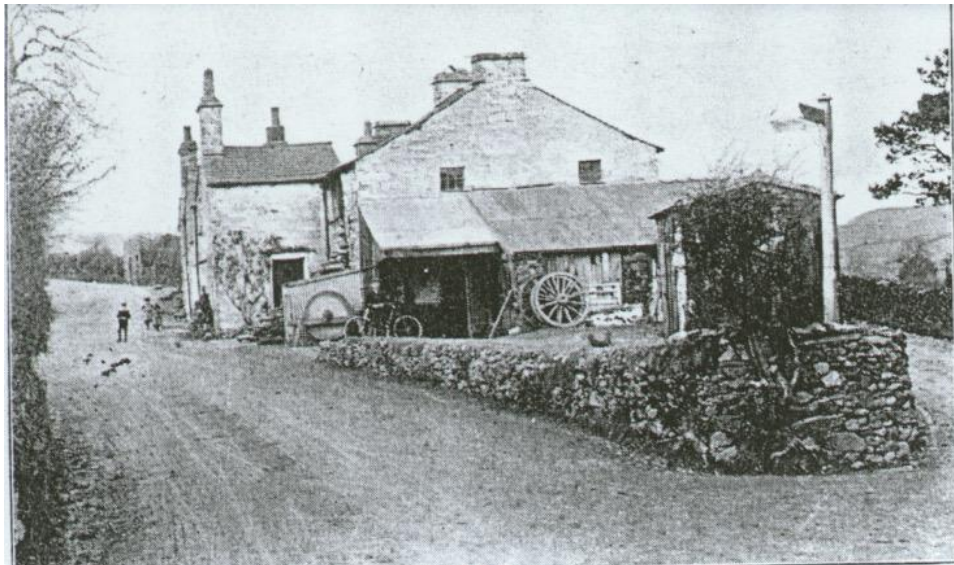


# Broughton Beck



Some random notes collected by Andrew Holmes-Higgin over the years.

June 2022

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## PART 1 – Early History

The first written reference to Broughton Beck is in the "Furness Coucher" manuscripts of 1276 and 1346 written by the monks of Furness Abbey, in which it is referred to as "Broughtonbec". The origin of the name is unclear, and although the beck that runs through the village is likely the reason the settlement developed there, it has no connection or relationship to the town of Broughton several miles away to the northwest.

The beck is actually named "Moor House Beck" (not Broughton Beck) owing to its source high on Kirkby Moor near Moor House, though before it reaches the village it has merged with the stream that runs through Hollow Lane Gill, as well as Whins Beck which originates north of Moor House. The combined flow continues as Moor House Beck until the Mansriggs area, where it merges with Newland Beck and continues as Newlands Beck until it reaches the lower reaches of the River Leven at Arrad Foot, just a short distance before it reaches the Bay.

It's located in a sheltered part of the central valley of the Furness peninsula, between the ridges of Kirkby Moor to the west and Gawthwaite Moor to the east. It's also the place at which two of the very early foot and packhorse trails through the area intersected.

In medieval times, travelers and goods moving between Furness Abbey to their landholdings in Coniston and the fells beyond would have had to pass north through this valley, either along what is now the B5281 or along a much older trail higher up on the western slope of Kirkby Moor, which ran from Dalton past The Rake and Hawkswell farms and on towards Lowick.

Anyone entering Furness from the rest of Lancashire, if wanting to avoid the dangerous sands of Morecambe Bay, would have been crossed the River Crake at the ford at what is now Penny Bridge, and from there, they would have had a choice of either continuing along the coast down to Ulverston across boggy and marshy land, or heading up across Gawthwaite Moor above Penny Bridge and then down through Broughton Beck to the main trail running through the central valley which is now the B5281. So a lot of foot, packhorse and carriage traffic would have gone through or past the village of Broughton Beck.

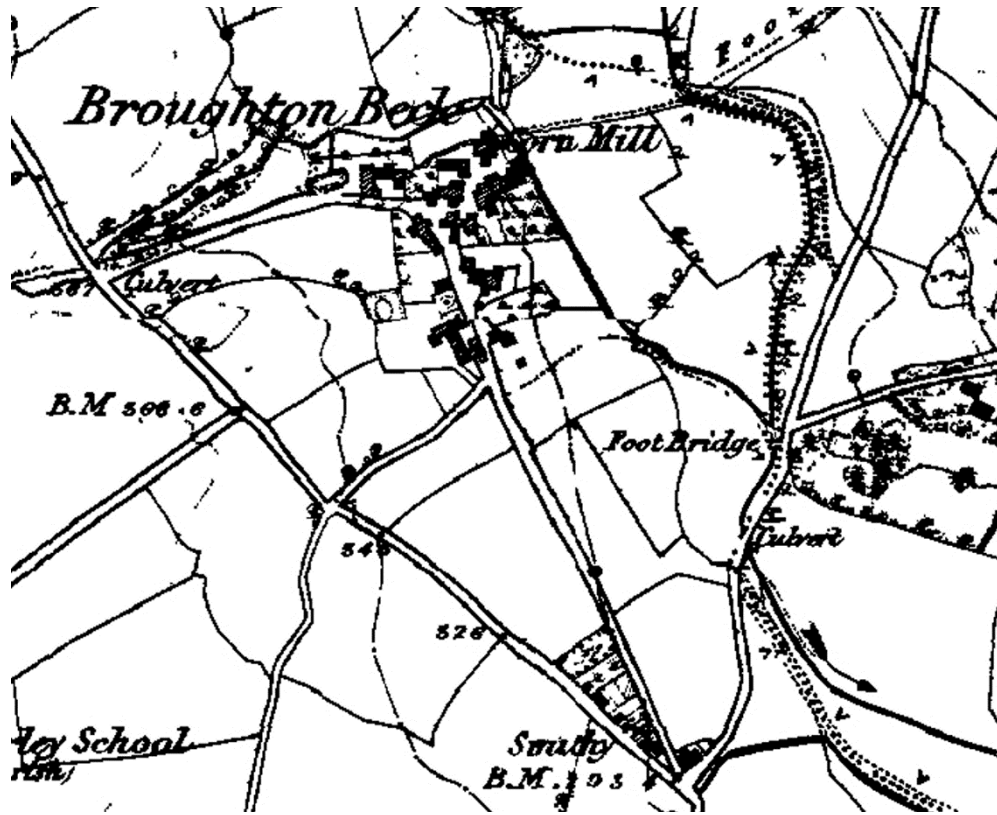
Penny Bridge is first mentioned in the 1276 Furness Coucher manuscript under its early name of Tunwat. It mentions "*a magno vado de Craich quod dicitur Tunwat --- et sic usque in Broctunbec.*"

Translated from Latin, the complete section describes a piece of land "*from the great ford from Craich, which is called Tunwat, to the hedge of William de Dunnington and thus by following the fence as far as Broctunbec, and thus by ascending through Broctunbec as far as the boundaries of Alan de Stainton, and thus through the boundaries of Alan of Stanton to the boundaries of William de Turs, and thus by its boundaries as far as the bank of Craich, and thus following the bank from Craich to the ford of Tunwat*".

The boundary of this piece of land would have started at Penny Bridge then gone over Gawthwaite Moor to Broughton Beck, then "ascending" through Broughton Beck up to what is now the B5281 road, then down into the Ulverston area, then back up the coast to Greenodd, and then back along the Crake to Penny Bridge. This boundary would have followed the lines of 13th century tracks, which still exist to this day as paved roads and lanes.

On the 1846 Ordnance Survey map below, there is a point next to the Foot Bridge over the beck where the two lanes heading east out of the village towards the Crake Valley diverge, although the road across the beck was a short distance south of that and is marked as "culvert". Until the 1800s there was probably just a shallow ford at that point. Nevertheless any crossing of a river or beck would have been at the narrowest and shallowest point. Which explains why the two paths to/from the Crake Valley meet at that point. One heads north over the low hills of Gawthwaite Moor towards Lowick Green, the other east over to Penny Bridge.

Sylvan's Pictorial Handbook to the English Lakes (1847) describes the route for travelers heading south towards Ulverston, when at Lowick: "Here the road branches off in two directions to Ulverston; to the right, through the hamlet of Broughton Beck, over Gawthwaite Moor; the other follows the course of the river Crake, passing a cotton factory at Spark Bridge, to Penny Bridge, where it enters the Leven, near the village of Greenodd".



The point where the north/south trail along the middle of the valley, now the B5281, intersected with the trails coming over Gawthwaite Moor would explain the historical location of the Broughton Beck Smithy and the Inn, both located at the "triangle" where the two routes met, some distance to the south of the rest of the village. Both the Smithy and the Inn were located there to take advantage of traffic coming and going along both routes. Whereas the rest of the village developed around the Mill several hundred yards further north.

The 1851 Mannex Guide to Westmorland says "At Broughton Beck are a corn mill, a sickle manufactory, and a few other trades." The 1851 Census lists farmers, an innkeeper, a blacksmith, a miller, a joiner, a shoe maker, and a maltster as being resident there.

The census records from 1841 through 1911 include a number of slate quarrymen and their families, who were likely transient, never appearing on the census more than once. It was a hard and dangerous job even beyond the grueling 6-mile round-trip every day to and from the Kirkby slate quarries.

The census has been helpful in understanding who lived in Broughton Beck during those years, and their occupations, unfortunately the census-takers rarely identified the homes they visited, and they were not visited in the same order each time, so it's been very difficult to determine who lived in which buildings.

## PART 2 – Local Enterprises

### The Corn Mill:

At some point in time a Corn Mill was established in Broughton Beck, there being a reasonably steady supply of water year-round from the flow of Moor House Beck for a water wheel to power the grinding stones. A mill pond was located uphill a short distance to the west, to provide a steady supply of water during drier spells, and the vertical distance giving sufficient force to turn the water wheel. The Mill was likely the first structure in the village, the other buildings developing around it over time.

"Corn" in the English usage refers to whatever is the main cereal crop of the area, whether wheat, barley or oats. Not to be confused with the American usage of "Corn" which refers to Maize (the yellow thing we know as corn-on-the-cob) and which was introduced to England only relatively recently.

**Below** - "The Mill Race" - from the North Lonsdale Magazine, 1898. The stream can be seen below the two boys standing above it.



**\*1841** The 1841 census for Broughton Beck lists Edward Birkett aged 45 as a Miller. It's unclear whether he was the owner or a tenant.

**\*1845** A notice in the Westmorland Gazette of 6 December 1845 states that various properties were for sale as the result of the bankruptcy of Charles Wilkinson of Ulverston, a beer and wine merchant. One was "*A Water Corn Mill situate at Broughton Beck aforesaid, in the township of Osmotherley, in the said county, with the Drying Kiln and Appurtenances thereunto*". The notice states that it was in the occupation of Mr. John Clark, a tenant.

**\*1851** The 1851 census lists John Clark as a Miller and Farmer.

**\*1855** An 1855 newspaper notice mentions John Clark, Miller. Also Samuel Park aged 14 as a Miller, likely an Apprentice.

**\*1861** The 1861 census lists John Clark aged 55, as a Miller and Farmer. Thomas Gaskell aged 35, is also listed as a Miller.

**\*1871** The 1871 census lists the abovementioned Thomas Gaskell now aged 45, a Miller and Farmer of 20 acres, living at Broughton Beck Mill and Farm. Presumably he took over from John Clark who would have died or retired by this time. The census also lists Thomas' son, also named Thomas, aged 13.

**\*1881** The 1881 census lists Thomas Gaskell now aged 55, Miller and Farmer of 30 acres, living at Mill Farm. Also his sons Thomas now aged 23, and Ephraim Gaskell aged 15.

**\*1891** The 1891 census lists Thomas Gaskell now aged 65, a Miller, and his son Thomas now aged 33 as a Miller's Assistant. The Electoral Register of that year lists his eligibility to vote as being his "*three customary freehold houses, bakehouse and buildings*".

**\*1901** The 1901 census lists Thomas Gaskell Senior, now aged 74 as a Corn Miller, and Thomas Gaskell Junior, now aged 43, also a Corn Miller.

**\*1911** The 1911 census lists Thomas Gaskell now aged 53, at The Mill House, a Corn Miller and his family, which includes his son Harold aged 19 listed as a "Carter for Corn-Miller". Also at another address is another son Albert Gaskell aged 27, a Journeyman Joiner and Wheelwright, who later inherited the Mill and sold it to the community in 1937.

**\*1924** The 1924 Kelly's Directory of Lancashire lists Thomas Gaskell as a Miller at Broughton Beck.

The Mill eventually fell into disuse in the 1920s. My father who spent time in Netherhouses in the 1930s and early 1940s remembers it being disused at that time.

*\*From the Egton, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish website: "Properties adjacent to the Hall have deeds going back to the mid 18th century. One property even predates this and was reputedly a smugglers' den in the 16th century. Between 1890 and 1937 the building is referred to as a malt kiln and in the basement is an old metal oven or heating unit branded with the name of Allbright Ulverstone. The owner then was an Albert Gaskell (joiner) of 34 Fountain Street Ulverston, who on the 20th May 1937 sold it to the parish of Osmotherley for £70 in order that it would be used for the education and benefit of adults and children living in the said parish. Local people at the time donated time and building materials so that it could be converted into a village hall. The first chairman of the committee was Col H Kennedy and the first secretary was Mr William Higgin".*

The story of the smuggler's den is not as far-fetched as it might sound. Greenodd was just 3 miles away and was a very active port in the 1700s and 1800s, and ships visited from far away, occasionally carrying a few slaves if the stories are true, and almost certainly bringing in contraband rum and whatever else would fetch a good price.

The Mill is now known as the Mill Room and is occasionally used for village functions.

## Broughton Beck Farm:

The farm is located in the main part of the village. The 1911 Ordnance Survey Map labels the cluster of small buildings as such.

\*1810 The notice below was published in the Lancaster Gazette of 11 August 1810.

Also all that FARM, consisting of two good Dwelling-houses, with commodious outhouses, and 85 acres, or thereabouts (statute measure) of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Ground, conveniently situate at Broughton Beck, about two miles distant from the market-town of Ulverston, and adjoining to the Mansriggs Hall farm, and now in the occupation of the said John Carter and others, as farmers thereof.

\*§\* Mr WILLIAM RIGG, of Falls, near Mansriggs Hall, will shew the premises; and of whom, or at the office of Messrs. DICKINSON and SON, solicitors, in Ulverston, further particulars may be had.

\*1812 The notice below was published in the Lancaster Gazette of 21 March 1812.

**BROUGHTON BECK.**  
**TO BE LET,**  
**BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,**  
**FOR A TERM OF YEARS,**  
**A**LL that ESTATE or FARM, situate at Broughton Beck, only two miles distant from the market-town of Ulverston, Lancashire; consisting of two good Dwelling-houses, commodious Outhouses, and eighty-five acres, or thereabouts, of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Ground; with an UNLIMITED RIGHT of PASTURE and TURBARY on Osmotherley Moor, late in the occupation of Mark Jackson, deceased.  
Immediate possession may be had of the land, and the houses at May-day next.  
\*§\* For further particulars apply to Mr. WILLIAM RIGG, of Falls, near Ulverston, who will shew the premises.  
FEBRUARY 29, 1812

\*1861 The 1861 census for Broughton Beck Farm lists John Park aged 44.

\*1871 The 1871 census lists John Park now aged 54, a Farmer of 251 acres.

\*1881 The 1881 census lists William Higgin aged 49, a Farmer of 251 acres, employing 3 men. And his son George aged 15. John Park likely retired or left, and William Higgin assumed the tenancy of the farm.



**\*1884** An article in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser newspaper dated 11 September 1884 included the following story:

**"LOWICK BRIDGE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
REPORT OF THE JUDGES OF GENERAL STOCK.**

*The object of this prize is intended specially to encourage yeomen and tenant farmers to possess themselves of a thorough rent-paying class of live stock adapted to the district. 2. Special importance should be attached to dairy cattle possessing the following distinctive rent-paying features : deep milking propensities (supreme importance); aptitude to fatten, and early maturity, in combination, in preference to faultless form and touch, but lacking rich milking proclivities. 3. The character, number, and suitability of the sheep, horses, calves, and pigs to be duly considered. 4. The number of cattle, sheep, &c., compared with the size of the farm to be particularly noted. We award the first prize to Mr. William Higgin, of Broughton Beck, who showed us upon a farm of 152 acres (of which 26 acres are white and green crops) the following livestock: - 15 milch cows, 3 milking heifers under three years old, 7 calving heifers under three years, 4 yearling bullocks, 10 yearling heifers, 17 calves; total, 57 head of cattle ; 3 brood mares with foals, 2 work horses, 2 cobs, and 2 yearling colts; 101 sheep, 1 ram, and 2 pigs. This stock answered our instructions more fully than any we saw, in that the milk cows were a very good lot and well adapted for the dairy; and the farm the best stocked in proportion to the acreage".*

**\*1901** The 1901 census lists George Higgin aged 35, a Farmer. In the next house was his father William Higgin, a Retired Farmer aged 69.

**\*1908** William Higgin died in May 1908. Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser said "*Mr Higgin, who had overstepped the allotted span by six years, will be remembered as a typical English gentleman of the old school, a keen agriculturalist, and the friend of all*". A longer article in another issue of Soulby's described the "Impressive Funeral". It added that he had occupied the farm for about 22 years and was a keen exhibitor at local agricultural fairs, and a breeder of prize-winning poultry. He was buried in St John's church with a very large number of mourners in attendance from all over Furness.

**\*1911** The 1911 census lists George Higgin aged 45, a Farmer (as well as a Horseman, a Cowman, and 2 labourers. And his son Thomas aged 14).

**\*1913** Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser of 25 September 1913 published a notice stating that C.L. Blundell Esq. of Liverpool was selling a valuable "Agricultural and Sporting Estate" totaling about 540 acres, and bringing in an annual rent of £613. The properties included Broughton Beck Farm, a shooting and grazing allotment adjoining Kirkby Moor of 97 acres, Mansriggs Hall Farm, Alps Farm, Newland Green Farm, Mansriggs Allotment, Alps Wood and Outrake Plantation. It added that the farms were all well tenanted, and that the estate would be auctioned as one property, or in pieces. The auction took place on October 8th. Broughton Beck Farm was sold to F.J. Crossfield J.P. for £5,500. The shooting and grazing allotment was sold to William Butler of Dalton on behalf of Lord Richard Cavendish of Holker Hall for £1,200.

**\*1924** Kelly's Directory of Lancashire lists George Higgin still farming at Broughton Beck.

**\*1935** A photo and story in the Daily Mirror newspaper dated 18 April 1935 reports on twin foals being born to a mare at Broughton Beck Farm, a very rare occurrence.

The farm continues to operate to this day. I don't know who is the owner or tenant though.

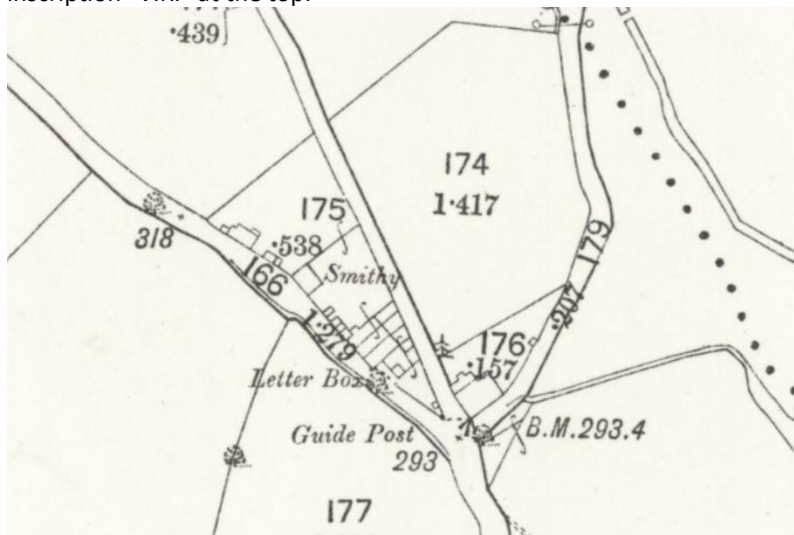


## The Village Smithy:

**The Village Smithy** is shown below in an 1898 photograph in the North Lonsdale Magazine. It's one of the buildings on the left, according to old Ordnance Survey maps of the time. The building in the foreground was the Joiner's shop, and cart wheels and even a bicycle can be seen. At some point between the 1940s and late 1960s a small petrol station and shop occupied the location immediately to the north of the Smithy, which closed in the 1970s. Now it's a private residence.



The 1889 Ordnance Survey map below clearly shows the Smithy. I believe it's named "Whinsbeck Cottage" now. The "Letter Box" shown on the map is the exact same red letterbox in that location today, which still bears the inscription "V.R." at the top.



**\*1841** The 1841 census for Broughton Beck lists Thomas Towers aged 55 as a "Smith". And also Edward Fleming aged 25 as a "Black Smith".

**\*1851** The 1851 census lists Thomas Towers now aged 65 as a "Black Smith". And Edward Fleming aged 37 as a "Blacksmith" living at Croft End.

**\*1861** The 1861 census lists Edward Fleming, now aged 47, as a Blacksmith.

**\*1870** Notices in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser states the Inn is For Let, along with the Smithy. *"Inn and Blacksmith's Shop. To Be Let, With Immediate Possession. Either together or separately. The Fox Chase Inn, also the Blacksmith's Shop in the occupation of E. Fleming, situate at Broughton Beck, near Ulverston. Apply to E. Fleming, Broughton Beck, or to W. and T. Robinson, the Gill Brewery, Ulverston".*

**\*1871** The 1871 census lists at Broughton Beck Cottage Joseph W Cornthwaite aged 27, a *"black and white smith"*. Also in Broughton Beck is Edward Fleming now aged 57, a Retired Blacksmith, and his mother Mary Fleming, a widow aged 85.

**\*1875** An advertisement in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser on 14 October 1875 is for a *"Blacksmiths' Shop, Dwellinghouse, and Garden to be let"*. It says it was previously occupied by Mr. Edward Fleming. James Lesh of Hollowmire is identified as the owner.

**\*1876** Below: Notice in Soulby's on 22 June 1876. Thomas Coward has now taken over the Blacksmith business and is advertising his services.



**\*1881** The 1881 census lists Thomas Coward, who is now the Blacksmith, aged 29. Also his son John aged 3.

**\*1888** A notice in Soulby's on 16 August 1888 mentions the sale of Hollowmire Estate with related properties at Broughton Beck, including the Smithy and the Joiner's Shop. The Smithy is listed as still being occupied by Thomas Coward, the Joiner's shop by James Smith.

**\*1890** A notice in Soulby's on 3 July 1890 states: *"To Let, a good Smithy, House, and Garden adjoining, situate at Broughton Beck; immediate possession. Apply, John Tyson, Ben Cragg, near Broughton Beck."*

**\*1911** Bulmer's Directory of Furness and Cartmel lists Alfred Vick as an Engineer and Cycle Repairer in Broughton Beck, though it's not known where he lived. Possibly in the old Smithy? There's no further mention of Mr. Vick.

## Joiner / Carpenter Workshop:

It was likely the building in the foreground below, from the 1898 North Lonsdale Magazine. The recent photo below that one shows how little it has changed in over a century. Note the cart wheels and even an old bicycle in the foreground.



The same view today (below).



**\*1851** The 1851 census lists William Smith, a Joiner aged 51, living at Croft End, along with his son James aged 26. Also living at Croft End was William Redhead, a Shoemaker. Croft End is the building directly across the lane to the right of the workshop in the photograph.

**\*1855** James Addison Smith, Joiner of Broughton Beck, married Mary the eldest daughter of John Rigg, Yeoman, of The Falls, Mansriggs.

**\*1871** The 1871 census lists Elizabeth Smith aged 43 a widow, "Mistress of Joiner's". There are no other immediate family members listed. This suggests James Smith had died recently, though it appears the widow's name was Elizabeth and not Mary as mentioned in the wedding announcement from 1855.

**\*1872** A Notice in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser on 25 July 1872 states: *"To Be Let, Joiner's Shop, at Broughton Beck; Rent, including taxes, £6. As to lathe, benches, and other working plant on the premises, easy arrangements may be made by applying to Mr. William Hird, Newbiggin, near Ulverston"*.

**\*1874** A Notice in Soulby's on 19 March 1874 states: *"Edward Cleminson, Cart & Wheel Wright, &c., Begs to state that he has entered upon the Joiner's Shop, at Broughton Beck, where he hopes, by care, attention and moderate charges, to obtain a share of public support"*.

**\*1875** A Notice in Soulby's on 1 April 1875 states: *"Edward Cleminson, Joiner, Broughton Beck, Begs to state that he has taken, and will remove at May-day next, to the premises occupied by Mr. John Fisher, at Broughton Beck, where he will continue his Business as heretofore, and solicit a continuance of public patronage"*. In the 1871 census John Fisher occupied the smaller farm in Broughton Beck.

**\*1881** A Notice in Soulby's on 23 June 1881 states: *"To Be Let, a Joiner's shop, house, &c., at Broughton Beck; the house well adapted for a Grocer's Shop. Apply to David Pickthall, Broughton Beck; or William Penny, Lane Head, Lowick"*. The Census taken later that year lists James Smith aged 56, a House Carpenter employing 2 boys. One was his son Joseph, aged 17.

**\*1888** A Notice in Soulby's on 16 August 1888 concerns the sale of Hollowmire Estate with related properties at Broughton Beck, including the Smithy and the Joiner's Shop. The Smithy is listed as being occupied by Thomas Coward, the Joiner's shop by James Smith.

**\*1895** The Kelly's Directory of Lancashire lists James Smith as a Wheelwright in Broughton Beck.

**\*1901** The 1901 census lists Joseph Hartley Smith as a Joiner and Wheelwright. And Albert Gaskell his nephew, aged 17, a Joiner's Apprentice. The photo at the top of this section shows his workshop two years earlier.

**\*1910** The Bulmers History and Directory of Furness and Cartmel carries the advertisement: *"Established over a century. J. H. Smith, Joiner, Wheelwright and Undertaker, Broughton Beck, near Ulverston. All classes of agricultural work a speciality."* A description of the funeral of William Holmes in 1907 mentions *"The arrangements were efficiently carried out by Mr. G.H. Smith, Broughton Beck"*.

**\*1911** The Bulmer's Directory of Furness and Cartmel lists Albert Gaskell as a Joiner in Broughton Beck. His uncle Joseph Hartley Smith, is listed as a Joiner and Wheelwright, still at Croft End Cottage.

**\*1924** The Kelly's Directory of Lancashire lists Joseph Smith as a Wheelwright at Broughton Beck.

I have no further information on the Joiner's Shop beyond this point.



## The Fox Chase Inn:

The **Fox Chase Inn** was located on the "triangle" at the southern end of Broughton Beck just to the right of the lane that runs to the rest of the village. Like the Smithy and the Wheelwright's business, it took advantage of its location at the meeting point of two main trails along which a lot of foot and packhorse traffic would have passed since Medieval times.

The Inn was likely this building, Croft House. A croft is a fenced or enclosed area of land, usually small and arable, and usually, but not always, with a crofter's dwelling thereon.



The name of the Inn suggests there may have been a Fox Hunt active in the area at one time, though I don't find any published records of one, although there are numerous accounts where hares were hunted by packs of dogs, pursued by hunters of both sexes on horseback. Across the beck, at nearby Oak Bank, there were kennels for the pack of hounds used in the local hunt. Foxes are traditional enemies of farmers, being efficient killers of unguarded poultry and lambs, though the written accounts of fox hunts throughout Furness describe both foxes and hares with considerable affection and respect, crediting them for their guile and stamina.

**\*1841** The 1841 census lists Richardson Butler aged 50, as an Innkeeper in Broughton Beck.

**\*1851** The 1851 census lists Richardson Butler now aged 61, as the Innkeeper.

**\*1853** An article in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser (below) mentions that Mr. J. Lindow is the proprietor of the Fox Chase Inn. He appeared on the 1851 Census for Broughton Beck as a "Maltster", and Richardson Butler was at that time listed as the "Inn Keeper", though the census was conducted in March. By the time this article was published in August, it appears Richardson Butler had handed the tenancy over to J. Lindow.

From Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser, 25 August 1853:

**Broughton Beck Sports.**—The annual gathering at the above place came off on Friday last, at the house of Mr. J. Lindow, the Fox Chase Inn. For the dog trail five hounds were entered, and came in in the following order:—1st, "Merry;" 2nd, "Nudger;" 3rd, "Melody;" 4th, "Ruby;" and 5th, "Butcher." The foot race was won by Jas. Casson, Backbarrow; B. Burton, 2nd. Winner of the sack race, W. Gaskarth; — Shepherd 2nd, A. Gaskarth 3rd. The wrestling prize was obtained by a young man named Crosby, of Penrith. The day throughout was extremely fine, and the different sports gave satisfaction to the numerous throng of spectators present.

\*1861 The 1861 census lists Mary Lindow, a widow aged 58, as the Innkeeper. Her husband James had died in 1858.

\*1863 The Inn was advertised as being available for lease, by Mrs Mary Ample of Broughton Beck. The notice below appeared in the Ulverston Advertiser on 14 February 1863. (Robert Corney had been listed on the 1861 census as a farm labourer at Stoney Cragg, brother in law of Thomas Atkinson who farmed there). It appears Mr Corney had taken over the tenancy from Mary Lindow.

**The Annual Auld Wife Hake**  
**Will be held at the house**  
 of Mr. Robert Corney, Fox Chase Inn,  
 Broughton Beck, on Friday, the 6th March,  
 1863.  
 Ladies, 1s.; Gentlemen, 1s. 6d.  
 Dancing to commence at seven o'clock.

\*1864 A notice in the Ulverston Mirror on 7 May 1864 noted that the License for the Fox Chase Inn at Broughton Beck had been transferred from Robert Corney, to Joseph Barnes, a little over a year after he acquired it.

Below, from Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser, 12 May 1864:

**FOX CHASE INN SPORTS,**  
**BROUGHTON BECK,**  
*On Saturday Afternoon, May 14th, 1864,*  
**HOUND DOG TRAIL for £1 10s.;**  
**FOOT RACE for 7s. 6d.**  
*On Whit-Tuesday, May 17th,*  
**PIGEON SHOOTING for £2, in three prizes;**  
**SHOOTING MATCH for a Copper Kettle, and**  
**FOOT RACE for 7s. 6d.** 309

\*1865 A notice in the Ulverston Mirror on 4 November 1865 noted that the License for the Fox Chase Inn at Broughton Beck had been transferred from JH Barnes (who acquired it the previous year) to Richard Brunskill Capstick of Dalton. This was the second time it had changed hands in two years.

\*1866 the following notice appeared in Soulby's on 1 November 1866:

**"Broughton Beck Mayor Hunt.**

*This Hunt will take place on Tuesday, the 6th of November, 1866, at the house of Mr. Richard B. Capstick, the Fox Chase Inn Broughton Beck. The Hounds will throw off about 9 o'clock, in the neighbourhood. Dinner on the table at 7 o'clock".*

Hunts were usually named after the person organizing the hunt, in this case it was the "Mayor" of Broughton Beck, though I'm not sure there ever was someone with that title.

\*1868 The following notice appeared in Soulby's on 9 January 1868:

**BROUGHTON BECK ANNUAL SPORTS** took place on New Year's day at the house of Mr. Richard Capstick, the **Fox Chase Inn**, when the following awards were made:—Rabbit coursing by 18lb. dogs, Fawcett's "Bess," 1st; Wilson's "Trick," 2nd; Tyson's "Fly," 3rd. All weight dogs, Tebay's "Ben," 1st; Balbeck's "Toby," 2nd; Tebay's "Rock," 3rd. Quoiting for a distance of 9 yards was won by Mr. George Brown, and for a distance of 21 yards by Mr. George Pearson. Afterwards an excellent tea was prepared, to which about 120 sat down, and dancing was kept up till morning.

Below, from the Ulverston Mirror and Furness Reflector newspaper on 5 September 1868:

**FRIDAY.**  
**Address to the electors by the Marquis of Hartington, at the Fox Chase Inn, Broughton Beck, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.**

The Marquess of Hartington was Spencer Cavendish, the Eighth Duke of Devonshire, from Holker Hall. He was a Whig who crossed over to the Liberal Party, and as such had represented North Lancashire in Parliament since 1857. He actually lost his seat in the December election a few months after his appearance at the Inn to the (few) registered electors in the area, but was offered a different seat in Parliament as a consolation. Nevertheless he went on to great success in government and was offered the position of Prime Minister three times (and declined it each time).

Below, from the Ulverston Mirror on 26 December 1868, advertising a New Year's Eve Ball at the Inn, and the following day there would be an "Annual Sports" event there too.



**Broughton Beck Annual Ball.**

**The Annual Ball will take**  
 place at Mr. RICHARD CAPSTICK'S, the  
 Fox Chase Inn, Broughton Beck, on Thursday  
 Evening, December 31st, 1868.  
 Dancing to commence at Seven o'clock.  
 H. MASON,  
 H. DOUGLAS, } Stewards.  
 JOHN BARR,  
 Lady's Ticket, 1s. Gentleman's Ticket, 1s. 6d.  
 To be had of the Stewards.

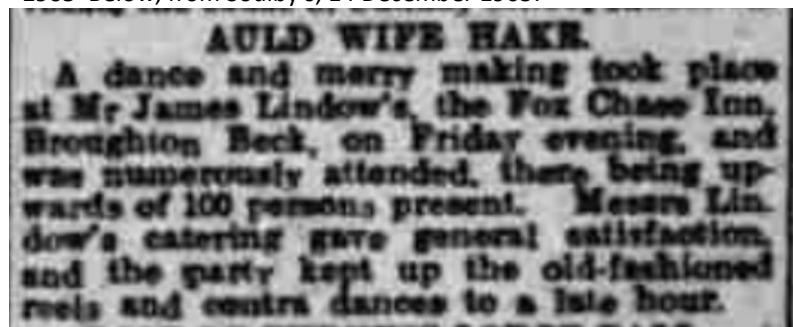
**THE ANNUAL SPORTS**  
 Will take place on Friday, January 1st, 1869,  
 commencing with RABBIT COURSING—  
 For Dogs not exceeding 19lb ..... £1 10s. 0d.  
 For Dogs of all weights ..... £1 10s. 0d.  
 Entrance money added.  
**QUOITING** for a Copper Kettle—distance 21  
 yards.  
**QUOITING** for a Copper Kettle—distance nine  
 yards.  
**SHOOTING** at Standing White—distance 40  
 yards, for a Copper Kettle.  
 Dogs run out in the first course will be allowed  
 to enter for the second course.—All disputes to  
 be settled by the stewards, and their decision to  
 be final.—All dogs to be entered by 11 o'clock.  
 The Quoiting to commence at 10 o'clock.

\*1869 and 1870 There are several Notices in Soulby's announcing that the Inn is For Let again. "Inn and Blacksmith's Shop. To Be Let, With Immediate Possession. Either together or separately. The Fox Chase Inn, also the Blacksmith's Shop in the occupation of E. Fleming, situate at Broughton Beck, near Ulverston. Apply to E. Fleming, Broughton Beck, or to W. and T. Robinson, the Gill Brewery, Ulverston".

\*1871 The 1871 Census is missing a few pages for Broughton Beck, so the Innkeeper during that time is unknown.

\*1881 and 1891 The censuses for these periods do not show anyone listed as an Innkeeper.

\*1905 Below, from Soulby's, 14 December 1905:



\*1908 An article in Soulby's dated March 1908 said "Formerly there was a licensed house at Broughton Beck" so it appears the Inn had permanently closed some time between 1905 and 1908.

Since then the building has remained a private residence.

## The Malt Kiln:

There was a **Malt Kiln** in the village, a structure in which barley and other ingredients used in making beer and ale are dried after being germinated. It's not clear however whether the references below refer to a standalone kiln somewhere in the village, or a smaller kiln built in or next to the Corn Mill, or both.

A "Maltster" is someone who makes malt using a kiln to dry wet germinated grain that is used in the brewing process.

I don't know whether beer was ever brewed in Broughton Beck, though it's possible the Fox Chase Inn made some of their own. More likely the malt would have been sent down to Ulverston to be used in beermaking at the various breweries established there.

**\*1822** The Lancaster Gazette of 9 November 1822 published a notice: *"Estate and Malt-Kiln, at Broughton-Beck to be peremptorily sold, in public sale, upon the premises, on Tuesday the 19th day of November, 1822, at six o'clock in the evening; either together or in parcels, of the late Mr. Thomas Lindow, deceased; all that estate or farm, situate at Broughton-Beck; Ulverston, Lancashire, consisting of a good dwelling house, two cottages, a new-built and convenient malt kiln, suitable outhouses, and several closes of arable, meadow, and pasture ground, very improvable, lying near the buildings, containing, by estimation, twenty acres; or thereabouts, be the same more or less, now in the possession of Mrs. Lindow, or her undertenants".*

Thomas Lindow died in Broughton Beck in 1821 aged 58. He had a son named James born 1801, who would have been the James Lindow mentioned in the next record. James was listed in the 1851 census as being a Maltster, continuing in his father's footsteps.

**\*1823** A document in the Barrow Archive Office dated 14 February 1823 describes the assignment of a malt kiln and other property in Broughton Beck. Atkinson, Wayles and James Lindow are selling the Malt Kiln to William Ashburner.

*"1. John Atkinson of Ivytree, Blawith, William Wayles of Doveford, Kirkby Ireleth, yeomen and James Lindow of Broughtonbeck, Ulverston, maltster  
2. William Ashburner of Broughtonbeck, miller  
3 James Coward of Ulverstone, draper  
Consideration: £190  
Premises: maltkiln in Broughtonbeck with the drying kiln, cinder oven, yard and hereditaments  
Term: remainder of 10000 years  
Witnesses: Henry Shaw and William Noble".*

**\*1825** The Notice below is from the 1825 Baines Directory of the County of Lancaster. Matthew Postlethwaite is a Maltster in Broughton Beck, possibly operating Mr Ashburner's kiln. However in 1829 he became bankrupt, at which time he was described as a Meal, Flour and Malt Dealer living in Kirkby Ireleth, and a partner in a slate business with John Dodgson.

---

**OSMOTHERLEY.**  
*Marked 1 reside at Broughton Beck.*  
1 Ashburner Wm. miller  
Coward John, ctie. dlr. **Moor hs.**  
1 **Postlethwaite** Mattw. maltster  
1 Towers Thos. sickle maker

possibly

**\*1829** The Barrow Records Archive contains the following legal document dated 20 February 1829:

*"Assignment of premises at Broughton Beck near Ulverston to secure £150 plus interest.*

*1. William Ashburner of Force Mill, Satterthwaite, Hawkshead, miller*

*2. John Mount of Arrad Foot, Ulverston, yeoman*

*Consideration: £150*

*Premises: newly erected maltkiln at Broughton Beck, Ulverston with drying kiln, cinder oven, yard (built by Thomas Lindow deceased)*

*Witness: John Shaw of Ulverston"*

It appears William Ashburner who bought the kiln in 1823 sold it six years later.

**\*1841** The 1841 census for Broughton Beck includes:

Edward Birkett, Corn Miller

T. Postlethwaite, Maltster

The Postlethwaite mentioned is not the same one as in 1825.

**\*1845** A notice in the Westmorland Gazette of 6 December 1845 states that various properties were for sale. One was *"A Messuage or Dwelling-House (formerly two), situate in the said township of Osmotherley, in the Fold, at the north end of Broughton Beck aforesaid, with the Malt Kiln or Malt House, Drying Kiln, Outhouses, and back Orchard thereunto belonging"*. It says that it was in the occupation of Mr. John Clark, as tenant.

**\*1851** The 1851 census lists James Lindow aged 49 as a Maltster.

**\*1858** July 24, 1858 Mr James Lindow, Maltster and Innkeeper, dies at Broughton Beck. His widow Mary Lindow aged 58 (and his son Thomas) are listed in the 1861 Census as the Innkeeper.

I don't know where or how large the malt kiln would have been, POSSIBLY something like this image (which I found on the internet randomly).

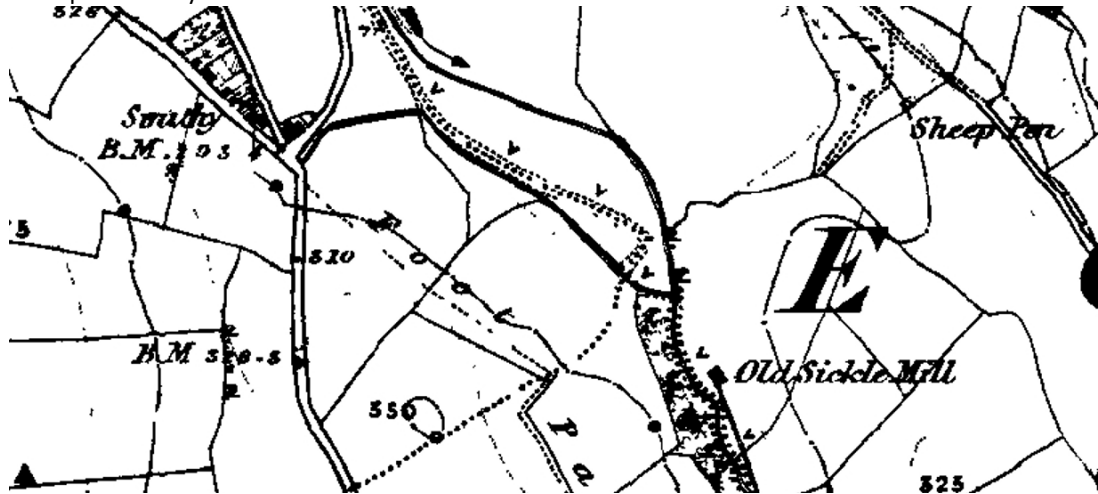


An article posted on the website of the Parish Council of Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley in 2005 mentioned the Mill, saying this: *"Between 1890 and 1937 the building is referred to as a malt kiln and in the*

*basement is an old metal oven or heating unit branded with the name of Allbright Ulverstone. The owner then was an Albert Gaskell (joiner) of 34 Fountain Street Ulverston, who on the 20th May 1937 sold it to the parish of Osmotherley for £70 in order that it would be used for the education and benefit of adults and children living in the parish. Possibly the Mill was converted to use as a Malt Kiln? Or two functions in the same building? The earlier notices from the 1820's suggest the newly-built kiln was a structure of its own.*

## Sickle Mill:

There was an "Old Sickle Mill" on the 1850 Ordnance Survey map (below), to the southeast of Broughton Beck on a pathway next to a wood between the village and Ben Crag cottage. A sickle mill is a place where crop-harvesting sickles were made, and the word mill suggests there were grinding wheels to sharpen them, which would have been powered by the beck.



**\*1825** The 1825 Baines Directory of Lancashire lists Thomas Towers as a Sickle Maker in Broughton Beck.

**\*1836** A notice in the Lancaster Gazette of 1 October 1836 mentions the auction of property belonging to Thomas Towers, and includes "*All that Building now use as a Sickle Smithy, together with the Water Wheels, and Going-gear, belonging to the same, situate near Broughton Beck aforesaid, late in the occupation of the said Thos. Towers.*"

**\*1857** A notice in Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser on 21 May 1857 says: "*Sickle Smithy To Let. To Be Let For A Term of Years, a Sickle Smithy, with Water-Power. Situate at Broughton Beck, in the Parish of Egton-cum-Newland, in the County of Lancaster. William Harrison, of Broughton Beck, will shew the same, and further particulars may be known by applying to Thomas Picthall, of Walney, the owner.*"

**\*1889** The 1889 Ordnance Survey map shows no structure at that site, so likely it had been torn down by this time, and the stones reused elsewhere. The 1911 Ordnance Survey map named the northernmost part of the wood as "Sickle Smithy Wood" and the one to the south as "Stones Wood".

## Broughton Beck School:

Built in the 1770s some distance from the village, it doubled as the local church until the current one was built a century later.

The Lancashire Records Office in Preston has a document concerning the appointment of Richard Fleming as "schoolmaster at Osmotherly to teach writing and arithmetic; signed Edmd Atkinson, vicar of Ulverstone, James Gardiner, church warden, and 25 inhabitants' signatures. Dated 21 January 1740". There are also some letters of recommendation for Richard Fleming from various clergy members: Henry Holme, vicar of Urswick, William Harrison, curate of Aldingham, Joh. Stainton, minister of Pennington, Edmd. Atkinson, vicar of Ulverstone.

Below, advertisement dated 7 December 1874 in the Liverpool Mercury newspaper.

4d10

**WANTED**, after Christmas, a competent **MASTER** for Broughton Beck School, in the neighbourhood of Ulverston, Lancashire.—Testimonials addressed to James Lesh, Esq., Hollowmire, near Ulverston, Lancashire, on or before the 24th of December, from whom further information may be obtained. Fees about £35 per annum, without quarterage.

2d15

The Furness Railway Board Meeting minutes dated 30th June 1893 contains the following:

*"Read letter from Mr. Mark Whineray, correspondent to the manager of the Broughton Beck School near Ulverston, asking the Furness Railway Company to contribute to the fund, which is being raised for building a house for the master of the School. — It was agreed: That if a Voluntary Rate be levied, the Company would contribute its proper proportion."*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The following is taken from the House of Commons Sessional Papers in 1901, detailing various charitable trusts that had been established around the country.

*"By an indenture dated 30th November 1770 reciting an agreement dated 7th December 1768 a copy whereof is endorsed thereon whereby the parties to the indenture agreed to build and endow a school at a place most convenient for Broughton Beck, Hollowmire, Rake, Netherhouses, and Moorhouses all in the division of Osmotherley and had subscribed divers sums for the purpose and that a schoolhouse had been built with part of the money and that the subscribers had agreed to lay out £164 other part of the money in the purchase of land John Belman of Hollowmire in consideration of £164 conveyed to Samuel Towers, James Lindow, and William Higgin all of Broughton Beck, John Higgin of Netherhouses, James Birkett of Birketthouses, Abraham Allison of Keswick, and Thomas Stephenson of Nettleslack, a freehold close of arable and meadow ground near Rake near Hollowmire in Osmotherley called the Great Meadow with the appurtenances to the use of them, their heirs and assigns, subject to the trusts thereafter mentioned, and also a leasehold close called Great Roger Bank adjoining the close first mentioned, and containing 2½ customary acres with the appurtenances for the residue of a term of 10,000 years formerly granted by the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby upon trust to let the premises for as good rent as could be had, and pay the rents after deducting their necessary expenses unto such person as was then and should thereafter be nominated, and who then did and should for the time being thereafter officiate as schoolmaster at the said school, agreeable to and in consequence of the said subscription by way of stipend or salary for his so doing, and to accumulate the rents during a vacancy and place them out at interest or lay them out in the purchase of other lands as additional capital or stock for the augmentation of the salary of succeeding schoolmasters, and it was provided that upon the death of any trustee his executors and administrators or such person as he by will should nominate, being of competent age, should thereupon be vested in (sic) the same trusts*

*as were vested in such trustee and such instruments for legally confirming and establishing such trusts and powers in such executors and administrators (sic) should be thereupon prepared and executed at the charge of the said trust estate subject to the several rules regulations and agreements in the said instrument of subscription mentioned and with such benefits and privileges to all future subscribers as were therein contained.*

*The rules included in the agreement provide for an annual election of a schoolmaster, each subscriber of £10 having a vote for this purpose, and certain rules for the government of the scholars are appended which on more than one ground merit quotation. They are as follows:*

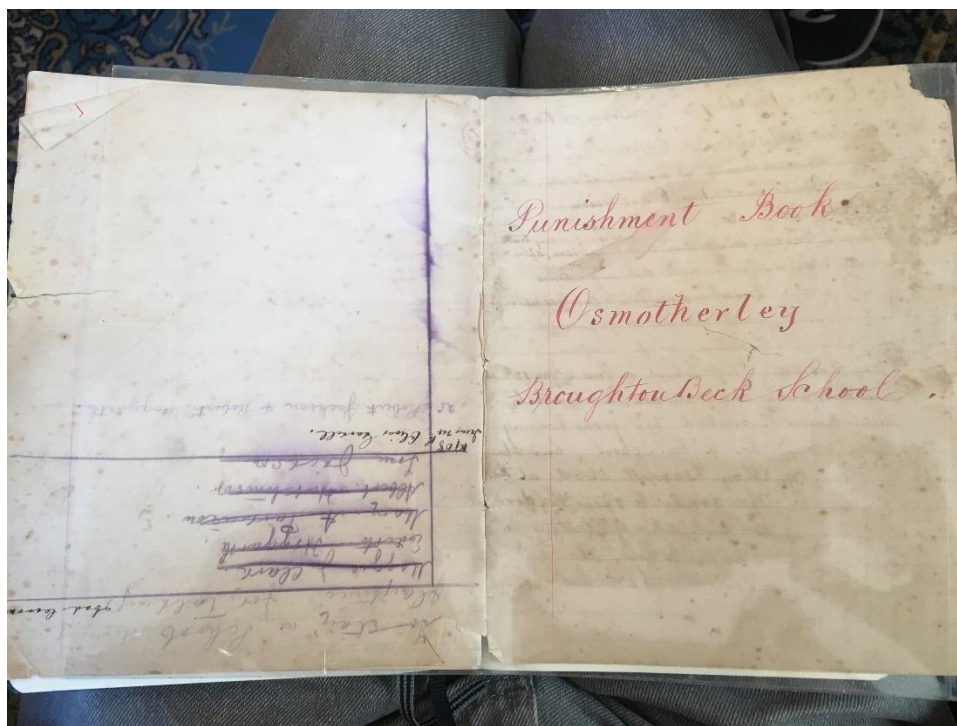
*"All windows broken in the schoolhouse by a scholar by accident shall pay one third part towards mending the same, and if wilfully to pay one half. All disputes arising therefrom to be decided by the master, the remaining part of the windows to be repaired by the money arising from the sales of ashes made at the said school or as the majority of the subscribers can agree. If the money arising from the ashes got in the school is not all wanted to mend the windows, then the scholars are to have it to buy foot or hand balls, or treating themselves at barrings out or other necessary uses of the school. No gunpowder to be used in the school on any pretence whatsoever."*

*The Rev William Wilson BD rector of Moreton in Essex, by his will dated 25th September 1821, and proved in London 10th July 1822 bequeathed to the trustees of Broughton Beck School in the division of Osmotherley and parish of Ulverston £200. Three per Cent Reduced Bank Annuities, free of legacy duty in trust that the dividends should be applied to the following purposes, and on the express condition that both his houses at Wellhouse should enjoy the like privileges as to sending scholars to the school by whomsoever occupied, £4 to the use of the schoolmaster on condition of his regularly reading prayers every Sunday afternoon, and diligently teaching the Church Catechism, hearing the children repeat it in the school every Sunday during Lent, and also on the Sunday afternoons from Whit Sunday to Michaelmas, preparing them for repeating the said Catechism publicly on Sundays, by private instruction on the week days, in which good work he earnestly begged he might be assisted by the parents and friends of the children. Every Sunday the master neglected to attend, the trustees were to deduct one shilling which was to be added to the surplus of the dividend, and laid out by the trustees (of whom the owner of Wellhouse or occupier should be one), in the purchase of the Church Catechism broke into short questions (which he expected the children to be able to answer), Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books, pens, ink, and paper for the use of the poor scholars.*

In April 2019 I (Andrew Holmes-Higgin) visited the Kew National Archives and located the Broughton Beck School records from 1870 through 1910 which were a series of school reports completed by various school inspectors that unfortunately contained very little information. There was one reference to a Higgin, the "Correspondent of the School" William D Higgin, in 1875, in which the inspectors complained of the difficulty of getting information from him about some matter. There were a couple of handwritten letters from someone wanting to apply for the "Master" position, but the writing was very difficult to read.

Below, the 1901 "Punishment Book" of Broughton Beck School, which detailed the mostly minor offenses of pupils, and their punishments.

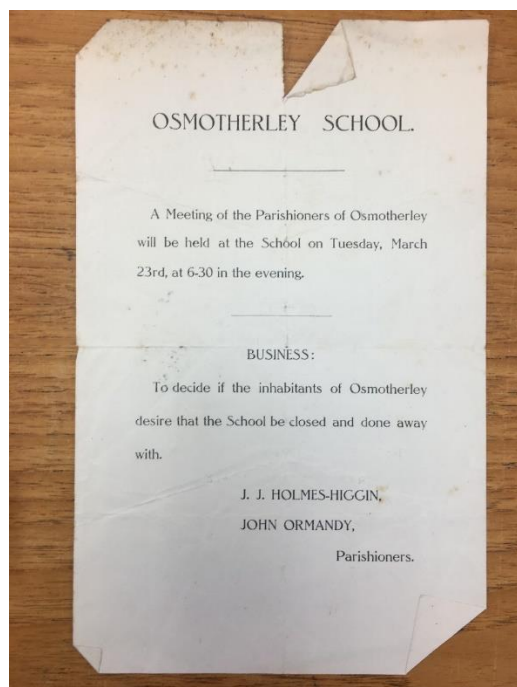




Osmotherley, Broughton		Beck School. 1901.	
No.	Scholar's Name	Offence	Punishment
1	Annie Robinson	Looking at another girl's slate.	Two strokes
2	Jonathan Winder	Inattention to Rec. Lesson.	Two strokes
3	John Hoggarth	Do Do Do	Two strokes
4	Harold Garrell	Inattention to Spelling lesson, after being warned many times.	Two strokes
5	Annie Winder	Coarse work and impudence	Two strokes
6	"	Disobedience & carelessness	Two strokes
7	"	Would not do as requested	Two strokes
8	"	Coarse work again	Two strokes
9	May Garrell	Left School on Friday Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> at 3.30 am and left my assistant in charge. Jane looked the door from the outside, and so prevented her from coming in the School, and she May Garrell stood at the road to open the door, instead of getting on spoke to her, she did for this bad behaviour the shoulders this	Two strokes

*Remarks:*  
Had been warned several times before.  
Do Do Do  
For coming time too late almost half of spelling wrong.  
Warned several times already.  
again.  
again & threatened with a caning.  
and gave each two or three strokes across morning. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1906.

But declining attendance meant the closure of the school was inevitable. Below is an announcement of a meeting of the Parishioners of Osmotherley on Tuesday March 23rd 1926 to consider closing the school, which eventually closed in 1927. The schoolhouse has been a private residence since then.



Below, from the Lancashire Evening Post, 26 March 1926.

At the North Lonsdale Education Committee's meeting at Ulverston, yesterday, the position of the Broughton Beck School, Osmotherly, was considered, and it was resolved to recommend the County Committee to close the premises. The Chairman, Mr. H. Eden Smith, J.P., pointed out that when he visited the school there were seven children on the books and five in attendance. He thought that with such a small number of children, apart from the financial side of the question, there was a disadvantage educationally compared with the tuition obtainable in a larger school.

The following is from the June 1898 issue of the North Lonsdale Magazine and Furness Miscellany.

*"OSMOTHERLEY SCHOOL, NEAR ULVERSTON*

*By the Rev. T.N. Postlethwaite*

*The Education Department having condemned many of the interior arrangements of the little school that supplies intellectual pabulum to the small folk of Osmotherley, an interesting but though doubtless inconvenient relic of by-gone methods is doomed to disappear. The schoolhouse is quaint both without and within. Its external appearance reminds one of those old time chapels of ease that were for centuries a distinctive feature of our remoter dales, until the march of time and clerical ambition swept them away to make room for edifices more pretentious and ecclesiastically correct. And in fact for many years the building served to the double purpose of Chapel and School, till the present handsome little church of St. John's, Osmotherley was built.*

*In a room, opening on to the main schoolroom, little larger than a good-sized cupboard, which was in days of yore the "vestry" but is now the "sewing room" are two long forms, with backs more ornately decorated than is the wont with school benches. The backs and seats of these forms are constructed from the old moveable Communion rails and kneeling cushions of the School-Chapel. In this room or "vestry," on a sewing afternoon, may see some dozen or so bright-faced little maidens sedulously plying their needles, under the kindly guidance of the sewing mistress. It is a pleasant sight on a winters afternoon, when the fire in the open grate is casting ruddy streaks upon wall and ceiling, and dancing with flickering light on clean white "pinnies," and golden hair, and little lassies' rosy cheeks.*

*In the main room the desks are of the quaintest and most primitive construction. One end of each is supported by legs, orthodox and customary, though of curious fashioning, the other end is built into the wall of the school. They are unmistakeable fixtures! On the row of desks on the master's left sit the girls, the boys occupy those on his right hand. Is this accidental we wonder? Or can it be that a master's right hand is a necessary adjunct to the due instruction of the sterner sex? Nay, we incline to the accidental theory; we cannot believe that these bright and happy little lads are ever naughty!*

*Upwards of 50 years ago a school was established by subscription in this division (the Township of Osmotherley). A house was built, and some land purchased in 1770 which is vested in trustees, on trust that they should pay the rents thereof to such person as was then and should there-after be nominated, and should officiate at the said school as schoolmaster at the said school by way of stipend or salary for his so doing. The money so laid out was £164, and the land is let for 12 years to John Coward, at £9 per year, which is the highest rent that could be obtained. At the time of purchase £30 of the original subscription remained in money, which is now put out at interest and produces 25 shillings a year. The rent of the land and the 25 shillings is paid to the schoolmaster on New Years Day. The school is managed by trustees, who are chiefly chosen from the families of the original subscribers. The children of certain families, who are considered as claiming through the original subscribers, are taught at a stated price as settled by the Trustees. For other children the master makes his own charge. There are from 20 to 25 children in the school.*

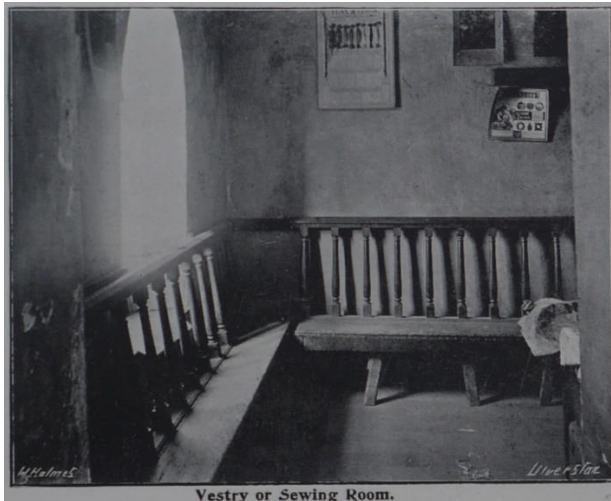
*The scholars are now well taught and cared for, and judging from recent Inspectors Reports, fully come up to the requirements of the Education Department. Especially does the school excel in Drawing. This state of things is of comparatively recent growth. Mr. Redhead, the present master began his reign (Oct. 1875). The opening sentence is not promising:- "The discipline is pretty good, but the attainments are at present trifling in the extreme in all branches of elementary subjects." A pretty sweeping comment, but one that seems to accord not unfittingly with the quaint environments, smacking as they do of horn-books laboriously conned and samplers curiously wrought. Later reports show progressive improvement. In 1878 we read: - "The children are in good order and have passed well in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic - Grammar and Geography have been very credibly taught." The following report says :- "This small school is well conducted by Mr. Redhead. The order is good and the attainments are very creditable." Another comment at the same time says: - Mr. Redhead is a painstaking teacher. The state of his school does him credit."*

*The school once boasted a bell, and adjunct no doubt of its chapel days, but the bell grew old and useless, and is now passing the evening of its life in the comparative seclusion of the Ulverston Union Workhouse. Though it is a fact to add that it is due to no fault on the part of the bell that it has been forced to become the Guardians' guest. Naughty boys and mischievous young men, tramping up from Ulverston were wont to mount the roof of the school, - an easy exploit - thereby breaking the slates with "carkered" shoes, and the silence of the night with tumultuous ringing. So the bell was removed, and found a home at the "Mansion in the Gill" (the Ulverston Workhouse).*

*The school has been several times enlarged and altered. About twenty-two years ago the old small paned and leaded windows were removed and the present ones inserted; at the same time the board flooring was substituted for the slate flags under the desks, though the passage between is still flagged. The roof was re-slatted and an inside ceiling heightened in 1887. Long before this date there had been a partition at the far end of the room. This*

*was used to supply a place for the storage of fuel, mainly "toppings," and was designated "sod-house." Tradition tells that it formed a convenient punishment cell for naughty children, who were won back to obedience and good conduct by the seclusion and darkness. This partition was removed and the wall pierced for windows at the time when the school was used as a chapel, and the space formed into a sanctuary and standing room for a pulpit. The whilom vestry and present sewing room was then constructed. Service in those days was held once a fortnight, being conducted by the Incumbent of Ulverston Parish Church or one of his curates. The music at the service consisted, as was usual in rural districts, of the human voice unaided by any instrument, save and except an antique wooden-cased pitchpipe. This pitchpipe has, alas, disappeared, and we have been unable to trace it. Possibly it has long ago served to boil some old dame's kettle. The communion rails, we have seen were converted into benches; the Holy Table, presented to the chapel by the late Mr. Higgin of Netherhouse, forms the vestry table in the present church; and the pulpit was given some years ago to Mr. Redhead, the master, on condition that he bore the cost of removing it. This he did, and converted it into a most excellent bee-hive. So, by the irony of Fate, that, which erst-while perchance, had grown accustomed to drones now forms a habitation for bees! One somewhat curious custom still lingers in the little school. The children even yet provide a part of their own fuel, not in kind however, but by voluntary subscriptions of small sums."*

The photographs of the schoolhouse below accompanied this article.



Vestry or Sewing Room.

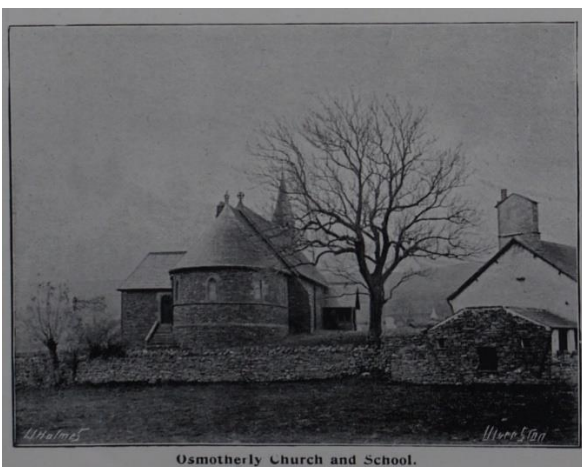


Interior of the School.

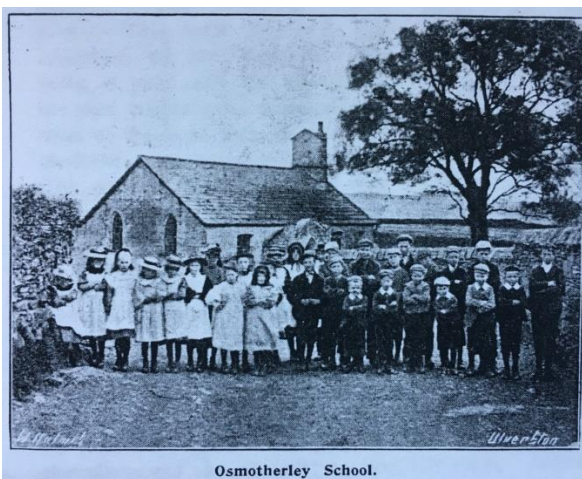




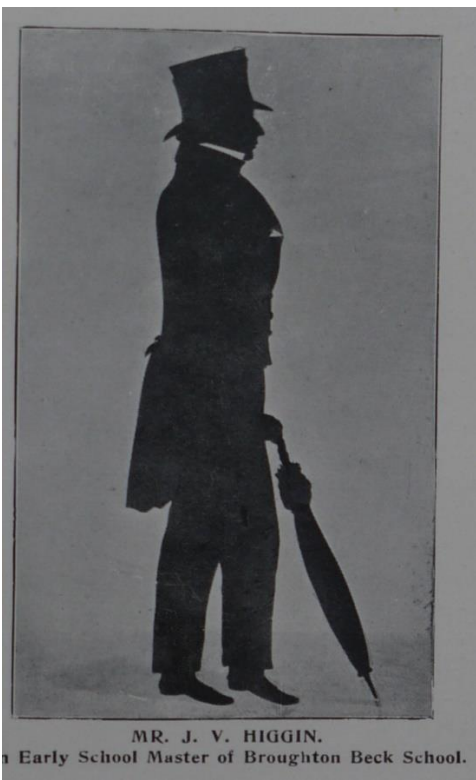
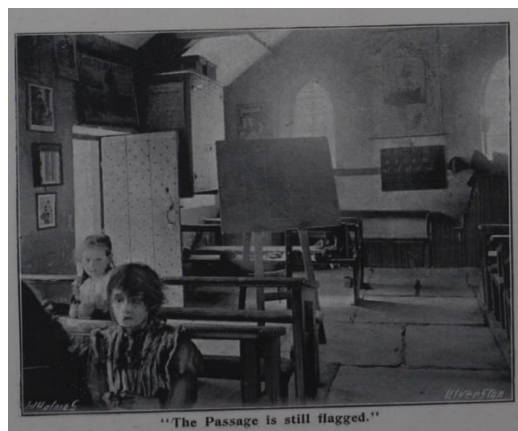
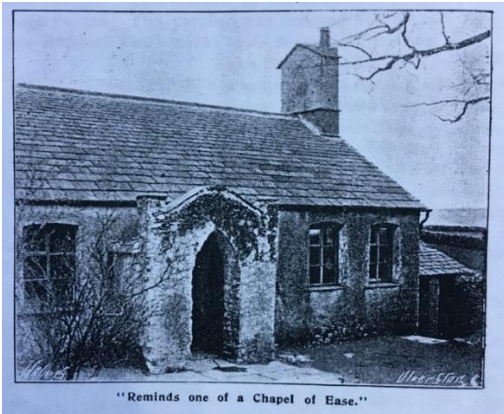
"On the Master's Left Sit the Girls."



Osmotherly Church and School.



Osmotherley School.



What is now Dow Crag House was built for the schoolmaster around 1912.

## Church of St John the Evangelist

The church was built in 1873–74 to a design by the Lancaster partnership of Paley and Austin. It provided seating for about 150 people, at a cost of £1,400. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Carlisle in 1874.

It was built for the village of Broughton Beck and the surrounding area as many found it difficult to go into Ulverston for worship. Built on land donated by John Higgin, and erected by subscription from the community and funds from the parish, it is one of only two churches that comprise the Parish of Ulverston, which was founded in the year 1111. The church includes a stained glass window depicting St. Mark, dedicated to the family of Higgin of Nether House. There are also windows dedicated to William Higgin Holmes, who died in infancy, and to his father William Holmes.

The following article is from Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser at the laying of the foundation stone on June 7th 1873, before construction commenced.

*"A long stride in the onward course was made on Saturday by the Church people of Broughton Beck. We refer to the laying the foundation stone of a new church at that place by Mr. Alexander Brogden, M.P., under circumstances of the most complete success. The weather was bright and sunny, and there would be about three or four hundred peewee present to view the ceremony. These facts, coupled with the circumstance that the whole of the money necessary to pay for the erection of the edifice had been promised, make up a measure of preliminary prosperity which is only seldom a characteristic of such ceremonies. Eclat was given to the affair by the presence of the Ulverston Rifle Volunteers as a guard of honour, under the command of Captain Ainslie, Lieut. Jackson, and Ensign Hannay. The singing was also improved by a portion of the band forming themselves into a choir with several juvenile male and female choristers, who had been brought out for the occasion. A harmonium, at which Miss Benson very gracefully presided, though an unusual accessory to such a ceremony, was a very pleasant innovation upon conventionality.*

*The ceremony was commenced about one o'clock. The Rev. A. Peache, of Downend, near Bristol, read prayers, and two hymns appropriate to the occasion were sung. After which the Rev. G. G. Morton produced a bottle containing gold, silver, and copper coins of the realm minted this year; the local papers (the Mirror, Advertiser, and a Barrow paper), a copy of the London Punch, and a piece of parchment containing the names of the patron, the local clergy, Mr. Brogden (who had consented to lay the stone), and of all subscribers of £1 and upwards. In placing the bottle in a cavity under the stone, he remarked that three hundred years hence, when the church they were going to construct was taken down to be rebuilt on a larger scale to meet the requirements of the growing population of Broughton Beck, the bottle and its contents would be found and viewed as interesting mementoes of the reign of Victoria.*

*The presentation of the implements with which to perform the ceremonial was the next item of the programme. The Rev. G. G. Morton, addressing Mr. Brogden, said that he had much pleasure in presenting him with the trowel and mallet, and calling upon him to lay the stone in the skillful manner in which he was able. The silver trowel bore the following inscription:— "Presented to Alexander Brogden, Esq., M.P., on laying the foundation stone of the Church of St. John the Evangelist — Osmotherley, June 7th, 1873."*

*Mr. Brogden then duly laid the stone, in which was cut the following:— "This stone of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Osmotherley, was laid by Alexander Brogden, Esq., M. P., to the honour and glory of*



*God. —June 7, 1873 +. Cheers having been given for Mr. Brogden, Mr. Peache, and Mr. Morton, the proceedings were terminated with the singing of the National Anthem".*