

Francis Webster and the Kirkland Tan-Yards at Kendal, with a contribution towards his ancestry

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ANGUS Taylor's research published in *The Websters of Kendal* provides an excellent base from which to study other aspects of the work and lives of that branch of the family.¹ This article is written in two parts. The first part will examine the background to an aspect of Kendal's history when Francis Webster (1767-1827) was asked for advice about removing some old tan-yards near Nether Bridge, followed by landscaping work and the design and building of a small lodge. Taylor's book notes the scheme briefly,² but the way in which it was instigated and developed is worth much closer inspection, especially regarding Francis's contribution, the personalities involved and their interactions. In the second part, his family will be traced back to before 1650 to complement recent research by Janet Martin.³

From tan-yards to pleasure grounds

Changes made to the Kendal glebe after 1822 by the vicar, Revd John Hudson, have been mentioned briefly by earlier authors⁴ but Chester Diocese papers, now at the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal, contain details of what, why and how changes were made, and reveal the extent of Webster's involvement.⁵ However, it is necessary first to examine parts of John Hudson's career and family background to establish aspects of his social contacts and motivation for undertaking the project. Baptised at Beetham on 14 March 1773, he was the youngest son of a farmer, John Hudson of Haverbrack, and Isabella (Muckalt) who married at St. Mary's, Lancaster, on 4 June 1750.⁶ After education at Heversham Grammar School, their son entered Trinity College, Cambridge on 20 March 1793, aged 20. In 1797 he was senior wrangler in mathematics and became a Fellow in 1798. As a tutor in his college, he earned respect from many students who later filled influential positions.⁷ Ordained priest at Ely in 1807, John had to resign from his tutorship in order to marry Frances, the daughter of Captain Culliford, at Beetham on 22 February 1816. He was appointed vicar of Kendal in 1815 and stayed until his death on 31 October 1843.⁸ He divided his time between his parish and his 28½ acre estate at Haverbrack,⁹ where the 1851 census notes two servants living with his widow Frances, aged 70, and born at Preston. She was baptised at St. John's Church Preston, on 30 July 1779, the daughter of William and Ann Culliford. Still of Haverbrack, she was buried at Beetham on 11 September 1856, aged 76. The Hudson's children were Isabella, born (and baptised by her father) on 14 April 1819 and William Culliford Hudson baptised on 4 May 1823, who died on 16 January 1829 aged 5 years 8 months.¹⁰

At Kendal on 18 May 1841, Isabella Hudson married John Yeats Thexton who was born (and baptised by his father, Joseph Thexton of Ashton House, vicar of Beetham) on 14 June 1819. The latter had married Jennett Yeats¹¹ on 31 March 1818 with her

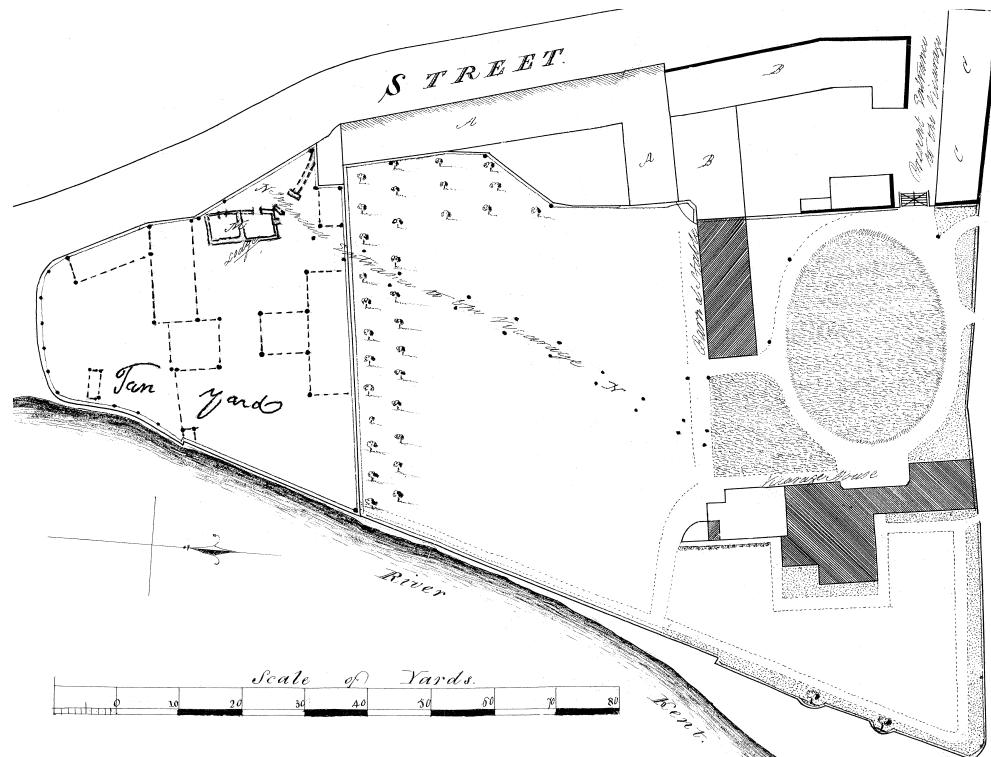


FIG. 1. Plan of the Kendal vicarage glebe, much reduced from the original scale of 1 inch = 40 feet (1 : 480). The north point and linear scale have been repositioned to save space. For clarity, pin-pricks in the original plan have been enhanced and the faint pencil lines showing the tan-yard buildings have been shown by broken lines. The suggested lodge and gateway, sketched in pencil, probably by John Hudson, were not built in that form or position (see Figs. 2b and 3) (Source: CRO(K), DRC/ 10).

elder brother Revd Edward Yeats, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, officiating.¹² Joseph Thexton had a daughter Agnes born on 31 March 1822 and his wife was buried on 23 February 1823, aged 40, with John Hudson officiating. After 33 years as vicar of Beetham, Joseph Thexton died on 27 June 1844 aged 81.¹³ The 1851 census recorded John Yeats Thexton,¹⁴ as a landed proprietor and Isabella (both 31), with a son Edward aged 3, and five servants. After graduating at Trinity College, Edward was buried on 2 April 1874, aged 26.¹⁵ His younger sister Jennet Frances was baptised at Beetham on 9 September 1852. John Yeats Thexton was buried on 20 July 1859 aged 40. His widow Isabella lived on at Ashton House until at least 1881, but moved to Temple Bank, Beetham before she was buried on 8 November 1889 aged 70. The 1881 census notes that her daughter Frances (28) was married to Charles Frith Hudson (32), born at Marylebone, London. By 1891, that couple lived at Temple Bank with three servants, but had no children. The 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Survey shows that her husband owned a few properties but 'Mrs C[harles] Frith Hudson', living at Ashton House, owned many including Temple Bank, the Wheatsheaf Inn, post office,¹⁶ reading room, 12 houses, 20 cottages, other buildings, woods, shooting and

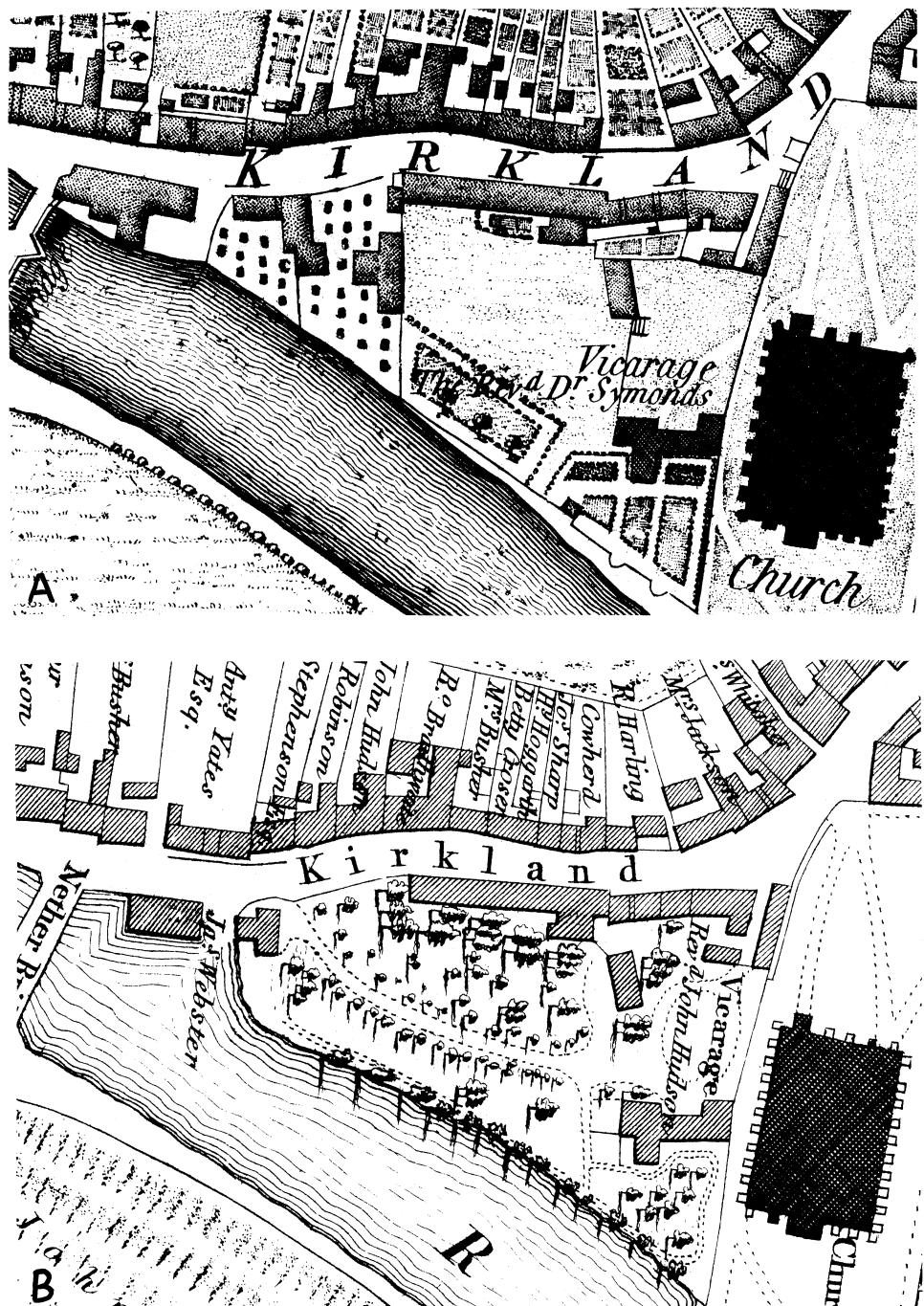


FIG. 2. Extracts from plans of Kendal: (a) by John Todd (1787) and (b) by John Wood (1833). On (a) the tan-yard buildings show an arrangement compatible with the glebe plan but with some disagreement over the orientation of a building beside Kirkland. The improvement in environmental quality is clearly shown on (b) and compares well with details on the O.S. 1:500 plan surveyed before 1860.

about 425 acres of farm land, mostly tenanted.¹⁷ She was the last direct descendant of John Hudson. This summary shows some of John's influential social contacts and the great influence exerted by Trinity College, which controlled the livings of 59 parishes including Kendal, Heversham, Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale and Aysgarth.¹⁸

Regarding Hudson's alterations to his vicarage glebe, the earliest surviving document is an advertisement announcing that two tan-yards, both on the east side of Kirkland, tenanted by George Yeates and Thomas Birkett respectively, were to be let at the Commercial Inn, on Friday 28 June 1822 at 7pm. They were to be entered at Martinmas 1822 when the old leases expired. Particulars were available at the vicarage and the office of Christopher Wilson, solicitor.¹⁹ Nobody attended the auction. Hudson probably realised, and perhaps was pleased, that the lack of interest gave him a good opportunity to improve his grounds more in keeping with his social connections and attractive vicarage.²⁰ Thus, he had the tan-yard buildings and site surveyed and a report prepared before applying to the patrons, the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, to obtain permission for the changes. They replied that, although the tan-yards could not at that time be let, they might be in the future, and wished this method to be tried. Only a draft site plan (Figure 1; undated, probably 1823) and the advertisement have survived from this episode, but detail of what happened was presented in Hudson's next attempt to be rid of the stench and ugly buildings of the tan-yards, which J. F. Curwen stated were introduced by vicar Crosby in 1700 to increase glebe revenue.²¹

Obeying the patrons' decision, Hudson again advertised in Kendal newspapers and issued handbills with a similar typeface and identical details, except for date (Friday 27 August 1824) and printer (John Briggs, Gazette Office, Market Place). No interest was shown, so in 1825 Hudson again sought permission, and included an account of what had already happened. In January 1823 John Hudson had had the site:

surveyed by Mr Webster (Architect) and Mr William Fisher (Joiner) who made a report²² that the Tanning Trade in Kendal was upon the Decline (several Tan-yards being either done away with, or unoccupied); and as the Tan-yards on the Vicarage Premises were so near the River as to be liable to great Damage in High-floods which are very frequent; and lastly as the Buildings upon them (which had been very imperfectly made from the first) were now from length of time in a state of indifferent Repair, they recommend 'That the Buildings upon the said Tan-yards should be entirely removed, and the ground on which they stand be annexed to the Vicarage Premises.'

Hudson probably gave similar persuasive information previously but now added the patrons' decision and the failure again to find tan-yard tenants. If the latter and the report's pessimism over a decline in tanning were not merely Hudson's devices to be rid of nuisance neighbours, even though that would reduce glebe income, they clash with a statement that, in 1850, there were 23 tanneries active 'within the township of Kendal'.²³ The letter was signed by the 11 churchwardens representing Kendal, plus Francis Webster and William Coward as 'successor to Wm Fisher'.²⁴ Hudson had no doubt picked two trusted churchmen to make the site report to suit his purposes, but neither would have signed the letter unless they made the recommendations and believed the stated situation to be true. Such reports for site and structural surveys were as important in an architect's work as making plans and overseeing building work. Wisely, Hudson, with a view to obtaining a faculty for the work, also enrolled the

support of one of his former Cambridge students, namely the new Bishop of Chester, appointed in 1824.²⁵ The vicar's report, dated 30 August 1825, has the bishop's response on its third side, dated at Kendal next day. It was probably the bishop's first chance to view the project, to renew social contact and perhaps attend to other church affairs.²⁶ He concluded:

Having considered the foregoing statement and surveyed the Premises in question, I am decidedly of opinion that the removal of the ruinous Buildings now standing therein, will be of benefit to the Living, provided that the site and yard adjoining be converted into a garden, to be added to the Vicarage garden and an approach made through the same to the Vicarage House: and I therefore recommend the vicar to apply to my Court at Richmond for a Faculty to empower him to carry such improvements into effect. [signed] C. J. Chester

As the existing plan is partly a draft, tidy copies of it and all documents were sent to Trinity College on 16 September 1825 and a reply, dated 4 October, was written by William Wordsworth's brother, Christopher (1774–1846), who had been educated at Hawkshead before entering Trinity in 1792. He was Master of the College from 1820–1841.²⁷ He apologised for a delay caused by too few Seniors returning to College until Fellowship examinations began. That morning their meeting had agreed to allow the vicar to apply for a faculty:

to pull down certain decayed Buildings heretofore used for . . . a Tan-yard; and to apply the site . . . to improve the approach to the Vicarage House and . . . enlargement of the Vicarage garden . . . [adding that] proceeds arising from disposing of the old materials would be laid out in some permanent improvement to the vicarage. I congratulate you cordially on the prospect of your effecting so material an improvement to your Premises and am

my dear Sir / With great regard / Very truly yours / Chr. Wordsworth

After the formality of business, his closing words suggest both close acquaintance and distinct friendship. Later documents include a proxy, dated 19 January 1826, in the Consistory Court of Richmond, by which Hudson retained William Pybus (proctor)²⁸ to seek a faculty for the work. Apart from referring to Francis Webster as 'an able and experienced architect', his transcript for the court's consideration added nothing to Hudson's evidence, but turned it into more than three large pages without a single full stop.

No faculties survive in the church archive, but a comparison of town plans by John Todd (1787) and John Wood (1833) (Fig. 2) indicates that one was granted and the scheme completed with a lodge beside the entrance to the vicar's new carriageway, but in a different place from the sketched idea. The 1:500 O.S. plan, published in 1861, shows a summer house near the lodge, and a circular one in the north-east corner of the vicarage grounds,²⁹ adding to the pleasant setting created by Hudson's landscaping, despite a malt kiln and the rear of many terraced properties in Kirkland standing along the western boundary. Demolition of these buildings in 1903 allowed road widening as recorded in three old photographs.³⁰ That work stopped at the vicarage's old entrance that had been hemmed in between the terrace's northern end and the Ring o' Bells Inn. Hudson's improvements still benefit the appearance of Kendal's southern approach but, 16 years after his death, the old vicarage was demolished and replaced, in 1859–60, to designs by Bowman and Crowther of Manchester, for Revd John Cooper (vicar 1858–1896).³¹ In turn, this vicarage was swept away and replaced

by a Parish Room which survives, dated 1912 over the door. In 1861, two National Schools, one for girls and another for infants, were built on the glebe behind the terraced houses and are now used for community purposes. Miles Thompson's plans survive for the northern one, now called Kirkland Hall, and name it 'infants' school'.³² No original plan for the other school (Nether Hall) has been found.

Hudson's imaginative scheme was initiated partly by a stated decline of tanning in Kendal, perhaps made worse by greatly reduced demand for army leather after the Napoleonic Wars ended. The study indicates the vicar's probable motivations for improving his glebe and shows something of how a faculty could be obtained. It was surely made easier by the vicar, bishop and Master all being of the same college. While Hudson was 15 months older than Wordsworth, his college career followed a year behind throughout their B.A., M.A. experience, but both became Fellows in 1798, suggesting that they probably knew each other well. Bishop Blomfield, an undergraduate until 1808³³ and 13 years younger than Hudson, was tutored by him and clearly respected his teaching and academic ability.³⁴

Francis Webster, as 'an able and experienced architect', made a structural survey of the tan-yard buildings and wrote a report with major recommendations. His landscape contribution was more as a facilitator than as a visionary. His careful pencil-drawn layout of the old buildings suggests that he actually measured the site and drew it, probably on drafting paper, to a scale of 1 inch = 40 feet, to match an earlier ink plan of the vicarage grounds. Handwriting showing the 'Present Entrance . . .' by the Ring o' Bells, the 'Intended Entrance' and the 'Barn & Stable' is Hudson's. Pin-pricks in the paper, seen with a magnifying glass, are enhanced for clarity in Figure 1 and indicate that Webster pricked salient points through to this plan from his draft, before making final copies for Cambridge and the Consistory Court. A crude plan in pencil for a lodge and entrance, sketched on the draft, is probably Hudson's work. It shows doors and windows for two rooms aligned so that the street frontage made a side of a triangular entrance, with a wall north of the gateway to balance the composition. It was not built like that but at the southern limit of the site, with a different plan and orientation. The O.S. 1:500 plan of Kendal (surveyed no later than 1859, as it includes the old vicarage) shows the lodge measuring about 26 by 15 feet, with a south wing of about 13 by 8 feet. Its rear wall was built on top of an older thick wall, forming the northern side of the approach to the ford across the river Kent. Its rooms would include a living room with a box-bay window in its west gable wall for seeing visitors as they approached the ornamental iron gates (Fig. 3). A bedroom would be at the east end, while the kitchen in the rear wing had a door for easy access to the gate. A coalhouse and privy were in the back yard. The lodge is seen in two old photographs.³⁵ A rear view shows the roof arrangement; the other, the gates and railings to defend the vicar's privacy. Pierced bargeboards on the west gable are of the same design as those at Francis Webster's own house at Eller How in Lindale-in-Cartmel, where building started about 1818 and continued until after Francis died there on 10 October 1827, aged 60.³⁶ The bargeboard pattern was not uncommon, but no other buildings illustrated in *The Websters of Kendal*³⁷ have that same detail and they might offer a clue as to whether the lodge was completed before or after Francis's death, perhaps using bargeboards left over from work at Eller How.

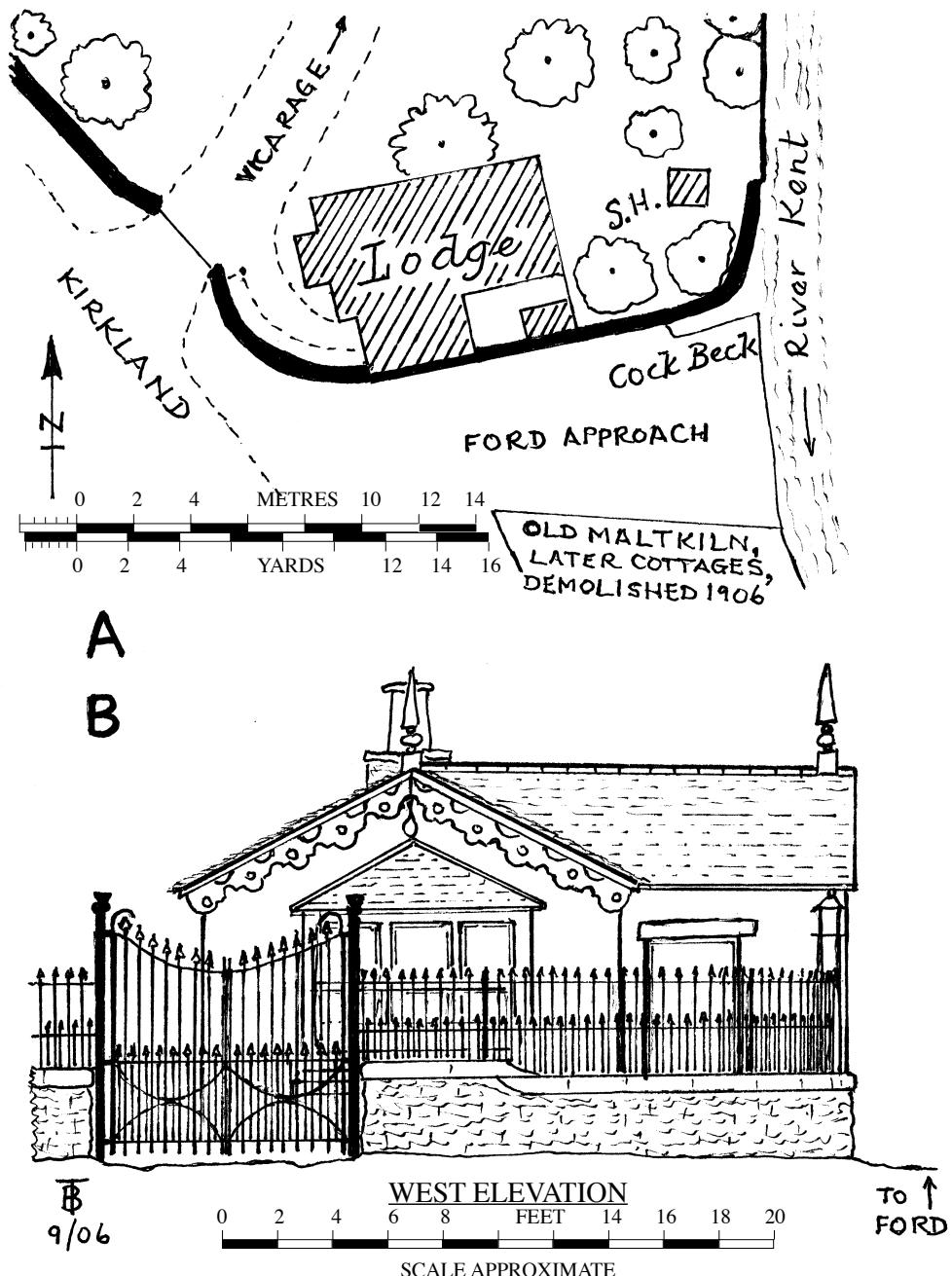


FIG. 3. (a) Plan of the Lodge (later known as Glebe Cottage) drawn to a scale of 1:250 to show the final form and position (*Source*. Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan). (b) A west elevation of the Lodge, created from measurements scaled from the O.S. 1:500 plan and details sketched, to approximate scale from a photograph, taken before the old Malt kiln Cottages were demolished in 1906 (*Source*: Margaret and Percy Duff, *Kendal in Old Photographs* (1992), 136).

The ancestry of Francis Webster

Francis was born on 1 May 1767, the youngest son of Robert Webster, stonemason of Quarry Flatt, near Cark (SD 347 767) and his wife Ann (née Crosfield) of Cartmel, who married on 7 July 1754. As family details of their seven children have been studied by Janet Martin³⁸ and his mother's family has been traced,³⁹ the main contribution now needed for the Webster genealogy is to deduce the ancestors of Francis's father, whose origins have eluded other searchers. Robert's memorial at Cartmel records that he died on 10 April 1799 aged 72, so was born before April 1727. A search of the Mormon microfiches for all the neighbouring counties found only one feasible baptism. It was for Robert, the son of Thomas and Mary Webster of Kendal, on 1 June 1726, when the Holy Trinity registers noted that they lived in Stricklandgate. Robert was already of Cartmel by 1754,⁴⁰ and Francis Webster may have served a stonemason's apprenticeship there with him, until the age of 21, so that he completed it in 1788, just in time to design the obelisk on Kendal's Castle Howe, generally regarded as his first work.⁴¹ It was built by William Holme who became his building partner for several years. Francis probably felt that, in such a commanding position, it would be a fine advertisement for his range of skills and would attract interest from prospective clients. As early as 1790, he replaced John Fisher as a mason who regularly undertook sundry building work at Kendal church, and this continued until 1821.⁴² The apparent ease with which Francis was accepted in Kendal gives significant support to the conclusion that his father was born there.

On 11 November 1725 Thomas Webster, saddler, obtained a licence to marry Mary Nicholson of Kendal at the chapel in Garsdale and married her there that same day.⁴³ Both were stated to be 'above 21 years' of age, while their son's baptism date indicates that she was about three months pregnant at the time. The location and the fact that the bondsman was an Anthony Nelson of Sedbergh, may suggest that Mary was from that area and could have moved to Kendal to find work, perhaps in service. However, her surname was rare in Garsdale and Mary Nicholson's baptism has not been found there or in Kendal between 1693 and 1710. The Holy Trinity registers note that Thomas was baptised on 18 July 1707, the son of Robert Webster of Kendal. If, as recorded, Thomas was over 21 at his marriage, he would have been born before 11 November 1704. If he was thereby a twin to his sister Frances (see below) who was baptised 22 May 1704, his baptism would need to have been delayed for over three years, for unknown reasons, and the register does not give an age that might be provided in such a case. A different explanation is more likely. He could have given false details of both his age and trade status to obtain a licence to marry in a remote place where the couple were strangers, not because Mary was pregnant,⁴⁴ but because many Kendalians would know his real age and the vicar could easily confirm deception by checking the parish register.

The Kendal borough apprenticeship records note that Thomas Webster was the son of Robert Webster of Kendal, shearman dyer, deceased, and was indentured to a Thomas Baldwin, saddler of Kendal, for seven years from 12 June 1721.⁴⁵ Thus he would have been less than four and a half years into his term when he married. He would have broken two of the strict conditions of apprenticeship that banned fornication and marriage.

The normal penalty was to be rejected by the trade Company, which would have prevented him from becoming a journeyman, master and freeman. Perhaps Thomas was frustrated by confines imposed by apprenticeship or he might have become disenchanted with the prospect of being a saddler, and he certainly sampled the delights of natural life. There is no sign of disagreement with his master and Baldwin had not died, since he took on John Wilson, son of Robert Wilson, a Kendal innkeeper, as an apprentice in 1727. If Thomas was of full age in 1725, it is possible that his indiscretion could have been condoned if his master and the Company believed he was a good worker worthy of such leniency. There is evidence for a precedent in Kendal early in the seventeenth century. It concerns a Robert Blisse, apparently aged about 18½ when he was indentured as a shearman in January 1603-04 for seven years. In April 1608, when his apprenticeship still had two and a half years to run, he married Agnes Sudginer of Highgate, aged 30 and pregnant. The child was baptised in September 1608, but despite his transgression, Blisse was able to take on Henry Wales as his first shearman apprentice on 24 June 1610, and in December he became a freeman.⁴⁶ By comparison, if as seems most likely, Thomas Webster was indeed born in 1707 and was no more than a lusty 18-year-old in 1725, it is unlikely that his indiscretion would be condoned. As there is no sign of Thomas taking apprentices before the surviving borough records end in 1736, he probably failed to complete his training and had to earn a living as best he could. However, his problem does not affect proof of his forebears' identity, but makes details of his later life difficult to trace.

Thomas and Mary Webster had five children baptised: *Robert* (above); *Mark* (27 April 1729); *Agnes* (2 July 1732); *Lidia* (18 August 1735) and *Mary* (26 November 1738). Mary, wife of Thomas Webster 'of Market Place' was buried on 31 December 1745. Then, on 12 January 1756, *Lidia*, daughter of Thomas Webster 'of Kendal workhouse' was buried when she would be 20 years of age.⁴⁷ *Lidia* was old enough to be an inmate as an individual but the quotation is ambiguous, since it is not made clear whether she, he or both were in the workhouse, or whether perhaps he was employed there in some capacity, and no records have been found to clarify it. If the family was suffering hard times after Mary's death this might explain why Robert Webster moved away, but it is not known when or where he was apprenticed. As Kendal borough apprentice records contain few wallers and no masons, the latter probably found the hard, local limestone difficult to work, so that the easily worked Triassic sandstone near Cark would be an attraction to Robert. If he was apprenticed when he was 15, he would finish by 1748, and have six years to gather experience and business contacts before he married Ann Crosfield, the orphaned daughter of Robert Crosfield, a wig maker who was buried on 28 June 1748 after his wife Ann had died giving birth to Ann in 1732.

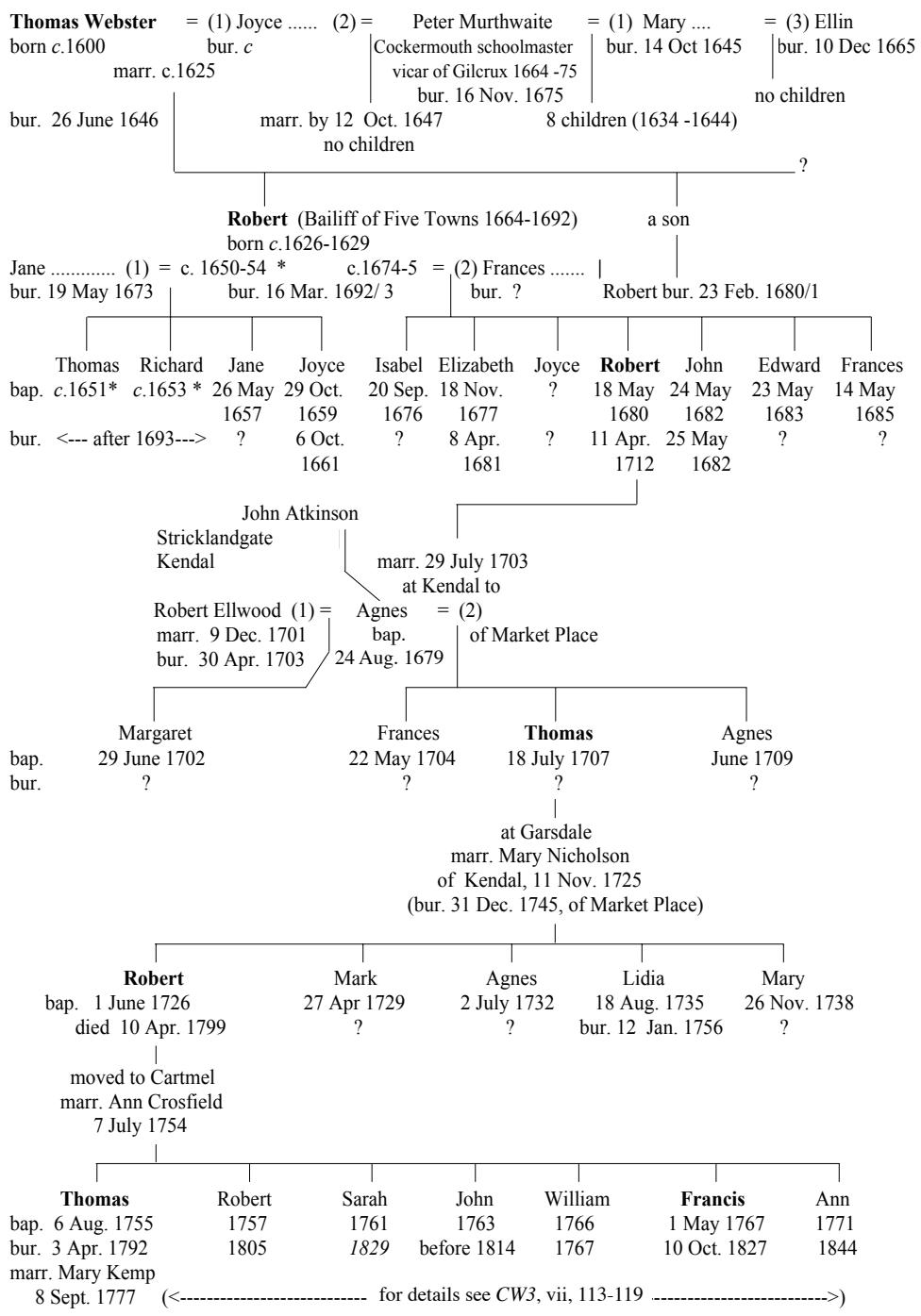
Thomas Webster's father Robert married Agnes Ellwood of Kendal Market Place on 29 July 1703⁴⁸ and had two daughters baptised: *Frances* (22 May 1704) and *Agnes* (5 June 1709). Thus it would be possible for Thomas to have been a twin of Frances, but it seems very unlikely. On balance the available evidence points to his birth in 1707. Their father was buried at Kendal on 11 April 1712, after making a will on 4 April, which described him as an inn holder, sick and infirm.⁴⁹ He left his burgage house in the Market Place to his widow Agnes until Thomas came of age, but she was to pay John Atkinson, bailiff, £20 plus interest to redeem a mortgage on the house.

When Robert's widow died, Thomas was to pay £10 each to his sisters, and also £10 to 'Margaret Ellwood my daughter-in-law', as each became 21 or sooner if they married. She was actually his step-daughter, baptised on 29 June 1702, the daughter of a Robert Ellwood who married Agnes Atkinson on 9 December 1701 with some urgency, when both were of Market Place. Robert Ellwood was buried on 30 April 1703 and three months later she married Robert Webster. Agnes was baptised on 24 August 1679, daughter of John Atkinson of Stricklandgate, perhaps the mortgagee of Webster's burgage house. Treating his step-daughter as his own daughter says a lot for Robert Webster's personality. His inventory, dated 29 May 1712, forms Appendix 1. It records what might be expected for an innkeeper but while it lists well-furnished rooms, it does not distinguish private from public. Sundry contents of the brew house and cellar plus his malt at two mills, made up about 50% of his assets of £65 13s. 8d., but this was reduced by debts of £25 6s. 0d.

The Kendal apprentice records show that Robert was apprenticed for seven years from 26 March 1696, to Jonathan Dodgson, a shearman dyer, and was a son of Robert Webster of Cockermouth, deceased.⁵⁰ He had already been sworn as a freeman shearman dyer on 10 June 1703⁵¹ when, only four months out of his apprenticeship, he married Agnes Ellwood on 29 July. Only nine years later, his will described him as an inn keeper, but he was still referred to as a 'shearman' at Thomas's indenture in 1721. Perhaps it sounded better. The 1712 inventory suggests that Robert may have done some dyeing as bi-employment, hence the '10 hanks of yarn', but that his main work was keeping an inn in the Market Place. As that was both his bride's and her first husband's address, it seems that Robert had married into inn keeping and adapted his other trade. It raises the question of whether Thomas, having surely forfeited his trade in 1725 by sowing seeds for a hard life including contact with the workhouse, might have followed his father in inn keeping. He would not be able to do so until he was aged at least 21. Thus for 16-years after his father's death, and perhaps for some time longer, his mother Agnes could have kept the inn to sustain her family and it is significant that, when Thomas's wife Mary died in 1745, he was still of Market Place. Suitable alehouse records do not exist to explore this likely occupation.

The Cockermouth ancestors

At Cockermouth, Robert's father was buried at All Saints Church on 16 March 1692/3, and was noted as *Mr* Robert Webster, with no detail to clarify the reason for the status.⁵² It was not a common surname in the area, but 14 earlier register entries also refer to Mr Robert Webster including the baptism, on 18 May 1680, of his son Robert who was almost 16 when apprenticed in Kendal and 23 at his marriage. Robert Webster 'Gent' made a will on 25 February 1692-93⁵³ when he was 'weak in body'. To his wife Frances, he left his 'Free house wherein I now dwell,' stables, hay lofts, garths and back rooms and also a 'barn called Porter Barn with the Stables and Garths . . . for the residue of a lease for three lives'. A son Thomas had already promised to free 'my executrix from all debt', so the inventory has none. Thomas was to pay £20 each to 'my five children' Isabel, Joyce, Robert, Edward and Frances as each reached 20 years old, which probably helped Robert pay his freeman's fees at Kendal and get married soon after. For his troubles Thomas was to have the house, Porter Barn, and



Note: Cockermouth registers begin 1632. *In parish register gap 1659-54 inclusive. ? nothing found.

FIG. 4. Outline family tree for ancestors of Francis Webster (1767-1827).

everything else after his mother died. Robert left to another adult son Richard £1 to buy a ring, as if he had already had part of his father's estate or was out of favour for some reason. If Thomas defaulted, Frances as the executrix was to sell the properties to pay debts *except*, significantly, for 'one cupboard to be continued successively in my house with TW I upon it which was my father's'. If the pattern of family forenames is any guide, Robert's father was no doubt named Thomas with a wife whose initial was either I or J.

Besides the 'body of the house' Robert's inventory (Appendix 2) names a little parlour, the great parlour, a back room, two little rooms over the house and parlour, and a room over the great parlour, but contents were not detailed. The fact that the only furnishings noted were beds and bedding which accounted for almost a quarter of his assets, and that bed and table linen took up a further 8 per cent, makes it clear that they were important possessions, suggesting perhaps that he kept an inn for overnight visitors and to serve meals. If so, he supported it with some farming as evidenced by his horses, cow, pigs and 34 sheep and the details of the land and buildings noted in his will. Of Robert's adult sons Thomas was probably the elder as he was responsible for settling debts and paying bequests to the younger children of whom Robert, later of Kendal, was the oldest boy. They were baptised: Isabel (20 September 1676); Elizabeth (18 November 1677, bur. 28 April 1681); Robert (18 May 1680-April 1712); John (24 May 1682, buried next day); Edward (23 May 1683) and Frances (14 May 1685). Joyce's baptism, probably between Elizabeth and Robert, has not been found but will help to show that her father married twice, though neither event has been found in Cockermouth or nearby parishes. On 23 February 1680/1, Robert Webster *nephew* of Mr Robert Webster was buried. If he lived with his uncle, the reason was not stated and his father has not been identified. Other sources reveal more details of Robert's life.

To find why Robert Webster was accorded the title 'Mr' a search was made in catalogues of records still kept at Cockermouth Castle. Volume 4⁵⁴ lists names of important estate employees, and among them Robert Webster is noted as Bailiff of the Five Towns from 1664-1692.⁵⁵ Appointed under Algernon, 10th Earl of Northumberland, who died in 1668, his employment was renewed by the 11th Earl, Jocelyn (died 1670), who expressed 'the special trust and confidence I have in him . . . to be my bayliffe and collector of my rents and revenues whatsoever in the manor of *Quinque Vill*'. He was to exercise the office 'during my will and pleasure' being paid 'such fees & allowances as have beene formerly paid' to others. A key role was to attend the Five Towns court leet, normally held at Easter.⁵⁶ His predecessor (1651-1663) was John Fletcher, while his successor William Ewart (1692-1708) witnessed Robert's will. The three chief manors of the Honour of Cockermouth were Cockermouth, Derwent Fells, and the Five Towns, each with a head jury and bailiff.⁵⁷ Greaves managed most of about 20 smaller units. The manorial accounts are tediously repetitive from 1654 till the late eighteenth century.⁵⁸ For the Five Towns,⁵⁹ Robert Webster's first annual account is typical of the rest and is quoted in Table 1. In addition, a single voucher has been found to illustrate part of his duties in the estate hierarchy. Headed *quinquem vill*, it is dated 19 October 1691,⁶⁰ and acknowledges £7 17s. 4d. 'Rec[eive]d then of Mr Robert Webster Bayliffe there in p[ar]te of the Rent & arrears', signed by Thomas Beach, the estate steward.

TABLE 1. Typical bailiff's annual account for the manor of Five Towns, 1664

15 October 1664			[£. s. d.]		
Quinque Vill	Robtus Webster gent	ball[iff]	ib[ide]m 1664	13 5 2	[a]
	[£. s. d.]		extra coll[ected]	<u>0 15 0</u>	
1 5 0	fees ball	[b]		14 0 2	
0 13 4	Exp cur.	[c]		<u>2 4 2</u>	[d]
0 2 6	asser.	[e]		11 16 0	
<u>0 3 4</u>			sol 1 d.	<u>3 0 0</u>	[f]
<u>2 4 2</u>				<u>8 16 0</u>	

- Notes: a. Customary rents received. b. Bailiff's annual fee. Both always the same.
 c. Court leet expenses. Vary slightly from year to year.
 d. Total bailiff's expenses
 e. Perhaps local rate assessments (?)
 f. Variable deduction (not identified)

Before his 1664 appointment as bailiff of the Five Towns, the burgesses had elected Robert Webster to be Bailiff of Cockermouth for 1657.⁶¹ Thus, he was a burgess with a freehold burgage and was responsible for summoning other burgesses to that manor court, and then swearing a 12-man jury to oversee town affairs. The two appointments allow other parish register entries referring to Mr Webster to be interpreted. For example, Mrs Jane Webster, wife of Mr Robert Webster, was buried at All Saints, Cockermouth on 19 May 1673, and he had daughters baptised there: Jane (26 May 1657) and Joyce (29 October 1659, *buried* 6 October 1661). This confirms that he married twice, but his marriage to Jane and baptisms of his sons Thomas and Richard, mentioned in his will, are probably lost in a gap in the Cockermouth registers from 1650 to 1654 inclusive. Joyce, noted in Robert's will, was clearly by his second wife Frances and, as the other children of that union were listed in order of age, not boys then girls, Joyce was probably born about 1678-9, but her baptism has not been found after 1661 when her namesake was buried.

Robert Webster contributed to the cost of building the Town Hall in 1690.⁶² As one of 34 townsmen who led (or paid for leading) 41 horse-loads of slate brought to the site, he was credited with one load.⁶³ Also he gave 6d. towards £3 4s. 8d. 'given to . . . workmen when the[y] Built the Towne Halle',⁶⁴ but he took no part in the work. Both gifts were in the lowest category, as were most other donations, suggesting that he had only modest means. His bailiff's annual fee of 25s., and limited farming activity mainly at Porter Barn, where he probably grew crops and kept 34 sheep; and some land near his house, where he had hay-lofts, stables and no doubt pig sties, would probably be insufficient for his needs. Income from a possible inn and extra perquisites from his manorial activities would have been very welcome. His horses could be for farm work and to carry him about on business and to scattered properties in his rural manor. While his inventory is rather disappointing, it would indeed be exciting if the initialled cupboard still exists and could be found. A search of Cockermouth deeds failed to prove the exact location of Webster's burgage, but it may have been in the Main Street 'at the Town End' on the east side of a quarter-burgage sold on 4 October 1682 by a Henry Jackson to George Palmer of Dovenby, whose descendants held it until 1738.⁶⁵

The bundle is listed as ‘Burgage near Grecian Villa, 1682-1780’,⁶⁶ so was probably on the south side of the street about 300 yards east of Derwent Bridge.

A document, dated 1 June 1667, uncovered another aspect of Webster’s life when William Hind, yeoman, mortgaged his quarter of a Cockermouth burgage called Cassbay to Anthony Plaskett, with a proviso for redemption on payment of £10. Hind signed a ‘Letter of Attorney for Robt. Webster & Edw. Cowpland to Deliver possession & seizin’ to Plasket perhaps, as in many other cases, because he did not want to attend a court leet to transfer ownership publicly. On 28 May 1668 Hind released his rights to Plasket.⁶⁷ By another letter of attorney, dated 26 October 1711, a Richard Webster and his wife Agnes of Penrith⁶⁸ appointed John Langton, a Cockermouth merchant, to surrender two acres of customary land in Brigham to Thomas France the elder, a Cockermouth yeoman. This would avoid a long journey to the Court.

So far no other information about Robert Webster’s life has been found, but to be undertaking the sort of work already identified, it is likely that as the Bailiff of Cockermouth in 1657 he would be aged about 30, indicating birth in the late 1620s. The earliest All Saints register dates from 1632. Robert would be about 65 when he died, and his parents’ initials are known from the cupboard. As the surname was not common in the area, the burial of Thomas Webster on 26 June 1646 at Cockermouth is important. No inventory or will exists, but administration was granted on 12 October 1647, to Peter Murthwaite of Cockermouth and Henry Rowling (signed Ralling) of Innerdale (Ennerdale), gentleman, with a £300 bond to administer the estate for ‘the only use and benefit of Joyce Murthwaite’, Peter’s wife ‘late wife of . . . Thomas Webster, deceased’.⁶⁹ If Henry Rowling was Murthwaite’s guarantor, the large penalty is a sign that Rowling was relatively wealthy, that Joyce’s estate was considerable, that there was an absolute determination that her new husband should not take financial advantage of her or her children, and that Rowling had complete faith that this would be so.⁷⁰ Mr Peter Murthwaite’s family was baptised: Richard (in 1634); Henry (27 August 1635, buried 17 July 1640); Peter (29 January 1636/7 when the father was the ‘Schoole[m]aster of Cockermouth’. Baby Peter was buried 9 July 1637. More baptisms followed: Mabel (22 April 1638); William (9 July 1639); Mary (2 October 1641); Elizabeth (26 October 1642) and Joseph (2 September 1644). Mary, wife of Mr Peter Murthwaite, was buried on 14 October 1645, so he needed another wife quickly. He appears to have had no more children. Joyce’s burial has not been found, but it could have been in the 1650-54 gap, in which Peter seems to have married again since, on 10 December 1665, Ellen wife of Mr Peter Murthwaite was buried. On 16 November 1675, Mr Peter Murthwaite was buried and was recorded as the vicar of Gilcrux and schoolmaster of Cockermouth.⁷¹

As Thomas Webster was intestate, he probably died unexpectedly and relatively young, so would have been born about 1600. His widow’s quick remarriage suggests that she had children to support, no doubt including Robert and his unidentified brother, whose son Robert died in February 1680-81. As Robert Webster had a daughter Joyce who died in 1661 by Jane his first wife and another Joyce by his second wife Frances, his mother must surely have been Joyce, wife of Thomas, linked by the TWI cupboard inscription. As Robert and his brother were not named in the 1647 probate

administration they were probably aged under 21, and would have been born after 1626 which fits with the probable date of Robert's birth, noted above. The lack of church registers makes it difficult to be more certain. Since Robert's will in 1692-3 recorded that the Porter Barn property was still on an unexpired lease for three lives, it seems that the lease was entered into by Thomas before 1646, but the date, location and other details have not been found.

Conclusions

While conclusions have been made in the body of this article in response to specific points of detail, it is clear that the discussion raises many queries, some of which may be solved eventually. Family members named Thomas provide major challenges for future research. For Thomas, baptised in 1707, his career and burial details must be the minimum targets. Thomas, who died in 1646, will be a similarly difficult challenge, but his birth about 1600, marriage about 1625, children (including Robert's unknown brother), occupation, home and cupboard would be of primary importance. Thomas the son of Robert (died 1692/3) is another target for research, as is his brother Richard and the five younger children of Robert's second marriage.

Searches for this article found a mistake in the Beetham parish registers about William Yeats's marriage in 1719.⁷² Similarly, it is clear that the Ordnance Survey labelling of the former Kirkland infants' school is at variance with Thompson's architect's drawing, perhaps caused by an unknown change of mind. In addition, John Hudson's glebe report suggests that much more research is needed regarding the decline of tanning in Kendal. While this article should act as a guide for a limited amount of future research, the detail found in developing just one small element of *The Websters of Kendal* suggests that there must be a vast amount of material to be explored and published if the significance of Angus Taylor's life's research is to be fully realised. His excellent book is a valuable guide to an immense field of further study.

Acknowledgments

As always I am most grateful to Richard Hall for his friendship, wisdom and help. The archivists at the Record Office in Whitehaven helped find details in the Cockermouth Castle archive and brought heavy boxes of documents to be searched. Robert Baxter as always was very supportive. Kathleen Dodd and her sister were most helpful when I visited Beetham church out-of-hours, as was Mrs R. Tryon-Wilson of Haverbrack when I called at John Hudson's former home. Without constant support and encouragement from my late wife Margaret, Francis Webster's 5 x great-niece, this article would not have developed.

Notes and References

¹ Angus Taylor (ed. J. D. Martin), *The Websters of Kendal . . . an Architectural Dynasty* (2004), CWAAS, Record Series, xvii. Angus was always willing to share his knowledge and helped my research on several occasions.

² *Ibid.*, 64

- ³ J. D. Martin, 'Some new light on the Websters of Kendal', *CW3*, vii, 113-119.
- ⁴ For example C. Nicholson, *Annals of Kendal* (1861), 160; John F. Curwen, *Kirkbie Kendall* (1900), 176.
- ⁵ CRO(K), DRC/10, Kendal Glebe, 1822-26.
- ⁶ Children baptised at Beetham: Mary (30 March 1751); Robert (25 April 1756); Anne (17 December 1758); Elizabeth (6 February 1763, buried at Beetham 29 May 1837); Isabel (9 June 1765); Thomas (1 November 1767); Jennet and Johanna (4 March 1770, buried 8 June 1770 and 9 April 1774 respectively) and John 14 March 1773 CRO(K), WPR/43.
- ⁷ J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, part II, 1752-1900, iii, 473a. (hereafter Venn . . .); John Hodgkinson, *The Greater Parish of Kendal . . .* (2002), 136; R. K. Bingham, *Kendal, a Social History* (1995), 83.
- ⁸ Dates on a monument in Holy Trinity, Kendal. Edward Ballasis, *Westmorland Church Notes* (1888-89), 76.
- ⁹ Bingham, *op. cit.*; CRO(K), WDRC/ 8/ 283, Haverbrack Tithe Award, 31 March 1838. The estate, in three separated portions, included about 18½ acres of small scattered fields, eight acres of woodland, plus grounds in a fine rural setting. Plot 80 contained the house, now known as Haverbrack House on Dallam Tower estate.
- ¹⁰ See note 8.
- ¹¹ Jennett was elder daughter of John Yeats (a Liverpool merchant, born at Beetham 1732, who later returned and died on 5 April 1813 aged 79) and his wife Sarah (daughter of John Benson), who died on 3 September 1822 aged 81). Their children were Edward (born 15 August 1781, see note 12); Jennett (born 5 November 1782) and Mary (born 28 June 1784, died 21 December 1810, aged 26) (Bellasis, 123; Beetham registers; R.S. Boumphrey, C. Roy Hudleston and J. Hughes, *An Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale* (CWAAS Extra Series Vol. XXI, 1975), 336). John Yeats was the second son (youngest child) of William Yeats (who was baptised 24 June 1694, buried 31 January 1770-71) of Nether Leck in Tunstall parish. Beetham registers note that William Yeats of Tunstall married Agnes Dickinson of Beetham on 14 April 1719. She was baptised 5 May 1700, daughter of William Dickinson of Storth (an earlier daughter Agnes, baptised 26 April 1691, was buried 6 May 1692). The monument, accurately recorded by Bellasis, states that William Yeats married Agnes, daughter of John Johnson. One of these sources must be wrong. Agnes Johnson was baptised on 24 September 1693 and there is no sign of her marriage or burial at Beetham. No other Agnes Dickinsons were baptised at Beetham between 1685 and 1710, but one was of Overthwaite when she married Arthur Borrow of Green Lane Head (Kirkby Lonsdale), on 10 May 1725. She was buried at Beetham on 24 July 1755. William Yeat's wife Agnes was buried on 12 March 1759, aged 66, so was born in 1693 (Beetham registers and monument). Thus the vicar recorded the wrong surname at the 1719 marriage. Those informing the inscription must have known that Agnes Johnson was William Yeats's wife. They had three children baptised at Tunstall: Mary (6 February 1719/20); Edward (9 September 1722, buried 17 June 1734, aged 11); Jennet (2 May 1725, buried 21 March 1775, aged 49). Then, at Beetham: Agnes (16 November 1729) and John (19 November 1732, noted first above).
- ¹² In 1829, Edward Yeats, 'Senior Fellow', lived at Ashton House, Beetham (William Parson and William White, *History, directory and gazetteer of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland . . .* (1929) [hereafter P & W], 612). Born on 15 August 1781 (note 11), he attended Hawkshead School, entered Trinity College on 28 June 1797 aged 17, B.A. 1802, M.A. 1805, Fellow 1804. Ordained deacon 1806 at Peterborough; priest 1807 (Venn, II, vi, 613a). Buried at Beetham 27 May 1830, aged 48.
- ¹³ Joseph Thexton (died in 1844, so born c.1763) and his wife née Jennett Yeats died on 19 January 1823 (Bellasis, as note 11). He built a new vicarage at Beetham shortly before 1829 (P & W, 609), and was also curate of Torpenhow in 1841 (*Clergy Lists*, vol. 1, Bodleian Library, published by C. Cox (London), at the Ecclesiastical Gazette Office).
- ¹⁴ John Yeats Thexton, aged 11, attended Sedbergh School from June 1831, entered Trinity College, Cambridge on 31 October 1835 and matriculated at Lent 1838, but is not recorded as a graduate (Venn, II, vi, 148b).
- ¹⁵ Edward Yeats Thexton was born on 7 September 1847, attended Harrow School, and was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge on 29 September 1866. Gained B.A. 1871, but died 27 March 1874 (Venn, II, vi, 148b).
- ¹⁶ The present post office is dated I 1881 T over the door, for Isabella Thexton.
- ¹⁷ CRO(K), WT/ DV/ 2/ 30.
- ¹⁸ *Clergy Lists* (1841), (as note 13).

- ¹⁹ Printed by T(homas) Richardson (bookseller, Stricklandgate). In 1829 the Commercial Hotel, run by James Webster, was in Highgate, as was the solicitor's office (P & W, 660-662).
- ²⁰ An excellent illustration of the vicarage is in J. Satchell, *The Kendal Weaver* (1986), 18.
- ²¹ Unfortunately, Curwen (as note 4) stated neither his source nor reasoning for this comment.
- ²² Churchwardens' accounts for 1822 list William Fisher as churchwarden for Highgate, clearly using his building experience (CRO(K), WPR/38, W1). As Supervisor of the building work, not merely for the carpentry, for the Friends' Meeting House in Stramongate, Kendal, William Fisher was to be paid £20 in 1817. Francis Webster drew plans for it in 1815 and for additional porches in 1816 (CRO(K), WDFC/F/ 1/97).
- ²³ J. D. Marshall and M. Davies-Shiel, *Industrial Archaeology of the Lake Counties* (1969), 168. There could have been 23 Kendal tanneries in 1750, as John Todd's map (1787) shows about 17 tan-yards, but Henry Hoggarth's map (1853) shows only five. P & W (1829), 667 lists seven tanners, compared to five by Mannex (1851), 325.
- ²⁴ William Coward was also a churchwarden and carpenter (CRO(K), WPR/38, churchwardens' accounts, 1827). One churchwarden represented Kirkland, four for Stricklandgate and three each for Highgate and Stramongate.
- ²⁵ Charles James Blomfield (1786-1857), B.A. Trinity Coll., Camb. 1808; M.A. 1811; B.D. 1818; D.D. 1820. After several double-livings, he became Bishop of Chester in 1824 (keeping the living of St Botolph's, Bishopsgate), and helped establish a Commission, leading to the Pluralities Act (1838) to remove pluralism and non-residence. As Bishop of London from 1828, he resisted Catholic emancipation in 1829. In 1836 he began a fund to build and endow churches. It merged with London Diocesan Church Building Society in 1854 (J. A. Venn, II, i 300b ; F. L. Cross, *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (1957), 178; and DNB, v, 229).
- ²⁶ J. Hodgkinson (note 7) states that, at the bishop's 'first visitation . . . a select party were seated at dinner . . . at the Vicarage, and the Bishop, recollecting the discipline of his former tutor, observed: "I remember well, Mr. Hudson, how much I stood in awe of you at College". "Perhaps so" rejoined the Vicar, "but your Lordship has turned the tables upon me now"'. Hodgkinson did not state the source for this pertinent comment.
- ²⁷ Christopher Wordsworth became B.A. (1796); M.A. 1799; D.D. (1810), a Fellow 1798, and vice-chancellor in 1820-21 and 1826-27. Ordained in 1799, he held several livings. While Master of Trinity, he was also rector of Buxted with Uckfield, Sussex, where he died (Venn, II, vi, 579a; DNB, lxiii, 7).
- ²⁸ Proctor: One who manages the causes of others in a court administering civil or canon law; Corresponding to an attorney or a solicitor in courts of equity and common law; now chiefly ecclesiastical (*OED*).
- ²⁹ This second example seems to have been missed by David Butler, *Summer Houses of Kendal* (1982), 6-7.
- ³⁰ Margaret Duff, *Life in Old Kendal* (1983), unpaginated.
- ³¹ C. Nicholson, *Annals of Kendal* (2nd edition 1861), 205 for 'Girls' National School'; and 160 for vicarage. The old vicarage layout is seen on the 1st edition O.S. plan, the 1859-60 vicarage on the 1911 revision, and the 1912 Parish Room on the 1938 edition.
- ³² CRO(K), WSMB/ K, building development plans, 1/ 31. O.S. plans label the southern school as for infants.
- ³³ See note 25.
- ³⁴ See note 26.
- ³⁵ Margaret and Percy Duff, *Kendal in Old Photographs* (1992), 136-137.
- ³⁶ Grave slab outside the north-west corner of Holy Trinity church, Kendal; and *The Websters of Kendal*, 117.
- ³⁷ *Websters of Kendal*, 175-290.
- ³⁸ See note 3.
- ³⁹ B. Tyson, 'Francis Webster and the Market House at Hawkshead, 1790', *Quarto* (October 1993), 8-11.
- ⁴⁰ *Lancaster Marriage Bonds*, 1746-55, Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 115, 123. Licence, 20 June 1754.
- ⁴¹ *Websters of Kendal*, 154.
- ⁴² CRO(K), WPR/ 38, churchwardens' accounts. As well as separate sums paid to Holme and Webster, joint payments continued until 1805. Holme's last entry was in 1806 and he was buried on 10 June 1824 aged 86.

- ⁴³ *Lancaster Marriage Bonds, 1723-28*, Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 80, 97. Licence, 11 November 1725.
- ⁴⁴ A common enough problem; and she would not be showing obvious signs at that stage of her pregnancy.
- ⁴⁵ CRO(K), WSMB/ K/ 2/8, Kendal apprentice register 1680-1736. On 9 October 1718 Thomas Baldwin (alias Balding), a ‘pack saddle-tree maker’, was accused at Kendal Quarter Sessions of practising his trade without having served an apprenticeship. The jury acquitted him CRO(K) WSMB/K Quarter Sessions Order and Indictment Book 1710-1731.
- ⁴⁶ R. S. Ferguson (ed.), *Boke off Recorde* (1892, re-printed CWAAS, Extra Series, VII, 2001), 264 and 266. The writer has a study of all the Kendal borough apprentice records at an advanced stage of preparation for publication by CWAAS.
- ⁴⁷ CRO(K), WPR/38. There are no lists of Kendal workhouse paupers from which facts might be refined.
- ⁴⁸ Licence dated 29 June 1703. *Lancaster Marriage Bonds, 1648-1710*, Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 74, 222. The bondsman was John Harrison, a woolstapler and the witness was John Holme.
- ⁴⁹ Will proved 2 June 1712, Archdeaconry of Richmond wills, Kendal Deanery, on microfilm at CRO(K).
- ⁵⁰ CRO(K), WSMB/ K/ 2/8, Kendal apprentice register 1680-1736.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.*, first leaf in a section of notes reading from the back of the register.
- ⁵² CRO(C), PR/ 136.
- ⁵³ Archdeaconry of Richmond, Copeland Deanery wills (370 DA 442) on microfilm at CRO(W).
- ⁵⁴ Catalogues at Cockermouth Castle, vol. 4, 8.
- ⁵⁵ Three documents for ‘Appointments of Officials’, dated 3 Dec. 1668, 1 Sept. 1670 and 20 Sept. 1688, refer specifically to appointments of Robert Webster in turn, by Jocelin, Earl of Northumberland (died 1670); Arthur, Earl of Essex (a trustee murdered in the Tower of London, 13 July 1683); Charles, Duke of Somerset (1662-1748) and Duchess Elizabeth (1667-1722), Jocelyn’s daughter and heir (Burke’s *Peerage* (1923), 860a; and Bradbury, *A History of Cockermouth* (1981), 251. [Hereafter Bradbury, . . .].
- ⁵⁶ Bradbury, 85.
- ⁵⁷ Thomas Denton (ed. A.J.L. Winchester), *A Perambulation of Cumberland, 1687-1688* (2003), 123.
- ⁵⁸ CRO(W), D/Lec, box 31.
- ⁵⁹ N & B, ii, 8, name the townships as Brigham; Eaglesfield; Dean (with Branthwaite); Greysouthern; and Clifton (with Little Clifton and Stainburn). They all lie contiguously between Cockermouth and Workington, south of the river Derwent, in the Diocese of Chester from 1541 to 1858.
- ⁶⁰ CRO(C), D/ Lec / 289 / 35.
- ⁶¹ Bradbury, 252. His list of Bailiffs is identical to that in vol. 4 of the catalogue of the D/Lec. papers.
- ⁶² CRO(C), D/ Lec / box 11.
- ⁶³ Two men brought three loads, three brought two, and 29 brought one. People of other townships brought 43 loads.
- ⁶⁴ The largest contributions were from Sir George Fletcher, Sir Wilfred Lawson and Henry Inman who gave 5s. each and John Fallowfield 4s. 6d. but over half of the 40 donors gave 1s. or 6d.
- ⁶⁵ CRO(W), D/Lec., deeds, bundle B 3.
- ⁶⁶ This listing identification is clearly over 50 years later than the latter date. The villa is of early 19th century Greek-revival style, discussed by Angus Taylor in ‘Francis Goodwin’s “Domestic Architecture” and two Cockermouth Villas’, *Architectural History* 28 (1985), 125-130, esp. plate 1a & 1b.
- ⁶⁷ CRO(W), D/Lec/ box 5, extract of title for bundle of deeds B. 52.
- ⁶⁸ CRO(W), D/Lec/ box 37 contains hundreds of similar letters of attorney arranged in yearly folders.
- ⁶⁹ Archdeaconry of Richmond, Copeland Deanery wills (478 DA 440), on microfilm at CRO(W).
- ⁷⁰ If Rowling was not the guarantor, might he have been Joyce’s brother protecting her interests? Henry Rawling of Laverick Hall, Ennerdale, died in 1671 (Admin. and inventory but no will, Copeland wills, 163 DA 429).
- ⁷¹ No will survives. Peter Murthwaite was vicar of Gilcrux from 1664 to 1675, when he was succeeded until 1704 by his son Richard, whose will was proved at Carlisle that year. Richard’s son Peter, baptised 3 July 1666, succeeded him until he died in 1736. Richard was also vicar of the neighbouring parish of Dearham 1686-1701, followed by Peter until 1736 (N & B, ii, 117 and 114).
- ⁷² See note 11.

APPENDIX 1

Inventory of Robert Webster, buried at Holy Trinity, Kendal, 11 April 1712.

A true and perfect Inventory of all the Goods & chattles which was Robert Webster's late of Kendal, innholder, deceased taken and apprized by Thomas Ellwood, Robert Nicholson and Robert Wilson . . . May the 29th 1712.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis purse & apparrell	7	0	0
In the paved Chamber a pair of Bedstocks, Fether Bedd, Bolster, 2 pillows,	1	6	8
a pair of Blanketts, a Rugg, a Quilt, 10 hanks of yarn	0	17	0
a Table, 4 Chaires & 2 Chists	0	11	6
3 pair of Sheets &c.	0	6	0
In the Back Loft one Cubbord, one Chist.	2	10	0
Two Barrells with Meal in	0	2	6
Earthen ware, one Chair & a Rope	1	0	0
In the Long Loft a pair of Bedstocks, a Fether Bedd, Bedding & hangings	0	6	8
a Long Table, a Form, a Chist & a chair	0	18	0
In the house three Tables, a Screen, a Chist & 8 chairs	0	3	4
pewther, wood ware, Earthen ware & Brasse ware	2	2	0
Iron ware &c on the Sconce	0	13	4
In the parlour a pair of Bedstocks, hangings and Bedding	0	4	6
a Trickle Bedd & Bedding	0	5	6
a Sadle, Boots, two little Truncks, 2 chaires &c	0	18	0
In the two Offices 2 Tables, 14 chaires	0	10	0
In the Chamber a Table & chair, a pair of Bedstocks & Bedding and hangings	2	10	0
In the Kitchen 3 Ketles & 2 panns, a Gridle & Brand reth, a Chafeing Dish,			
Racks & Speet [spit] Tongs and Racken crook, 3 Chaires &c.	0	15	10
In the Brewhouse a Lead, a Cooler, 2 Mash Fatts [vats], a Chist,			
two hopp Seives a pair of Tongs &c	17	5	0
3 piggs	7	10	0
Fire wood	5	0	0
manure	4	0	0
In the Hay Loft Hay, Turf, a cart & wheeles, wood vessell	0	16	0
In the Seller 9 Barrells, one Hogshead & other Runletts and wood vessell,			
Glasse Botles & ale &c.	3	0	0
Lyeing att Natland Miln 34 Bushell Bigg	0	14	0
Malt Lyeing att Castle Miln	0	6	0
One Cow att	0	2	6
One Gallaway att	0	10	0
Oweing by Debts to the deceased	0	13	8
	Total	25	6
pd Funerall Expences	0	10	0
Oweing by the deceased to Geo Gruby	10	0	0
to Tho. Chippindale	3	6	0
to Mr Jos. Dawson	3	0	0
to Chr. [illegible]	1	16	0
to Tho. [illegible] . . . ken ?	1	0	0
to [illegible] . . . kefeild ?	0	14	0

APPENDIX 2

The Inventory of Mr Robert Webster, of Cockermouth, buried 16 March 1692-93.

A true & p'fect Inventory of all the goods & chattels of Mr Robert Webster deceased late of Cockerm'th apprized by James Todd, John Peile, Thomas Benn & Richard Uriel the 29th day of March 1693. *

		£. s. d.
Imp'mis	The deceased's apparel	5 0 0
Itm	Horses & [horse] furniture	4 0 0
	Beds, bedding & Bedsteads	15 0 0
	The goods in the little parlor	1 0 0
	Goods in the body of the house	2 0 0
	Goods in the great parlor	2 0 0
	Goods in the back-room	0 10 0
	Goods in two little rooms over the house & parlor	1 0 0
	Timber & husbandry gear	5 0 0
	One Cow	2 0 0
	Brewing vessels of wood	1 0 0
	One Cauldron	3 0 0
	Brasse	0 15 0
	Pewter of several sorts	2 10 0
	Bed linnen & Table linnen	5 0 0
	Iron pots grates & other iron gear	2 5 0
	A musket & Carabine	0 10 0
	34 sheep	4 5 0
	Swine	0 16 0
	2 bushels of big[g]	0 10 0
	2 pieces of plate	0 18 0
	Goods in the room over the great parlor	1 0 0
The Total		<hr/> 61 19 0

Apprized the day & year above written by us [no signatures]

[Notes: 'itm' before each entry has been omitted, as have leading zeros in the values.

* Three of these men had been Bailiffs of Cockermouth: James Todd in 1681-82 & 1692-93 (thus, on that day the current Bailiff); John Peile in 1655-56 and 1663-34; and Richard Uriel in 1664-65; as was one of the three witnesses to his will, namely Thomas France, younger, in 1690 and 1699 (Bradbury, 252-253)]