

Grange-over-Sands

A History of Worship in Higher Grange



1907—2007
(Updated 2017)

We praise you, O Lord, at this time of celebration

- for the remembrance of your goodness to us as a parish;
- for all who have served the Fell Church over the last hundred years, and
- for its continuing worship and witness in our own day.

Accept our thanksgiving for what you have done;
take our lives as we now dedicate them anew to your
service; and prosper our endeavours to further Christ's
kingdom in the days to come,
For the glory of his name.

Amen

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Foreword
The Revd Ian Coomber
Team Rector
Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry

Across England (indeed across the world) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries there was a great upsurge in the building of Mission Churches to reach folk who did not have easy access to their parish church in the days before most people had cars.

Our little Fell Church was one of these, and over the last hundred years it has been loved and used as a witness to God's word by many folk, firstly as a place to worship and secondly as a venue for activities which built community and friendships. As I look out from the Fell Church vestry to that wonderful view across the bay before taking a service, I'm reminded of how many lives have been affected by this little building.

This short booklet is a tribute to them all, past and present, and to the service they have offered the Fell community. It is also a thank-offering to the Lord who has inspired all this worship and service across the years, and who continues to guide us today.

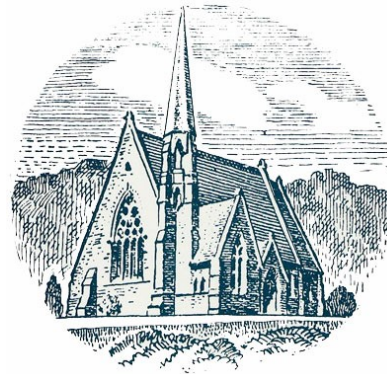
May you learn more of the Fell Church history as you read these pages, and grow in knowledge of the Lord who sustains us all.

Ian Coomber

Introduction

On the 26th April 2007 we celebrated 100 years of worship at the building now known as 'the Fell Church', and this booklet has been written to describe the history and background to this special place, known originally as the Fell Mission Church.

The Parish Church of St Paul had been built in 1853, when Grange was beginning to grow in size as wealthy people from the Lancashire cotton towns moved into the area, largely due to the expansion of the railway. Many of the large houses in the town were built at this time.



*The new Parish Church of St Paul
in 1853*

Development on The Fell

Around about 1865 two rows of terraced cottages were built on an 'allotment field', on the Fell Road, purchased from William Henry Shaw, a solicitor from Manchester. First to be built was the lower terrace comprising eight houses, numbered 1 to 8 Grange Fell, also known as Pleasant View. The upper terrace had a further 12 dwellings, known as nos 9-20 Grange Fell, or Mount Pleasant – no. 20 became the Post Office. A further row of houses, Beech Road, was built behind this upper terrace, and the two became known locally as Front Row and Back Row. Completing this development was Stone Terrace, which ran at right angles between nos 1-8 and 9-20 and led up to Beech Road or Back Row. The houses were offered for sale for £100 – or three for £270!



The new houses and their residents

The first evidence of residents in Higher Grange comes in the 1871 census, which shows that these houses were bought by local residents, by people who were moving into the town and setting up their own trades, and by men working as quarrymen and

stonemasons in the quarries at Eden Mount and Middle Fell Gate. Certainly some members of the families were employed as domestic and gardening staff in the large houses being built in the town. Various occupations listed for the cottagers in the census include gardener, milliner, dressmaker, fishmonger, gamekeeper, tailor, painter, photographer's apprentice, police constable, shoemaker, as well as quarryman and stonemason.

Living at no. 4 Fell Road in 1871 is Richard Wilson, a gardener/ agricultural labourer, with his wife Agnes and their family. He was the son of William Wilson who was Vicar of Field Broughton. Richard's granddaughter, Freda Burton, still lives in the same house! Her father, John Burton, bought nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 in 1924. She recalls the



The families who lived 'up the Fell'

the scouts camping in the ground opposite the houses, known as 'the lots', and collecting mushrooms there – this area was later developed into Council housing in Fell Close. Her grandmother, Agnes Wilson, ran a laundry business from the house.

A Worshipping and Caring Community

To minister to the families of this burgeoning community in Higher Grange, the resident of No. 7 Fell Road generously offered the use of his front room where services were held as early as the 1880s. From the 1901 census I believe the house belonged to Thomas Tyreman, a market gardener born in Yorkshire, and his wife, Margaret, born in Silverdale. They had two young children aged 9 and 3. The house was later owned by Mrs Nell Smith and her husband Wilson. This became known as the Mission or Church Room and was used regularly for worship, organised by Mr Isaac Hadwin until his retirement in 1888 through ill health. Services were held each Sunday - at 3 pm during the winter months, and there was a mothers' meeting on alternate Mondays at 3 pm. During Lent a series of lectures were organised by Canon Cooper (Vicar at the Parish Church 1888-1907) on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings. The parish magazine for April 1907 reports that *'during the winter the services have been uniformly well attended, especially by those in whose interest they are held, the sick and infirm who cannot go to Church'*, and *'the Communion of the Sick was celebrated in the Room at Christmas, and seven persons communicated; and again on Wednesday in Easter week, when the communicants numbered nine'*.

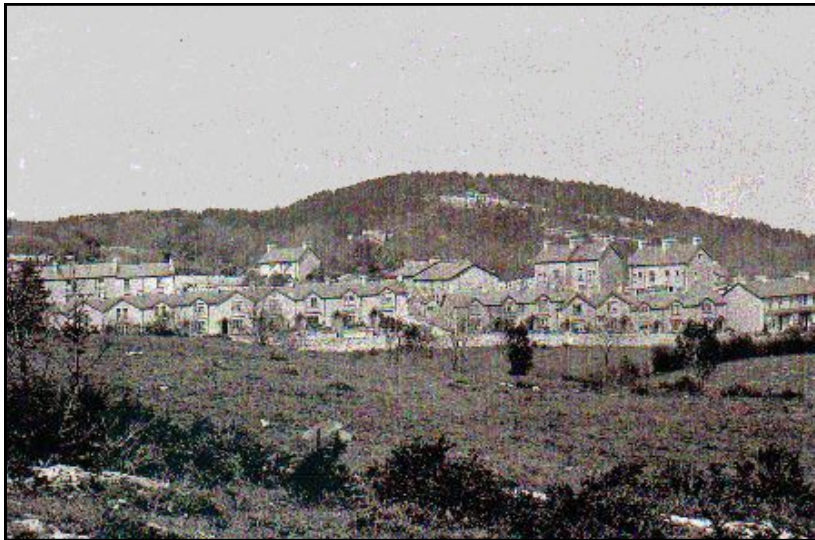


Richard and Agnes Wilson, the first occupants of no. 4 Fell Road (photo F Burton)

In addition to the religious services, the Room was used for secular purposes. The parish magazine for April 1906 reports that *'the Grange Fell Coal Club will begin again on Monday, 2nd April, at 5 pm, under the charge of Miss M Wanklyn and Miss Riley'*. Evidently the cottagers each paid into the fund, and when sufficient money was raised the coal was delivered to each household in turn.

The Mission Church

In late 1906 a Miss Sophia Mary Arkwright bought from William Blair a parcel of freehold land comprising 1,210 square yards opposite Front Row. This land was part of an *'inclosure of land numbered 602 on the Ordnance Survey Sheet Lancashire no. XVII-4, situate on Grange Fell near Grange-over-Sands adjoining the road leading from Cartmel to Grange'*. Work then started on the building which became known as the Fell Mission Church – a description on page 11.



The freehold land known as 'the lots', looking towards Fell Road with its new cottages, and with Yewbarrow in the background (photo F Burton)

All the building costs were met by Sophia, according to the wishes and in memory of her sister, Miss Henrietta Beck Arkwright, who had died on the 1st April 1906. A wooden plaque on the south wall is inscribed *'This room has been placed here in beloved memory of Henrietta Beck Arkwright and in furtherance of her earnest desire that those around might be able to join in a simple form of worship and hear the glad tidings of the love of God, our Saviour. This room was dedicated 26th April 1907'.*

The remainder of the parcel of land was to be used as a garden ground, and the area immediately behind the Church continued to be used as 'drying grounds' by the cottagers, and particularly by those who were laundresses. One can imagine the fine linen from the large houses down in Grange blowing in the wind!

Later on the land was split up into allotments for which villagers paid an annual rent; this practice has continued to the present day.



The completed building in 1907. The two men are father and son, both James Saunders, the joinery firm that has done most of the work on the building over the years (photo J Taylor)



The back of the Church showing the allotments, cellar and part of the drying grounds. 'The caretaker Mrs Murphy has the free use of the cellar' (parish magazine)

The story of the two Arkwright sisters, how they came to Grange and where they obtained their wealth, is an interesting one, and is attached in Appendices 1 and 2.

The April edition of the parish magazine in 1907 reports that *'By the generosity of Miss Arkwright, the new "Church Room" is rapidly being put up, and will be ready to be opened by the Bishop of Carlisle when he comes to Grange for the Confirmation on Friday, the 26th of April'.* The licence, dated 11th April 1907, for the performance of the Divine Services in the new Church Room was for the *'spiritual benefit and convenience of the Parishioners ... resident at a distance from their Parish Church'.*

The full account of the service which appeared in the May magazine one month later follows.

DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH ROOM, IN MEMORY OF MISS H.B. ARKWRIGHT

After the confirmation (at the Parish Church, when 55 candidates were presented, 33 from Grange), the Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Diggle, proceeded to the new Church Room, which has been built by Miss S.M. Arkwright, according to the wishes of, and in memory of, her sister Miss H.B. Arkwright, whom all Grange loved, and loves.

The Church Room has been built upon a stone basement, which forms a capital storeroom below, under the superintendence of Mr George Thompson, a resident on Grange Fell in former years. The clever and comely superstructure has been erected by Mr Wrinch, of Ipswich, who is a specialist in such buildings. It is all of wood, and roofed with American “cedar” shingles, which give a charming effect. A folding screen crosses the east end, to enclose, when not in use, the Holy Table and other adjuncts of Divine Service. When the screen is closed, the room can be used for other purposes.

Several handsome gifts have been made for use in the Service, by the Arkwright family, and some other friends.

On Friday, 26th April, on the arrival of the Bishop at 4.30 pm, the short service began with the singing of the Old 100th Psalm. Then followed the Lord’s Prayer, and the three collects of Evensong. The Lesson, Hebrews 6, was read by Canon W.H. Arkwright*, Rector of Highclere (Hampshire). The Apostles’ Creed was then recited, and the Hymn was sung, “Jesus where’er Thy people meet”. Then the Bishop solemnly dedicated the Church Room, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and in memory of God’s servant, Harriet [Henrietta] Arkwright. After which the Bishop said some Memorial Prayers and then addressed the people upon the meaning of this Service.

He told us how he believed that those in Paradise knew and were interested in all we were doing and that at such a time as this he felt that we could almost “see the invisible and touch the intangible”.

Very simply and beautifully he unfolded for us the teaching of the New Testament on the intermediate state, basing his words on the text “Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise”, and telling us that the penitent thief must have been conscious in Paradise, else how would he have known that the promise made to him had been fulfilled.

After suggesting the possible uses to which the Room might be put, he expressed the hope that nothing would ever be done in it contrary to the wishes of her in whose name it was dedicated.

The Room was filled with about 100 people, and some had to stand in the porch. At the conclusion of the Bishop's address, the 90th Psalm, "O God our help in ages past", was sung, and a collection was made, to provide fittings for the Room, amounting to £3 12s 7d, and the Bishop gave the Benediction.

Thanks were expressed to all who had helped to make the room ready, and not least to Miss Dearden who played the harmonium, and to Messrs Hudson and W Smith who acted as churchwardens.

The Dedication was one of the final services for Canon Thomas John Cooper, who retired to Staveley in Cartmel in August 1907, from where he wrote about the new

Church Room. *'It is a satisfaction to feel that the good ministry carried on in a cottage for many years by the late Mr Isaac Hadwin will go on in a pleasanter Room, given by generous friends. The Monthly Communion Service is full of promise.'* Canon Cooper died on the 25th January 1911 in Newton, aged 73.



Canon J T Cooper

* Canon Arkwright was the brother-in-law of Henrietta and Sophia. He had married his cousin, their step-sister Margery Bertha, and Sophia had lived with them before coming to Grange.



*Fell Road, about 1909,
looking up ...*

*... and down, with the Fell Church
on the right, and the road still
unmade (photos J Garbutt's
collection)*



*Laying the tarmac - with helpers!
(photo F Burton)*

Regular Services

After the dedication regular services took place in the Church. The June 1907 parish magazine reports:

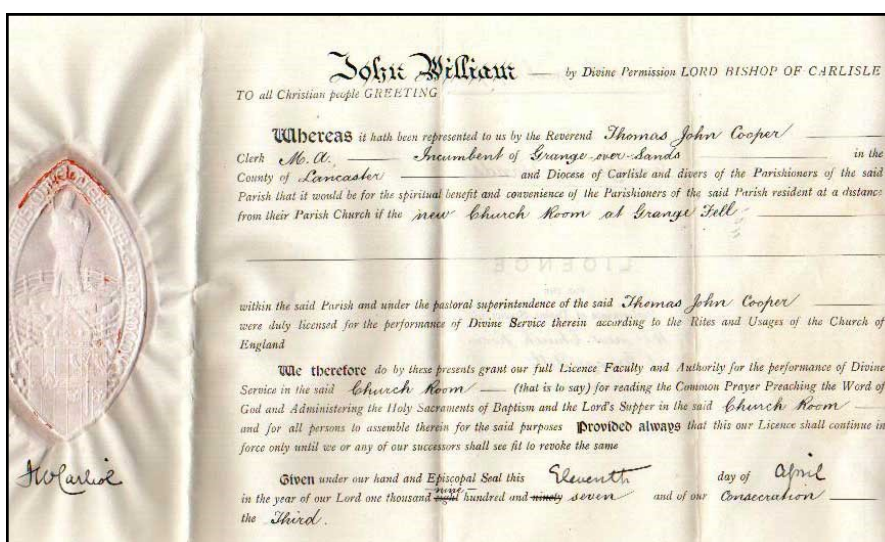
The services at the Church Room have begun, and are being fairly well attended. There has been one celebration of Holy Communion with 14 communicants, and last Sunday the congregation at the afternoon service numbered just over 20. We hope that all our friends on the Fell will make good use of the opportunities which

Miss Arkwright's great kindness have brought to them. Any other of our parishioners who are hindered from attending the services at the [Parish] Church, and find it possible to come up to the Fell in the afternoon will be very welcome indeed.

The services are:

2nd Sunday in the month at 11 am, Holy Communion with hymns and sermon

All other Sundays at 3 pm, short Service with hymns and sermon.'



The licence for Divine Service, dated 11th April 1907. The fees for drawing up the licence were 3 shillings for Diocesan Registrar and 1 guinea for Bishop's Secretary

As its popularity grew, two Holy Communion services were held each month, with Evening Service every Sunday. Mr John Postlethwaite conducted two services every month and the Vicar, the Revd Ivor Farrar, reported '*the weeknight services during Lent were splendidly attended and I trust the same will happen this year. I am getting special speakers*'. The Mothers Union met on Monday evenings at 6.30 pm.

In the year 1929 the number of services held was 29, with an average congregation of 22. The average collection per service was 5s 6d, 3d per person.

In Lent 1938, there was a series of talks at the Fell Mission Church each Thursday beginning at 7.30 pm, and the printed notice reads '*The bus leaves the Crown Hill for the Fell at 7.3*'.

The Church was not licensed for baptisms or weddings, but funerals have been held there, and indeed some wedding receptions!

Currently services of Mattins and Holy Communion are held on alternate Sundays at 9.30 am, using the Book of Common Prayer.

The Premises

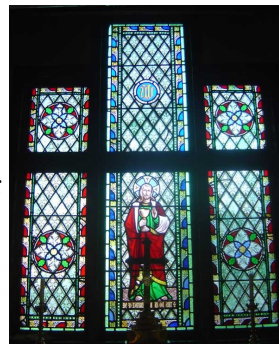


The east end decorated for Harvest - apologies for the poor quality of the photo but it does show the original east end with the 'cupboards' (photo F Burton)

At first there was a simple plain glass window at the east end, with a wooden 'cupboard' either side. The left one was used for the cleaning materials, while the Vicar emerged from the right one to take the services! The difficulties of robing can only be imagined from the photograph, which also shows the altar area decorated for Harvest Festival.

In 1934 when the Parish Church was being reordered and the chancel enlarged, the original east window from St Paul's was moved to the Fell Church, and was rededicated on the 4th October 1934. The room was heated by a coke stove, and lit by gas from the Grange Gas Company at Meathop.

The new east window



On the 27th September 1912 the ‘*land and Church Room situated at Grange Fell*’ were conveyed by Miss Sophia Mary Arkwright to the Carlisle Diocesan Trust and Finance Association. Attached to the Deed of Conveyance was a letter signed by Sophia and dated 24th August 1912: ‘*It had been my hope that a paragraph expressing the following wish should be inserted in this Conveyance; but as this is not permissible, I beg that a memorandum may be attached to the Deed embodying my earnest desire that the fittings of this Room and the Services should always be of a plain simple character; and, to ensure the latter, that at the Consecration of the Elements in the Holy Communion Service, the manual acts should be visible*’. This letter was witnessed by Alice Rhodes of Tavora House, Fell Road, the wife of the Revd D Rhodes, and Susan Hood, Sophia’s cook at Nutwood. A letter from William Dobinson, a solicitor in Carlisle, written to the Diocesan Trust Association, and dated 13th January 1913, refers to an endowment of £150 given by Sophia for the maintenance of the Church Room.



Revd Ivor Farrar (left) outside the Parish Hall showing the clock

Quite why this conveyancing to the Diocese was done in 1912 rather than 1907 is unclear – perhaps it was done at the same time as the Parish Hall which was built in that year, and for which Sophia laid the foundation stone. Did she give this land also? Under the terms of Sophia’s will, £100 was given for the repair and upkeep of the hall ‘*free from all death duties*’.

The clock which was originally outside the Parish Hall above the side door was later transferred to the Fell Church.

Refurbishment

In the early 1950s there was discussion about the building of a new and larger Church as the population living up the Fell had risen significantly with the new Council houses in Fell Close. However, it was finally decided to alter the existing building and between 1950 and 1953 there was much activity. The original shingle roof was replaced with slate, the 'chimney' stack was removed, and the outside was pebble-dashed. The overall length of the room was increased by one third to provide a clergy vestry, a kitchen with sink and cupboards, a room with two wash-hand basins and two lavatories, and an entrance porch. Water was laid on, and electricity heated the water that ran through the large pipes. The east end was altered - the 'cupboards' were removed and the area panelled with oak. An oak altar rail was installed, and curtains were hung to replace the folding screen so that the chancel could be closed off when the room was used for recreational purposes. Following the improvements, the building was rededicated by the Bishop of Penrith on the 30th March 1952. At that time the building was insured for £3,150.

Gifts

The interior has been beautified over the years as a result of a large number of gifts in memory of parishioners who have worshipped in and worked for the Church. Such gifts are described next.

- 30 feet of oak panelling for the chancel – a gift from Charles Parker of Grayrigge Hotel in memory of his mother and father.
- Lectern made by James Saunders & Son from surplus panelling in memory of Jimmie Saunders' sister, Hazel.



- Oak altar, prayer desk and stool – all made by Norman Gibbons, George Burton and Jimmie Saunders, master joiners employed by James Saunders & Son.
- Oak Communion rails – as above.
- Carved oak chair – in memory of Mrs Freeman.
- 18 yards of curtain material – given by Charles Wilson of Munton House.
- Altar Prayer Book – *'In memory of Marjorie Victoria Webster, 2.7.1900-2.2.1978 – a faithful member of the Church'.*
- Bible – *'In memory of Thomas Barber (1877-1939) and Florence Barber (née Burton) who died 26 July 1954 aged 71 years'.*
- Silver plate with feet – *'Given by Ivy B Smith in memory of her dear friend, Miss Alice L Du Gillon, died 20 July 1965, aged 99'.*
- Alms plate given by Margaret Stockley in memory of her mother and father, Ivy and Tom Robinson, and her mother's sister and husband, Lucy and Reg Atkinson.
- Brass book stand – *'In grateful memory of the Revd George Vickers -Gaskell' (1916-1934).*
- Silver wafer box – given by his wife *'In memory of Canon William Akam who often ministered in this Church, 1957'.*
- Silver communion tray in memory of Canon Butterworth.
- Silver flagon – *'In loving memory of Edith Anne Hooper, 1886 -1960' (the wife of Dr Hooper, GP, who lived on Eden Mount Road).*
- Chalice – given by Ann Taylor.



- Small wall-mounted wooden display cabinet – in memory of Rosa Horridge, died 7th February 1959.
- Upright piano (no. 2436) purchased by the Women's Fellowship.
- Outside noticeboard – made and given by Saunders & Son in memory of James (Jimmie) Saunders, died 19th November 1985.
- Cross given by Miss B Rigg of High Fell Gate Farm in memory of her parents for the outside of the Church – there is no evidence that this was ever erected.
- Hassocks – Mrs Ward.
- Harmonium.
- Hymn books – Ruth Longworth.
- Wooden bench, given by Mr G Rigg in memory of his wife, Doris, 7th October 1967.

Fifty wooden chairs with book racks were transferred from the Lady Chapel at the Parish Church when the new pews were installed there, and the brass altar cross and candlesticks (dated 1898) came from the Parish Church in 1959 when new silver ones were donated in memory of Miss Hannah Booth of Fernhill. A fireproof safe was also given from St Paul's.

Several of the side windows were replaced with stained glass in 1952.

- *In memory of Thomas Dixon (Nurse Holland's father) who died 3rd June 1951, aged 65'.*
- *'Given by the Fell Women's Fellowship, 1952'.*
- *In memory of the Revd Edmund Freeman MA and mother Matilda Chapman, both fell asleep 1951'.*
- *'Erected in 1952 by the congregation to keep in memory Chas C Bell who did so much for this Church'.*





Inside the Fell Church, looking east (above) and west (below)



More Recent Repairs and Gifts

By 1970 further repairs were required, and a restoration fund was set up to meet the cost. The red carpet was bought in 1974 from R & H Law, Main Street, and in 1976 woodworm was discovered! In 1993 the outside was repainted and the roof repaired when it became apparent that the slates were too heavy for the original structure. Cross ties were added to the ceiling joists. Overhead electric heaters were also installed at this time. Prior to the centenary celebrations the building has again been overhauled. Woodworm was rediscovered – less than 30 years since the last infestation – and this has been treated. The outside has been repainted, new underfelt has been laid under the carpet, and a new heater has been installed in the clergy vestry. More recent gifts have included:

- a glass water jug with silver stopper – Mrs Bryan Wade
- two wooden gates – anonymous donor
- organ – Mr J Cadwallader
- a wood offertory bowl – Mr John Turner in memory of his wife Jean.

Names Associated with the Church

Throughout its history the Church has been well loved and used, not only as a church but as a venue for beetle drives, coffee mornings, bring-and-buy sales and afternoon teas, as well as rummage sales and plays – all to raise money for its upkeep. Although not licensed for weddings, Hazel Saunders and Leslie Keats held their wedding reception there, as did Annie Smith and Harold Bielby. Many youngsters have passed through its doors and we hope their lives have been influenced by it. Sunday School was held there every Sunday afternoon and run by Mrs Boardman, Annie Walker and Ann Brennand, and Quest for the teenagers was run from there by Penny Ward and Lucy Hall. More recently the Church has been used by the Primary School.

A devoted band of people have served this little Church as ‘verger’ and caretaker. These have included Miss Firth, Mrs Lizzie Murphy who retired in 1954 after 28 years’ service, Doris Rigg, George and Doris Wood, Dick and Dorothy Clarkson, Mrs Drinkall and her sister, Mrs Margaret Dixon, Freda Burton and Nellie Brockbank. Special mention must be made of the devoted service given over many years by the Burton family - Freda, Joy and Jack – the grandchildren of Richard Wilson, one of the first residents and whose family have been faithful servants of the Church since it was built.

The Future

In 2002 the future of the Church was threatened by the proposed, development of the adjoining field for housing. The strongest representations were made to the planners about the access via Fell Road from this development, with reduced parking facilities and increased traffic causing difficulties, particularly on a Sunday morning and at the time of funerals. However, the plans were duly approved, and new houses built — now known as Higher Grange.

In 2006 the number of services held was 51 (29 in 1929), including one funeral service and three afternoon services for those who normally receive communion in their own homes. The average attendance was 23 (22 in 1929), and the total figure for weekly and other regular giving amounted to £6,869 (£7 19s 6d in 1929). It is interesting that, in spite of many attempts to close this Church as clergy numbers have declined, the numbers attending services in 2007 show a slight increase, and not only amongst the residents on The Fell. Faithful members walk up from the town, or travel by car and taxi. Undoubtedly some of its popularity relates to the use of the 1662 Prayer Book in most of the services, the ease of access, and the ‘*plain simple character*’ of the little room.

It is good to know that the Church is still being used for the sick and infirm (see bottom of page 7). Three times a year an afternoon service of Holy Communion is held when transport is provided to bring in people from the residential and nursing homes, with refreshments served afterwards. Is it coincidence or divine intervention that the day chosen for their Easter celebration this year (2007) is exactly the same as in 1907 - the Wednesday in Easter week, and that the date is the same as the date on the Licence - 11th April?



We pray that this Church will continue its witness as a place of worship.



The dedication to Henrietta Beck Arkwright inside the Church

Appendix 1
The Story of the Arkwright Sisters

Henrietta (1839-1906) and Sophia Arkwright (1841-1929)

This appendix attempts to tell the story of the Arkwright sisters, Henrietta and Sophia, and of the significant influence they – and their relatives – have had on both the secular and spiritual life of Grange-over-Sands. The story is a fascinating one, much of it gleaned from the censuses of 1841-1901, from archived material in minute and account books, from publications such as the Grange Visitor, the Grange Red Books and the Westmorland Gazette, and not least from first-hand accounts, particularly Freda Burton, Margaret Graveston (née Davis) and Lloyd Saunders. The present residents owe much to the Arkwrights and to their relations – it is amazing just how many of the early characters of Grange were related to them!

The two girls were born within 14 months of each other, Henrietta Beck on the 15th November 1839, and Sophia Mary on the 1st January 1841, the elder children of the Revd Henry Arkwright and his wife Harriet (née Thornycroft). Henrietta was born at Thornycroft Hall, Siddington, Cheshire, where her father was a chaplain to John Thornycroft, his wife's brother.



Thornycroft Hall, Siddington, Cheshire

The Thornycrofts

The Thornycroft family was first mentioned in the reign of Henry III, and took its name from the hamlet nearby. The hall was the seat of the family from earliest times until the death of Edward Thornycroft in 1815. He had no children and under the terms of his will the estate passed to his two surviving sisters for life, and then to his friend, the Revd Charles Mytton, Rector of Eccleston, Cheshire, and his children. When the last Thornycroft sister died in 1831, Mr Mytton duly succeeded to the Thornycroft estate, and, as required by the will, assumed the name and arms of Thornycroft. This Charles Mytton Thornycroft was the father of Harriet, who married Henry Arkwright, and of Sophia, who married Edward Massie (see below). His grandson (of the same name) sold the hall in 1910 before emigrating to Rhodesia. It was renamed Palliotti for a short period when it was a children's home and school run by nuns, and was opened in 1978 as a conference centre owned by the Siddington Trust, to *'encourage co-operation between those who share the same ideals of service to society, and to develop a centre for people of all nationalities and beliefs, and from all walks of life, which will provide them with opportunities for human, cultural, and spiritual development'*. The activities held at Thornycroft Hall are entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.

The Arkwrights

Henry Arkwright, the father of Henrietta and Sophia, was born in Cromford, Derbyshire, in 1811 and Harriet Thornycroft, their mother, in Cheshire in 1806 so she was five years older than her husband. She bore him four children, before dying in 1844 giving birth to their only son, Henry John. In the next census in 1851, Henry is Vicar of Bodenham, Hereford, and his wife is Ellen, nine years younger than him. The family are living at the Vicarage, and there are now seven children, four girls and three boys, plus seven servants, a house-keeper, a butler and a governess, so we can deduce that the family was not without means!

In the 1861 census the youngest boy is not mentioned, but there are five more children, one boy and four girls, all of whom have been born in Bodenham, apart from the last two who were born in Torquay and Clifton – did Ellen return to her mother or some other relative for their births?

By 1871, Henrietta and Sophia, now aged 31 and 30 respectively, have both left home, but I can find no record of where they are living. From Church reports, however, we do know that both women were in Grange in 1879 as they helped with decorating the Parish Church for Christmas. At Christmas 1880 only one of them helped! Their father, now aged 70, is still at Bodenham Vicarage in 1881, but not in 1891. In the 1881 census Henrietta is listed as a housekeeper for her uncle by marriage, Edward Massie (1807-1893), a *'retired clergyman of the Church of England with no cure'*, living at Nutwood in Grange. Sophia is with her step-sister, Margery (1854-), and her family. Margery's husband, Canon William Harry Arkwright (1848-), is the Vicar at Rowsley, near Bakewell, in Derbyshire. She married her cousin, and so retained the surname Arkwright.

In 1891 Henrietta was still housekeeper to her uncle, but after his death in 1893 Henrietta moved to live at Eggerslack House, where she was joined by her sister, Sophia. She presumably bought the house from a Mrs Cairns (see page 33). They are *'living on own means'*, with a lady's maid, a cook, a sewing maid, parlourmaid and housemaid. It is interesting to speculate on how they came by their 'means' (see Appendix 2 which reveals the answer). Judging from the wills of the two girls, it appears that Henrietta, being the eldest child, inherited from her mother's estate on



Henrietta Beck Arkwright

the Thornycroft side of the family. Her will was written in 1889, and amongst various legacies she left £1000 to her uncle, Edward Massie, so she was certainly not dependent on him. On her death in 1906, her estate was valued at £35,661 1s 3d – a very considerable fortune in those days.

The two sisters were very generous to the town and district, and were well loved and respected. In 1886 Henrietta subscribed to the fund for enlarging the school, and was one of the ladies in charge of the bazaar to raise money for purchasing the new school playground. A Red Book for 1905 records *‘The Misses Arkwright – ever mindful of the wants of those in humbler circumstances in life – again very thoughtfully entertained the aged inmates of the Ulverston Workhouse to tea and other delights at Eggerslack’* and on Empire Day, 24th May, they gave the children at the primary school nuts and oranges!

On the 1st April 1906, Henrietta died, aged 67. The newspaper report in the Westmorland Gazette states that she had been confined to her room for some time by a bronchial attack which developed unexpectedly into pleurisy and pneumonia. *‘The deceased lady was much respected in Grange both for her personal worth and her ready generosity. She took*



Eggerslack House (used as a military hospital for wounded soldiers of the 1st World War) (photo Mackereth's Furness Year Book for 1899)

a great interest in all matters affecting the moral and social well-being of the district, and was always foremost to assist any good cause or deserving person. It was partly owing to her instrumentality that a "village nurse" was established in the place, and she was treasurer to the nurse fund from its commencement many years ago. She was also secretary to the local branch of the Scripture Union, which owes its existence to her interest and zeal. She will be greatly missed by all classes of society.' The Parish Magazine reports 'Of Miss Arkwright's bounty and thought for Grange and its people and its wants one can hardly speak adequately: it is not written in the books of earth, but of heaven'!

Henrietta left the majority of her estate to her sister, Sophia, who later bought the land and gave the money for the building of the Fell Church as a memorial to Henrietta.

In November 1911, reference is made to the building of a Parish Hall, and plans for a bazaar to raise funds for the Hall and for the re-building of the Parish Church. The Hall was to be built first as a venue for services while the Church was being altered. The bazaar raised £511, a site was purchased on Kents Bank Road, and the foundation stone was laid by Sophia on the 19th July 1912.



The Parish Hall and its foundation stone. When the hall was sold in 2015 the stone was removed to the garden at St Paul's

At the Harvest Festival service at St Paul's in 1914 *'a lady member of*



the congregation wiped off the deficit of the building costs' – could this have been Sophia?

Sophia eventually sold Eggerslack House, and moved across the wood to Nutwood in 1910, the earlier home of Henrietta. During this time, her coachman was a Mr Steen, who lived in the Lodge at the bottom of the drive, with the horses stabled next door. He and his wife adopted a little girl, Marguerite (1894-1975), who became the noted novelist and playwright. Once the motor car appeared in Grange, Sophia sold the horses and bought her own machine - her chauffeur was Fred Davis (father of Margaret Graveston).

Sophia was a talented artist and exhibited her work at the Art Exhibitions held annually in the Victoria Hall. She was President of the Nursing Association, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Church Missionary Society. She frequently held meetings in her drawing room at Nutwood, and entertained visiting missionaries. She was the founder of the CMS medical missions working party, and of the Scripture Readers' Union, being secretary for many years. She died on the 21st August 1929, quite unexpectedly, at the age of 88. According to the Westmorland Gazette, *'Miss Arkwright had suffered*



from heart weakness for some time, but apart from this she Sophia Mary Arkwright (left) with companion (photo Margaret Graveston)

enjoyed good health and was able to take regular outdoor exercise. On Saturday evening her companion saw her to bed and left her saying her prayers by the bedside. On returning shortly afterwards she found Miss Arkwright had passed peacefully away. The town has lost one of its leading and most esteemed residents.' Listed among those attending her funeral was her cousin, Colonel Thornycroft, DSO.

Sophia's estate was valued at £37.413 11s 1d, and amongst her many bequests were the following.

'My jewels, ornaments of the person and wearing apparel, household linen and glass and books and pictures to my sister Margery Bertha, widow of the Revd William Harry Arkwright

All my silver with the Mytton crest to Ruth and Freda, the two daughters of my cousin, Charles Edward Thornycroft of Highfield, Exmouth, Devon

My electroplate with the Arkwright crest on it contained in a small box to my nephew Charles Harry Arkwright'

- £500 Medical Missions Fund of the Church Missionary Society
- £1000 British and Foreign Bible Society
- £200 Church Pastoral Aid Society
- £100 St Luke's Hostel for Clergy
- £100 Colonial and Continental Church Society for work in North-West Canada
- £100 Carlisle Diocesan Church Extension Society for augmenting the endowments of the Poorer Clergy of the Diocese
- £500 Carlisle Diocesan Trust Association to be invested and income applied towards the repair and upkeep of the Church Room, Grange Fell
- £100 Trustees and managers of the Parish Hall, Grange
- £100 Kendal County Hospital
- £100 School of the Indigent Blind at Leatherhead
- £100 London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews

£100 Church of England Zenana Mission Society
£100 Milmay Medical Mission Hospital at Bethnal Green

The remainder of her estate was to be divided between any surviving sisters, her cousins and her nephews and nieces.

Both sisters are buried in Grange Cemetery, not far from the graves of Canon and Mrs Smith.

One wonders whether there was a particular reason for the sisters' interest in building the Fell Church. One possibility is that they were concerned for the grandchildren of their gardener! While the two sisters were living at Eggerslack, their gardener was a James Saunders who lived in Eggerslack Garden. He had come to Grange, presumably in search of work, with his wife and only child, a son also called James, who was a carpenter. This James married in Grange Parish Church Catherine Sedgwick, the daughter of George, the Queen's guide across the sands for over 40 years. He set up the joinery firm which still operates in Grange under the great great grandson of the first James Saunders, Lloyd (also the Undertaker) and his son Ian. The third generation James bought three of the cottages, himself living at no. 18, and Lloyd was born at no. 14! These cottages are directly opposite the site of the Fell Church, and the Saunders family has been much involved both in all the joinery and carpentry work that has been done and in the life of the Church over the years.

The Revd Edward Massie (1806-1893)

Edward was born in Chester in 1806. He had a distinguished university career at Oxford, where his contemporaries included Henry Wilberforce, Lord Selborne, Cardinal Manning and William Gladstone. He was elected Ireland scholar in 1828. He also attended Durham University, before becoming a parish clergyman in the village of Gawsworth, Cheshire, and in 1851 he and his wife, Sophia

(Thornycroft, born 1806 in Eccleston, Cheshire), both aged 43, are living there, where he is Curate. In 1872, after his wife died, Edward retired to Grange, living first at Sandyfield (also known as Andyfield, and Handyfield, and now the Hampsfell House Hotel),



Nutwood. This later became a hotel, then the Bayview Nursing Home, and was finally converted into private flats

before moving across Hampsfield Road and into Nutwood in 1881, where Henrietta joined him. This property was built somewhere between 1866 and 1870; it appears for the first time in the 1871 census, with Mary Cairns (née Miller), a widow of 58, as the householder, living on *'income from dividends'*! She later moved from Nutwood to Eggerslack, where she was living in 1890.

Edward was very active in his retirement. He conducted services at both the Parish Church and at the Fell Church. *'It was his especial pleasure also to pay pastoral visits to the sick and aged, visits which were much prized by them.'* In 1889 he established the fund for the 'Grange Sick Nurse' and was much involved with the Working Men's Institute, where in the same year he generously provided a library of 500 volumes and a reading room with newspapers and 'good' magazines. He became President of the Institute in 1891.

There is a fascinating story about the original pulpit in the Parish Church, which the Editor of the Grange Visitor described as *'perhaps the worst piece of furniture in the Church'*. The Vicar, Canon Smith, launched an appeal towards the cost of a new one. Edward Massie proposed that *'if the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Paul's would accept a pulpit of a plan which I fancy and approve, I should be most happy to pay the difference between the money now in hand and its total cost'*. The Vicar replied

that he could not possibly accept the offer unless the plans were first submitted to himself and wardens. There the matter rested! Money was collected by subscription and through a box placed at the Church door, and eventually the new pulpit was installed. It was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in the renaissance style, but was considered too severe in its simplicity, so it was enriched with Gothic ornamentation by Paley and Austin of Lancaster. The deficiency in the final account was eventually made good by Edward Massie!

According to his obituary notice, *‘Mr Massie will be best remembered in Grange by his habitual works of unostentatious charity to many cases of need and sickness among all classes’*. He died in Grange at the age of 87. His body was taken back to the churchyard at Gawsworth to be buried with his wife, and at the time of the burial a short service was held in St Paul’s, Grange, and for that hour from 2-3 pm the tradesmen of Grange closed their shops as a token of widespread regret and genuine respect.

His estate was valued at £9,496, and was shared equally between Henrietta and Sophia, the nieces of *‘my late dear wife’*.

The Revd Henry Robert Smith (1822-1896)

The Vicar in Grange at this time was Henry Robert Smith (1822-1896), and he too is believed to be another uncle of the two Arkwright sisters, although I have found no evidence. He was born in 1822 in Preston, where he lived with his elder sister, Nancey (born 1808) until his marriage to Emily Frances Swainson (1835-1892, also of Preston), 12 years his junior. He studied at Brasenose College, Oxford, and was appointed to Grange in 1858, the second incumbent at the Parish Church.

Grange was quite small at that time – the railway had arrived one year previously - and he saw it grow from a hamlet to a prosperous and fashionable resort. He was responsible for its fuller name! His post

often arrived late, because the Post Office mixed up Grange in Lancashire with Grange in Borrowdale. This so frustrated the new Vicar that he called together the elders of the town and said that Grange should change its name. The elders reluctantly agreed and the story goes that the Vicar glanced across the Bay and suggested that Grange should henceforth be known as Grange-over-Sands.

Henry Smith stayed at Slack House on Windermere Road until the new Vicarage on Fell Road was completed in late 1858. His elder sister, Nancey, also moved to Grange, and in 1861 is listed as a landholder living in a '*private house, Grange Village*', near to the parish church. Henry had another sister, Elizabeth (1808-), who married one Richard Arkwright (1801-), a grocer living at Fishergate Hill, Preston. They had two girls, Ann Eliza and Mary Jane, both of whom lived at times with Nancey. In the 1841 census Ann aged 3 is living with Nancey, while Mary is with her parents. In 1851 both the girls, now aged 12 and 15 respectively, are pupils at a Clergy Daughters School in Lytham, and by 1861 Ann is back with Nancey. By this time Mary Jane has married – and here is another interesting facet! Hers was the first wedding to take place at St Paul's – in 1858 – when the Revd Henry Smith married his niece Mary Jane Arkwright to Gilbert Edward Smith. One of the witnesses at the wedding was a Thomas John Cooper (1838-1911), who later married Mary Jane's sister, Ann Eliza – also at St Paul's in Grange, and went on to have 11 children! More interesting, however, is the fact that Thomas Cooper replaced Canon Smith as the third incumbent of Grange, and served here for 19 years before retiring on account of his deafness.

Canon Smith served in Grange for 30 years, where he and his wife were well loved and respected. He was appointed Rural Dean, and an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral. Like Edward Massie, Canon Smith was a great benefactor to the town. He encouraged adult education when he '*rented a room from Richard Graham and supplied it with good literature*'. With mortgages from his friends and relations in

Preston, in 1866 he purchased a site in Main Street from James Simpson Young of Abbot Hall, Kents Bank, and built a block consisting of two shops with a large room above in which to hold meetings. With further mortgages he subsequently acquired the whole building and opened it as the Working Men's Institute, with facilities for billiards and chess and an on-going programme of lectures. He was the Chairman of the committee to raise funds for the Enlargement of the Grange National School in 1886-87, and himself donated £100. He also gave generously to the Parish Church. In 1861 he gave £100 towards the building of the north aisle, and a further £50 when the south aisle was being built. In 1862 he gave a *'carved capital to one of the pillars, a brass gas standard and two brass coronas'*.

Canon Smith suffered from continuous bouts of ill health. In 1877 he spent six months away from the parish, and in 1879 went to Bournemouth for three months. Finally, in 1888 he resigned his living



after a long illness and moved to Clifton, Bristol, with his wife and family, to stay with one Esther Smith, a lodging housekeeper. Presumably this was another relative. A stained glass window in the east end of the Lady Chapel at St Paul's was *'erected by the parishioners to the glory of God and in grateful memory of Canon H R Smith's 30 years of faithful ministry in this Church, May 1888'*. In 1890 Canon Smith and his wife visited Grange as guests of Mrs Cairns at Eggerslack House, and he was reported looking *'better for the rest he has been able to enjoy since his resignation of the work in the Grange parish'*.

In November 1892, Mrs Smith died at Clifton, and there is a touching account of how her body was returned by train to Grange for burial. On arrival at the station '*after being placed on a bier and covered with a violet pall, it was borne through the village in the deepening gloom*' to St Paul's where it was placed before the chancel steps. A succession of watchers – comprising '*young and old, rich and poor*' – relieved one another every two hours throughout the night, and short prayers were said at intervals. Mattins was said at 7.30 am and Holy Communion celebrated at 8 am when a good many parishioners were present along with the family. At 10.30 am the burial service began and the trades people of Grange marked their respect by closing their shops, as they had done when the procession passed from the station to the Church. On leaving the Church the coffin was placed on '*Mr Westwood's float as the family desired to avoid the use of a black hearse. The carriage was covered with the violet pall and dressed with evergreens. Four clergy preceded the body, and the sons of the deceased followed on foot, and there was a long file of carriages. So the procession wended its way up the hill to the gates of the new cemetery.*' She must have been some lady!

Canon Smith himself returned to Grange, where he died four years later on the 2nd December 1896, as testified by a brass plaque in the Parish Church. He was presumably living with his son, Henry Eden Smith (1865-1940), who had remained behind in Grange when the rest of the family moved to Bristol on his father's retirement from the incumbency. Educated at Exeter College, Oxford, Eden Smith carried on his father's contribution to the enlightenment of Grange. He was involved in numerous organisations, and chairman of many of them. He was a member of Grange Urban District Council for 35 years. He was also President of Grange Amateur Operatic Society, choir master at St Paul's for seven years, president of Grange Choral Society, a Founder President of the Lecture Society, and President of the Literary and Scientific Society. He married Blanche Michaelson, a member of the Michaelson family (originally of Cartmel, later of Barrow) after whom a bridge and street in Barrow are named.

Appendix 2

The Source of the Arkwright Wealth

(These facts are taken from a book 'The Arkwrights – spinners of fortune', which was brought to my attention by John Beckett)

For those who have been interested in the story of the two Arkwright sisters, Henrietta and Sophia, I have now discovered how they came to be so wealthy! They were the great great granddaughters of Sir Richard Arkwright, whose spinning machines revolutionised the manufacture of cotton, and who was the founder of the modern factory system, the creator of a new industrial society that transformed England.

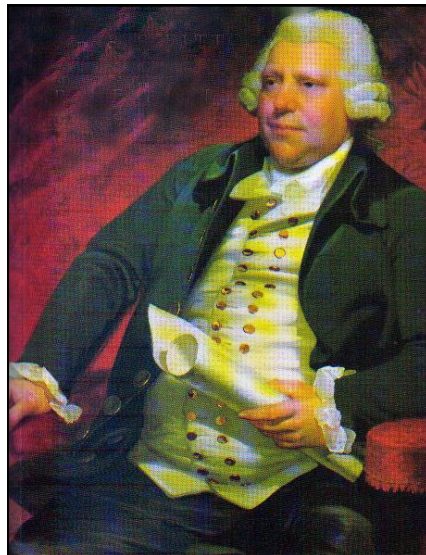
Richard was born in Preston in 1732, the sixth of seven children born to Thomas Arkwright, a tailor, and his wife Ellen Hodgkinson. He received little formal education and was apprenticed to a barber until 1750 when he moved to Bolton-le-Moors. He spent 18 years there working for a wig-maker, and 'shaved chins for a penny'. He had a love of gadgetry and was a genius with mechanics, and went on 'invent' spinning by rollers. In August 1771 Richard began to build in Cromford, Derbyshire. Here he created the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill - a vital step towards full-scale factory production. The mills at Cromford with their powered machinery, large workforce and factory village became models for others throughout Britain and abroad. For the Victorians who learnt so much from his example, Richard Arkwright earned the accolade 'Father of the factory system'. His achievements are acknowledged throughout the world. In Germany, at Cromford (just outside Dusseldorf) and in the United States, at Pawtucket in New England, the first mills using Arkwright's technology have been restored and preserved as museums. In this country, where the story began, the same process is underway. The importance of Sir Richard's achievements in Cromford and his partners' developments further south was recognised in December 2001 when UNESCO listed a 24 kilometre stretch of the Derwent Valley between Matlock, Bath and Derby as a World Heritage site - the

ultimate confirmation of Cromford's place in the cultural history of the world.

A self-made man he built and acquired mills, land and property, and in 1780 his activities had expanded to Derbyshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire and Scotland. In the early 1800s his firm employed over 1800 workers. His achievement was to combine power, machinery, semi-skilled labour, and a new raw material to create mass production, more than 100 years before Ford.

Richard lived at Rock House at Cromford, Derbyshire, perched high and overlooking his mills. In 1786 he began the construction of a more stately home, Willersley Castle, at Cromford, which became his descendants' principal home up to 1925. (It is now owned by the Christian Guild.) That same year he was knighted by George III, and in 1787 he became High Sheriff of Derbyshire. He married twice, first to Patience, the daughter of property-owning schoolmaster, Robert Holt. Patience was the mother of Richard's only son, also named Richard.

Sir Richard died in 1792 at Cromford and was buried in a vault beneath the altar of the chapel at Cromford that he had built. From little or nothing, in just over 20 years he had made a fortune entirely in cotton. His wealth at the time of death was rumoured to have been 'little short of half a million', most which his son inherited.



His son Richard, born in 1755, was no less lacking in business acumen. He carried on the Arkwright businesses, acquired further mills, and, in his

concern for the health of his workers, he introduced improved methods of warming and ventilating his mills. With his profits from cotton spinning he acquired several large estates, and invested heavily in Government stock. At the time of his death he was the largest holder of such funds in the country, and was reputed to be the richest commoner in Europe! He died a far richer man than his father, with an estate estimated at over £3 million.

He married Mary Simpson, by whom he had 11 children, five of them boys. His wealth enabled his sons to enter the higher reaches of landed society, and their progeny were educated at Eton or Harrow, followed by Christ Church, Oxford, or Trinity College, Cambridge, before entering careers in the church, parliament, the law or the army.

His third son, Peter, was born on the 17th April 1784 at Bakewell where his father owned the spinning mill. The family moved to Rock House, Cromford, after Sir Richard died in 1792, and moved into Willersley Castle when it was finally completed in 1796. Peter was educated at Eton, and was the only boy not to go to university (his brothers all went to Trinity College, Cambridge). Instead, Peter stayed at Cromford and joined his father in running the family mills. On 2nd September 1805 he married his cousin Mary Anne, the daughter of Charles and Susanna Hurt of Wirksworth. His father gave him £500 on his marriage and made him his business partner. Two years later he gave him £3,000 for furniture. Peter and Mary had 16 children, 13 of whom survived childhood. Henry (father of Henrietta and Sophia) was their fourth son, born at Cromford on 26th March 1811, and baptised in Cromford Chapel. He, too, was educated at Eton, and went on to Cambridge, where he played cricket for the university. In 1842 he was appointed by his uncle John Hungerford Arkwright (of Hampton Court) as Vicar of Bodenham, Hereford. The existing parsonage house was not considered suitable so in 1843-44 a new house was built. The family moved into the house in 1850 and remained there until Henry's death in 1889. Of forbidding appearance, but in a correct and

symmetrical Tudor style, the Revd Henry Arkwright had difficulties with the running costs, and certainly no clergyman with an ordinary stipend could hope to manage, and so it was disposed of early in the 20th century. The church was thoroughly restored in 1891 after Henry's death, as a memorial to him, at a cost of over £4,000.

In 1897 four almshouses were erected in Bodenham, costing about £1,700, by Sophia Arkwright in memory of her father. The houses were endowed by Sophia and her sister with money producing about 5 shillings per week for each occupier, together with a supply of coal (Extract from Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire, 1913). They were intended as accommodation for three aged widows and a nurse to care for them and others in the parish. Three of the houses were single-storied but the nurse's had an upstairs. The property was sold in the early 1980s and became separate dwellings.

Another point of interest, Mrs Mary Cairns (mentioned on pages 27 + 33) was the sister of Thomas Miller of the large cotton sheeting firm in Preston, Horrockses, Miller and Company.

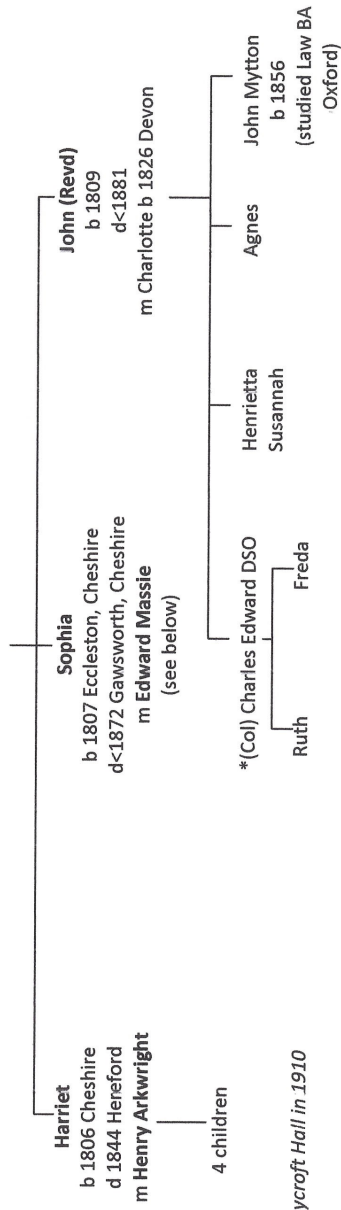
She was also the sister of Eliza Horrocks who had married Samuel Horrocks, the nephew of the founder of the firm. Eliza, by then a widow, lived at Merlewood from 1858 to 1872. Mary's husband (born in Liverpool) died after they had been married only 5 years. The 'dividends' she was quoted in the census as living on presumably came from the Preston firm.

Shown here is the Arkwright crest devised for Sir Richard – Sophia mentioned her 'electroplate with the Arkwright crest' in her will – page 31. For further details of the Arkwright family, see www.cromfordvillage.co.uk/arkwrights.html



THORNYCROFT

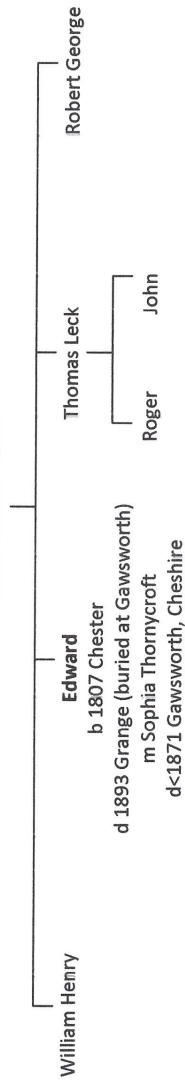
Charles Thornycroft (actually Mytton) – clerk

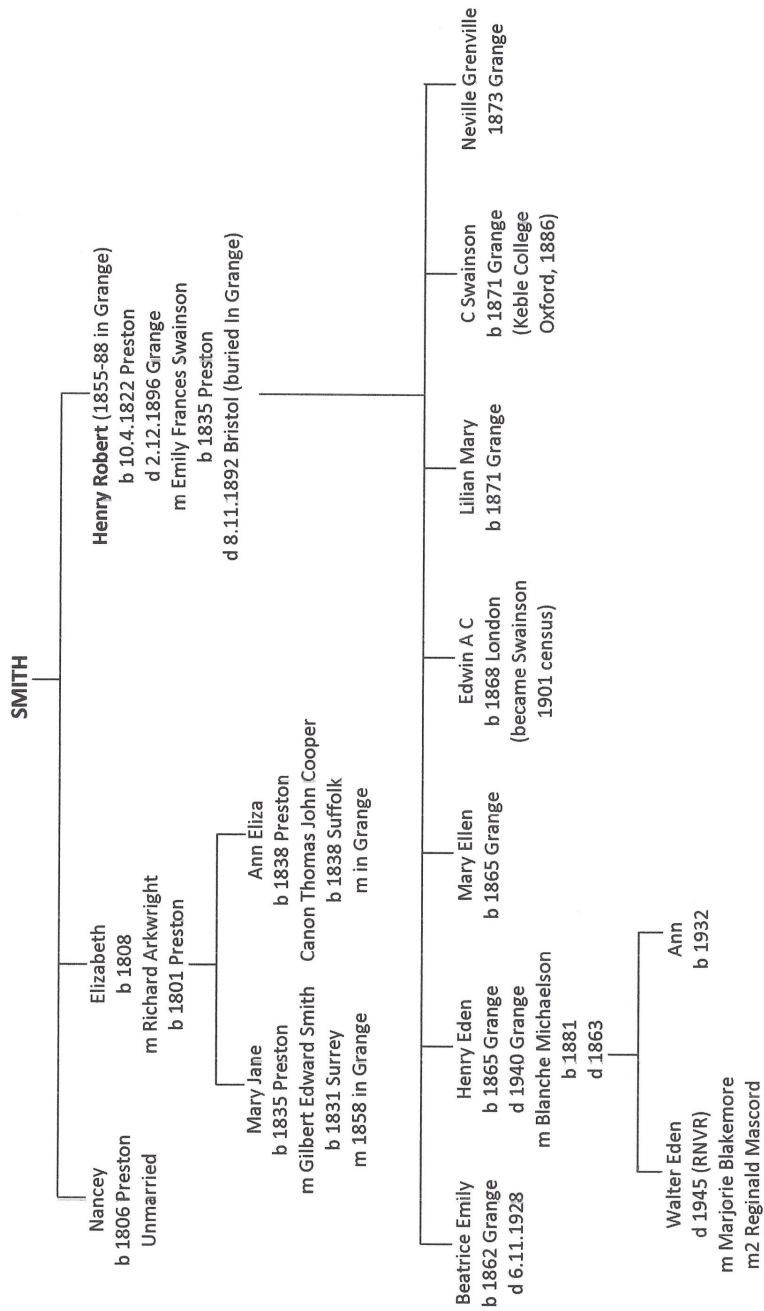


*He sold Thornycroft Hall in 1910

MASSIE

Richard Massie – clerk





ARKWRIGHT



Much of the material from which this booklet has been compiled has been taken from the Grange and District Red Books, Parish magazines and Minute Books for St Paul's, Grange-over-Sands, the Westmorland Gazette, and the UK Government Census records. Copies of birth and marriage certificates have been obtained to verify certain facts, and wills of Edward Massie and the two Arkwright sisters. Thanks are due to those who have provided first-hand accounts and shared memories, particularly Freda Burton, Margaret Graveston (née Davis) and Lloyd Saunders, and also to Barbara Ramsden, Mollie Bell and John Beckett who have helped me in this task.

I apologise if I have omitted any person or fact which should have been included, and also if any of the assumptions I have made prove incorrect. I shall be happy to make good the material, which is all held on disk and can therefore be readily updated.

Penny Ward