

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP



Our website header: A view over Ravenstonedale Parish from Bents Hill on Crosby Garrett Fell

Newsletter Autumn 2021

We will be emailing this newsletter to most of our members to save postage, but will send a copy in the post to those without email. If you receive the monthly Parish newsletter *The Link*, either by email or as a hard copy, details of our meetings and reviews of our talks are published in that, and please remember that if you have access to the internet you can keep up to date with History Group news and events by checking our website <https://www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk> on a regular basis. Steve Fermer regularly reviews the talks in *The Link* and the *Cumberland and Westmorland Herald*.

If you wish to contact the History Group in writing, please leave a comment on one of the forms on our website. Your email address will NOT be shown online – it is only visible to you and to our website admin, who will endeavour to contact you within a week or so. Comments are all reviewed and then answered either privately or on the website as appropriate. If you wish to telephone a member of the History Group committee, please call either 015396 23308 or 07798 688057.

Annual General Meeting 2021

Unfortunately we have not been able to hold our Annual General Meeting again this year, because of the lockdown and social distancing restrictions required during the Coronavirus pandemic. As not all of our members have internet access, we were not able to hold a “virtual” AGM online.

We were not able to hold any “live” evening meetings after October 2020 and decided to embrace the “Zoom” virtual meetings software so that we could at least keep in touch with those members who have access to the internet. This meant that we were able to welcome some members who live too far from Ravenstonedale to attend meetings in person – not only in the UK but overseas as well, including the USA and New Zealand. We have now been able to start planning the next season of evening talks in both Ravenstonedale High Chapel Community and Heritage Centre and Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall – there are details on the last page of this newsletter and on our website.

Some Recent Acquisitions

We have completed cataloguing material concerning the Fothergill Weekend which was held in the Parish in June 2006 to raise funds for St Oswald’s Church. We have also catalogued the material collected for the creation of the Parish Millennium Map and its Companion Book – handwritten responses from many people who were living in the Parish in the late 1990s and also copies of artwork, paste-ups etc by the three local artists who created the Map – Caroline Metcalfe-Gibson, her husband David Morris and the late Tom Oldham.

We have also been given papers, drawings and fabric samples from the creation of the four Millennium Embroideries made by local embroiderers which now hang in four current and former places of worship in the Parish. This collection is also being catalogued.

Ravenstonedale Heritage Walks

Nicola Estill and Hannah Kingsbury from Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership asked the History Group if we would be willing to help them devise and lead two heritage walks in Ravenstonedale village as part of their local series of walks in villages within the Westmorland Dales area.

Caroline and Jackie co-led two fully-subscribed walks in June (postponed from autumn 2020 due to the pandemic) with Nicola and Hannah, and also helped them produce a list of key information to use for future walks should other members of WDLP staff (or indeed other members of the History Group!) lead future walks.



Caroline explaining some of the exterior changes at Scar View Cottage over the years, and Nicola Estill from Westmorland Dales Landscape partnership explaining why “hennery-piggeries” are so called.

Because the numbers on the walks were kept low due to the social distancing regulations in place at the time, we decided that the History Group should lead another Ravenstonedale village heritage walk for those local people who could not get a place on the June walks. This walk took place on 24th July and finished at the demonstration of the archaeological test pit methodology to be used next year for the YDNPA/WDLP community project **Digging the Past** in Ravenstonedale village.



The walk started on Artlegarth Beck Bridge and went on to explain the history of the Pig House, the Pump House (seen here in the right-hand photograph), various dwellings, the School and the Gilbertine ruins, before finishing at the Millennium Field.

We will also be hosting a village walk for members of Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group in October.

Digging the Past test pit demonstration 24-07-2021



Doug Mitcham, YDNPA Community Heritage Officer, explaining how the 1 metre square test pits are started by carefully removing the turf by hand, placing any spoil on a tarpaulin. He then showed how the topsoil is excavated by hand (one spade – or spit – depth at a time)



Any finds are recorded, carefully removed and washed, and afterwards the pit is refilled with the spoil and the turf is replaced where it came from – you can hardly see where the pit was.



There were some small finds, but nothing of any significance, but these are clay pipe stems and post-medieval pottery from a previous excavation in the Millennium Field in 2001 (RPHG archive)

Artlegarth Beck Bridge

We have helped Karen Griffiths, Interpretation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, with information for her current project for WDLP entitled *A Way Through*. One of the results of this collaboration is an interpretation panel for Artlegarth Beck Bridge at the southern end of Ravenstonedale village, which is currently being manufactured by YDNPA and which we hope will be installed near the bridge by the end of the year.

One of Karen's other research threads for her WDLP project – see the link below to her project blog - concerns Elizabeth Morland, who was recorded in the 1861 census as a “railway proprietor” living in Ravenstonedale.

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/railway-families-in-westmorland-elizabeth-morland/>

Val pointed out that this meant that Elizabeth owned a share or shares in the Stainmore railway, not the whole railway! We helped Karen out with some photographs for her blog from the RPHG Parish archive and also did some research into the Morland family's connections to Stouphill Gate. Elizabeth had lived there with her

brother Anthony until he bought Townend Cottage at auction for £220 on 20 May 1854. Elizabeth subsequently lived there and indeed had to pay £5/10/- as “Succession Duty” (now known as Inheritance Tax) to the Inland Revenue in 1861 when Anthony died and she inherited the property.

(photo from RPHG archive)

More research by members and Family History Research

This led on to further ongoing research into the history of not only Townend Cottage itself but also the adjoining properties, a fascinating story which includes the 1836 enfranchisement of the cottage from the then Lord of the Manor (William Earl of Lonsdale) as well as examples of

This Form is for Property chargeable under the Succession Duty Act.
A separate Form is supplied for Property chargeable under the Legacy Duty Acts.

No. 6. INLAND REVENUE.

SUCCESSION DUTY ON REAL PROPERTY, which includes all Freehold, Copyhold, Customary, Leasehold, and other Hereditaments, whether corporeal, or incorporeal.
This Account to be delivered in Duplicate.

REGISTER *M* - of the Year 1860. Folio *234*

An Account of the SUCCESSION to REAL PROPERTY
of *Elizabeth Morland*
of *Ravenstonedale* in the County of *Westmorland*
upon the Death of *Anthony Morland* late of the same place who died on the *14th* day of *May* 1860, derived from the said *Anthony Morland* the Predecessor under a *Will* dated the *20th* April 1855 & the will of the said *Anthony Morland* bearing date the *23rd* day of *November* 1843 and found in the Probate Court Registry of Carlisle on the *15th* June 1860 delivered by *his* successor of the said deceased

* Here state the Title, whether under Settlement, Will, Intestacy, or by Deed, and if under any Deed or other Document, the date thereof, and the name of the parties thereto.
† Here state whether Trustee, Ac., or Successor.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.	Saleable Value	Annual Value
<i>A freehold Messuage or dwelling-house, Garden and premises with the appurtenances in Ravenstonedale, deceased late in the occupation of the said deceased now of the said Elizabeth Morland the Successor - Gross Annual Value for the poor rate, £5. 10/-</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>5. 10/-</i>
Carried forward....	<i>4</i>	<i>5. 10/-</i>

13,000 7100

early mortgages...not to mention the meaning of such delights as a Dunghillstead and a Necessary...

Of course we have not been able to welcome any visitors to the archive room during the current restrictions, but we have continued to receive family history enquiries on our website. These included one from Peter Huitson who was born in Darlington and who emigrated to New Zealand as a child in the 1960s.

He was looking for any connection to the Ravenstonedale Hewetsons, specifically to Henry Hewetson who was born here in 1754, and he was hoping that we might have a copy of Keith Lovet Watson's meticulously researched book on the Hewetsons (this is not available online).

Fortunately we do have a digital copy and we were able to tell him that Henry Hewetson born 1754 was not connected to his family. The particular Henry he is descended from was born in Winston in 1753. Winston is a small village near Barnard Castle only 11 miles from Darlington. That Henry Hewetson married in Staindrop – and fortunately they have an excellent family history resource in Staindrop so Peter was able to contact them to continue his research.

We also tried to unpick some of the convoluted history of various lines of Hunter families for a visitor to the new Cumbria Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve at Bowberhead, who believed that a relative of his direct ancestors farmed there around 1716. We are currently following up a recent enquiry from a member of the Thompson family whose ancestors farmed at Lytheside in the 1700s and later. Caroline also dealt with an enquiry from a visitor to the gallery whose grandparents, Mr and Mrs Hulse, managed the “Bottom Shop” in the 1940s.

We put together a small display on the history of the Frankland family in Ravenstonedale for the Cumbria Wildlife Trust Open Days at Bowberhead in the summer. We showed copies of photographs from the Frankland family albums which the late Helga Frankland (herself a founder member of CWT) had allowed us to copy for the Parish archive.



Raven, Helga and Noble’s mother Maud Frankland strewing or “breaking out” hay at High New House: spreading the newly-mown hay with a forward and backward stroke of the rake



Loading the hay on to a horse-drawn sledge



The display in one of the outhouses at Bowberhead Farm in June – we had some good comments from visitors



Val and Steve Fermer recently published two Walking Trail leaflets of Ravenstonedale village and the nearby area to complement Val’s two books of Ravenstonedale Tales published last year.

The map leaflets are available **free of charge** from the Black Swan, the King’s Head, and the Scar Gallery in Ravenstonedale, the Tourist Information, Hall’s newsagents and the Bookshop in Kirkby Stephen, and Sedbergh Tourist Information.

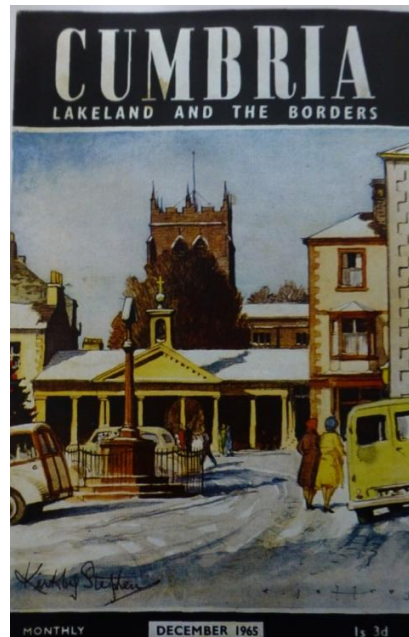


Next Season's Programme 2021-2022

- 15th September at 7.30pm, High Chapel: The History of the Coldbeck area of Newbiggin Angle – Les Neal
- 20th October at 7.30pm, Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall: Musings of a Taphophile (a tombstone tourist) – Bev Brummitt
- 17th November at 7.30pm – venue tba: More famous Fothergills – Diana Fothergill
- 8th December at 7.30pm – venue tba; Christmas get-together for members and friends
- 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm – venue tba: Curiosities of Castle Design – Pete Brummitt
- 16th February 2022 at 7.30pm – venue tba: History of Common Land – Maurice Hall
- 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm – venue tba: Parish Millennium Projects (part 2) – Jackie Wedd
- 20th April 2022 at 7.30pm – venue tba: Further History of local Quaker Families – Les Neal
- Possibly sometime during 2022 a local interest exhibition in High Chapel showcasing items from the archive

During the spring and summer we were invited to view the Zoom presentations from Upper Eden History Society, and we invited their members to our online programme of talks too.

UEHS have kindly asked Jackie to give her talk on Edward Jeffrey, the Ravenstonedale artist known for his accomplished local watercolours of landscapes and birds as well as his many book illustrations (not just Toby Twirl!), on 25th April 2022 at 7.30pm in their new talks venue the Upper Eden Baptist Church in Kirkby Stephen. Non-members are welcome so if you missed the talk in 2017 you'll now have a chance to see it.



And finally....

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group are always looking for new volunteers!! Please have a chat with Val, Caroline or Jackie if you feel you could help out with ongoing spreadsheet cataloguing for newspaper cuttings/our growing digital photographic archive/donations of books etc. Our thanks as ever to Sally Cannon for all her help with this. Please visit the archive room upstairs at High Chapel if you can – we plan to open again, Covid restrictions permitting, from mid-September on Thursdays at 2-4pm – or at other times by arrangement.