

# CARTMEL'S SMITHIES



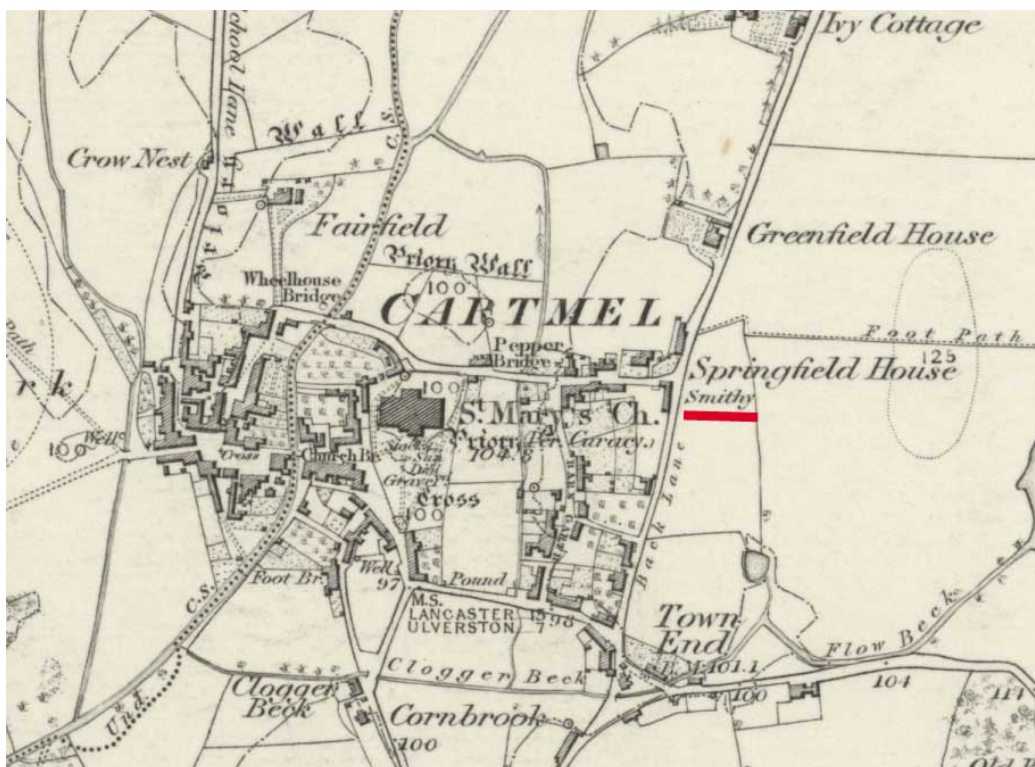
by Peter Roden

L'Enclume, the now famous Michelin starred restaurant in Cavendish Street, Cartmel, took as its name the French translation of Anvil, the traditional tool of the blacksmiths who had earlier used the premises as their workshop. But how much do we know about the blacksmiths who worked there, and at another historic Smithy in Cartmel village, and their connections with blacksmiths at other Smithies in the surrounding area ?

These notes started as an attempt to pull together the stories of Cartmel's local blacksmiths, drawing on (1) data now available in the recently completed database of census records for this area, (2) some family history research on the families identified from the census records, and (3) some recent oral history interviews, recalling memories of those who worked in the Cavendish Street Smithy.

Subsequently, several friends who saw earlier drafts have provided additional information. Pat Rowland and Barbara Copeland have provided a significant number of additional references and suggestions regarding the historic records, and John Batty, and his discussions with Richard Davis and Jonathan Wood, and Derek Birch, with whom I have discussed the draft, have all contributed additional information. The help from all of them in compiling this article is gratefully acknowledged.

Historically, the Smithy in Cavendish Street was not the only Smithy in Cartmel. The first detailed Ordnance Survey map of the area in 1848 clearly shows another Smithy near Springfield House, on the corner of 'Back Lane', known by various other names subsequently, and an un-named street, now known as Priest Lane. That Smithy is later recorded with the house name Fell View, which can still be seen on a cottage there.



1848 Ordnance Survey

The census records rarely give details of postal addresses as we know them today, so it can be difficult to locate specific properties within a village. However, until 1949, when the civil parish of Upper Holker was abolished, the village of Cartmel was divided by the River Eea into two different townships, now known as civil parishes. Cavendish Street, on the West of the river, was in the township of Upper Holker, whilst Aynsome Road, on the East of the river, was in the township of Lower Allithwaite. This separation of the two Smithies in Cartmel, into different townships, is a great help in allocating the Cartmel blacksmiths in census records to their respective Smithies.

The ownership of the Smithy in Cavendish Street is relatively easy to trace for about 120 years from 1838 to the late 1950s, as the families who lived and worked there only changed once during that period. The first was the Wilkinson family and the second was the Swainson family.



Cavendish Street Smithy, now L'Enclume, looking North East from Cavendish Street

Thomas Wilkinson was baptised in Sedbergh on 10 Oct 1813 and on 9 June 1838, he married Dorothy Whitehead at her local church in Kendal. Their marriage certificate gives Thomas's occupation as a 'Black & White Smith', and also indicates that he was already living in Cartmel at the time of his marriage. Over the next 20 years, Thomas and Dorothy had 11 children, all baptised in Cartmel, and Thomas is recorded as a blacksmith in the Upper Holker part of Cartmel in the four censuses of 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871.

Before any of their sons were old enough to follow in their father's trade, Thomas had a young journeyman blacksmith living with the family in 1851, named James Lambert, aged 24 and born at Askrigg in Wensleydale c.1827. James Lambert probably left Cartmel in the early 1850s, married a girl named Agnes from Witherslack, and moved to Allithwaite. He is recorded as a blacksmith in Allithwaite in the next four censuses, from 1861 to 1891. James and Agnes had two sons who followed their father into the blacksmith's trade, both baptised in Cartmel, i.e. William baptised on 5 March 1854 and James Jnr baptised on 5 April 1857. Both these sons were working as blacksmiths with their father at the time of the 1871 census. The family's address in the Allithwaite censuses is given as the Post Office in 1871 and 1891, and The Square in 1881, and in 1891 father James' occupation is specifically 'Blacksmith and Postmaster'. The elder son William Lambert became a brewer, and his address in the censuses from 1881 to 1901 is given as The Brewery in Allithwaite. However, William probably combined his brewing activities with some blacksmith work as in the 1911 census, he gives his occupation as simply a blacksmith, with an address only as Allithwaite. James Lambert who trained at the Cartmel Smithy died aged 64 a few months after the 1891 census. Without digressing further into the Lambert family history, it may be noted that in the 1911 census, the Post Office in Allithwaite was occupied by a third generation of the Lambert blacksmiths, i.e. 22 year old William Lambert, whose 18 year old sister Emma was then the Postmistress, and they had a younger sister, 7 year old Lizzie Lambert living there with them.

To return to the Wilkinson family of blacksmiths in Cartmel : all of Thomas Wilkinson's sons who survived infancy followed their father as blacksmiths. The eldest of these was James Wilkinson who was baptised on 9 February 1840. He is recorded as working with his father as a blacksmith in 1861. However, tragedy struck the family in December 1864. James was only aged 24 when he was buried in Cartmel on the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month, only 9 days after his younger sister Jane, aged 20, who had been buried on the 11<sup>th</sup> of that month.

Another son, John Wilkinson, baptised on 3 June 1842, is recorded working with father as a blacksmith in both 1861 and 1871. However, he probably left home soon afterwards, and moved across the Kent estuary to Slyne near Hest, north of Lancaster, where he was working as a blacksmith at the times of the censuses in 1881, 1901 and 1911, though he has not yet been located at the time of the 1891 census. In both 1881 and 1901 he was living with his wife Annie, who was born in Ireland, but neither of those censuses mention any children. John was a widower by 1911, and then had his unmarried younger sister Hannah living with him. He probably died aged 72 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1914.

The early 1870s seem to have been difficult times for local blacksmiths, and they felt it necessary to publish the following notice in the *Westmorland Gazette* on 16 March 1872 :

#### NOTICE

At a meeting held this day, at Cartmel, the BLACKSMITHS of Cartmel, Allithwaite, Flookburgh, Newton, Broughton, Witherslack, Grange, Newby Bridge, Lindale, Crosthwaite, Bowland Bridge, &c., having taken into consideration the great rise in the price of Labour, Iron, Coals, &c., found it necessary to RAISE the PRICE OF HORSE SHOEING and all other work, according to the times.

Cartmel, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1872.

No doubt Thomas Wilkinson of Cartmel would have been a participant, if not the leader of that meeting, which also shows that almost every village in the Cartmel peninsula had its own local blacksmith at that time. It also shows signs of local co-operation in price fixing, like medieval guilds, which would certainly be banned now by competition regulators !

Thomas Wilkinson himself died aged 66 on 25 Feb 1880, and by 1881, his youngest son George Wilkinson, baptised on 12 March 1856, was working as a blacksmith, with his widowed mother Dorothy being head of the household then. He probably had a 15 year old apprentice named William Rigge working for him then, as William Rigge lived not far away with his widowed mother who kept a sweet shop in Devonshire Square. However, George Wilkinson did not live to enjoy old age, but died aged 28 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1884.

At the time of the 1891 census, widow Dorothy Wilkinson was still living in Cavendish Street, and her unmarried daughter Hannah, then aged 39, was the only other person in her household then. Who was actually running the Smithy there then is open to speculation, as discussed below. At the time of that census, another young blacksmith named James Hardwick, aged 20, who gives his employment status as 'employed', was living close by, and may have been working there then. However this James Hardwick does not appear again anywhere in the peninsula census records.

The end of all Wilkinson family interest in the Cavendish Street Smithy came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1898, after about 60 years there, when Dorothy Wilkinson died at the age of 83. It was then in the Swainson family for approximately 60 years, with blacksmiths father and son-in-law.

In the census records of 1901 and 1911, the blacksmith in Cavendish Street was William Stables Swainson, with his wife Hannah and their two daughters Mary Agnes and Florence. In 1901, William also had an 18 year old apprentice blacksmith resident and working for him named Walter Byrom from Blackburn, but no other resident blacksmith in 1911.

William Stables Swainson was born in Coniston in March 1861<sup>1</sup>, the eldest son of James Swainson and Agnes Jane Stables, who were married at Coniston the following month, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1861. At the time of their marriage, James was aged just 21, having been born in Colton in early 1840. He was then working as a tailor at Nibthwaite in the parish of Colton, and was the son of Edward Swainson, a farmer. Agnes was aged only 17 when she married James Swainson, having already bourn their eldest son. She gives her address as Coniston on their marriage certificate, and she was the daughter of Miles Stable(s), a miller, having been born in Torver in September 1843. James and Agnes had five sons, all of whom became blacksmiths. Their first four sons were all born at Coniston, (i.e. William in 1861, Edward in 1866, Miles or Myles in 1868 and James in 1870), but their youngest son John was born in Cartmel in 1876, thus giving an indication of when the family moved to Cartmel.

At the time of the 1881 census, 20 year old William S Swainson was learning his trade as an apprentice blacksmith with William Hoggarth, who was then the inn keeper and blacksmith at the Lowwood Inn in Haverthwaite<sup>2</sup>. Interestingly, William Hoggarth himself may well have worked at the Cavendish Street Smithy in the early 1870s. He was baptised at Cartmel on 23 March 1850, the son of Thomas and Agnes Hoggarth. They lived at Field Broughton, where the family is recorded in the 1851 census, and William and his by then widowed mother were still in Field Broughton for the 1861 census. By the time of the 1871 census, William had become a blacksmith, and was then living with John Farrer, a master blacksmith in Kirkby Ireleth, with whom it seems likely that he had worked as an apprentice and learnt the trade. The next known reference to William Hoggarth comes from William Field's Log Book<sup>3</sup>, in which he records on 23 Jan 1878 that "William Hoggarth, blacksmith, left the house next to Tower House, he having taken the public house at Lowwood". The Field family lived in Tower House in Cavendish Street, Cartmel, so not only would William Hoggarth have been their next door neighbour, but living in Cavendish Street seems a strong suggestion that he was working at the Cavendish Street Smithy for a while before moving to Lowwood, where he subsequently trained William Swainson.

As mentioned above, the parents of William S Swainson had moved to Cartmel between 1871 and 1876, and in 1881, they and their four other sons were at an address given only as 'Cartmel'. By 1891, William was back with his family at an address given as Broughton Road. William's occupation then is given as a black and white smith, and his three brothers, Edward, Myles and James were also blacksmiths by then, whilst their youngest brother John was still at school, but later also a blacksmith.

However, it is by no means certain where William and his three blacksmith brothers were working in 1891, as there are two possible scenarios. One scenario is that he and they had already started working at the Cavendish Street Smithy, before or after the death of George Wilkinson in 1884, and whilst it was still in widow Wilkinson's ownership. All the brothers were still unmarried at that time, so it would have been natural for them to be still living with their parents elsewhere in the town. Only after William had married, and Dorothy Wilkinson had died, was it possible for William to move in and live at the Cavendish Street premises. The other scenario involves William and his brothers working for a while at the Aynsome Road Smithy, before the Cavendish Street premises became available for William after Dorothy Wilkinson's death. The Aynsome Road Smithy is discussed in more detail below.

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<sup>1</sup> His birth was registered as William Swainson Stables.

<sup>2</sup> It is curious to find Lowwood Inn in Haverthwaite, in the civil parish of Colton, as the village of Lowwood was just across the River Leven in the civil parish of Upper Holker.

<sup>3</sup> See Research folder on Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society's website

It may have been out of operation for a while and it might have been bought by William's father for his sons ? It is tempting to assume that the family's Broughton Road address would be at the Smithy there, but there are reasons to doubt this assumption, as discussed below.

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 1891 William Stables Swainson, a 30 year old blacksmith and son of James Swainson, a tailor, was married at Cartmel parish church to Anne (later Hannah) Smith Shaw aged 27, the daughter of Richard Shaw dec'd, a coachman, both parties then living in Cartmel. They had two daughters, Mary Agnes, born 30 September 1893, and Florence, born 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 1894. Clearly, William and his family would be looking for a home and business premises of their own, and the Cavendish Street Smithy became available for them before or after the death of Dorothy Wilkinson in 1898. They were there at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses, as mentioned previously.

In 1909, the modern technology of motor cars may not have reached Cartmel, but bicycles had certainly done so. The advertisement illustrated below appeared in the *Westmorland Gazette* on 10 July 1909, which clearly mentions W. Swainson of Cartmel as one of the local distributors. Not only did Swainson advertise bicycles in the local newspaper paper, he also put an enamelled advertisement for them on the barn opposite to his Smithy, which can still be seen there.



Cavendish Street looking South, former Smithy on left, old barn with Raleigh sign on right

Then on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1926 at Cartmel parish church, William's elder daughter, Mary Agnes Swainson aged 33, married William (Billy) Dickinson Watson. Their marriage certificate gives Billy Watson's occupation as a farmer, (not a blacksmith), and he was then living at Sturdys Farm, Field Broughton. Curiously, his marriage certificate gives Billy's age as 34, although he was born in Ulverston on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1890, the son of William and Sarah Watson. Billy's father, William Watson senior, was also a farmer, and at the time of the 1911 census, young Billy was working as a groom at Birkby Hall.

When Billy's father-in-law, William Swainson, died in September 1932, Billy took over the business, though he himself was never a blacksmith, although he described himself as an Agricultural Blacksmith in the 1939 register. That record really means that he was the owner of a blacksmith's business, rather than being active in the skills of that trade.

Billy's widowed mother-in-law probably continued to live on site, as the Grange Red Books of 1933 and 1934 record Mrs W. Swainson living in Cavendish Street Cartmel, before they list Billy Watson at the Smithy from 1935. Hannah S Swainson died aged 76 in March 1939.

As owner of the business after his father-in-law's death, Billy Watson immediately needed to employ a skilled blacksmith, and many of the recent oral history records recall that that active blacksmith in Cavendish Street, from the early 1930s, was always known locally as Timbuck.

Billy Watson is mentioned in several recent oral history interviews. Although he "worked" at the Smithy, he is remembered for putting wooden handles on implements made by Timbuck, or selling bicycles etc., but not actually doing blacksmith's work.

The real identity of Timbuck was revealed by Derek Birch in a recorded video discussion with Bob Copeland and Howard Martin at L'Enclume entitled 'Then and Now', but mostly about its time as a Smithy.<sup>4</sup> Derek Birch revealed that Timbuck was James (Jim) Hewartson, who was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1903, and subsequently became Derek Birch's father-in-law.

Derek Birch has also told me that Timbuck served his time as an apprentice at the Newby Bridge Smithy, and the 1939 Register shows that he was then living at Chapel House, Field Broughton. Although that house is only 100 yards or so from the Field Broughton Smithy, (of which more below), Derek says that he never heard any mention of Timbuck ever working at the Field Broughton Smithy, but he has many photographs of his father-in-law working as a blacksmith, and has kindly allowed me to include two of them below.



Timbuck (James Hewartson) working as a Blacksmith

<sup>4</sup> Recording made 19 Sept 2016 for the Cartmel Village Society – see CVS website

That video recording mentioned above includes many memories of the working life of this Smithy, from shoeing horses to putting rims on cart wheels for wheelwrights, and a few examples of Timbuck's mischievous sense of humour. Howard Martin also mentions that by the late 1950s, it was then owned by James Gibson, the father of one of Howard's school mates. At what point Billy Watson retired and sold out to Gibson is not mentioned, but was it in the late 1950s.<sup>5</sup> Billy Watson died aged 69 in March 1960.

Gibson's short ownership of this Smithy is a bit of a mystery. It is not known why he bought it, whether as an investor or as a blacksmith himself, nor why he had sold it by early January 1960.

The new owner was a chartered accountant named W.A.R. (Austen) Denison, who at the time that he purchased this Smithy, was still living in Hereford where he was the County Treasurer. Initially, he worked with a Mr & Mrs Clegg of Grange as his local agents for the management of this Smithy business.<sup>6</sup> Denison resigned his position in Hereford in May 1962, and later that year moved to live in Cartmel at what he called Anvil House, (now converted for accommodation over L'Enclume).

Shortly after Denison's move to Cartmel, in March 1963, *Cumbria Life* magazine published an article featuring half a dozen people working in Cartmel, one of whom was Tim Hewartson.<sup>7</sup> The section about Tim and the Cartmel Smithy is quoted below.

"Three years ago the smithy at Cartmel was purchased by Mr. Dennison, who is trying to preserve it and to encourage the blacksmith's craft. In his efforts he has been greatly helped by the Rural Industries Bureau.

"The deeds show that the building goes back for over 230 years. It lies within the precincts of the old Priory, and just across the road, most appropriately, is an old chestnut tree. Horses are still shod, though most of them are those used for riding rather than heavy work on the land, and ornamental ironwork is produced for private individuals and for churches.

"For 32 years the smithy has been the workplace of Tim Hewartson, who recalls that when he served his apprenticeship he received 10s. a week, starting work at 6-30 a.m. and not taking off his leather apron for almost 12 hours. Tim worked for William Swainson for four years; then Bill Watson took over the Cartmel smithy, and "I'd 24 years under him."

"To shoe horses, Tim goes as far as Witherslack Hall and Levens Bridge. He says there are less than half a dozen farm horses left in the valley now, but it is not difficult to recall the days when four or five were led to the smithy every day.

"Some of the toughest work came in winter, when the shoes of horses were sharpened so that they could retain their grip on surfaces made treacherous through ice or snow. To "frost sharp" the shoes of one animal took over an hour.

"Gradually the old hand operations have been partly mechanised, though the skill demanded of a blacksmith remains. In Mr. Dennison's smithy today are welders, oxy-acetylene cutters and an electric blower for the forge.

"At a time when wheels are mainly factory made and rubber shod, this smithy has requests for the hooping of wooden cart wheels. They belong to the men of Flookburgh and Allithwaite, who seek cockles and fluke on the sands of the Bay. Tim points out a special oven that is used for this work. Mr. Dennison shows visitors a grassy patch by the stream, near Wheelhouse Bridge, where years ago wheels were hooped with the aid of old peat fires. The beck was handy when the time came for quenching."

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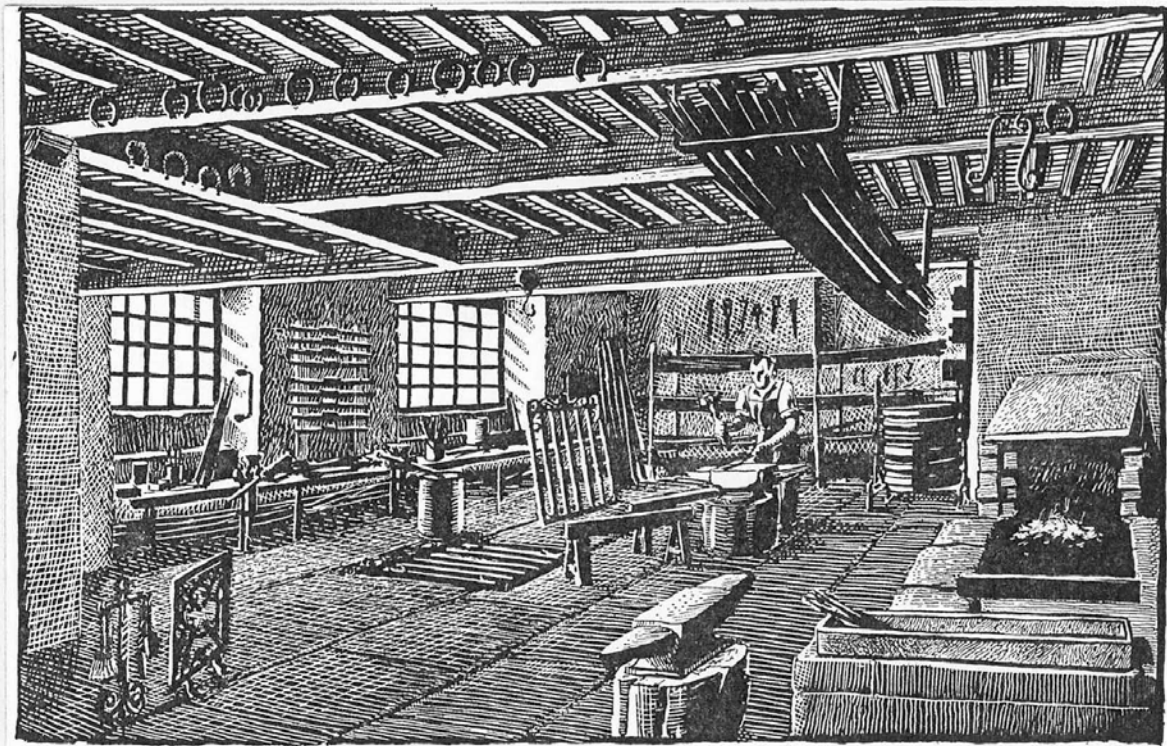
<sup>5</sup> The Grange Red Books, in Grange Library, only mention J.R.Gibson, at The Smithy, Cartmel, in 1959. Billy Watson is listed in 1957. The Red Books for 1958 and 1960 are not available in Grange Library.

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix for reference to Denison's correspondence with Mr & Mrs Clegg.

<sup>7</sup> *Cumbria Life*, March 1963, pages 428-429. Copy found and donated to CPLHS Archives by Rose Clark, and kindly drawn to my attention by Nigel Mills.

About the time of his move to Cartmel, Denison also purchased the Lakeland Rural Industries in Borrowdale, whose principal products were then small stainless steel goods for both domestic and church uses. Denison then used the name Lakeland Rural Industries to promote both of his businesses, in Cartmel and Borrowdale.

One of Denison's marketing innovations was the production of a Post Card illustrating Timbuck at work in the Smithy. Several examples of this Post Card survive locally, and it is illustrated below.



Postcard of Cartmel Forge, mid 1960s, windows facing River Ea

Denison later deposited extensive records of this, and his other related businesses, in the Kendal Archives. Further details about him, and those archived records, are included as an Appendix to this article. Suffice it to mention here that by Denison's time, there was very little traditional farrier's work to be done, and the 'products' of the Smithy then were mainly wrought iron work, of which the surviving gates for Kendal parish church, near the Ring o' Bells public house, are an outstanding example.

The earliest letter in the Kendal Archives,<sup>8</sup> from the "Rural Industries Organiser for the County of Lancashire" to Denison, is dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 1960, and starts "I understand from J.R.Gibson of Cartmel that you have purchased the Cavendish St. Forge at Cartmel, and that you have agreed to continue employing Tim Hewartson as a blacksmith and farrier, and that you would like to have him trained in the art of Electric Arc Welding".

Apart from the confirmation of when Denison bought the business, this reference to electric arc welding prompted Derek Birch to recall the reason for Timbuck's retirement, and the consequent closure of the Smithy business on this site. Shortly before the age of 65, Timbuck got a flash from electric arc welding in his eye, and subsequently had to wear dark glasses. This prompted his reluctant retirement, as Derek says that he boasted that he had never taken a full week's holiday off work in his life, (only occasional half days off for special occasions like funerals). Subsequently, Timbuck (James Hewartson) died in December 1979 aged 76.

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<sup>8</sup> Kendal Archive Ref WDB 109, box 1 of 2 for acquisition # A1812, in a folder marked "Forge – Rural Industries Bureau"



Timbuck's retirement in 1968 marked the end of the Smithy business in Cavendish Street, Cartmel. Even whilst this Smithy was still running, Denison and his wife had developed their interests in selling paintings by mainly local artists, both in Borrowdale and in a few shows around Cumbria. After Timbuck's retirement, they developed "The Anvil Gallery", in the property adjacent to the Smithy across the ginnel South of the Smithy in Cavendish Street. The documents in Kendal Archives include many folders of correspondence with artists up to the late 1970s.

As Denison was born in November 1909, the indications from all his deposits in the Kendal Archives are that when he reached the age of 65, he started to wind down his business interests, and little is known of what, if anything, he did with his property in Cartmel during the 1980s, before he sold it in 1992 to Richard Davis and Jonathan Wood, who then had other business interests in local antiques shops. They are believed to have used the premises for some years as storage space, rather than retail purposes. By 2002 they had decided to convert the Smithy premises into a restaurant, and attracted Simon Rogan, who translated the traditional Anvil name into French, and the premises became L'Enclume.

When Richard & Jonathan bought the premises in 1992, they also bought all its original blacksmith's fixtures and fittings. Some of these are still on display within L'Enclume, like the Anvil and the Hooping Block, (for putting iron rims on wooden wheels). However, some are also out on loan to the National Trust at Speke Hall, Liverpool. A recent enquiry there (March 2018) confirmed that "the Cartmel tools are perfectly safe and secure". They are located in the Smithy at Home Farm, Speke, but it was not open to the public at the time of the enquiry.

Returning to the Swainson family, oral history recollections mention Myles Swainson, one of William Swainson's brothers, so it is worth recording what happened to William's four brothers, who all followed the blacksmith's trade at some time.

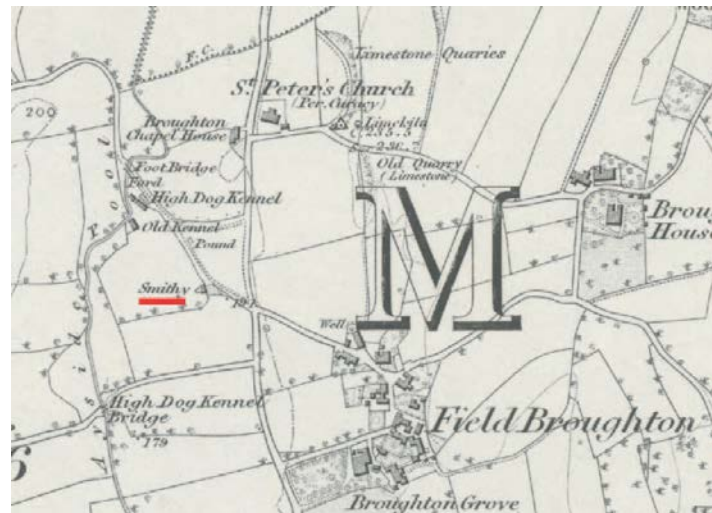
Brother James was the only one to leave the blacksmith's trade. At the end of 1898, he was married in Yorkshire to Jane Anne Thirkell, who was born in Leeds, and in 1901, they and their young daughter, and Jane's younger brother who was born in Carnforth were all living in Bradford, with James giving his occupation then as a railway engine stoker.

William's youngest brother John was married in the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 1901 to Mary Jane Foxcroft, and shortly afterwards, at the time of the 1901 census, John and his bride were living in Holker. They were there again for the 1911 census, with two children, when John gave his occupation as a blacksmith on a nobleman's estate. Sadly, he seems to have died a few months later, at the age of 35, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr of 1911.

William's brother Myles was also married in the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 1901 to Eleanor Townson, and shortly afterwards, at the time of the 1901 census, Myles and his bride were both 'visitors' at Melbourne House in Cartmel, when Myles' occupation is given as a blacksmith working from home on his own account. Where that might have been one can only guess. By 1911, the couple were living in Barngarth, specifically recorded as having no children, and Myles was working as an employed blacksmith, presumably with his elder brother William in Cavendish Street. Recent oral history recollections from one of Myles' neighbours in the late 1920s or early 1930s, mentions that at that time Myles was stone deaf but used to work at the Cavensish Street Smithy 6 days a week and a Sunday morning, he used to walk to Field Broughton to work in the Smithy there. His reasons for going to Field Broughton are easily explained below. Myles died at the age of 63 in June 1932.

The fifth of the five Swainson brothers, Edward, born 8 Nov 1866, married Catherine Hill in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1895. They moved to the old Smithy at the High Dog Kennels in Field Broughton, where their three children were born : twins Edward and Eveline in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1896, and daughter Mary Agnes in August 1900. This family were at High Dog Kennels at the times of both the 1901 and 1911 censuses, and at the time of the latter, Edward junior had also become a blacksmith. In 1911, that Smithy was probably also employing another blacksmith, namely, 21 year old Robert Benson who lived with his parents at Well Close

Bank in Field Broughton. Edward junior had given up the blacksmith's trade by the time of the 1939 Register, and is recorded therein as a Postman in Clitheroe. Edward senior was still living and working at the Field Broughton Smithy at time of the 1939 Register, then aged 72. Hence it is not difficult to guess why and where Myles Swainson was visiting in Field Broughton around 1930. How long this Smithy continued at Field Broughton is currently unknown, but Edward Swainson senior lived to the age of 85 before he died in December 1951.



1848 Ordnance Survey

There had been a Smithy at High Dog Kennels in Field Broughton since at least 1841. In the 1841 and 1851 censuses, the blacksmith there with his family was John Brockbank, who was born c.1799 in Lower Holker. In 1861, the blacksmith there with his family was John Farrer, aged 35 and from Kendal. In the 1871 census, the address High Dog Kennels is not specifically mentioned, nor has any blacksmith been found in Field Broughton at that time. In the 1881 and 1891 censuses, the blacksmith at High Dog Kennels with his family was John Burns, who was born at Bouth c.1848, before Edward Swainson took over that Smithy as described above. Financial problems may have caused John Burns to vacate the Smithy at Field Broughton, as he subsequently moved to Allithwaite, where he can be found in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, but not without being listed with a Receiving Order under the Bankruptcy Acts in 1893<sup>9</sup>.

As mentioned earlier, the Cavendish Street Smithy was not the only Smithy in Cartmel, so what do we know about the Aynsome Road Smithy, and the families associated with it?

In 1841, the Smithy on Aynsome Road, in the Lower Allithwaite part of Cartmel, was being worked by the blacksmith Thomas Bradley, who had been born in Cartmel parish in 1803, and had married Mary Kellet in Cartmel on 15 January 1837. At that time, he probably had a young lad working for him, as Richard Sedgwick, aged about 15, who lived nearby at Town End, is recorded as a blacksmith's apprentice then.

In 1851, Thomas Bradley and his family were probably still there. Their address in that year's census is given as Barngarth, as it was then for 15 other families, so that address may refer to an area of Cartmel rather than just one street, as there are few street names mentioned at that time. Besides his wife and his four school children, Thomas's household then included his father, 79 year old William Bradley, a retired blacksmith born in Liverpool, his younger sister Elizabeth aged 35, and a 14 year old apprentice blacksmith named Isaac Newby from Brow Edge. Thomas's father William was buried at Cartmel aged 84 on

<sup>9</sup> Huddersfield Chronicle 26 Aug 1893 lists "John Burns, Allithwaite, Cartmel, Lancashire, blacksmith" under the heading of Bankruptcy Act Receiving Orders.

13 January 1854, and Thomas himself was buried at Cartmel on 17 May 1859 at the age of 56.

What happened next at the Aynsome Road Smithy is unclear and cannot be determined with any certainty from census records. At the time of the 1861 census, Thomas Bradley's widow Mary was still living in that half of Cartmel, but no specific address is given. All her children had either left home or died by then, and her household consisted of herself, her widowed mother, and three 'boarders', but no blacksmiths. There was, however, in this half of Cartmel at this time, an unmarried young blacksmith living in lodgings, 23 year old John Barrow from Kirkby Ireleth, and also an apprentice blacksmith named Richard Waterhouse, aged 15, living with his parents. One can only speculate that in the absence of any other candidates, this blacksmith and this apprentice may have been working at the Aynsome Road Smithy.

The census records for 1871 have no blacksmiths at all recorded in the Lower Allithwaite part of Cartmel, and it is possible that the Aynsome Road Smithy may not have been operating at that time ? It was obviously a difficult time for blacksmiths, as shown by the notice quoted earlier after their meeting in Cartmel on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1872.

From 1881 to 1911, it seems probable that the Aynsome Road Smithy was being operated by Peter Butler, born c.1853 in Flookburgh and married to Isabella Barrow of Cartmel in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 1878. Certainly he and his family were there in 1901 and 1911, when the census records identify the house adjacent to the Smithy with its current name of Fell View.



Fell View, Aynsome Road, formerly a Smithy

However, in 1881, the family address is given only as Cartmel, and in 1891 as Grange Road. In 1881 Peter Butler's occupation as given as a blacksmith employing one boy, and that boy is likely to have been the 15 year old blacksmith's apprentice James Beetham, who was living nearby with his parents.

However, in 1891, when Peter Butler's address is given as Grange Road, (a street name no longer in use), we find the Swainson family of blacksmiths living in Broughton Road, presumably the old name for the road to Field Broughton, now Aynsome Road, in which we find this Smithy. It may be just a co-incidence that the Swainson family were living on the same road as this Smithy ? If they were actually operating this Smithy in 1891, then one has to explain where Peter Butler was working in 1881 and 1891, as he was certainly living at Fell View in 1901 and 1911. Moreover, there is an article in the *Westmoreland Gazette* of 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1890, reporting on the bi-monthly meeting in Cartmel of the Rural Sanitary Authority, which mentions a problem "near to Mr Butler's Smithy". If the location of Peter Butler's Smithy wasn't at Fell View at that time, could there have been a third site for a Smithy in Cartmel then ?

Since completing the draft of this article, Jenny Gray has given the CPLHS a hoard of late 19<sup>th</sup> century documents from Black Beck Hall, Ayside. They are mostly invoices and receipts relating to the Ellwood family's business there as carriers. The hoard includes 34 invoices from various blacksmiths, including the two Cartmel Blacksmiths in the 1880s, Peter Butler and William Swainson, from whom examples are illustrated below.

Caudlemas 1886.

Case of Thomas Ellwood

**Dr. TO PETER BUTLER,**  
BLACK AND WHITE SMITH.

March 1-12	1 Remov. S. 1 New shoe 15 remove 2/6	2	11
21	2 New shoes 2 remove 2 bolts 1/2 1/2 1/2	3	11
April 1-1	2 New shoes 12 remove 3/4. New end on both horses & new end 1/2	3	11
15	2 Links in back hand. Turn bolts 1/2 1/2 1/2	4	11
21 May 3	6 New shoes 2 remove 1/2. 2 New large links 1/2 1/2 1/2	6	11
May 10-20	2 Links 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	4	6
June 5-13	2 New shoes 2/4. 2 New plates 1 2/4 bolts. 3/4 1/2 1/4	3	4
15 July 10	2 New bolts 1/2. 1/2 New shoes 1/4	1	8
Aug 1	2 New shoes 2 remove. New link 1/2 1/2 1/2	3	4
5-11	2 Large links in chain 1/2. 1/2 New shoes 1/4	4	4
		1	14 10
Aug 15-16	1/2 New shoes 1/4. 1/2 New shoes 1/4	1	8
17-19	New shoe 1/2. New shoe 1/4. Pair of wheels hopping 1/2 1/2	13	11
26-30	1 Remov. 2 new links in chain 1/2. 1/2 New shoes 1/4	4	4
Oct 20-25	1/2 New shoes 1/4. New shoes 1/4	1	4
Nov 6-12	New shoe 1/2 1/2 remove 1/2. 1/2 bolts 1/2. 3 New shoes 1/4	4	6
11-16	1/2 New shoes 1/2. New large links in chain 2/3	3	10 1/2
17-21	1/2 Remov. 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2. 1/2 New links in back hand 1/2	3	11
23	1 Remov. 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2. 3 Good 1/2 1/2 links in chain	2	4
25	2 New shoes 2 remove 1/2 1/2	3	.
Dec 9-11	New shoe 3 remove 1/2 1/2 1/2. 1/2 1/2 Remov. 1/2 1/2 1/2	6	6
17-23	4 New links in chain 1/2. 1/2 Remov. 1/2	1	4
24-30	New shoe 1 link in chain 1/2. Large bolt 1/2 1/2 1/2	1	10
Jan 5-11	New shoe 1 remove 1/2 1/2 1/2. Old shoe 1/2	2	1
13-16	Pair of iron laid 1/2 1/2 1/2	6	6
		1	4 14 2

Paid 2/6 1886  
P. Butler

CARTMEL Aug 1887

Mr John Ellwood Agent

**TO WILLIAM SWAINSON, DR.,**  
Black and White Smith.

Washing and Wringing Machine Rollers made to order on the premises. Horses quarterly shoes

1887

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	1 New saddle	-	1
12 <sup>th</sup>	2 New bolts 7/11 New crook	-	8
	2 New stay chains 2 bolts 2 D links 7/11 turn bolts	-	9
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 New shoes 1 remove 7/11 skiled	-	2 2
	8 Bolts 7/11 washers 2/6 1/2 bolts screws 2 bolts 1/2 1/2	-	4 2
30 <sup>th</sup>	4 shoes remove 7/11 skiled	-	1 8
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	1 New ring 3/4 link	-	3
28 <sup>th</sup>	1 New shoe	-	11
June 11	Staves 7/11 stay chains 1/2 1/2	-	1
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 New Back hand crook 7/11 New saddle	-	1 9
9 <sup>th</sup>	Chains 1/2 1/2 ring 7/11 links	-	1
Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 New shoe 7/11 remove 7/11 skiled	-	2 2
		£	19 7

Received With Thanks  
Wm Swainson Aug 26 1887

As a post script, perhaps, to the story of the historic Smithies in Cartmel, it might be added that Cartmel still has a Smithy, at Ivy Cottage on Aynsome Road. It trades under the name M.E.L., and its website (in 2018) says that it has been trading there of over 20 years.

**Documents in Cumbria County Archives at Kendal  
deposited by Mr W.A.R. Denison**

**Introduction**

There are eight boxes or bundles of business records in the Cumbria County Archives at Kendal which were deposited by Mr W.A.R. Denison. Denison was the owner of Cartmel's Cavendish Street Smithy from 1960 until it closed in 1968. The records that he deposited in the archives not only relate to this business, but also include records from his other local business interests. They are arranged in the archives with the following references :

**WDB 109 Cartmel Forge**

2 Boxes from acquisition A1812, and a bundle of books of time sheets from acquisition # A2078.

**WDB 110 Lakeland Rural Industries, Borrowdale**

3 Boxes, 2 from acquisition A1812, and 1 from acquisitions A2086 & H9262.

**WDB 111 The Anvil Gallery, Cartmel**

2 Boxes from acquisition A1812.

The dates on which these records were deposited in the archives were : A1812 on 17 March 1992, A2086 on 20 December 1993, and H9262 on 10 September 2009.

The following notes give some information about Denison, and then summarise the contents of these records in the archives.

**W.A.R. Denison**

William Austen Raymond Denison was born on 5 November 1909 in Rochdale, the son of William H. Denison, who, at the time of the 1911 census, was Headmaster of an Elementary School there. By 1939, Austen had qualified as a Chartered Accountant, and was living with his parents in Folkestone, where he was working for the local council. In 1952 he became the Treasurer of Herefordshire County Council. At the age of 46, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1956, he married Marjory Bufton of Hereford, who was born on 25 December 1909.

As well being a chartered accountant, (F.C.A.), he was also a fellow of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, (F.I.M.T.A.). It seems highly likely that through that Institute, he would have known Alfred Wainwright, (famed for his walking books on the Lakeland Fells) who was the Borough Treasurer of Kendal from 1948 to 1967. One can only speculate on whether a friendship with Wainwright in any way lead to Denison's purchase of the Carmel Forge in January 1960, at a time when he was still living and working in Hereford ?

In May 1962, he resigned his position in Hereford, and later that year he moved to live at what he called Anvil House in Cartmel. His resignation in Hereford was not without controversy, as the Council gave him a substantial Golden Handshake, which caused some protests when it became public knowledge.<sup>10</sup>

About May 1962, Denison also bought a second Lake District business, Lakeland Rural Industries in Borrowdale, and he subsequently used that brand name for his business interests in both Borrowdale and Cartmel.

By the mid to late 1970s, as he passed the age of 65, he seems to have been winding down all his local business interests. He never had any children, and his wife Marjory died at the age of 79 in May 1989. He sold Anvil House in 1992, lived to be 100, and died on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010, at the Old Vicarage Residential Home, Allithwaite.

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<sup>10</sup> See articles in The Birmingham Post on 19 Nov 1962, 16 Mar 1963, 22 Nov 1963 and 18 Jan 1964.

## **WDB 109 Cartmel Forge Archives**

Box 1 of 2 with this reference contains 5 large folders, viz. :

- Correspondence with Mr & Mrs Clegg of Elder Cottage, Cart Lane, Grange over Sands, during 1960-62, clearly indicating that they were acting as his local agents whilst he was still living in Hereford. One particular letter of 3 September 1962 mentions a general wage increase in the engineering industry, and agrees new rates for Tim of 4<sup>s</sup>/11<sup>d</sup> per hour and £10/16<sup>s</sup>/4<sup>d</sup> per week.
- Correspondence with the Rural Industries Bureau, of 35 Camp Road, Wimbledon Common, SW19, mainly from Jan to June 1960 after Denison's purchase of the Smithy, plus pro forma for estimating the cost of wrought iron work, and correspondence re. new equipment in March/April 1964.
- 3 folders of general Customer Correspondence, for 1960-65, 1966 and 1967-68 all containing some invoices and some designs and quotations for wrought iron work.

Box 2 of 2 with this reference contains :

- 4 folders of correspondence with specific customers, viz. : (1) Sign for Swan & Royal Hotel, Clitheroe, 1960; (2) Allithwiate Church Gates, 1963, with photos & press cuttings; (3) Mrs W Howell's Double Gates, 1964; (4) Cartmel Steeple Chases Ltd. 1964-68
- 2 Order Books, Jan 1960 to May 1967, and June 1967 to end, the last order being dated 26 April 1968
- Bag of Time Books 1964-68, the last one being labelled "Final" for 1 Nov 1967 to 23 Apr 1968.
- Large Plastic bag labelled "Designs"

There is also a bundle of 14 Time Sheet Books, 1960-64, most of which have 5 columns headed A G W T C for 5 potentially chargeable workmen. The vast majority of entries are under the column headed T, presumed to be Timbuck

## **WDB 110 Lakeland Rural Industries, Borrowdale**

The products of Lakeland Rural Industries in Borrowdale were all made from stainless steel. The production summaries show that these were divided into trays, bowls, dishes on feet, other tableware, pendants and broaches. In addition, they produced ornaments and vessels for use in churches.

Box 1 of 3 with this reference contains about 20 folders of customer correspondence for 'Church Work', plus an envelope of Church Work Enquiries 1965-74, and some photographs of specimen work.

Box 2 of 3 with this reference contains 12 Order Books from Sept 1962 to April 1974; workmen's time sheets for 1964-66 being one A4 sheet per man per week; production summaries per workman; photographs of products; copies of an illustrated sales brochure, and a folder for Abbey Horn Ware sold at Borrowdale.

Box 3 of 3 with this reference contains more Church Work customer files, several folders illustrating finished stainless steel products; a folder of price lists; and some notes on 'Methods of using stainless steel from sheet to finished items'.

## **WDB 111 Anvil Gallery Archives**

Box 1 of 2 with this reference contains numerous small folders or envelopes, some of which relate to stainless steel products from Borrowdale, rather than paintings from Cartmel.

There are two folders of correspondence with artists between 1974 and 1978, and one folder marked 'Artists no longer supplying'. There are also brochures for Cartmel Art Society 9th, 10th & 11th Annual Exhibitions in 1975, 76 & 77.

There are 20 folders relating to Exhibitions, viz., Ambleside, (9 folders for 9 years 1963-1971); Lakeland Rose Show in Grange, (5 folders for 5 years 1964-68); Royal Lancs Show 1964 & 1965; Bristol Building Design Centre, (re Stainless Steel) 1965; Abbot Hall Exhibitions 1965 & 1974; and Brockhole 1969

There also a folder with correspondence relating to lectures given by Denison, viz., (1) RICS Conference @ Lancaster Univ., July 1971; (2) Rotary Club of Workington, May 1973; (3) Torver Women's Institute, May 1974; (4) Lake District National Park Open Day at Seatoller, Sept 1976

The contents of Box 2 of 2 with this reference certainly all relate to the selling of paintings, as summarised below.

There are 13 envelopes of correspondence with specific artists, viz. : Mr F. McJannet, 1972-76; Patience Arnold, 1972-76; Monica Berry, 1972-76; Mr D.G. Valentine & Mrs J. Valentine, 1972-76; Mr N.J. Hepworth, 1972-73; Miss Jill Aldersley 1973-76; Mrs D.S.Fringer, 1973; Mrs Sonia Walshaw, 1973; Mr N.J. Harper, 1973-74; J.Wilkinson, 1973-78; W. Geldart, Exhib June 1975; C.M. Unwin, 1975-79; M.H. Pickup, 1976-79.

There are lists of pictures on 'S or R' (Sale or Return) for 1974-76, a list of 'Paintings at Borrowdale' in 1977, and folders for exhibitions of paintings at Sunderland in April 1975 and the Northern Arts Exhibition in Newcastle in 1976.