not have been so personal, precious and special. After all I was a total stranger and he, and his wife Sandra, and the members of the C.P.L.H.S. gave me more than money could ever buy, the most precious memories of my trip to England.

From Cartmel I visited Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Keswick, and Grange-over-Sands. They were all interesting and beautiful each with their own different atmosphere. Keswick and the Lake District was every bit as beautiful as I had been told. Thomas had named his home in Westbury St. Hackney, S.A. 'Lodore' and to find the Lodore Falls and a delightful piece of poetry by Robert

Southey 1820 called the "Cataract of Lodore" was very special and an unexpected bonus. The drive from Keswick to Grange-over-Sands, with another even more beautiful vista over every hill, was so different from Australia, I needed my own 'camera-man'!



On my return home everyone asked me would I go again? The immediate answer was a resounding yes! Not to see some other part of England, but to return to Cartmel Village, and soak up some more of the extraordinary magic of this beautiful and special village, where I feel so at home.

With my sincere thanks and very best wishes to all,

Affectionately,

Jo Gemmell nee Caddy.

Yeomen Farmers and the Reformation



In June 2010 we were treated to a talk by Chris Craghill on the changing circumstances and fortunes of Yeomen Farmers in Cumbria through the Reformation.

It was interesting to piece together some of the information we had been given in Andy Lowe's talk (March 2010) about Lakeland Architecture, and the continuing changes to yeomen

farmers' property as some became more prosperous, and again as wealth declined over the years.

Chris's topic also linked very well with Janet Nelson's talk about the Cavendish family which we had been given the previous year. It is very gratifying when our lecturer's topics actually link together to build a body of knowledge which we can all

benefit from and helps to make our area's history come alive in a way that reading books on the topic cannot do as effectively.

Programme of lectures for 2011

Our lecture programme for this year begins on 17th February when we will have Paul Hindle talking to us about 'Turnpikes and tourists in 18th century Lakeland'.

On March 17th Ken Howarth will be giving us a talk on oral history, how to go about it, how it is used and more.

In April we have booked a visit to the Kendal Record Office—more details to follow for those who may be interested in taking advantage of this visit.

On 19th May Trevor Hughes will be giving us a talk on 'The History of Kendal'.

On 23rd June we will have Bill Myers talking to us about the 'Industries of Barrow in Furness'.

July and August we are keeping aside for field trips and visits.

On 22nd September we have David Fellows visiting us and giving us a talk on Ulverston Architecture and clues to the town's past.

On 20th October Rob David will be giving us a talk on House History and how to get started.

Our AGM will be on Thursday 17th November.



Cary 1798 (2nd ed 1828).

Tollgate 10 miles south of Keswick on the Ambleside road.

Changes on Committee

At the AGM in November Barbara Copeland, our Chairperson, announced that she was standing down but would remain on the Committee. Barbara has been Chair for the past six years and feels that it is time for someone else to steer the Committee and the society. Our thanks go to Barbara for all her hard work over the past six years, and also before that as she has been a member of the committee for many years now.

We welcome Ken Howarth onto the Committee and look forward to working with him and of reaping the benefits of his many years experience in many and varied projects.

Ruth Hughes (the secretary and editor of this newsletter) is also standing down this year (again after six years), but will remain on the Committee and will continue to put together the newsletters.

Cumbria in the Dark Ages

Our last lecture of the 2010 programme was given by Sheena Gemmell who gave us a talk on Cumbria in the Dark Ages.

Sheena skillfully wove together many strands of historical thought, theory and evidence to provide us with a most enlightening lecture. I say 'enlightening' because the period of the Dark Ages has always been something of a muddy mess to me. Sheena

managed to make the period come alive and tied together the many different pieces of information that have passed by me for many years.

I hope others found the same.

Sheena also posited an interesting theory about Kirkhead as possibly being the original site for Cartmel Priory—whether this turns out to be correct or not

only time, and a lot of research, will tell.



Victor Ambrus (Time Team)
http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/T/timeteam/snapshot_jutes.html

Subscriptions for 2011.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form for renewal of your subscription to the CPLHS for 2011. At our AGM in November 2010 we confirmed that the subscription for 2011 should rise by £1 from £6 to £7. This will cover attendance at lectures, meetings and workshops run by CPLHS and, I hope you will agree, continues to represent good value for money! Visitors' and non-members' fees remain at £2 a lecture. The costs of field trips will depend on the specific arrangements for the trip.

It would be very helpful to me if you could renew your membership by post using the enclosed form, or print one from the website, and send it to me with a cheque as soon as possible. This will help considerably and avoid unnecessary queues at our first lecture. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Nigel Mills. CPLHS Treasurer.



Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

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.

Over 2010 we had lectures on Shap Abbey, Lakeland Architecture, Shorts' Flying Boats, Yeomen Farmers and the Reformation, the life of Thomas Hayton Mawson, and Cumbria in the Dark Ages.

This year we have another varied programme which can be found on page 3. We hope you enjoy it and look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

We will also be arranging field trips and visits, one of which will be to the Kendal Record Office in April—more about this to follow.

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

Please come and visit us there.

Committee Members 2011

Chairperson:	Post to be filled
Treasurer:	Nigel Mills
Secretary:	Ruth Hughes until post filled
Committee Members:	Pat Rowland
	Barbara Copeland
	Stuart Harling
	Mike Hornung
	Ken Howarth