

INGLEBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

ANTIQUARIAN TO SIGHTSEER: A Bibliographical Study of the Literature inspired by the topography and people of the local area dating between 1500 and 1939.

AUTHOR SURNAME: **TITLE:**

FIRST NAMES:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES: **DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH:**

Pupil of Sedbergh Grammar School. 1804 entered Trinity College, of which he became a fellow. Professor of Geology at the Univ. of Cambridge. 1847 became a secretary to Prince Albert. The old Parsonage of Dent was his family home. His sisters introduced "a system of instruction" that led to a Sunday School which was for years the best source of knowledge in the valley. Family involved in the founding of Cowgill Chapel of which he was a trustee. A dispute arose concerning part of the district allocated to the chapel and the name given it by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, "Kirkthwaite" corrupted from the hamlet of Kirthwaite. The purpose of the Memorial was to demonstrate the errors in the award. The Supplement followed two years later. Victoria intervened in 1879 to reinstate the correct name and clarify the boundaries.

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NOTES:

Arthur Raistrick "The best account I know of life in our region two hundred years ago."
Hollett: " A classic work on the history, dialect, climate and geology.....of Dentdale"
Dent is not now what it was in a former century. Its best sources of prosperity have dried up".It was once a land of "statesmen", each of whom lived on his own paternal glebe. The estates were small but each gave the right to large tracts of mountain pasturage. Many of the old statesmen were respected Quakers. Now nearly the whole dale " from end to end" is occupied by farmers with very small capital and living at a high rack-rent. The population has diminished by more than a third since the middle of last century, yet the poor rates are enormously increased. Best known for its knitters. He regrets the loss of the old galleries, not one of which has survived. In the first quarter of this century many of the poorer of the inhabitants were without instruction, of reckless life and no spiritual guidance. In Dent Parish only the Cowgill coal pits are still working. He noted that men of different communions had subscribed to the cost of building Cowgill Chapel. The larger proprietors are no longer among the resident yeomanry.
He describes the fell side "bracks" and the disaster of 1752 when the house at Dale Head was swept away and seven died. Long quotation from contemporary letter.
Appendix 4 : Dent is divided into 5 ancient hamlets. The warm air driven up Kingsdale over the high pass of Deepdale head becomes rolled up with the cold air of the mountain tops creating sudden heavy showers driven on to spend their fury in the upper parts of Deepdale, which has in consequence an evil reputation.
Nearly all the old forest trees are gone.
The inhabitants of Dentdale supported the house of York in the Wars of the Roses. It was therefore ravaged by its neighbours and laid waste. Old traditions told of misery and desolation.

1485 Dent became a royal manor and seems to have prospered. In 1670 Charles II granted the Manor of Dent to Sir Allan Apsley, who sold it to Richard Trotter of High Hall & others "in Trust for the Tenants generally" each of whom had to pay a share of the purchase-money. After some delay in settling the matter, the land in Dent became freehold. The statesmen became famous for their breed of horses and individuals rode to Cheapside, London, in pursuit of business. The valley was known for the export of butter and Coopers were valued. Wool must have been a staple product from Dent's earliest history. Early in the 18th century a statesman, called Buttermere, made a comparative fortune carrying coal to Kendal. Although quantities were small it was free from sulphur and suitable for the whitesmiths. All attempts to work metallic veins in Dentdale have failed.
For over 200 years the Grammar School in Dent had a healthy influence on the education and manners of the valley. Itinerant masters visited selected schools on a regular circuit teaching writing, arithmetic and surveying. The Dame Schools taught reading and knitting.

He records that Dent had again revived in the 1860s and emigration had eased pressure. The young Wilberforce had won an election in Dent, where the Wesleyans were influential. Adam's father had regarded the slave trade as a foul, national sin.