Bewcastle's Waterside Inns

by

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Nina Jennings has acquired something of a reputation in the AMS Transactions for intensively detailed accounts of settlements in present day Cumbria. However what she relates is of interest far beyond that county because of the social insights and human detailing which brings past lives to vivid life — and colours our understanding of the buildings that stand testimony to those past generations.

Bewcastle is the most northerly, and certainly the most remote, parish in Cumberland, (Fig. 1). Nevertheless the history of its waterside inns and their decline follows national trends. The Temperance Movement began in the mid-nineteenth century. For example in 1847 the Band of Hope movement was founded in Leeds; it required working-class children to swear lifelong abstinence from alcohol, reaching its peak in the late nineteenth century. Other factors were the decline in rural population and the demise of small-scale industry with increasing mechanisation, both seen nationally as well as in Bewcastle. Just as the Bewcastle coalmines eventually ceased to be cost-effective, so too did handloom weaving. The last inn closed in 2001, its function being taken over by a fine village hall. Similarly in recent decades, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of pubs over the country as a whole; to some extent they are now less of a male preserve than in the past.

In the early nineteenth century Bewcastle was still feeling the effects of the reivers' depredations. Although an important drove road from Scotland ran through it and there were deposits of coal and lime, the standard of living was much lower than in those parts of the Solway Plain to the west of Carlisle, let alone the southern parts of Westmorland.

A visitor to Bewcastle in 1818 wrote the following description of houses in general within the parish - "Two miserable rooms with a riddle of a roof; a floor half paved, half the natural earth; walls destitute of plaster, roofs equally so of ceilings, compose the interior of a dwelling in this region; while the fireplace, whose roomy chimney affords ample passage for a current of air sufficient to do away all warmth that might be derived from the peat fire below, graces one side, a broken door and window adorn another; one corner is occupied by a bed of no tempting appearance, whilst another is the repository of a large open chest containing the family stock of apparel, and a shelf or two above displaying a valuable assortment of broken plates and cracked tea-cups. A table before the window, a chair and one or two stools before the fire, literally complete the decorations of one of these mansions, not of labourers, but in many cases of lairds or yeomen". ¹

Hutchinson in 1794 does not record any clay dabbins (that is houses constructed in clay) and local people are sceptical of Bailey and Culley's reports of 1805. ² It is likely that this was the common way of building in this area in the Middle Ages, as there are



Sketch map showing position of Bewcastle parish



Map of Oakshaw Coal Basin, Bewcastle Miscellany, unpublished, p 14

plenty of local supplies of clay and this is an easy and quick building method. However with abundant easily quarried stone in the locality the change to stone building (the Great Rebuilding) probably took place earlier than in parishes such as Burgh-by-Sands which have no easily accessible stone. The Horse and Farrier at Clatteringford (see later) has indications that it was originally built of clay. Oak, the preferred timber, was scarce in Bewcastle parish; Whintingstown Farm, about a mile away, had until recently a pine ridge beam and birch rafters, with heather and reed thatch.

"...In the Bewcastle area in 1817 illicit distilleries were in operation and Customs and Excise officers from Carlisle set out to find them...In Greyfell they found a large distillery and destroyed it and confiscated the apparatus. Later they heard that another was operating at Low Luckens on the River Lyne and raided it, but a violent battle ensued and the officers were pelted with stones by a large crowd of men and they only escaped with difficulty..." This had always been a wild and remote area, far from the long arm of the law. Hutchinson in 1794: "...no one [in Bewcastle] is at the expence of taking a licence to sell ale or spirits; yet at every turn there is a hut where whisky is sold in abundance". This appears to have been an exaggeration; no doubt spirits [probably illicitly distilled] were readily obtainable, but there were a number of licenced inns and alehouses near the route of the great drove road from Scotland (Eskdale ward, Geo. Forster, licencee of Bewcastle, 2 February 1754). They were often situated close to fords, with a blacksmith nearby. This was a convenient arrangement for travellers delayed by a river in spate or a horse with a cast shoe.

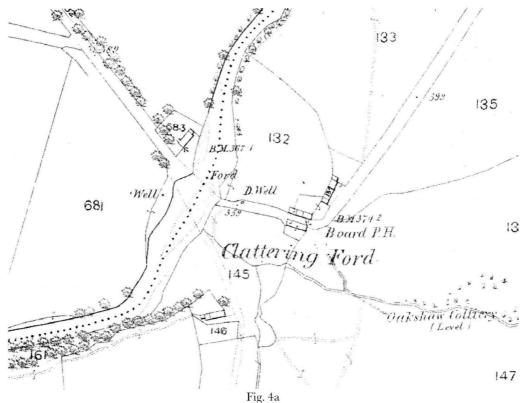
Clatteringford was an important crossing of the Black Lyne River. It was the meeting place of four roads, one to Bewcastle, one to Roadhead via Kinkry Hill, one toward Bailey Mill and one towards Langholm across the Scots border. Here the inn's first recorded licence is dated 1770 (see later).

There was here a seam of coal, serving the local lime burning and clay tile making industries, as well as domestic fires. It seems likely that this coal seam was in use in Roman times; reporting on the excavation in the castle "...the hypocaust pillae were buried almost to their full height in thick black soot of the kind which used to accumulate in the flues of coal-fired cooking ranges, though as the soot was not submitted for analysis it cannot be taken as certain that coal had been the fuel used in the bath house". ⁶

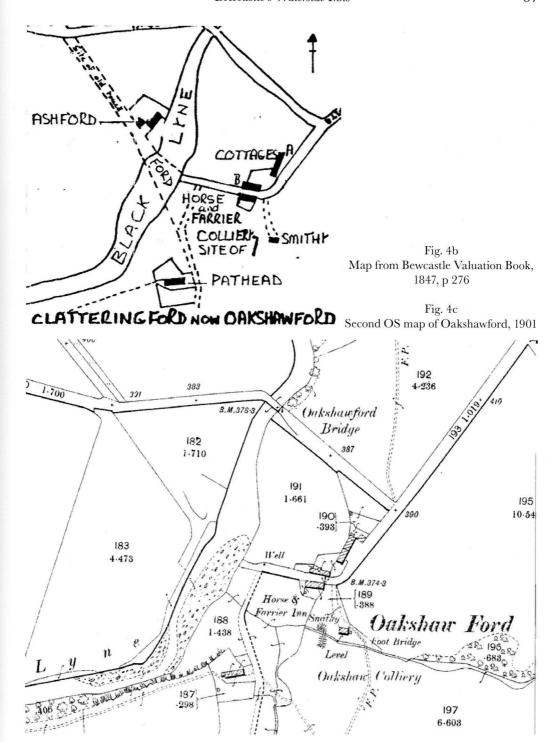
There were bell pits on the west bank of the Black Lyne River. When one came close to collapse, a fresh one was dug. This was known as Ash Colliery, and when it was more or less worked out in the early nineteenth century, a drift mine known as Oakshaw colliery was opened on the other bank, following the seam towards Roadhead. A map (Fig. 2) ⁷ shows the Oakshaw coal basin, together with Bank's Lime Works, the limestone quarry, (which was still supplying roadstone in the 1940's ⁸. We have also a contemporary mention "...the hamlet of Oakshaw, where there are coal and lime works..." ⁹, the ideal combination. The censuses for the years 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1906 give the number of pitmen in Bewcastle as 9, 14, 9, 18 and 2 respectively. A postcard in Chester Forster's possession, (Fig. 3) postmarked Roadhead September 9 1915, shows the former Horse and Farrier Inn at Clatteringford. It stands near the east bank of the Black Lyne River, beside a cart track. (figs 4a, 4b, 4c) This track has been raised by between 10 and 18in. in order to make the slope easier for the quarry wagons, probably causing some of the

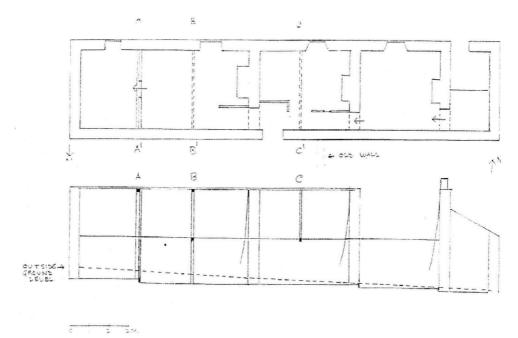


 $\label{eq:Fig. 3}$ View of Oakshawford, Chester Forster's postcard dated 9 September 1915



First OS map of Clatteringford, 1864





 $\label{eq:Fig.5a} Fig.\,5a$ Plan and long diagram of Horse and Farrier Inn



 $Fig.\ 5b$ Horse and Farrier Inn (left) and blacksmiths (right)

dampness in the front wall. The old blacksmith's shop is on the other side of the track. (Fig. 5b) There is a later one about a hundred yards away. (Fig. 5a) shows the plan and elevation of the inn.

In 1988 all three buildings stood derelict, with a "developer" hoping to buy them, demolish, and rebuild on the site. Fortunately, he was forestalled by Mike Cole, who is carrying out sympathetic repairs to the inn while living with his young family in the "new" blacksmith's. However it is an immense task and progress is slow.

The thatched roof of the inn is protected by a corrugated covering. Its walls are built of rubble, a mixture of stones quarried from within a quarter of a mile including mud shale, "coral" (a sedimentary shale with fossils), sandstone and limestone, with limeash floors. Due to their geological variety, the river and its banks are here a Site of Special Scientific Interest. As flooring, the blacksmith's gig shed had duckstone, ie river cobbles; these were a variety of stones washed down, including granite, quartz and sandstone. The floor of one of the cottages is in red sandstone flags.

The inn building has been extended in three sections at the west end. The main part has two full crucks, both of Alcock's Type C.¹⁰ Here the blades are tenoned into the underside of the yoke. In an attempt at dendro-dating, the crucks were cored, but the samples were of poor quality and no match was found. The timbers do not appear to be reused. However Figs (6a, 6b, 6c) are rubbings from the crucks, and Dan Miles thinks they could be medieval assembly marks. ¹¹ The rafters are not the usual split oak, but rough tree branches, some possibly ash, and the purlins are far from straight. There is a small, fairly modern, range set in a stone surround. Behind the firewall is a tongue-and-groove lobby entrance to a doorway in the firewall with plain stone square section dressings.

There is no sign of a crosspassage. The former firewindow is blocked, and what appears to have been a very small spice cupboard was blocked by a loose stone, with

no sign of a wooden door. To the right of this entrance is a tongue-and-groove heck partition with a settle next to the coal fireplace. There are four windows in the back wall, all probably vertical sashes. Until recently a tongue-and-groove partition divided this room; it is thought that the bar was situated in the easternmost room, because there is a local saying that the floor sloped so that spilt beer went straight out of the door. The floor has recently been covered with about 8 inches of cement. Under some lighting conditions Mike has seen traces of a blocked opening on the east gable. He surmises that there was formerly a leanto protecting the barrels of beer. They could then have been tapped from within the inn.

In the room behind the firewall (the parlour) there is a raised cruck and a brick chimney. Here the rafters and purlins are sawn. The next section is built of coursed sandstone also with lime mortar, and there are remains of barley thatch. The roof has collapsed. The present window was originally a door. Another door, not part of the original construction, leads into the leanto toilets and bathroom. This was built of concrete, with a board roof under a corrugated covering, and also had an external entrance.

During the course of repairs, Mike discovered the blocked up firewindow, but no sign of a firehood. He found that clay mortar had been used in the original building, with lime mortar for later repairs. The underthatch appears to be heather, covered with



Fig. 6a Rubbing from blade of cruck BB



Fig. 6b Rubbing from blade of cruck BB

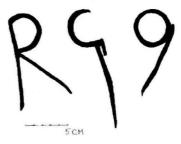


Fig. 6c Rubbing from tie-beam of cruck BB

mud and then a little barley straw with perhaps some bracken and heather.

He noticed that in the firehouse the under thatch was laid grass side down (the usual way), but the reverse on the parlour. Local people think that this roof was the work of itinerant Irish thatchers. They speculate that time, materials or money ran out, so they made the roof watertight for the winter with growing vegetation, intending to return the following year and finish the job properly.

Fig. 7 shows marks made on the building by sharpening tools, the usual method where suitable stone was available. One of the mullions of the Horse and Farrier Inn at Dacre bears similar marks. Some farms on the Greystoke estate were built of a very fine pink sandstone and also carry these marks. Going further back, marks on the outside of the tower of the fortified church at Burgh-by Sands are said to have been made by the men of Burgh, sharpening their weapons while awaiting reivers, with the women and children safely inside the tower behind the yett (iron grille).

Inside the wall below the third window down Mike found a 1799 coin, or possibly a token used in the mines. It had five holes stamped through it, four from one side and one from the other, and the figure of Britannia. He has found pieces of pottery and glass, and when making a land drain he found bones and horses' teeth, and the remains of an old wall. The inn was extended in the early twentieth century (see later), and later still the inside toilets were added. Previously there was an outside toilet a few yards behind the house. It was served by a brick lined cesspit, later covered with railway sleepers; the course of its drain to the beck can still be traced. The cesspit is now being replaced by a modern version.

There may well have been a building on this site from early times. JRMortimer, born in 1825, has described the old farmhouses of Fimber, in Yorkshire. "Originally the roofs of all these houses were supported on leaning beams of oak, called forks, and the walls consisted of wattle and daub. This latter, however, during my boyhood, had for the most part been replaced with walls consisting of chalk and road scrapings mixed with small chalk gravel, called "mortar-earth", which is found in abundance on the hillsides near many of the villages of the wolds. Most of the old labourers were then able to build these chalk walls, and also thatch the roofs of the houses". ¹²

If the rubbings from the crucks of the Horse and Farrier are indeed medieval assembly marks, we could here have a case of clay walls being replaced with stone. This was the opinion of the late Raymond Hayes, joint author of "Cruck–Framed Buildings in Ryedale and Eskdale", by RH Hayes and JG Rutter, (Scarborough and District Archaeological Society Research Report No 8, 1972), when he viewed the Horse and Farrier. ¹³ .In Carlisle, Burgh-by-Sands and Abbeytown there are buildings which appear to be clay dabbins rebuilt in brick on their original stone plinths; unfortunately they have not retained their crucks. The oldest crucks found so far in Cumberland were dated to the late fourteenth /early fifteenth century. ¹⁴

Mike has described the blacksmith's across the track as it was before recent alterations; it was probably thatched and divided by a stone wall into forge and living quarters. In some places there are signs of burning; it was probably at this time that the thatch was destroyed

and replaced by slates, as shown by the gable pitch. There was no fireplace in the smithy end, but the anvil projected out from under the chimney. Mike has found a post hole and a hole in the wall, in similar positions to a beam and post in the former blacksmith's at Auchendrain, Argyll, in Scotland, now a museum. The smith used to hang his tools from the beam. He has also found a shallow red sandstone trough. As this bore traces of rusty metal, it must have been the quenching trough. Under the concrete floor he found mainly clay mixed with coal ash and scraps of mudstone shale. A slightly higher cobble floor ran along the inner gable. The layout of the barn (now collapsed), smithy and cottage is similar to that which he saw at Auchendrain, and



Fig. 7 Quoins of Horse and Farrier, showing marks made by tool sharpening, also OS bench marks (Mike Cole's photo)

nearer to home at Shopford, Bewcastle, and at Penton near Nicholforest Church. The positioning of the cottage between barn and smithy would have been for warmth, as the barn would have contained the stable.

Mike Jackson has found documentation for the history of the inn from 1770 (Please note that Clatteringford was known as Oakshawford in the 19th century):

- 1770 Peter Thompson received a licence for an alehouse at Ashford. Richard Taylor stood surety. 15
- 10 January 1784 We amerce Robert Greave of Clatteringford for false measure. 16
- October 1785 We amerce Robert Greave for using a quart short of measure. Fined 1s. 17
- October 1788 We amerce John Wilson of Clatteringford for selling ale short of measure. Fined 4s. ¹⁸ A John Wilson died at Shawhead aged 77, 25 March 1815, ¹⁹ and another aged 79 died at Longtown 14 July 1846. ²⁰ Both were buried at Bewcastle but without headstones.
 - 1808 To let at Clatteringford a dwellinghouse, and other suitable buildings, together with a well accustomed Public House, now in the occupation of George Harrison, adjoining a great drove road from Scotland, and the road from Oakshaw coal pits. ²¹
 - 1822 A George Harrison died at Kinkry Hill on 17 May 22, aged 64.²²
 - William Harrison, alehouse keeper, who "displayed a board at Blatteringford" [sic] received his licence on payment of £30. His surety was Thomas Holmes of the Horse and Farrier inn at Kingsbridgeford, for £20. ²³ (The first OS map (Fig. 3b) shows the Horse and Farrier as the Board P.H.)
 - 1823 Licence renewed. George James alehouse keeper, Bogside, stood surety. 24
 - 1825 Licence renewed. George James, husbandman of Bewcastle Mill, stood surety. 25
 - 1827 Licence renewed. George James, alehouse keeper of Bewcastle, stood surety. 26
 - 1828 William Carruthers, the blacksmith at Clatteringford, became the publican.²⁷
 - 1829 William Harrison of Clatteringford died 31 December 1829, aged 77. 28
 - 1829 William Carruthers, victualler and blacksmith, Clatteranford [sic]. 29
 - 1838 Because of the bankruptcy of the owners, the Routledges, the Oakshaw Estate, of which the pub was part, was sold to Mr Waugh, of Brampton. "Messuage and tenement or estate....arable and meadow land....wood....also six cottages, a Public House, a Blacksmith's Shop and a joiner's shop.all in good repair and respectably tenanted."³⁰
 - 1841 The Oakshaw Farm was offered TO LET, which included "All that property called Clatteringford, consisting of a Public House, Blacksmiths House and shop, also a dwelling house". 31
 - 1841 William Routledge, publican.³²
 - 1847 Sports: Mr David Mitchinson, inn keeper, Oakshawford, in the Parish of Bewcastle, respectfully informs his friends and the public in general, that his Annual Hound Trail will take place on Thursday the 14th day of October, 1847, when there will be given Two pounds to contend for, the Owners to pay 2s. 6d. each entrance. The Sports to commence precisely at two o'clock in the afternoon. All disputes to be settled by the stewards. A Ball in the evening for ladies and Gentlemen.³³
 - 1847 William Musgrave, blacksmith and victualler.³⁴
 - 1849 John Routledge. First mentioned at the inquest of Thomas Davidson, a game watcher who was murdered by poachers on Baileyhope Common. Andrew

- Turnbull one of the accused in answer to a question by the Coroner regarding money replied "I changed it at Clattering Ford, on the Saturday. It is a public-house kept by John Routledge". 35
- 1851 The Oakshaw Estate to Let. Also that property situated at Clatteringford, adjoining Oakshaw, consisting of a Public House, Blacksmith's House and Shop and a Dwelling House.³⁶
- 1859 Lime Pays Notice: The Leegair and Banks Lime Pays will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 12th, 13th and 14th December. On Monday at the house of Mr Robert Johnston, Leegair; on Tuesday at the house of Mr John Murray, Line Bank, and on Wednesday at the house of Mr John Routledge, Clatteringford. Attendance each day from 10 in the morning till 3 in the afternoon.³⁷ (This was probably the arrangement for farmers to pay for lime which they had used).
- Longtown Petty Sessions: Friday Feb 22 (Before The Reverend M.Graham), An Unruly Guest: A travelling tinker named George Watson, who has been several times in the hands of the police, was indicted for an assault upon a young woman named Routledge. It appears that on Wednesday last the prisoner and his wife went to the public-house at Bewcastle kept by John Routledge, the father of the young woman assaulted. He called for a drink, but Miss Routledge refused to give him any, and shortly afterwards his wife left the house. After she had gone Watson renewed his application for drink, and upon being denied kicked Miss Routledge in the side and put her out of the house. Then going to the landlord, and he also refusing to supply his wants, the prisoner smashed a window with his foot, breaking the woodwork and four panes of glass. The landlord sent for the police, but it was not before eleven o'clock at night that he was apprehended by P.C. Carleton. He was remanded until next Thursday.³⁸
- 1879 Longtown Petty Sessions: John Gillespie, yeoman, Pallyards, Stapleton, was charged with stealing a jar containing a gallon of brandy, and a quart bottle of gin, the property of Richard Johnston, innkeeper, Clatteringford, Bewcastle, on the 3rd and 4th insts. Johnston had put a jar containing a bottle of brandy and a bottle of gin on a table in his cellar which adjoins the kitchen. On that day the defendant was on his premises, but he was not noticed to do anything. The landlord did not miss the spirits until the following Wednesday. He was subsequently told that the defendant had been seen with the bottles in his possession, and gave information to the police. He also walked over to his house to see whether he had stolen it or not, when he admitted it, and offered to pay, saying he was drunk at the time. Johnston replied that he would gladly have received payment, but it was too late now. Mr Hodgson (Clerk of the Peace) advised the Bench that, under the circumstances, it would be hard to go on with the case. He was sure no jury or grand jury would hear it. The defendant was a man of respectability, who was unfortunately addicted to a bad habit, and to indulge that habit, would do almost anything. The complainant was also anxious that the charge should be withdrawn, and the Bench, after warning the defendant, discharged him. 39
- Pigeon Shooting, Pic-Nic, Hound Trail and other sports at Oakshawford.
 R.Johnston will give £8 and a Silver Cup to shoot for at Pigeons, on Thursday and Friday, Sept 18th and 19th. Shooting to commence on Thursday, the 18th.
 Hound Trail on Friday, £4 given. 15s. for 400 yards Foot Race; 15s. to quoit for. Further particulars see Bills. Oakshawford, Sept. 3rd. 1879. 40
- 1880 Pigeon-Shooting, Pic-Nic, Hound Trail and other Sports at Oakshawford, Bewcastle, on the 7th and 8th October. See Bills R. Johnston⁴¹.
- 1881 Richard Johnston, Innkeeper and Blacksmith⁴²
- 1881 Pigeon Shooting, Hound Trail, and other Sports at Oakshawford. Mr Johnston,

- Innkeeper, Oakshawford, Bewcastle, intends having his Annual Sports on Thursday and Friday, October 20th and 21st. Shooter's handicap from 20 to 28 yards. For Particulars see Bills. R.Johnston.⁴³
- 1882 To Let at Whitsuntide, either together or separately, Blacksmiths Shop, Cottage, and Public House at Oakshawford. Thomas Potts, Oakshaw, Bewcastle. 44
- 1882 Longtown Petty Sessions: The licence of the public-house at Clatteringford, Bewcastle, was transferred from Richard Johnston to William Little.⁴⁵
- 1883 Longtown Petty Sessions: Licence transferred from William Little to Joseph Story, formerly of the Globe Inn, Carlisle. 46
- 1884 Longtown Petty Sessions: Watering Down the Gin. William R. Goodfellow, innkeeper, Bewcastle, was summoned for selling to Superintendent Russell, inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, a half-pint of gin diluted with water. The certificate to the public analyst was put in proving that the gin was 17 per cent below the lowest legal standard, viz, 52 per cent below proof. For the defence the defendant's wife stated that she only put a pint of water to a gallon of gin, and with that exception it was as received from the spirit merchant. The Board, in consideration of the fact that the defendant was new in business and was probably not aware of the liability, fined him 10s. and costs. 47
- 1886 Public House to Let. Horse and Farrier Inn, with Stable and small garden. Entry at Whitsuntide. Apply John Hetherington, Spirit Merchant, Brampton. 48
- 1887 Longtown Petty Sessions: Renewal of Licences. All the licences were renewed except for that of Joseph Jackson, who had been fined for having the pub open during prohibited hours on Sunday 5th of May. The Bench informed Mrs Jackson, who applied for the licence, that she would have to return in one month. The Bench would then see if they could grant the licence, they could not do it now.⁴⁹
- 1890 Longtown Petty Sessions: Joseph Jackson charged with adulterating the whiskey. The public analyst reported that the water content was 9.7 per cent above the legal limit, and he was fined 10s. 50
- 1890 To Let, next Candlemas, Horse and Farrier, Oakshawford, Bewcastle. Apply Messrs. Hetherington, Brampton. ⁵¹
- 1892 Horse and Farrier, to Let, with possession at Candlemas. Apply Messrs Hetherington, Brampton. ⁵²
- 1892 Longtown Petty Sessions: Temporary transfer of licence Horse and Jockey from Mr William Armstrong to Mrs Eizabeth Jackson, the holder of the licence for the inn at Clatteringford. This was adjourned to the licencing session next month.⁵³
- 1892 Longtown Rural Sanitary Authority: Mr Hope, Inspector for the High District, handed in a letter from the Reverend T.E.Laurie, Bewcastle, asking now that the licenced house recently quitted by Mrs Jackson was empty, that it should be done away with. The house, he stated, was perfectly useless either as a dwelling house or a licenced house, and it would be a blessing to the district if it was done away with. The Chairman said they had nothing to do with licenced houses, and they could not make any move until they had a complaint against the sanitary condition of the house. Mr Bell suggested that the Medical Officer should inspect the building with a view to ascertaining its condition. The Medical Officer said that the house had been visited again and again, and all complaints from him had been attended to.⁵⁴
- 1892 To Let, Public House at Oakshawford, Bewcastle, with immediate entry or Candlemas next. Apply Messrs Hetherington, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Brampton.⁵⁵
- 1892 Longtown Petty Sessions: On the application of Mr Cartner the licence of the

Horse and Jockey was transferred from William Lauder Armstrong to Elizabeth Jackson, the latter still retaining possession of the inn at Oakshawford, with her son as manager. 56

- 1893 Prior to the official opening of the Blackpoolgate Bridge, the Highways Sub-Committee visited the bridge at Oakshawford, the newspaper reporting. "Many bridges were built in the late nineteenth century when pony-traps became common, as they could not use fords. A number were built by County Councils, which took over from the Justices of the Peace in Quarter Sessions; some carry datestones". 57 "The bridge at Blackpoolgate enabled the congregation to reach the church dry-shod". 58 From the bridge the party visited the Horse and Farrier Inn, one of the quaintest public-houses in Cumberland. It is a one-storey building and has a thatched roof. The floors of the cellar, kitchen, and parlour (which is also the bedroom) are of unshaped flags; the "siles" (crucks) or timbers, which were put in before the walls were built, jut out some distance, the ceilings are compromises between arches and squares, and the height of the ceiling of the parlour at the one end is about double that of the cellar at the other end of the building. The glass of ale which was drunk at the place did not seem to be ordinary ale, but a liquor which had been stored in olden time. There was no landlord, no landlady at the inn, being probably engaged elsewhere; and the Sub-Committee were waited upon by a little girl, whose smile was the only thing about the place which recalled one to the present time.⁵⁹
- 1893 Longtown Petty Sessions: On the Application of Mr Cartner, Brampton, a temporary transfer of the licence of the Horse and Farrier Inn, from Mrs Jackson, who occupied the house at Kinkry Hill, to Miss Margaret Routledge, of Heads Nook, was granted.⁶⁰
- 1894 Horse and Farrier Inn, Oakshawford, Bewcastle, to Let. Entry at Candlemas next. Apply Messrs Hetherington, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Brampton. 61
- 1895 Sad Drowning Case near Clatteringford: On Saturday night a sad fatality occurred in the Black Lyne, near Clatteringford. Richard Berry, a labourer at Dodgsonstown Farm, Bewcastle, was proceeding homewards after leaving the public-house at Clatteringford, by a footpath near the side of the river, but as he was getting over a stile he slipped and fell a distance of 36 feet into the water and was drowned At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. 62
- 1895 Lost on Saturday morning between Citadel Station and Cattle Market, £38 in English and Scotch notes. £5 Reward. John Jackson, Horse and Farrier Inn, Oakshawford.⁶³
- 1895 Longtown Petty Sessions: Mr Cartner applied for the temporary transfer of the licence of the Horse and Farrier Inn, Oakshawford, from John Joseph Jackson to Joseph Gibson, Cumrew, Jackson having taken a public-house at Glasson. The Bench granted the application.⁶⁴
- 1895 Licence transferred fully to Gibson in December. 65
- The pub was advertised to Let either separately or together with the Oakshaw Estate. It had been let separately by 8 October 1897. 66
- 1897 Longtown Petty Sessions: An innkeeper refusing to quit licenced premises: Joseph Hetherington, innkeeper, Road Head, Bewcastle, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licenced premises of Joseph Gibson, at Oakshawford, Bewcastle, on September 2nd. Mr Broughton appeared for the defence. Mrs Gibson stated that on the night of September 2nd the defendant came to her house in company with two men, Broatch and Forster. He ordered a small soda for himself and whiskey for the men who accompanied him. The drink was supplied. After she had supplied the defendant with the soda water, she observed that he was

very drunk, and told him he ought not to remain on the premises. The defendant refused to leave and used abusive language, but eventually she assisted him into his conveyance, as he could not walk alone. Other evidence having been heard, Mr Broughton, for the defence, said that the case arose out of the fact that the two people concerned were rivals in the district. The defendant denied being drunk, and said that when he was at Oakshawford Mrs Gibson asked where her husband was, he having driven him to Longtown in the morning, as the licencing session was being held that day. He replied in a joking way that he had left Mr Gibson at Longtown on "board wages". She became angry, swore at him, and bad language was used on both sides. In the height of the dispute she ordered him out of the house and he said he would go as soon as he had finished his drink. This he did. Mr David Little, innkeeper at Stapleton, said that the defendant was perfectly able to take care of himself when he left him. The Bench retired and on their return the Chairman said they had come to the conclusion that the defendant had been drunk and had refused to quit the premises. The fact that he was an innkeeper aggravated the case and he would have to pay a fine of £1 and costs. 67

1897 Longtown RDC: The Medical Officer reported upon the state of Clatteringford public-house, where the water was bad and the building itself in such a condition that he said the most radical change would be to have it pulled down and rebuilt. Mr Bell suggested that they should send a copy of the report to the Licencing Authority at Longtown, pointing out that a house like that was not a fit and proper place to have a licence attached to it. The Clerk said it might take a long time before the magistrates would have an opportunity of dealing with the licence. It was eventually agreed to send an extract of the report to the owner with a notice to make the house habitable within three months. 68

Longtown Petty Sessions: Joseph Gibson, Horse and Farrier Inn, Oakshawford, 1898 was summoned for non-payment of rates. Mr Hope, the rate collector, stated that a demand note for 12s. was served upon the defendant on the 7th May. Up until 1895 the public-house had been let along with the adjoining farm, but in 1895 the public-house and farm were let separately, the defendant taking possession of the public-house at that time. The tenant of the farm, however, continued to pay rates for the public-house until this year, when the properties were separately assessed. Mr Isaac Armstrong, manager for the Brampton Old Brewery, said that the defendant upon entering upon possession of the inn signed an agreement (produced) to pay all rates and taxes. The defendant had been served with notice to quit, but the Brewery Company were unable to get him out of the place. The defendant admitted that it was his signature which was upon the agreement, but asked "Where are the blank lines?" He had lived there three years in the place without paying rates, and he did not intend to pay rates while the place was in the condition in which it was. It was not fit to keep a pig in. Many a time he had turned the pig out of the parlour for fear it would be drowned (Laughter) Mr Armstrong said that the defendant would not allow the Brewery Company to make repairs, and it was for that reason they had given him notice to quit. He had sent a man ten miles to thatch the roof, and Mrs Gibson would not allow him to proceed. Mrs Gibson also sent word to him that if he did not send her £1 for allowing the straw to remain on the place she would throw it on the highway, and he had been obliged to give her the money. The Gibsons simply set law and order to defiance. Defendant: Mr Armstrong, I will come on you for 10s. a day after this if you do not lift the straw. The Chairman said they had nothing to do with the dispute between the tenants and sub-tenants on the present application, but the defendant would have to pay the rates and the costs (25s. 6d. altogether). The defendant paid at once.⁶⁹

1898

Brewster Sessions, Longtown: There are 29 fully-licenced and two beer houses in the division, and all the licences were renewed without opposition with the exception of that of the Huntsman Inn [should read Horse and Farrier], at Oakshawford, now occupied by John [Joseph?] Gibson, and owned by Mrs Waugh, of Clapham, London. Mr Bowman (magistrate) said that it had been brought to the knowledge of the District Council that the house was not fit to have a licence, and the tenant had made a complaint to that effect. Mr Cartner, who represented the Brampton Old Brewery Company, said that when the tenant was served with notice by the District Council immediate steps were taken to have the matter put right, but the tenant would not allow anything to be done, and had been served with a notice to quit. Mr Gibson ought to have left the premises last Candlemas, but was still there, and Mrs Carrick (owner of Brampton Old Brewery) was now taking steps to have him ejected at the earliest time, so the repairs might be done. The landlady had complained about the condition of the house, which they admitted was bad, but when they tried to put the house into order the landlady refused to let them. Mrs Carrick was now the absolute tenant and Mr Gibson was a sub-tenant, and as he objected to leave at Candlemas, notice had been given to him to leave at Martinmas, and if he did not go then steps would be taken to eject him. The Chairman said that if the house was not made suitable for a licence the magistrate would refuse to grant it. Mr Cartner said Mrs Carrick was willing to carry out the repairs required by the District Council, but the tenant would not allow her. Some materials were supplied to do some thatching, but the landlady refused to let them do the work and threatened to set fire to the thatch. The Clerk said Mrs Waugh, of Clapham, was the owner, and it would be a serious matter between her and the Old Brewery Company if the licence was lost through the house not being repaired. Mr Cartner said Mrs Waugh was the owner of the house and the adjoining farm, which was let to Mr Potts, who had let the house to Mr Gibson, whose tenancy expired at Candlemas, but the Old Brewery Company were not able to get him out then. Mr Gibson, who was present, said the Brewery Company had never sent anyone to do the thatching, and they could start tomorrow if they liked. Mr Cartner said Mr Gibson had a wife at home. Mr Gibson: But I am Master. Mr Cartner said his clients were willing to do everything possible. In the end the Bench decided to adjourn the case for a month, to give the parties opportunity of doing the necessary repairs, the Chairman remarking that if the repairs were not carried out it would be for the Bench to consider whether they would renew the licence or not.⁷⁰

1898

Longtown Petty Sessions: Mr Cartner again applied for the renewal of the licence of the Huntsmans Inn [sic], Oakshawford, Bewcastle, to Joseph Gibson. At the general licencing sessions a month ago the magistrates withheld the renewal of the licence for a month on the grounds that the house was not in sufficiently good repair. Mr Cartner now stated that the house had been thatched and spouted, the drainage had been improved and repairs had been carried out in the interior of the house. Except that the house had been thatched instead of slated all had been done to the house which could be done to improve it. Mr Hope, the Sanitary Inspector for the High District of Longtown Union, said he believed the house was in a condition which would satisfy the medical officer. Mr Bowman said the house was a very poor one, and in his mind not suitable for a licence, there being no accommodation whatever. Mr Simpson said that it would have to be enforced upon the owners that something would have to be done or the licence might be lost altogether. Mr Cartner said that the tenants, the Brampton Brewery Company, would take an opportunity of bringing the matter before the owners. Up to the present the sub-tenants, Mr and Mrs Gibson, who had notice to quit at

Martinmas, had stood in the way of improvements. The licence was granted.⁷¹

1901 Richard Mitchell, victualler and colliery owner. 72

1910 Richard Mitchell, Horse and Farrier Public House, Hawkshawford [sic].⁷³

A number of entries in the Carlisle Journal, e.g. 24 March 1891, show that it was then the aim of central government to reduce the number of licenced premises in the country as a whole, and that the local authorities were in agreement. At this time the Temperance Movement was very influential. During the Kaiser's War a large number of munition factories had been built to the north of Carlisle beyond the reach of the enemy at that time. They were mainly situated round Gretna. Out of concern for the workers' safety, Carlisle's pubs were nationalised. They were sold back to private owners in 1973.

1903 Longtown Licencing Session: The Chairman intimated that plans would be required from the landlord Richard Mitchell. The renewal of the licence was adjourned for three months.⁷⁴

Longtown Petty Sessions: Richard Mitchell renewed his licence. The Chairman, 1903 remarking on the structure of the house, said that they seemed to be going from bad to worse. The rooms in this case must be extra accommodation, but to his mind there was accommodation for neither family or visitors. Mr Cartner said that in spite of its small size, the Oakshawford Inn sometimes had distinguished visitors. Two years ago two of Lady Carlisle's daughters were caught in a storm and stayed there all night, and he believed they had been satisfied with the attention they received. The Chairman said there were really only two rooms, a but and a ben [a Scottish term for a house with two rooms only, separated by a cross-passage]. Richard Mitchell, the licencee, said he did not think any house in that part of the country had more visitors in the season than his. He had seen them have eight visitors overnight, when they had two beds in the parlour and one in the kitchen. The Chairman said that even by that arrangement there must have been four in a bed. As the house was well managed and well reported on, the licence would not be refused, but unless the accommodation was increased the licence would be in great jeopardy another year.⁷⁵

The above report roused a local resident, who signed himself "Bewcastler", to 1903 write to the Editor: Sir, it is a pity that the Longtown magistrates have resolved to continue the licence of this house for another year, and give it a chance to stand on its legs at the end of that time. The people of Bewcastle have long been of one opinion - that is, that it should be done away with. Whatever those interested may say about its distinguished visitors, and its accommodation, it is a mere shanty - a but and ben covered with straw, the like of which, as a licenced house, it would be difficult to find another in the country. It is at present conducted by a respectable pair, not so very long ago its record was not reputable. Its continuance is entirely uncalled for from the point of view of the present licencing laws and the wants of the community it sits in, as it is only about a mile from the licenced house at Roadhead. The population is only one-half of what it was 100 years ago, and onethird of this decrease has been in the last twenty years, and we are to be saddled yet, as for all these years, with five licenced houses in Bewcastle, and another just over the boundary line of the parish. This too, to a population of less than 700. Yours etc.⁷⁶

We may surmise that "Bewcastler" was a supporter of the Temperance Movement. However he appears to have deemed it prudent to remain anonymous.

1904 Longtown Licencing Sessions: Superintendent Lancaster said that something was ordered to be done last year to improve the inn at Oakshawford, but nothing had been done. Mr Cartner, Brampton, speaking on behalf of the owners, Mrs and Miss Waugh, said that the place was let on a seven years' lease which expired at Candlemas next. The owners wished matters left as they were until the expiration of the lease, if possible. The suggested improvements would only be possible if a new house was built. The house at present was very clean. There was a great difficulty in getting mason work done in Bewcastle last year, and it seemed as if the only method would be to bring in workmen from Newcastleton. The consideration of the renewal of the licence was adjourned for a month, when the plans of the proposed alterations are to be produced.⁷⁷

1904 The plan of the alterations to this inn having been submitted to the Council, at the request of Messrs Cartner and Milburn, Solicitors, Brampton, the same was examined and approved.⁷⁸

1915 Pub visited by Medical Officer. Mrs Mitchell was the occupier.⁷⁹

1921 Mrs Esther Pattinson, publican. 80

1925 Fred Pattinson, publican and blacksmith. 81

1929 James Graham, publican and blacksmith. 82

1934 Joseph Craig Little, publican. 83

1938 Horse and Farrier, with no occupant. 84

April 1944 Horse and Farrier listed.

March 2000 Horse and Farrier offered for sale for £35,000.

2003 Purchased by Mike Cole, in derelict condition.

Certainly from the late eighteenth century, and possibly long before, there was a thriving inn in the hamlet at Clatteringford; it may always have functioned also as a smithy. Trade was busy, with customers from the bell pits and the lime quarry, as well as travellers and the local community. The licencee had other resources; according to the census returns and directories he was sometimes the blacksmith, sometimes the joiner and sometimes a colliery owner. He could afford to organise Sports Days with handsome prizes. However a decline set in. Ash Colliery (bell pits) is marked as "site of" in a map of 1847 (Fig. 4b). This map shows that the west bank colliery had built its own smithy by then, leaving only passing trade for the old one. (The colliery's smithy is now inhabited by Mike Cole and his young family while he puts the Horse and Farrier in order). Later, the building of the bridge over the Black Lyne would have by-passed the ford and the track leading to it. Clatteringford became a backwater. The bridge is shown on the 2nd OS map but not the first. (figs (4b, 4c) No record of its building has been found, but it must have been before 1893, the time of the official visit previously described. During the nineteenth century Clatteringford became known as Oakshawford. The quarry was still supplying roadstone for local repairs during WW11 and probably afterwards⁸⁵ although the limeworks may have ceased earlier. The census returns (see earlier) show the decline of the local colliery, with its thin seam of coal. The much larger pits at Whitehaven continued until 1985, by which time most of the UK's coal industry had closed. On their removal to London the Waughs became absentee landlords and they may never have set eyes on the place again. The local population, like other rural populations in Cumberland and elsewhere, was in steep decline, as stated by "Bewcastler", above, and confirmed

HORSE AND FARRIER

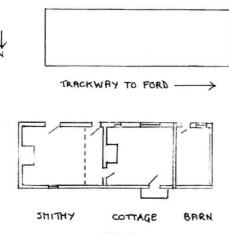
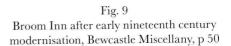
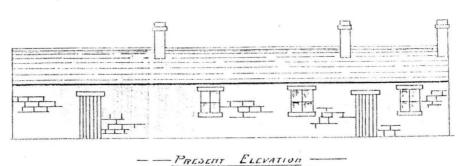
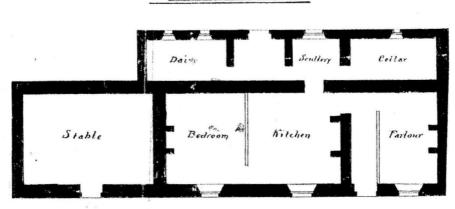


Fig. 8 Plan of inn, smithy, cottage and barn as in about 1850, based on Mike Cole's sketch



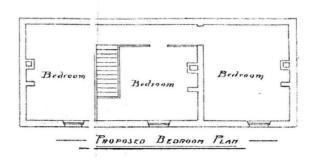




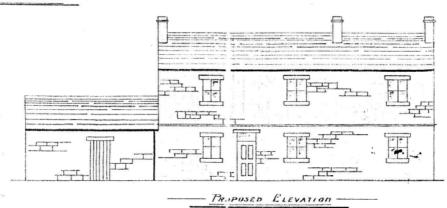


- PRESENT GROUND PLAN -

Fig. 10a Architect's plan and elevation of Broom Inn in 1903, before modernisation



Is inch to a Foot -



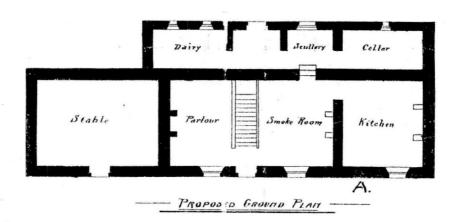


Fig. 10b Architect`s proposals for Broom Inn

by the census returns. At the same time standards of living and accommodation were rising. The dispute between the Gibsons and the owners was presumably due to a wish for a slated, rather than a thatched, roof. The inn's maintenance had been neglected, and it now seemed too small. Even though the building was repaired and extended in the first decade of the twentieth century, there was a rapid turnover of licencees; the takings must have been insufficient for a decent living. It was no longer a bustling inn, but a tiny rundown pub in a remote part of a remote parish. It was probably pressure from the environmental authorities that led to the building of the indoor toilets. It lost its licence in 1938, becoming a dwelling. In 1965 it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Winter and their three children. When the Winter family moved out in 1968, the building was occupied by a lorry driver who worked for George Nixon of Oakshaw Farm. The latter had bought it when the last of the Waugh sisters died in 1965.

There were once other waterside inns in Bewcastle:

Blackpool Gate (formerly Broom Inn) NY 533 776. This closed in 1964. The Broom Inn was known as Didgeree Diggory Venn after the reddle main in Thomas Hardy's "The Return of the Native". A similar trader in Stainton, Penrith, sold ruddle from a pram in the1930's. It was used for doorsteps and for marking sheep, and she was known as Ruddy Mary. Figs (9a, 9b) show the architect's plans for modernisation in 1903. An upper storey was added, with a new front door opening onto a flight of stairs, but the old front door remained in place. (Fig. 10) shows it after modernisation⁸⁶, and (Fig. 11) the house as it is today.



Fig. 11 Former Broom Inn today, now Diggory House

Greyhound Inn at Craggy Ford NY 496 779. Both this and Steppings Alehouse NY 544 749 have disappeared.

Rising Sun, Mirey Gate NY545 746. Here the line of the ford can still be seen, but the inn has gone. Mike Jackson has deposited a large amount of documentary information about these inns in the Reference Library in Carlisle.

There was also the Limekiln Inn, at Shopford (NY 564 744), a few yards over the boundary in Lanercost parish, under the shadow of the Castle. It is now a dwelling – indeed there are now no pubs at all in Bewcastle parish. A local centre is now provided by the parish hall at Roadhead, built by public subscription in 1908.

Social custom was clear. A local person says that over the years the functions of the various rooms of Limekiln Inn had varied with changing habits. Years ago her father would occasionally take her there as a little girl, but her mother would never have gone there. During the daytime men would visit the pub in their working clothes. If women went there they would be nicely dressed, and would sit together in a different room from the men. They had to be careful of their reputation. Similarly in London, the writer's mother would not have dreamed of going to a pub, though her father certainly would. During Hitler's war if she herself accompanied a boyfriend, it would be to the saloon bar, not the public. It was not acceptable to swear in the saloon bar and the prices were higher.

I have received a great deal of help in the preparation of this work, and I should like to record my thanks to the following: Margaret Bradney, Alan Bryant, David Bowcock, Barbara Clark and other staff of Carlisle Record Office, Ian Caruana, Mike Cole, Matthew Derbyshire, Mr & Mrs Drew, Chester Forster, Iver Gray, Jeremy Godwin, Barbara Grundy, June Hall, and particularly Mike Jackson, Dan Miles, Tom Robson, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Stephen White. Without their work it would not have been possible.

FOOTNOTES

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- CRO (C) DGN 1/4 16 CRO (C) DGN 1/4 17 18 CRO (C) Manor Court Book, No 952 CRO (C) Bewcastle Original Indexes, 1813-1839 p 129 19 20 CRO (C) Parish Records 21 Carlisle Journal 16 January 1808 22 CRO (C) Bewcastle Original Indexes, 1813-1839, p 22 23 CRO (C) QL 3/5 24 CRO (C) QL 3/5 CRO (C) QL 3/5 25 26 CRO (C) QL 3/5 27 CRO (C) QL 3/5 28 Bewcastle Original Indexes, 1813-1839, p22 29 Parson and White's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland, 1829, p 412 30 Carlisle Journal 27 July 1838 31 ibid. 6 October 1841 32 Census Carlisle Journal 2 October 1847 33 34 Mannix and Whellan's History, Gazeteer and Directory, 1847, p 589 35 Carlisle Journal 16 November 1849 36 ibid. 24 October 1851 37 ibid. 2 December 1859 38 ibid. 26 February 1867 39 ibid. 30 May 1879 40 ibid. 5 August 79 41 ibid. 1 October 1880 42 census 43 ibid. 7 October 1881 44 ibid. 24 March 1882 45 ibid. 30 June 1882 46 ibid. 27 July 1883 47 ibid. 19 September 1884 48 ibid. 30 April 1886 49 ibid. 26 August 1887 50 ibid. 25 July1890 51 ibid. 12 December 1890 52 ibid. 1 January 1892 53 ibid. 4 November 1892 54 ibid. 18 November 1892 55 ibid. 25 January 1892 56 ibid. 2 December 1892 57 June Hall, pers. comm. 58 Iver Gray, pers. comm. 59 Carlisle Journal 6 January 1893 60 ibid. 3 February 1893 61 ibid. 7 November 1894
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