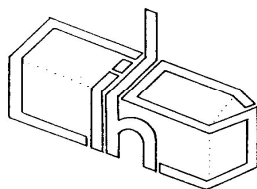


Cumbria Industrial History Society



BULLETIN

[www. Cumbria-industries.org.uk](http://www.Cumbria-industries.org.uk)

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EDITORIAL

I have to start this Bulletin with further sad news. Mike Davies-Shiels our latest president died on 15th July 2009 after a short illness. Mike was one of the founders of the Society and over the years he has spoken at many of the conferences the society has held and has also lead us around many of his favourite sites in the county. His knowledge of the counties industrial history was immense especially that concerning water mills and iron processing and he was always willing to talk about it. A full tribute to Mike will appear in the next Bulletin.

The summer started off very nice but it seems to have deteriorated into the usual wet Cumbrian summer of late. However the meetings to date have been very well attended. The summer trip to Surrey has been cancelled due to a shortage of people signing up to go. Please also note the new venue for the November evening meeting now that the cock and Dolphin in Kendal is no more.

The programme for 2010 is now being put together by the committee and is looking good. If anyone has an ideas for a day meeting or speakers for a conference please contact a committee member.

CIHS ACTIVITIES IN 2009

OCTOBER WEEKEND FIELD TRIP

THIS WEEKEND HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO A LACK OF NUMBERS.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE THE INDUSTRIES OF BARROW SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2009

For details see enclosed booking form.

NOVEMBER EVENING TALK Wednesday 11th November 7.30 pm.

Whitehaven and the whaling industry a talk by Rob David.

THE NEW VENUE FOR THIS MEETING IS NOW THE SHAKESPEAR CENTRE ON HIGHGATE, IN KENDAL.

BOOK REVIEWS

The History of the West Cumberland Potteries, Volume II , *Florence Sibson* xxiv & 210pp: numerous illustrations, mostly in colour: hardback: Cope Publishing of Distington, 2008; limited edition of 750 copies, £30

This book is to be welcomed for drawing our attention to an industry not normally associated with West Cumberland. The content consists of two elements, a narrative history of the various potteries in the area and a detailed record of the goods, which they produced.

The narrative section covers both the small local potteries (known among ceramicists as 'country potteries') which used local materials to produce goods for the local market and larger enterprises producing more sophisticated wares for a wider market. The former include potteries at Crossbarrow near Clifton, at Ribton Hall and Harker Marsh near Camerton, at Dearham Mill and Dearham Village, at Maryport, at Fox House in Broughton Moor, at Great and Little broughton, at Wigton, at Harrington, and at Ginns House, Glasshouse, and Ladypit in Whitehaven. They operated for periods of varying length during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Anyone who has tried to research small local enterprises will appreciate how difficult it can be to find enough evidence to make a coherent story. Mrs. Sibson's work is no exception and the accounts of some of the potteries are rather scrappy but one cannot but be impressed by the way she has woven occasional mentions in parish registers, entries in manorial accounts

recording payments made to lords for license to dig clay on commons and wastes, miscellaneous references in estate records and other materials into as full a story as it is possible to tell at present. In contrast to these local enterprises the nineteenth century Whitehaven Pottery operated on a grander scale importing specialised raw materials and producing more sophisticated goods, many of which were exported. Once again the range of sources which have been brought to bear is impressive. Besides those mentioned above, good use is made of information in a local newspaper to show how the Whitehaven pottery was importing pipe clay from Poole in Dorset and flint from north Wales as well as materials shipped via Liverpool. The same source illustrates the export market. The main destination was the nearby Isle of Man, followed by Ireland but some consignments crossed the Atlantic to Antigua, Jamaica, Canada and even, in one case to Richibucto in South America. A detailed invoice for forty crates shipped to Messrs. Maitland, Kennedy & Co. of Philadelphia, USA, provides a wealth of information about this transatlantic trade.

Several points of general interest emerge from these narratives. We may note, for example, is the role of the landowner in bringing in expertise from outside in an attempt to develop his estates. In 1689 Sir John Lowther brought Jeremy Lyons from Rainhill, near Liverpool, to ascertain whether the local clay could be used in pot making. His trials were unsuccessful and he left the area. Undeterred, Sir John tried again in 1698, bringing in a Staffordshire man, Aaron Wedgwood, to carry out further trials. These too were unsuccessful, but Aaron remained in Cumberland moving the Derwent valley where family members worked in several of the potteries in the area. The Wedgwoods were soon followed by the Tunstalls thus beginning links between the Cumberland industry and the Staffordshire centre of excellence which continued in various forms during the ensuing decades.

But, while the narrative is to be welcomed for deepening our appreciation of the complexities of the West Cumbria economy the glory of this book is its detailed and fully illustrated catalogue the goods produced by those potteries for which products can be positively identified. This represents a welcome contrast with the sterile approach to industrial history which can concentrate so much on the premises and the processes of production that the purpose for which they existed is all but forgotten. Mrs. Sibson is, of course, fortunate in her choice of product. A lot of it survives. At the high end pieces were handed down from mother to daughter until they became family heirlooms and, in the fullness of time, collectors' items, while lesser pieces which broke or became life expired survived in rubbish tips until they became the meat and drink of archaeologists. Besides providing evidence of the kind of work being undertaken in the different potteries and serving as a database which can be used to help identify future discoveries the lists of products throw light on the ways in which different potteries specialised in particular kinds of ware.

As with all the best research this book not only makes us aware of a previously neglected subject but opens up avenues for further investigation. Some of the gaps in the stories of individual potteries can surely be filled in by diligent local historians, areas such as finance and profitability or the workforce and industrial relations which the author has

chosen not to pursue in detail are ripe for further study, and her whole enterprise alerts us to the probable existence of other branches of manufacture that await detailed investigation. Meanwhile this work should be on the shelves of all those interested in the industry of West Cumberland

Geoff Oxley.

THE MINE EXPLORER. VOLUME VI, 2008 occasional journal of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society. 210 pages £9.95

Most of the articles are about various aspects of mining in Cumbria, including for example Warren Allison's research at Silver Gill, but there are exceptions to this rule. Peter Sandbach has contributed two articles – one on the Ulverston Harbour Records, 1862-1946, the other on Harrison Ainslie & Co's sideline as gunpowder merchants – whilst Peter Holmes has written about rail inclines in Cumbria.

All of the articles make for interesting reading, which in turn can inspire you to go and look at the places referred to in the text. I certainly couldn't resist exploring the Ling Moor incline above Elterwater after I read Peter Holmes' description of it as a "well-hidden gem". It is certainly that, and more – steep, and rough, and exposed!

The Mine Explorer, with its mustard colour cover, can be spotted in bookshops and information centres at the bargain price of £9.95. Congratulations to CAT.

Roger Baker

WINGS ON WINDERMERE By Allan King. ISBN 978-83-89450-82-1 £24.99 Model Publications.

Among the many grim childhood memories of a six month incarceration in the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital near Windermere is one of a strange dark object moving about on the lake and the noise of roaring engines. This book helps to give some substance to this distant recollection.

A secret Government plan to disperse wartime aircraft production led in 1940 to the construction of a factory at Cockshot Point on the south side of White Cross Bay. Short Brothers' main factory at Rochester was within range of German bombers putting at risk the delivery of the 'Sunderland' flying boat and its proposed successor the 'Shetland'. At the time these aircraft played a vital role in marine surveillance duties and in international communications. Allan King has researched official archives and contemporary press reports to tell the story of the tussle with local interest groups and competing options before the Windermere location was determined. He then describes the many logistical hurdles that were overcome to create within six months on land described as "just a big bog" the first phase of the new factory. Access roads, jetties and smaller buildings had concrete bases of three to four feet. The main hanger had foundations eight to nine feet thick and was a cantilevered structure more complex than any building in the region.

Recruiting a workforce and housing them posed a further series of problems. The Lakes School at Troutbeck Bridge stands on the footprint of the village of Calgarth built to house those who came to fabricate and repair sea planes. The accommodation comprised 200 bungalows for families, two hostels for 300 unmarried workers, shops, a school, a first-aid clinic, a community hall and a village policeman. All the residential structures were required to be a non-permanent character to answer the demands of local activists. The government was held to its commitment to clear the site on the conclusion of hostilities and little evidence now remains.

“Wings on Windermere” brings together an impressive (for wartime) collection of photographs and plans of the factory, Calgarth village and of the aircraft produced. There is a comprehensive record of all Windermere-built ‘Sunderlands’ and their service histories. Alongside the record of a little-known and short-lived Cumbrian industrial operation runs the human story of families imported into Lakeland in emergency circumstances many of whom stayed to refresh the local gene pool. How many of today’s visitors to the White Cross Bay caravan centre or students at the Lake School realise what was happening there 65 years ago? Here’s how to find out.

Alan Postlethwaite.

INTERNET INFORMATION.

You tube has a most fascinating video on it of Honister slate mines in the 1926. It shows the aerial ropeway working and also bogies with clods of slate on being brought across the bridge over the top of Honister pass from the mines on the opposite side of the valley well worth a look.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8mekuBvZaM&feature=rec-HM-fresh+div>

OLD NEWSPAPERS ON LINE

For those members who are members of Cumbria County Council libraries you can now access a large number of 18th and 19th century newspapers online. Accessing the county library site at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries/> Then clicking on the link and entering their library card number.

Unfortunately at present there is no Cumbrian newspapers present but some of the national papers do throw up some interesting articles on Cumbria.

For those members who are not in Cumbria you can access the collection via the National Archive site but you will have to pay to access each article.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

The Barrow Pottery – any known examples of its work?

We have been carrying out research into a pottery that operated in Barrow-in-Furness for a short period in the late 19th century. It was established in 1866 by one James Myerscough but he died in 1871 and it is not known how long production continued after this date. We have managed to gather enough detail about the business and its employees to present a good outline of the company's brief history, and it is intended to publish an account of this in the *Cumbrian Industrialist* in due course. What we are lacking is detailed information about its products. It also operated as a brick and tile kiln and this, combined with contemporary advertisements, has shown that the pottery it produced was of the coarse utilitarian type typically used in kitchens such as storage jars, bowls, and the like. We know some of the potters came from Burton-in-Lonsdale and so probably worked at the potteries there, which are well known for producing coarse red earthenware with slip decoration so the pottery in Barrow may have been similar.

What we are trying to find is actual examples known to have been made in Barrow. Whether they would be marked in some way is unknown, so it might be that family history is the only thing preserving the record of such an item's provenance. Is there anyone out there who is aware of any pottery known or thought to have been made in Barrow? If so we would be delighted to hear from you. If you have any other information relating to other aspects of the pottery's history it would also be gratefully received.

Dan Elsworth and Jo Dawson

Email: dwelsworth@cooptel.net

Post: 6 Town Street, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7EY

MILLS, MANSIONS AND MORE ("INDEPENDENT" GASWORKS IN CUMBRIA)

When I was researching the town gasworks of Cumbria I came across examples of what I've taken to calling independent gasworks. These were built to supply such places as an industrial location, a railway station, a house or a hotel. They seemed to be mostly small versions of the town gasworks, using coal as their fuel, but some were petrol/air plants or produced acetylene gas from carbide. Most were in rural areas where town gas was not available, but some were built within existing supply areas.

Here is a list of those that I have uncovered so far. Do you know anything about any of them? Are there other examples in your area? I would expect acetylene plants to be pretty common, but they don't show up on old maps so well.

Please get in touch if you can add to these bare bones – my address and email address is on the back of this bulletin, or you could try phoning 01253 811324.

Place	Supplied	Fuel	Evidence	Notes
Arnside	station	Coal	OS 25" 2 nd ed Furness Railway plan	A mystery. Why built? Did it ever start production?
Barkbooth, Winster	house	petrol	Letter re workings	
Carlisle – Midland Railway	works	Coal?	1870 advert for manager	
Carr & Co, Carlisle	works	Coal	CRO plan 1892	Was it built?
Carlisle – Garlands Hospital	hospital	Coal	25" 1 st ed 1865 Asylum minutes	
Cockermouth – Penrith Railway	stations	carbide> acetylene		
Conishead, Ulverston	hotel	Coal?	25" 2 nd ed	
Fell Foot, Windermere	house		25" 2 nd ed	
Ferry House, Windermere	hotel	Coal	25" 2 nd ed	
Gilgarron Mansion, Distington	house	carbide> acetylene		
Greenodd, Ulverston	works, village?	Coal	25" 2 nd ed +archive	
Kirkhouse, Brampton	railway works	Coal	CRA archive	
Lakeside, Windermere	station	Coal	25" 2 nd ed	+ steamers?
Lindal	ore depot	Coal	25" 2 nd ed	
Milton Hall, Brampton	house	petrol	CRO archive	
Roa Island	station + village	Coal	25" 2 nd ed	+ steamers? + buoys?
Schoose, Workington	model farm			
Scotby, Carlisle	works + village	Coal	CRO archive	shown on their letterheads
Sedgwick, Kendal	house, village?		25" 2 nd ed	
Tebay	station + houses	Coal		
Warwick Hall, Carlisle	house		Ref in 1865 advert for local quarry	

Roger Baker

COUNTY SIGNPOSTS

Those who attended the February members evening will have heard a talk by Mike Lea on a series of finger posts in Westmorland that have a series of numbers cast on them. A short article in the C&W newsletter summer 2009 describes their further research into the producers of these posts. The first batch were cast in Josephs Bowerbank's Victoria Foundry in Penrith on 18th March 1894. Further batches were cast for Westmorland County Council up to 1904. This presumably accounts for the repeat of certain numbers on some posts as it is now thought that they correspond to the casting number in each batch.

A second article in the same newsletter outlines the restoration of the finger posts to Sedbergh in Kendal. These when restored now show the maker to be H.H. DAY CASTLE FOUNDRY KENDAL. Cast into the post.

Finally staying on the subject of finger posts and linking it to the short article in April 2009 Bulletin on dated structures, Ann Freer who is studying the dated buildings in Farlam a small village outside Brampton has found that the finger post in the village has a date of 1910 cast on it and it came from Richard and Son, Leicester. You have to wonder about the relative costs of transporting cast iron products from Leicester compared to having them cast locally (There was a foundry at Kirkhouse in the village) in those days.

KENDAL FELL LIMEKILN RESTORATION.

The restoration of this kiln on the outskirts of Kendal has now taken place. This kiln along with a number of others in the area were the main area of the lime industry in Kendal as explained in Tony Keates article on the subject in the Cumbrian Industrialist Vol. 2.



greenside limekiln undergoing renovation. Tony Keates.

This Kiln is fairly unique in Cumbria in having 2 pots which are drawn through a common arch. The editor is only aware of three other kilns of this design in Cumbria.



**Greenside limekiln before restoration
Graham Brooks.**

EARLY BULLETIN ARTICLES

We have now scanned the articles in the first 25 editions of the bulletin going back to the formation of the society. The articles are

17th century saltworks
 An accident at Carlisle
 An inventory of Bransty saltpans in 1703
 Bigrigg Moor railway
 Bow Bridge Furness
 Captain John Mirehouse of the Inman Line
 Carlisle plaster industry
 Coke in West Cumbria
 Copperas industry
 Cornmills in Cumbria worked by the Hayhurst millers
 Crush mills
 Cumbrian coastal salt industry
 Cumbrian paper mills observations
 Fire insurance policy of a Kendal hosier 1737
 George Snelus
 Gypsum
 Heversham brickworks
 Heversham brickworks part 2
 Little bridge of Cumbria
 Little bridges of Cumbria part 2
 Lowwood gunpowder works clock
 Marchon marches on
 Natland Mill Beck Mill
 Newland firebricks some notes
 Self emptying colliery drainage tub
 Soap making
 Some 19th century comments in Ennerdale mines
 The Eskdale copper mines
 The foudrinier paper making machine
 The history of Cowan Sheldon
 The iron men of Furness

The mines of Eskdale
The origin of mining in the English Lake District
The tide watcher's hut
Thomas Brayton blacksmith
Where are Cumbria whin mills
Wythop silica brick

The articles are available on a CD as pdf files for £5.00 from the Bulletin editor. Please make cheques payable to CIHS.

MINER-FARMER LANDSCAPES OF THE NORTH PENNINE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY.

Engilsh Heritage, starting in late 2008, are carrying out a five year landscape project around Alston. The area is from Whitley Castle (the roman fort) to the north of Alston to Garrigill and Nenthead in the south, the historic manor of Alston. The project is to look at the influence of the miner-farmer on the landscape of the area. The effects of miner-farmer has been well preserved in the area due to its remoteness and also its exposure stopping destruction by more modern farming practices. It is hoped that the project will develop the understanding of lead-mining beyond documented and technological aspects of the industry (which dominates the published literature) and allow investigation of the landscape, social and cultural aspects to be investigated as well.

The project will also look at the threats to the landscape particularly from erosion by water. Although the management of water in the area was a major part of the lead mining industry with artificial waterways being constructed over many miles to bring water to sites to power waterwheels etc. since the decline of the industry these waterways have not been maintained.

More details can be found at.

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/RN11_web.pdf?1243870038

HAYGILL MINE, CALDBECK.

Haygill is the minor tributary flowing into the Dale beck next to Raughtongill smelt mill. With no obvious path up the gill, most people cross the gill on the track at the smelt mill and head up the valley to the main mining sites at the head. Finding the advert below which appeared in the Carlisle journal 26th April 1845, stimulated a walk up the gill to see what remains.

MINING MACHINERY FOR SALE.

ALL the MACHINERY, UTENSILS, and TOOLS, belonging to the MINE called HAY-GILL, consisting of a Water Wheel of 30 feet diameter, and 2 feet in breadth. Also 15½ fathoms of Piping, used as Pumps, of nine inches in the bore. All descriptions of Mining Tools, besides Barrows, Hand-Barrows, Kibbles, &c., Smiths' Tools, including Bellows, Vice, Sledge, Anvil, &c., &c.

To any Company wishing to make a trial, the present will be found a very advantageous opening, as the prospect is good, and there being provided upon the spot every requisite for conducting the Mine upon the most improved plan.

Applications to be made to Mr. WILLIAM WILSON, Kell House ; and Mr. JOHN JOHNSON, Grocer, Botchergate, Carlisle.



The first evidence of mining is an adit on the south side of the beck at NY 30278 36086 this is Dale Beck Level.



Next is an area which is being rapidly eroded and consists of a dressing floor and a small boustead at NY 30594 36096

The next feature is a collapsed adit at NY 30599 36066, followed by an open adit at NY 30679 36037



You then come to the wheel pit at NY 30770 36000. This is approximately 32ft long by 4ft 2inches wide. The bob pit for the pumps is at NY 30780 35994 This a small pit 5ft 3 ins by 3ft 2ins with cemented stone. These measurements for the wheel pit fit the size of the wheel as stated in the advertisement. On the opposite side of the valley are foundations of a 2 bay building at NY 30820 35987.

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