

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

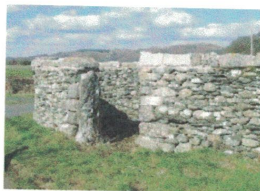
MAY 2009

Pounds and Pinfolds – What are they?

This is not an uncommon question and is asked by many people who probably drive past one regularly not realising the original purpose of the small stone enclosure. This is not surprising as they can be well camouflaged and mistaken for a garden wall, a roadside building or even a sheepfold to the un-initiated. (see note 1)

Pounds and pinfolds are structures usually built of stone in this area but the building material depended on local availability. In the Home Counties they are more often built of brick. They were used to impound straying animals and were in use in some form probably from the 14th century up until the general enclosure of land in the mid 19th century. Many were then used or mis-used as village rubbish dumps, robbed of stone for building purposes or just left to decay.

The most significant pounds in the Cartmel Peninsula are



Field Broughton

on White Moss Common at Field Broughton and at the

junction with the A590 at Barrow Banks.

There are also the remains of one at Rosthwaite, Cark and I am trying to confirm the site of the Cartmel pound on The Causeway.



Staveley

I probably need to clarify the terminology I will be using in this article. Firstly, the difference between a pound and a pinfold. There is none. I tend to use the term shown on the first edition OS maps as a guide. There is a theory that "in the south and west (of England) they favour the former (pound) and in the north and east the latter (pinfold)" (see note 2) and although this theory stands up for our local pounds there are references to pinfolds rather than pounds at Braithwaite, Deanscales, Loweswater and others places in Cumbria. Ordnance Survey themselves have advised me that the name used on the first edition OS maps would have depended on the individual surveyor at the time. They would proba-

bly have noted the name the locals used at the time of the survey.

Other names found in manorial records refer to these structures as a poundfold or pinfold sometimes shortened to fold or fould.

As an example the Manor of Muchland Court Leet record of April 29th 1629 states:

"We order that the pinfould at Gleaston shalbe made able by all the towne before the 6 daie of maie next upon paine of 6^s 8^d". (see note 3)

Pounds and Pinfolds – What were they used for?

They were used for impounding stray animals. Bear in mind that pounds and pinfolds were used over a period of 5 centuries, during which time the management of the countryside evolved and changed causing the use of pounds and pinfolds to differ slightly from area to area. In, say, the 16th and 17th century almost every sizable village would have its common pound and, if subject to a Lord of The Manor, under the manorial law would also have a manorial pound. Written evidence of their use and the management differences between the two types is limited to references to pounds and pinfolds in Manor Court records. So far I have only examined the Manor Court Records held in

Christopher Rawlinson of Cark Hall



National Portrait Gallery:

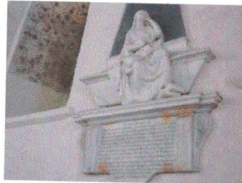
Christopher Rawlinson, Antiquary (1677-1733)

Christopher Rawlinson (1677-1733) was born at Springfield, Essex on the 13th June 1677, the second son of Curwen Rawlinson, landowner and MP for Lancaster. Curwen and his wife Elizabeth lived at Cark Hall, and Elizabeth was the daughter of Nicholas Monk, Lord Bishop of Hereford, brother to General Monk, Duke of Albermarle. Christopher and Elizabeth had two sons; Monk, who died in 1695 aged 21 years and is buried in the South Transept of Cartmel Priory Church close to his mother; and Christopher who was the last of the male Rawlinsons of Cark Hall. Christopher attended Queen's College, Oxford, and was one of a group of Anglo-Saxon scholars who worked with Edward Thwaites, fellow of the College. He published, in 1698, a version of *Boethius de consolationis philosophiae* in the Saxon language. This was printed at Oxford University Press, with the Junian types. Possessed of a naturally

strong genius he was noticed for his application to his studies and distinguished for his skill in Saxon and Northern literature. After leaving college, and whilst living at Cark Hall, much of his time was spent in antiquarian pursuits, collecting manuscripts illustrative of the history of Lancashire and Westmorland and in particular the 'Barony of Kendal'. He was regarded as a man and scholar of public esteem in his day.

In 1723 he erected a vast monument in Westminster Abbey to the memory of his grandfather, Nicholas Monck, Bishop of Hereford, also a large marble memorial to his grandfather, mother and brother on the east wall in the south transept of Cartmel Priory Church. (Look up and take binoculars).

During his lifetime he also enlarged the hall by adding to the right-hand side.



Christopher Monck, having no issue, left his estates to his cousin and godson Christopher Rawlinson of Cark Hall Lancashire. On his death Christopher Rawlinson, then aged 55 years, travelled to London to inherit his estates.

Unfortunately, he died of dropsy at his lodgings in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on the 8th January 1733.

He left instructions that he

should be buried in the Abbey Church in St. Albans.

In the north transept of the Abbey Church is a white marble sarcophagus and epitaph to the memory of Christopher Rawlinson of Carke Hall in the County of Lancaster.

He died unmarried and intestate, his property passing to his heirs, five female cousins, four of whom were married.

The furniture and effects at Cark Hall were realized by public sale and it was rumoured at the time that the farmhouse and cottages in the neighbourhood were full of manuscripts, purchased cheaply but not understood, and therefore probably destroyed.

His valuable collection of manuscripts certainly seems not to have survived.

However, Sir Daniel Fleming of Rydal Hall had copied extracts from the history of Westmorland manuscripts and these were used by Joseph Nicholson and R Burn in their *History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland* (1777).

Today Cark Hall is divided into three separate houses: South Cottage, North Cottage and Cark Hall. The single storey building beside the house was built as a feed store and is now occupied.

Gail Swanson

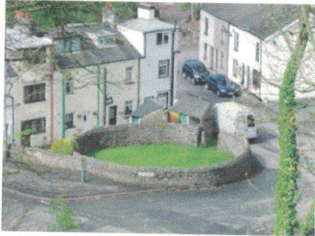
Sources: J. Stockdale, *Annales Caermoeleses or Annals of Cartmel* (1872 pp.457-460 and *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* available online.

Carried forward from p.1

the Leconfield Archive at Cocker-mouth Castle (see note 4) and some references given to me from personal contacts but hope to research more local Manor Court records when time allows.

As well as finding evidence of the management of pounds and pinfolds, Manorial Records show numerous other offences such as shedding the blood of someone, keeping scabby horses, breaking a bow and being of evil tongue. They reflect the culture in the 16C and could well inspire further research! Our lecture in 2007 by Dr Eleanor Straughton gave us an insight into Cumbrian Manorial Records and what they can tell us.

In essence:- fines were regularly imposed for failure to keep fences in good repair. Poor fence maintenance resulted in straying animals and hence the need for pounds and pinfolds. Animals found grazing on the commons or waste without the owner having been granted rights were also impounded.



Dalton in Furness

Pounds and Pinfolds – How were they managed?

The day to day work of collecting and impounding the stray cattle, sheep, pigs and (probably) geese fell to the Pinder. Appointed by the Manor Court he was responsible for feeding and watering the animals and collecting the fines from the owners before releasing the animals. In modern terms I think it fair to say that the job of the Pinder would have been a “stressful” one. Manor Court records show that fines were imposed for “foldbreak or “foldbreach”, as well as the unlawful

freeing of animals from the Pinder before they reached the pound to avoid the payment to the Pinder. An example of Foldbreach:- John Strib was fined because his servant had broken into the pound to release his master’s animal.

Derwentfell Capital Court 8th October 1473 – “Brakenthwayt presents John Strib for his servant for 1 foldbreach against John Thomlynson Junior”. Fined 13s 6p.

ref: CROW D/LEC 299a roll 8/10.

An example of a rescue:- This is where the animal is recovered from the Bailiff or Pinder before reaching the pound. In this case a fine was imposed for “rescue” where the animals were forcibly taken from the bailiff as they were driven to pound. A stot is a pig.

Derwentfell Court on the Feast of St Denis 1488 – “John Bank Keld is presented for 1 rescue made on the township bailiff Thomas Blaykthwayt near the gate for the keeping of 2 stots. Fined 10p.

ref: CROW D/LEC 299a.

Pounds and Pinfolds – How were they built and maintained?

It was the responsibility of the Lord of the Manor to ensure that pounds and pinfolds were built and maintained. In practice, manorial records show that this task was often delegated and the cost borne by the villagers!

An example of the Manor Court’s decision to ensure the pinfold is in good repair by 6th May or pay a fine:-

Court Leet 1629 April 29th. “We order that the pinfold at Gleaston shalbe made able by all the towne before the 6 daie of maie next upon paine of 6^s 8^d”.

ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/8*

An example of where the Lord Egremont is asked to maintain a manorial pound for the benefit of the people. The full text provides an insight into the need for a pound, its use and the cost of rebuilding it of £21:10s in 1816:-

A petition “To the right honorable

George O’Brien, Earl of Egremont and Baron of Cocker-mouth” from “the tenants of your Lordship’s Manor of Caldbeck Upton and Underfell in the County of Cumberland”. The petition appeals to the Lord Egremont to contribute to the rebuilding of the Pound or Pinfold, as is the custom, and in order to preserve their Right of Pasturage on a large tract of un-enclosed Common in the Manor. ref: CROW D/LEC

Pounds and Pinfolds – How to recognise one.



Crackenthorpe

There are some common features shared by some but not all pounds and pinfolds. They are near a water source to enable the Pinder ease of access to a water supply for the impounded animals. Some had a spring or stream within the pinfold.

They are in the village or on the outskirts rather than in a field. If a structure is in a field it is probably a sheepfold not a pound.

They are usually on common ground or what was a common when they were built. This made them easily accessible. Manorial pounds are often near the Manor House or Manor Farm or on the boundary of the Manor.

They come in all shapes and sizes. Traditionally they are built of local stone or brick and are round or rectangular.

Pounds and Pinfolds – How are they currently used.

Most pounds and pinfolds that still exist are in a semi- complete state. The wooden doors have long since rotted

Continued on p.4

away and unless they have been replaced there is an open access to the pound - as at Field Broughton. Some have been renovated, fitted with a padlocked metal gate and are looked after - as at Dalton in Furness whilst others are just left to tumble down - as at Crackenthorpe. Others have been completely rebuilt as an Art Work by Andy Goldsworthy - as at Crosby Ravensworth. The parish records I have seen record time and time again the efforts of the Parish Councils, who have responsibility for most existing pounds, to keep the area clear of rubbish. If within the Lake District National Park they are kept up together by the LDNP but not rebuilt and often have a seat placed in them

as in Pooley Bridge.

Pounds and Pinfolds – Further Research.

I am still looking and finding previously unrecorded pounds and pinfolds in Cumbria, the latest being at Blindcrake, and in some cases I can stimulate sufficient interest to repair or at least stabilise their current condition as at Penruddock and Pooley Bridge. Manor and Parish records are still to be found and examined and I am sure this will keep me busy for some time!

Nigel Mills

Note 1: Taking the A6 from Levens to Preston you will pass 3 pinfolds. Top marks if anyone can tell me where they are.

Note 2; “Pounds or Pinfolds and Lockups” by B.M. Wilmott Dobbie
Note 3: Ref: CROB BD/HJ/202/8*

Note 4: This research was carried out as part of a project run by Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS, Lancaster University and Whitehaven Records Office.



Crosby Ravensworth

Villages Project 21st July

Those of you who attended our April lecture will already have heard an outline of the society's new project.

We are hoping to add to the usefulness of our web pages by providing some information about the peninsula's towns and villages that anyone can access from our website.

To do this we need willing volunteers who are prepared to either do some research, or to have done some research, on either their own town or village or on one of the towns and villages in our area.

We are open to all suggestions at the moment, but envisage something along the

lines of a small but informative history about the town or village, its notable inhabitants, houses, churches, schools, etc., including memories of events or persons from the past. Photographs would be welcome, as would old maps etc.

We have arranged to hold a workshop in the Cartmel Village Hall supper room on **Tuesday 21st July** at 7.30 p.m. where anyone who is interested, or who has information they are willing to share, can attend and meet up with other like minded historians.

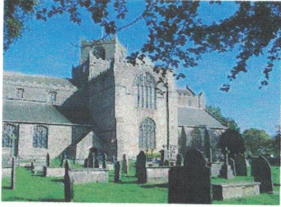
We are hoping to have tables for each of the villages repre-

sented, at which those from, say Cark, can get together to discuss how to go about researching for this project.

Nigel Mills, who is our webmaster, will be on hand to advise on what we can and cannot add to our website (searchable excel spreadsheets, for example, unfortunately cannot be added but lists can).

It is hoped that the evening will prove to be both enjoyable and productive. Please come along and get involved. **Refreshments will be provided.**

Cartmel Priory—history



Cartmel Priory

On the 30th April we were treated to a talk by David Saunders about the history behind the building of the Priory. We learned, for example, about the centrality of William, Earl Marshall to the Priory's existence. We also

heard some theories about where the stone to build the Priory was sourced, and how it was transported to its eventual site.

We also learned a lot about the context of the time in which it was built, which will be invaluable when we come to tour the Priory in May with Gail Swanson.

Many of the domestic buildings which would have been integral to the Priory's working life have been

lost but as David pointed out, keen observers should be able to identify re-used stone taken from the Priory buildings and used in a number of the buildings standing in Cartmel village today.

If you would like to know more about the Priory please come along to the guided tour on Thursday 28th May at 7.15 p.m. Cost is £2.50 per person. We will be meeting outside the Priory gates and, depending on numbers attending, will be assigned to a tour guide then.

Our website at www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk

Our website has been up and running for approximately two months now. Our webmaster, Nigel Mills, has done a fantastic job putting it together and keeping it up to date.

We intend to add more pages with even more information in the coming months (see page 4 for details of one of our projects).

One of the ways in which we can

provide information quickly, to as many of our members as possible, is to use our website as an information board, so you will find details of our lecture programme on there, as well as any other information we think you may be interested in, but which is external to the society.

You will also find links to other useful sites. If you are aware of any sites which you think would

prove useful to members of the society, please do let us know and we can provide links to those too.

Please do visit the site regularly to keep up to date with information, and let us know if there is something you would like to see included.

Looking for articles

We are always looking for articles for our newsletter—the more we get the more often we can publish the newsletter!

If you have anything you would like to have included in the newsletter, be it an article, a piece of news or something you think other members of our society would be interested in, please contact the editor at ruth-

hughes@tiscali.co.uk.

This edition has been published with the help of Nigel Mills, who provided the article on Pounds and Pinfolds, and Trevor Moore and Gail Swanson, who between them put together the interesting article on Christopher Rawlinson of Cark Hall.

Articles can be of any length, we can always add pages!



Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

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Our society was founded over 10 years ago to promote the history of the Cartmel and District area. Some years ago we changed the name to more accurately reflect the geographical area our Society encompasses.

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

This year, so far, we have had lectures on topics ranging from the ports of Morecambe Bay, Tollroads and Cartmel Priory. In the coming months we will have further lectures on, to name a couple, the Families of Holker Hall and the documents relating to the Land Tax Survey of 1909-10 and the valuable information these documents can provide to the local historian.

We have recently tried to widen our remit to include more family-based history, as we realise that many of our members and visitors do not have their roots in this area, myself included.

We are always open to suggestions from our members about the ways this Society can grow.

**WE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB AT:
www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk**

Committee Members 2009

Chairperson:	Barbara Copeland (Tel: 01539533165)
Treasurer:	Nigel Mills
Secretary:	Ruth Hughes (Tel: 01539532591)
Publicity Officer:	Gail Swanson
Committee Members:	Trevor Moore Peter le Mare Malcolm Arthurton Stewart Allen