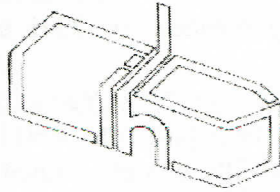


Cumbria Industrial History Society



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BULLETIN

CONTENTS

Page 2	Forthcoming Events
Page 3	Site News
Page 4	Abstracts
Page 5	New Books
Page 6	Members Comments
Page 8	Request for information
	The Thexton Family of Papermakers
Page 10	Who Built Catherine St. Mill?
Page 12	February Evening Meeting Report
	Committee Members

EDITORIAL

You all should have received volume Four of the Cumbrian Industrialist a few weeks ago. Alas the in tray for Volume Five is very empty, surely somebody out there has sufficient information on a subject to write an article for us? Where are all the mining and railway enthusiasts? Stop standing and staring and put pen to paper. How about articles on steel works, coal mines, ship building, textiles, chemicals, water mills the list is endless. Even if you only have an idea please get in touch the editors are very willing to give you advice.

I must now thank all those people who after the last Bulletin have sent me a piece for this Bulletin. Please keep up the good work it makes my job easier.

The programme for this year has now been finalised, the venue for the October conference has been set. The registration fee will include a buffet lunch this year. The speakers still need finalizing and booking forms will be circulated in the next Bulletin.

If you have any comments please send them to the editor.

All the committee members' contacts are available on the final page of this Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWALEDALE LEAD MINING SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2002

This is a repeat of the meeting planned for 2001 but cancelled because of Foot and Mouth.

Meet 10.30 am in car park at Muker grid ref. SD911978. Combine into as few cars as possible and drive to Gunnerside Village. Very limited parking.

The easiest way to Muker is M6 to Junction 38 (Tebay) –A685 to Kirkby Stephen – B6259 to Nateby-B6270 to Muker

11.00 walk up Gunnerside Gill to Blakethwaite smelt mill and return on opposite side of Gunnerside Gill, visiting Sir Francis and Brunton mining areas – dressing floors, buildings and levels, Blakethwaite mill, Priscilla, Dolly and Lownathwaite mines. 6 miles, moderate walking occasionally rough. Stout footwear required plus packed lunch.

15.00 return to Gunnerside village. Optional trip to Surrender Bridge and Old Gang smelt mills or return to Muker and depart.

This will be a long day with a long drive each way, but the quality of the sites to be visited will make it well worthwhile. There may be a possibility of a short underground trip into Brunton Level.

AMBLESIDE EVENING MEETING THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2002

Meet in the main car park at 7.00pm for a walk around the industrial remains of this Lakeland Town.

HARTSOP AND MYERS HEAD SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2002

Another repeat of last year's cancelled meeting

Meet at 10.00am. at the car park at the far (east) end of Hartsop village. Grid Ref NY 410 131.

Morning easy walk to visit Hartsop corn mill and Myers Head Mine. Wellingtons more useful than boots.

Afternoon: Walk past Brothers Water and Hartsop Hall Farm to Hogget Gill Lead Smelter, followed by a steeper walk to examine Hartsop Hall Lead Mine. This last site is poorly understood and the visit provides an opportunity for members to offer their expertise in helping to understand the building remains which survive here.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2002

See enclosed booking form for details.

EVENING MEETING WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2002 7.30PM COCK AND DOLPHIN KENDAL

Ken Broadhurst talking on milestones

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE REACHING A MEETING BECAUSE OF TRANSPORT PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER AND WE CAN ARRANGE LIFTS FROM MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTY.

NON SOCIETY EVENTS

Threlkeld mining museum is again running its series of summer walks

May 11 th	Coniston mines
May 26 th	Roughten Gill
June 30 th	Dufton mines
July 28 th	Greenside mine
August 25 th	Elterwater quarries
September 22 nd	Goldscope mine

Further details are available from the museum.

SITE NEWS

GREENBURN COPPER MINE LITTLE LANGDALE

This is an outlier of the main Coniston Copper Mines on the high fell above Little Langdale. The mine finally closed in 1942 and is now owned by the National Trust. It has been recognized as a well preserved site and conservation and interpretation of the remains would be worthwhile.

The site has had a systematic survey carried out during November 2000 over the whole of the 26 hectare site and a new documentary survey was also carried out. The earliest remains identified were the location of two 17th century timber buildings and also a number of mine workings could also be dated to this time.

Most of the stone building remains date to the mine's most profitable time from 1845 – 1861. This include a well preserved explosive store and a battery of stamps. Other remains identified included remains of timber buildings and water wheel pits.

Due to Foot and Mouth it was not possible to carry out the planned conservation work during 2001. It is hoped that it will be carried out in 2002.

ABSTRACTS

The Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society started it's third series of transactions in 2001. Volume one contains a range of articles of interest to the Industrial historian.

BUILDING A PUBLIC BAKEHOUSE AT APPLEBY IN 1615 BY BLAKE TYSON p79-87

This article deals with the documentary evidence that remains for the building of the public bakehouse in Appleby. It goes into great detail with regards to the people involved in the building, the cost of the labour and the cost of the materials and their sources.

THE LOST GERMAN MINES AT CALDBECK BY R. SMITH, S. MURPHY AND W. ALLINSON P90-104.

The presence of mines run by the Elizabethan miners in the Caldbeck area has been well documented, but the actual position of these mines has never in the past been established. The authors have used the documentary evidence available combined with field work to actually pinpoint which of the many mines in the area are the German mines. Exploration of these adits has shown that the techniques used to cut parts of them match with the techniques used by these miners.

THE FIRST LARGE SCALE MAPS OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND IN 1770's. BY PAUL HINDLE. P139-153

Although not an industrial subject directly, this article looks at what can be an important source of information for industrial historian's early maps. These show a variety of features such as mills, smelters etc. He discusses the accuracy of these maps and their reliability depending on the information that was used to produce them.

BUILDING SURVEY AT THE CARNAUD METAL BOX SITE, JAMES STREET, CARLISLE BY TOM BURKE AND JULIAN COTTON. P165-174

This article deals with the survey carried out on this factory prior to its demolition. It deals with what evidence was left in the building, of previous uses for the site and relates them back to documentary evidence.

THE ALSTON BRANCH OF THE NEWCASTLE AND CARLISLE RAILWAY BY
T.M. BELL AND R.W. RENNISON P175-190

This article deals with the branch line built from Haltwhistle on the Newcastle to Carlisle railway to Alston. Originally authorized by an Act of Parliament in 1846, the article deals with the problems of its building and the changes that occurred in its route.

WATER TURBINES IN SURREY BY ALAN CROCKER SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS VOL. 88 2001 P133-160

Why have we included an article on water turbines in Surrey in a Bulletin about Cumbria? The answer is that although this article is a gazetteer of water turbine sites in Surrey it also deals with the design, development and manufacturer of these turbines and this is where the link to Cumbria comes in. Both Williamson Brothers, then Gilbert Gilkes and Gordon, Turbine Manufacturers of Kendal supplied turbines to the Surrey area (55 out of 105 in the county). This article lists the site manufacturer, date of manufacture type and size of these turbines.

NEW BOOKS

CUMBRIAN MINING BY IAN TYLER, hb, 232PP, 300 ILLUSTRATIONS, A4,
£22.50

This book is a pictorial overview of mining and quarrying in Cumbria. It contains 19 chapters and covers mining and quarrying from the Stone Age to the present day. It contains many black and white photographs from Ian's private collection many of which have not been published previously.

The range of chapters includes, Gun Powder Mills, Tokens and Tallies, Coal Mining Lighting, Metal Mining Lighting, Mines Rescue, Stone Mining and Poetry and Graffiti, to name but a few.

THE NENT FORCE LEVEL AND BREWERY SHAFT BY PETER WILKINSON
105PP, ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS £9.95.

Peter is a well known mining historian of the Pennine area and he deals with this well known mining venture in a very professional and well researched way. He explains simply the use of the Brewery shaft for the production of both electricity and compressed air. There is a brief history to the general area as well as the details of this particular feature. The book also gives three guided walks in the area to various mining features that are well explained.

KENDAL'S CANAL HISTORY, INDUSTRY AND PEOPLE BY JOHN SATCHELL
PUBLISHED BY KENDAL CIVIC SOCIETY.

This is a highly readable account of the development of the canal and its associated industries. It is plentifully illustrated with good quality photographs, drawings, maps and plans, some of which were contributed by our Chairman, Geoff Brambles.

The book takes the canal in five sections starting with the Canal Head basin and ending at the town boundary. Many of the industrial buildings associated with the canal remain, and are interpreted here, as well as the bridges and other architectural features of the canal itself. These descriptions are interspersed with chapters on the navvies, accidents, and maintenance, recreation, the packet boats and barges and the effects of the canal on the development of Kendal.

A further chapter is bound to tempt anyone with an interest in canals or history to undertake the 15 mile tow-path walk, with this book in hand, as far as Tewitfield, where a flight of eight locks are separated from the northern part of the canal by the M6.

The whole subject is, of course, rendered more interesting and topical by the proposed restoration of the canal, the progress of which is described in the final pages of the book.

By Helen Caldwell

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Bill Bleasdale wrote in asking for a definition of Umber, Ochre and Campylite and Mike Davies-Shiel has provided the following comments:

Umber and Sienna

These are silicates of aluminium containing iron and manganese.

Ochres

These are hydrated ferric oxides. They occur on the upper surface of massive iron ore deposits, but at a few feet depth below the surface of the ground.

Red and brown ochres are the natural hydrated or anhydrous oxides or can be produced by the calcinations of carbonates, whereby a wide range of shades are obtained. Limonite is the best-known hydrated iron oxide $2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Large quantities of natural oxides and silicates are mined and prepared for the colour market, for use in paints and as linoleum fillers etc.

Campylite

This is a barrel-shaped crystal having the colour of tiny golden humbugs. It occurs in only 2 places in the world, in Australia and in Drygill in the north Caldbeck Fells. Tullie House, Carlisle has a magnificent example of it. It is a variety of Mimetite, which is a minor ore of lead, being a chloro-arsenate of lead. Mimetite is usually green. The formula can be written either as $3\text{Pb}_3\text{As}_2\text{O}_8 \cdot \text{PbCl}_2$, or $(\text{PbCl})\text{Pb}_4(\text{AsO}_4)_3$.

He also points out some of the difficulties in trying to build a data base for mines in the way in the past they have been described or named and how these names change over the years. He gives the following example:

Thornthwaite or Walkergate as listed in the Bulletin Lead NY223256

Thornthwaite see Brandlehow	lead	Abandon mines list 1928
Thornthwaite 7814	lead and zinc	Abandon mines list 1928
abandoned 18/12/1920		
Thornthwaite Rachel Wood 7815	lead zinc	Abandon Mines list 1928
abandoned 20/12/1920		

Postlethwaite's book shows four mines on his map :- Beckstones, Thornthwaite, Rachel Wood, and Ladstock.

Can anyone tie these and other references?

Christopher Gregory has also added the following points

Pool Scar was a lead trial only and never developed.

Millrigg Knott (west side) was the main Kentmere lead mine, worked from 1760s until late 1880s. Entrance at NY458017, now the source of Staveley's piped water supply.
(east side) NY464016 and surroundings: bell pits, horse gin, low level adit etc. probable disused from 1840s or 1850s.

Further details of the above can be found in Staveley & District History Society Occasional Paper No14.

Mike Davies-Shiel also reports that samples taken during the demolition of the Maryport blast furnace in April 1963 have now been deposited with the Material Science section of the Science Museum in London. (Historical Metallurgy Society News 46,3)

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The society has had a request for information about Tom Barker who was born in Westmorland. After spending time in Australia and Chile he returned to England where he became Lord Mayor of London. He was heavily involved with the Industrial Workers of the World, a union run by the workers themselves who had branches worldwide.

Any information about him or the union would be gratefully received. Please contact the Editor for details.

THE THEXTON FAMILY OF PAPERMAKERS

By John Gavin

Genealogical studies in historical research:

Cumbria has a long tradition of papermaking dating from the Cark Mill established c1616. Papermakers have an equally long history of mobility either as a move as a family between local mills or further afield as journeymen. The reasons for changing jobs is rarely made evident but the early mills had a small work force and family members might have had to move to find work. New mills, expansion, the introduction of new machinery, training, marriage, promotion, and redundancy might provide reasons.

The Thexton family show a typical mobility and spread of paper mills and papermaking occupations. There are other examples within the old Lakeland counties, eg. the Pennington, Roberts and Crampton families,

Paper mills: the Thexton connection

Mill	Est.	To	Thextons	Note
Milnthorpe, Upper	1717	1831	?	*See below
Ryburn Dale				
Crosthwaite	1708	1834	1790	Starnthwaite Mill
Milnthorpe, Low	1683	1835	1797	MPM R. Crampton died 1797
Kendal, Cowanhead	1746	1981	1823	[Cropper's Paper Mill, Burneside]
Buxton, Woodhead			1832	Manchester SE.
N. Wales, Wrexham			1843	Chester S.
Derby, Hayfield			1849,51,8,61,5	Buxton N.
Manchester, Harpurhey			1851	Manchester centre.
Disley Stanley, Newtown			1881	Cheshire Manchester SE.
Barnsley			1881,94	Smithies Mill, Sheffield N.
Rawcliffe Mill			1895	Manchester SE

*A mile or so south was Waterhouse Paper Mill, Beetham c1787 to the present day.

The Starnthwaite Mill at Crosthwaite, Westmorland worked from c1708 to 1834.

Crosthwaite-Cum-Lyth 1569—1812 Parish Registers (pub. 1935): 150+ Thexton, Theackstone, Theckson, entries.

Earliest Baptisms:

1588, July 24. Ric. Theckson s. of Ryc.

1597 Apr. 13. Nycolas s. of Nicolas.

Key: C=Crosthwaite; CH Cowan Head; H=Heversham; M=Milnthorpe; SR=Strickland Roger; Bu=Buxton; Wr=Wrexham; #=parents; S=son of; D=daughter/of; PM=Papermaker; MPM=Master PM;

Thexton	B	M	D	Note
George #	C [c'40]	C 1761	C 1780	'of Green', 'Clark-1768; Church Town '70
Elizabeth Harrison #	C	"		
Margaret	C 1762		1767	
Sarah	C 1764			
Harrison	C 1766		1767	
George	C 1768			
Thomas	C 1770			
Betty	C 1770		1783	Elizabeth aged 11
<u>Joseph</u>	C 1775			PM
Harrison	C 1777			

Thexton	B	M	D	Note
<u>Joseph</u>	C 1775	H 1797		M, 1797,8; C, 1803; CH c1814,21
Mary Tebay		"		D of Thos Tebay of Underbarrow
Betty	M 1798			1st D
<u>Thomas</u>	C 1803			#JT of Green, papermaker.
John	1814			
Mary Ann ?	1821			

Thexton	B	M	D	Note
<u>Thomas</u>	C 1803	[CH 1823]		CH 1823; Bu 1832; Wr 1843; 1851
[Isabella]				
[Joseph]	[c1823]			Of SR 1823 – Burneside PR
[Thomas]	SR 1826			"
?	SR 1829			
<u>James Harrison</u>	Wr 1843			Ma 1881

Thexton	B	M	D	Note [Thackstone]
<u>James Harrison</u>	Wr 1843			Smithies Mill, Barnsley 1881, paper-works manager*
Charles	c1865			His son, Paper-finisher
Fred	Wr c1868			His son, [Born Hayfield, Derbyshire.

* Ref. Schmoller, Tanya, Sheffield Papermakers, 1992, p.15

John Somervell's Water Power Mills of South Westmorland (1930) has Thexton references: Crooklands Mill, Preston Patrick, 1805, 6 April (cotton prev. flax), John Thexton was a labourer.

Millholm Corn Mill, New Hutton: 1879-1905 John Thexton (born c1845), Farmer and Miller, Millholme; his father from c1844.

Brigsteer Corn Mill: Robert Thexton miller early 19th century.

Attached: map and pp. 6 to 9 from 'Notes on papermaking' for details of Westmorland papermills. [See bibliography]

Family Information: in Kendal Archives and Reference Library; Cumbria Genealogical Society; 19th century Directories; telephone directories:

Bibliography:

Gavin, JHA	Some Notes on Papermaking in Cumbria	1988	Hist. Book Trade in the North
Gavin JHA	Papermaking in Cumbria	Lancaster University – unpublished MPhil Thesis.	
Shorter, A H	Water Paper Mills in England	SPAB 1966	and other publications

WHO BUILT THE CATHERINE ST. MILL?

The mill in Catherine St., Whitehaven, now renovated and turned into flats, is an imposing building, and its builder must have been a power in the town. A plaque on the wall tells us that it was a flour mill for some years, but it was actually built as a flax-spinning mill in 1809, by Joseph Bell. Who was Joseph Bell? Good question, because his life is a fine example of eighteenth century industrial enterprise. His career spanned the great change-over from domestic handicraft to factory production.

His story starts when Daniel Bell, a native of Hawkshead and a Quaker, was apprenticed in Lancaster in 1745 to a flax-dresser, taking the freedom of the town in 1751/2. In 1753 he married Rebecca Frodsham of Poulton, having set up in business as a flaxman, buying raw flax, preparing it in his own workshop, then putting it out to be hand-spun by local women. Joseph, their third child, was born in 1759. Unfortunately, Daniel died the next year, leaving Rebecca to raise her children and run the business, which she managed alone until 1769, when she married David Cragg, Daniel's first apprentice and also a Quaker. This is quite important as many of the flax businesses in the North-west were run by Quakers, and their habit of extending advice and assistance to their fellows must have helped Joseph on his way. Joseph does not appear in the Lancaster Apprentice Rolls, so he must have been apprenticed elsewhere, possibly in Kirkham in the Fylde, bearing in mind his later business connections.

Nothing definite is known of him until 1781, when he appears as a fully-fledged owner of a flourishing business, still a Quaker and aged twenty-two. His insurance policy tells us that he was working in the house next door to his mother, now widowed for the second time. We know that they shared the houses and probably the business, being held jointly responsible for non-payment of tithes. He had equipment and stock insured for £1050; a warehouse in the backyard was full, and stock overflowed into their neighbour's yard. He had also diversified into weaving and had a shop with looms and yarn worth another £100. Then, at some point between 1781 and 1784, Joseph made his big career move.

Whitehaven had grown fast in the eighteenth century, sustained by a solid export trade of coal to Ireland. Ship-building had gone on there since the seventeenth century, to provide and maintain the collier fleet, and had expanded until Whitehaven ships were bought by

ship-owners all over the North-west. Ships' carpenters, ropers, block-makers and anchor-founders crop up regularly in the Parish Registers, but no one was making sail canvas, a gap in the market if ever there was one. Sail canvas was made in Lancashire, in Lancaster, Warrington and Kirkham. Two big firms had the Kirkham canvas industry pretty much to themselves, the Hornby brothers and Langton Birley. The Hornbys were looking to expand, building a flax mill at Low Bentham in 1785. In Whitehaven, in partnership with Joseph Bell, they opened a Sail Cloth Manufactory in Scotch Street in 1784, trading as Hornby and Bell until joined by Henry Birley, nephew of the Kirkham factory owners, at some time by 1793. The partners opened Low Mill, on the River Ehen, and enlarged the product range to include huckaback, (familiar today as roller towelling) and haberdashery. In 1800, John Marshall, already set to become the biggest linen manufacturer in the country, based in Leeds, was shown round the factory and was impressed by its size, with its 1500 spindles, although he thought the machinery 'rough and clumsy'. Too much should not be read into that as Marshall, as an inventor and owner of patents for flax-spinning machinery, may have had an axe to grind.

Eighteenth century business partnerships were fluid, to say the least. Partnerships formed and reformed with different partners, sometimes lasting for a very short time; men traded on their own or with others both at the same time. By 1805, the Hornbys had left to concentrate on their Bentham factories, the new building in High Bentham being a big success. Joseph Bell was also ready to strike out again, and formed a new partnership with John Bragg. Bragg was a Quaker, owned a bleachfield at Egremont and was a 'Russia Merchant', i.e. he imported flax and hemp, which made him an ideal partner. Together they took a site in Castle Meadows, paying a rent of 18s.5d. a year, and built the mill in 1809. By 1810 they were advertising for labour, for a man to attend the steam engine, for overseers and instructors for the apprentices, and for 'stout boys to swingle and dress flax'. Like Henry Birley, now working at Cleator, they wanted no union labour. Flax-dressers, being apprenticed and a cut above the common machine minders, were capable of standing up for themselves.

All these new flax-spinning factories, producing canvas yarn, were part of the national war effort, equipping the Navy and the merchant marine. After 1815, the bottom fell out of the market and most of the smaller establishments closed down. The Hornbys, the Birleys and Bell & Bragg were big enough to weather the storm and survived, though Bragg left at some point before 1823. Joseph Bell's factory continued until he died in 1832, leaving 'all that my Linen or Flax Manufactory....situate in or near Castle Meadows and all that my newly erected Warehouse in Irish Street' to his three sons, Joseph, John and Daniel. The Catherine St. mill lasted as a flax mill until 1853, a monument to Joseph Bell, who started small, as a Lancashire handicraftsman and finished by leaving Whitehaven one of its major landmarks.

Margaret Robinson

FEBRUARY MEMBERS EVENING

This meeting was well attended by the membership who had a very enjoyable time. The proceedings started with one of Mike Davies-Shiel's pot-purri of slides covering various industrial scenes. This year he concentrated on timber and woodland industries with a little bit of mining thrown in for good measure.

Ian Dunmur had brought along a large collection of various hand tools which he has collected over the years. He kept the audience entertained by asking them what they thought they were used for. He backed up his answers with examples from various trade catalogues, which graphically illustrated the various tools and the minor variations that occurred in some of them.

The final part of the evening was a series of slides by Geoff Brambles which illustrated a wide range of signs that are associated with various industrial processes. These included some well known as well as unusual works names signs, road signs, makers marks on a variety of articles. The talk illustrated the wide diversity of sites where industrial history material can be found..

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