



HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

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SANDSIDE

VOLUME THREE

SANDSIDE SHIPPING

Before the opening of the Ulverston Canal and the advent of the Furness railway, Sandside must have been quite a busy little port with its 17th century "Ship Inn" and its own customs officer who was sometimes referred to as the Coast Waiter. In 1825 William Harrison who lived at "Bridge House" held this post and it had changed to John Greenlaw of "Little Croft" in 1849.

Flat-bottomed boats called Dolly Flats would be loaded with slate at a quay opposite to the old quarry at Sandside and then sailed over to Millom and transferred onto sloops. On very high tides the sloops may even have sailed direct from Sandside.

Slate was also carted to Angerton Point, to be shipped away from a deep, narrow channel that ran close inshore. The only clues to this past activity are in the field names Ship Meadow and Slate Meadow. In a list of vessels between May 7th 1737 and May 10th 1738 thirteen anchored at Angerton and sixteen at Kirkby. In 1834 this had risen to a shared total of 141 vessels.

Once the Ulverston Canal was opened in 1796 the slate was also transported by horse and cart along the old slate road over Osmotherley Moor to Ulverston and loaded onto bigger ships. The opening of the Furness Railway in 1846 from Kirkby to Roa Island and Barrow heralded the end of the sea borne trade from Kirkby.

The schooner *Mary* Goldsworthy was the first vessel to be launched by John and



William White from the Furness Railway Company Low Yard Slip on the Ulverston Canal in 1865. After breaking her moorings at Millom during a storm she was left high and dry at Kirkby, none the worse for her unmanned crossing of the estuary. Following a useful life of over sixty-eight years, thirty of them with the Hodbarrow Mining Company, she was broken up at Birkenhead in 1934.

George Woods

THE MUSCLE GATHERERS OF DUDDON —

A renewal of hostilities between the muscle gatherers of Duddon, and the followers of the same avocation, living at Baycliffe and Poulton, for right of territory, commenced on Tuesday se'night; the seat of war — Duddon Sands. It will be remembered that a desperate battle was fought by the same belligerents, at this place about 18 months ago, on which occasion the allied forces of Baycliffe and Poulton were worsted, and since then, until the day in question, a cessation of hostilities appeared to be agreed upon. On the day preceding, however, the allies were seen proceeding to headquarters; and a party of about 80 on that day passed through this town with several horses and baggage carts en route to the general rendezvous.

Souby's Ulverston Advertiser 20th December 1849

“PROSPECT”

The early history of “Prospect” is quite difficult to follow, but it seems to have been part of the Cockfish Hall estate. Once the census begins we can see who is living there, but they are not always the property owners. “Prospect” is mentioned in an old deed of 1625 as belonging to John Parker and Thomas Postlethwaite. By 1743, it belonged to Roger Parker, and after being mortgaged several times, was conveyed to John Pearson in 1783. Having been leased and mortgaged again, it passed in 1789 to the Rev. Thomas Pearson, vicar of Kirkby Ireleth, who died in 1832, the property eventually coming to his son William Kirkby Pearson.

Named on maps of the day as “Prospect Cottage”, the 1841 census gives the inhabitants as William Woodend, farmer, and his wife Isabella, a female servant and an elderly lodger. The Woodends were daughter and son-in-law of the Rev. Thomas Pearson. By 1851 things had changed significantly, and two properties were mentioned. “Prospect House” was inhabited by the Woodends, now farming 28 acres, and employing a house servant of 16, and a 10 year old farm boy.

In “Prospect Cottage” lived George and Mary Trenwith, their sons William aged 2 and George, 1 year, and a 15-year-old servant girl. Employed as Clerk at the Slate Quarry, George had come here from Cornwall where both he and his wife were born.

Major building work took place at the beginning of the 1850s. During this time one of the men working at “Prospect” witnessed a dreadful drowning accident.

A local man, Daniel Addison, had tried to cross Duddon Sands at too late a stage of the tide, and been cut off on a sandbank. Hearing cries for help, the labourer; on looking to the place, saw the poor man sink, engulfed at length by the ruthless waters!

Souby's Ulverston Advertiser 20th December 1849

The Woodends are still at “Prospect” in 1855, when William, now styling himself yeoman, disposes of some Customary Tenements in Walney, but they leave some time before the next census, Isabella eventually dying in 1862, and

William in 1864.

By 1861, William Kirkby Pearson, son of the Rev. Thomas Pearson had set himself up in “Prospect House”. He was 66, unmarried, and giving his occupation as Landed Proprietor, sharing the house with a 42 year old farm servant from Torver, a 45 year old housekeeper from Millom, and a 20 year old local servant girl.

In “Prospect Cottage” was a Kirkby man, Richard Coward, a tailor, with his wife Mary, 14 year old daughter Sarah, and 2 boarders, Arthur Fox, a slate quarrier, and his wife Mary. The Cowards had been in the cottage for some time, as Richard was advertising for an apprentice to the tailoring business in May 1859.



The census of 1851 finds William Kirkby Pearson still inhabiting “Prospect House” as a ‘Retired Draper and Landowner’, employing the same housekeeper and a young domestic servant. However this is the last time we find him, as he dies in December 1871, aged 77 years. In “Prospect Cottage” is Richard Rogers, the curate of Kirkby, born in Norton, Somerset, his wife Elizabeth, a native of Walsingham in Norfolk, and a visitor from Gloucestershire.

In early 1872 the whole of “Prospect” passes to Jane Millways, and later in the same year, via Clement and Elizabeth Millwood, to Townson Ashburner, the great grandson of the Rev. Thomas Pearson. He occupies 32 acres, employing 1 labourer. He has a wife, Ruth, and 4 daughters, Marianne, Florence, Ruth and Catherine, and 2 house servants. In “Prospect Cottage” is William McDougall, Minister of the Gospel at Wallend Christian Meeting House. A widower, native of Newcastle, he lives with his two sons, Thomas and Alexander, both born in Wigan, and a housekeeper.

By 1890, maps show "Prospect House" as having a large well established garden with shelterbelt trees and glasshouses.

"Prospect Cottage" has garden front and rear. A small building is shown on the opposite side of the lane. At the 1891 census, Townson Ashburner, of 'Independent Means', is still at "Prospect House" with Ruth, and his expanded family — he now has 2 more daughters, Amy and Gertie, and a son William. They now have a nurse and a cook.

However all this changes later in the year, as Townson Ashburner dies on August 23rd 1891, aged 47 years. The property has been mortgaged several times during their occupancy, and passes via George Coulton, Sarah Kendal and others, eventually to Mrs. Hannah Johnson in 1896, after which it is mortgaged again.

In 1901, Mrs. Johnson, a widow, is living there with her 3 daughters, Ann, Jane, and Caroline, and son Sidney. In "Prospect Cottage" is Ralph Lord, a coal and mining engineer from Lancashire, his wife Elizabeth, daughter Evelyn and his 65 year old mother Jane.

The Rural District Council of Ulverston decide in 1903 that the lane past "Prospect" down to Sandside needs to be widened and straightened, with the result that a strip of farmland and part of "Prospect Cottage" garden is lost. By an agreement of 26th June 1903, Mrs. Johnson agrees to pay compensation to farmer William Cartmel of Sandside for loss of this land ~ £3 the first year, and £1 for each of the 2 following years.

The small building opposite "Prospect" is now being used as a joiner's shop belonging to Mr. Coulton of Cockfish. In about 1916, this shop was converted into a dwelling house, now known as "Cumbria".

Jill Baines, Dorothy Procter, Winifred Harris and Audrey Benson

"Westerly"

Originally four cottages they were demolished and rebuilt into two semi-detached houses by Alex McAtee in 1969. Two of the original dwellings dated back to 1786 and were owned by Hugh and Elizabeth Kitchen. They were sold to Miles Denny for forty five pounds ten shillings.

In 1849 Miles Denny sold them to John Shepherd, an innkeeper from Askewgate, for one hundred and ten pounds. This also included the peathouse and the land opposite.

The last owners before demolition were Jack and Francis Turner. Many will remember Francis delivering morning and evening papers and magazines pushing them round all the hamlets in a coach built pram.

Beryl Allonby



**Mrs. Francis
Turner**

"The end of the
morning's deliveries."

"MANY HURT IN FURNESS RAIL CRASH" EXCURSION TRAINS INVOLVED EARLY MORNING MISHAP AT KIRKBY

One of the most serious railway accidents during recent years occurred early yesterday when two excursion trains were in collision at Kirkby Station and 30 passengers were injured, at least three seriously.

A return excursion from Bootle to Southport, run in connection with the flower show at the seaside resort, had stopped at Kirkby and was just drawing away from the platform when a second excursion returning from Southport to Aspatia and not booked to stop until Millom, crashed into the rear.

The guard of the stopping train was just entering his van at the time, and when the locomotive of the express tore its way through the back of the coach. He was badly injured.

"THE NEWS", SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1939

The Post Office

It isn't known exactly when the Post Office opened, but Mr. Thomas Barr appears as the Sub Post Master on the 1881 Census. He was then forty two years of age and lived there with his wife and family. He died, it is thought, in 1924 aged 85 years.



Mr. Thomas Barr, Postmaster

Three generations of the Barr family ran the Post Office. It closed at Askew Gate and re-opened at Four Lane Ends when Mrs. Edwards, Thomas's granddaughter, retired in 1994.

The Post Office had the first public 'phone box in the village being housed in the sorting office. It was from here that they telephoned when the plane carrying the Minister for Aviation crashed on the moor at the beginning of the Second World War.

Telegrams were 'phoned in to the Post Office, written by hand, and then delivered the same day. On Sundays a box was hung on the Station Gates and letters for out of the district could be posted there. The box was emptied and the post put on the Mail Train.

The local post was sorted in the office and stamped with the Kirkby-in-Furness post mark. Post for other destinations was put on the train for Barrow. At Christmas time the sorting was done in the loft.



The Post Office, Askew Gate

The 'Mail Train' dropped the post on to an arm on the station at 6.00 a.m. and this was collected by the postman, taken to the office, and sorted for delivery. The mail was originally delivered on foot there being two post men. The round stretched to Marsh Grange and over to Grizebeck. The letter boxes were emptied by the postmen on their way back to the Post Office. Later on a bicycle was provided. In the early days the post was delivered on Christmas Day, and it seems, the postmen were well rewarded by grateful customers!

When the weather was really cold one Post Man's favourite saying was *'By - It's so cold, it makes you sweat at the nose end!'*

The owners of the Post Office also acted as agents for other enterprises. At one time the daily papers were delivered and sold from there and they were also agents for the Lakeland Laundry in Barrow.

Pen McPherson with thanks to Mrs. Rita Edwards

1871 Census - Askew Gate

Elizabeth Bibby widow aged 36 years Tea Dealer/Post Mistress born Westmoreland, Grassgarth

At Sandside, Kirkby Ireleth, on the 13th inst., Hannah, the beloved wife of Mr. Isaac Mason, aged 35 years. Deceased had enjoyed only 3 weeks of good health since her marriage, which took place about 6 months ago.

Soulby's Uxerston Acherfer 20th February 1851