Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society



CPLHS - Bringing History to the Local Community

Interview with Gerald Whiteway

Gerald Whiteway of Lindale, ('GW'), born 12 Jan 1910

Interviewer: Denys Vaughan ('DV')

Date: 17th November 1992

Location: assumed to be at Gerald's house in Lindale

Recording duration: 29 mins 51 secs

DV Let's introduce the tape. I'm talking to Mr Gerald Whiteway of Lindale, and what is it today, it's about the 16th 17th or something of November, something like that, yes, and we're going to talk about Mr Whiteway's early memories of Lindale. And he's just told me that he was born in Lindale in 1912¹, so that's a good start. What is actually your earliest memory of Lindale?

GW Well, the first I remember is the First World War.

DV 1914, so you be two or three?

GW My brother was in the First World War, and he died in the First World War, and the recollection that I have was when news came through that he'd died, and mother and father were [1 min] so upset. That's really the first memory I have.

DV So what year did he die, do you remember that?

GW He died in 12 ... 16. [DV: 1916?] 1916².

DV Yea. What was his name?

GW Edgar. [DV: Edgar, Edgar Whiteway?] Edgar Whiteway, yes.

DV So, were you at school then?

GW No, I wasn't at school then?

DV So you were under five?

GW Under five, yes. [not true – see footnotes]

DV Right. [GW inaudible query about the recorder] That's alright, when you can see the red light flashing, that's recording. No that's fine, it's good stuff, [GW: inaudible comment], it's good stuff, just forget about it. Arthur Frearson took five minutes to get, get used to this. I

¹ He was actually born in 1st Qtr of 1910 – Ulverston Reg. District, Vol 8e page 696. Confirmed by entry in 1911 census, and date of birth given as 12 Jan 1910 when his death at age 93 was registered in Jan 2003.

² Military records report that he died in Mesopotamia on 3 Aug 1917. Full name, from 1911 census, was Charles Edgar Whiteway. Regimental No. 18834 in 6th Battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

- think the red light flashing upset him, but don't worry about it. You get a good reception when it's like that. So, you went to school at Lindale, did you, Lindale School?
- GW That's right, yes.
- DV [2 mins] Do you remember the teachers there?
- GW Yes. Coward. [DV: Mr Coward] Thomas Coward.
- DV Yes, I think I've seen him in the records, yes, some bulbous records.
- GW That's right. And his wife was the infant teacher, so actually when I went to school, I was under Mrs Coward, [DV: Yes], and he was Headmaster of course.
- DV Yes, yes. Were there many people at the school in those days?
- GW 140. A little board went up every morning, [DV : to count who's there], and the total went up, yes.
- DV Good heavens, yea, yea. And what did you like best about school when you just started?
- GW [long pause, then almost inaudible muttering, presumed to be ...] I didn't like it.
- DV You didn't like it too much, what put you off?
- GW Well, I can't remember.
- DV Interfered with your life a bit?
- GW [3 mins] I said I didn't like it, but I was mixed about it, [DV: Yea], I will say that. I had the good, and I had bad times at school.
- DV Well, you became a craftsman. Did you pick anything of that up at school, or was that home?
- GW I picked that up at Cartmel. Cartmel Centre, yes.
- DV Is that the place they call Cartmel Grammar School?
- GW Grammar School, yes.
- DV So you went there when you were ...
- GW I went there when I ... at 10, and I was there till I was 14.
- DV So you actually went every day to ... [both indistinguishably speaking at same time] ... So you were in at Lindale, [GW: Yes], but you left some of the time, you were 10, you went, possibly Tuesday, one day a week to ...
- GW We had gardening and that sort of work.
- DV Yea, yea. And do you remember who taught you there?

- GW Mr Greenwood.
- DV That's an interesting name. And you picked it up there. Is that when you first decided you wanted to be a wood worker?
- GW [4 mins] No, not really. My brother had the Post Office up the village, [DV says 'yea' after almost every phrase whilst GW is talking not separately noted hereafter], Clifford Whiteway, and the store, and after I left school at 14, I went to be a ...[?] lad for him, taking papers round the village in the morning, and also a delivery of groceries, that was when I left school. And ... when I was 16, I decided that I'd like to be ... to go into the wood working. So from then, I went to Blakemores at Grange, to serve my time.
- DV In Grange. Where were they?
- GW Top of Risedale Hill.
- DV So you started as an apprentice when you were 16 there ? [GW:16]. 16 to 21?
- GW Yes, that's right
- DV What sort of jobs did Blakemore's do?
- GW Well, mostly on houses, joinery work of course we're on all the time. [5 mins] And I got into that happy position of being a foreman before I was 22.
- DV Really, so you must have been a handy lad.
- GW Must have been.
- DV Yes, that's good.
- **GW** [inaudible comment]
- DV Yes, that's nice, that's nice. So did you stay with Blakemores?
- I stayed with Blakemores for seven years, and then my father died³, and I had to go down to the local joiner here, called Roger Knowles, and of course I put the funeral into his hands. And during the time of the funeral, a few days beforehand, he said: will you come and work for me? I said, no, I said, I've got a real good job where I am. When I went down to pay the account, about a fortnight after, he persuaded me to come to Lindale. [DV: Yes] [6 mins] And it was good that I came, because I got into the job of making wheels, wheelwrights, with ...[?], yer know.
- DV So actually made the wheels?
- GW Agricultural work, yea. There's a picture up there ... of Walter, Sam Ogden and myself, making ...[?] down here, after I'd started on my own.

³ His father, Folliott Whiteway, died 1st Qtr 1938, aged 70

- DV Did you ever make the big wheels, the big cart wheels?
- GW Yes, cart wheels. I think I made the last that are still in. And that old man at the back there, Sam Ogden, he upped the wheels for us.
- DV Yes, I've seen the ... seen the hoop thing at Cartmel.
- GW That's right. Denisons.
- DV The big iron thing. That was an interesting job. So you stayed with Knowles for a bit and ...
- I was with ... well, Mr Knowles died twelve months⁴ after I started, so I carried on the business [7 mins] for about 6 years, 6 or 7 years, then I was told by the doctor, I was ... I had to find another job, and I started on my own, down in this village.
- DV Did you feel any health problems at the time?
- GW Yes. I was actually[?] [DV: Working too hard?] He said I was swallowing, worrying.
- DV Yes, working too hard. So you thought working for yourself would be easier than working for ...
- GW Well, yes, I think so, yes. It was too, because I could make mi own decisions, you see, whereas talking it over with the lady, and ... we had different ideas, you see, how to go about things, so I started on mi own.
- DV So that's when Whiteways Joiners and Undertakers ... [GW: Undertakers as well] You started off as a Joiner and Undertaker, for yourself?
- GW I was an undertaker [8 mins] with Knowles.
- Yes, yes. So what year did you start off Whiteways Joiners and Undertakers, how old were you then ? You'd be just about 30 years old, wouldn't you ? [GW : Yea] Good time to be starting on your own. [GW : Yes] And had you got married in that time, or was that still to come ?
- GW I was married then. I married ... I married Doris after I'd been at Knowles' for 10 months, I married.
- DV Now your wife ... your wife Doris, what was Doris' name before she was married?
- GW Doris was Park⁵. [DV: Doris Park] Arthur knew her very well. [DV: Pardon] Arthur. [DV: Arthur Frearson?] Arthur went to school with her actually.
- DV Really, that's interesting. Oh, we didn't talk about that. We did talk about what young fellars got up to in their holidays in those days, and he [9 mins] had some interesting things to

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⁴ Roger Knowles died 3rd Qtr 1938 aged 41

⁵ Gerald Whiteway married Doris Park in 3rd Qtr 1938

tell me about how he spent his long school holidays. Do you remember your school holidays from when you were at Lindale ?

- GW No, I don't.
- DV They didn't register a lot?
- GW No, I was always for work, because mi brother wanted plenty of help in the shop. And even when I was serving my time, on nights and Saturday afternoons, I'd be back at the Post Office helping him.
- DV Did you have a bicycle ? [GW : Yes] So Arthur had a bicycle, and he had some good tales to tell about travelling about here. Did you get very far afield on your bicycle ?
- GW Oh, Witherslack, only Witherslack, Newby Bridge, that sort of thing.
- DV What ... did you go in a gang, with gang of boys?
- GW No, no, I went by myself.
- DV You went by yourself.
- GW More or less, yes.
- DV What would persuade you to go to Witherslack, or Newby Bridge?
- GW Church.
- DV Church? So church was important when you were quite young?
- GW Absolutely, yes.
- DV Were you in the choir?
- GW Yes, I was in the choir.
- DV [10 mins] What age did you join the choir ? [GW: 17] So you joined as a man.
- GW Yes, I'd got mi voice.
- DV Yes, yes, good, oh that's nice, that's interesting. And ... so you got married when you were 30ish, and did you have a family?
- GW One child, Marie.
- DV Marie, yes, a daughter.
- GW She's in Canada.
- DV She's in Canada, oh dear, it's a long way to go, isn't it.
- GW It's a long way. I've been 3 times to Canada, and I'll tell yer[?] tumour on her brain. [DV : Oh dear, oh dear] Very sad. She's improving but ...

- DV She's had it successfully treated? Yes. Well it's really quite marvellous what they can do with that sort of thing nowadays, isn't it. [11 mins] Yes. Well about this census for you to look at Gerald, and unfortunately, I have transcribed it, I've put it into modern typescript but, I've been fiddling with the computer this morning and I couldn't get it to print right. So I'll bring you another one down when I get it.
- GW Couldn't we go, yer know ... now as you've got it ... this way ... [sound of paper shuffling] ... don't you think we could probably give this a bit more study?
- DV What would you like to study ...
- GW [inaudible start whilst DV is speaking] people in the village, yer see.
- DV Yes. Well how about if I leave you with this. You've got good eye sight, you're a good reader.
- GW I've got good eye sight.
- DV Well, you must have read some funny writing in your time as a business man, so you'll have no trouble reading that. Well, you might be able to read some of it better than I can, because you'll know the names ... you'll know what some of the names are now.
- GW Where have you got this from?
- This is public stuff, it's ... [12 mins] I actually got it from ... [GW: the church register?] No, it was done by the government in 1891, and they keep it secret for 100 years, so last year this became public knowledge, and this is the note book made by the chap who came round in 1891 and interviewed all these people, in Lindale, and put down where they lived, how many rooms they had in their house, what the name was, whether they were the head of the house or wife or what, married or single, sex and age, what their job was, where they came from. So it's quite good information, and you will actually find on there a lot of very small children in 1891 who, by the time you were working, or by the time you were at school, were probably ... [13 mins] you bumped into them quite a lot in the village.
- GW Jane Bell was my grandmother⁶.
- DV Good Lord. Jane Bell was your grandmother. Yea, that's interesting. What was the name of that cottage?
- GW Fern Cottage. [DV :Pine Cottage?] Fern.
- DV Fern? [GW: Fern Cottage] Well it's down here as Pine here. [GW: Fern Cottage] Should be Fern.
- GW Does it carry on from there?

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⁶ Sarah Bell was still alive as a widow aged 80 at the time of the 1911 census, and still living at Fern Cottage with daughter Sarah Jane Whiteway, and her husband, Folliot Whiteway, and their family including Gerald.

- DV It ... it goes on with about 12 pages I would ... yes it does carry on from there, so you can have a look ...
- GW Interesting, isn't it. I agree that John Winder had the shop down the road, he was a grocer, that's right.
- DV Was that the one before the Co-op, before it was a Co-op, or ...?
- GW Oh no. That was the other side, coming up the hill ... [continues quietly whilst DV asks ...]
- DV Is that opposite the Post Office?
- GW ... that was above the Blacksmith's Shop.
- DV So where was that in relation [14 mins] to the Post Office now?
- GW Down below the Post Office.
- DV Well there's no trace of a shop now, unless you know what to look for. So that's interesting. That was Winder? [GW:inaudible comment] I'll bet you did, yes.
- GW [continues very quietly, inaudible] ... even ...[?], and ... Alan Shackley ... Mark Birch, I knew him very very well, at the Co-op, and his wife Anne ... yes
- DV I would think you've buried ... you've probably buried half of those folk.
- GW Oh, yea.
- DV Did you ever keep a tally of how many funerals you saw to?
- GW I started going into it one day ... about 700 and odd.
- DV Well that's really the ... almost the complete population of Lindale, over time, isn't it?
- **GW** [inaudible comment followed by long silence]
- DV [15 mins] Well, more of that ... take that and have a look through it at your leisure. That's my working copy ... [GW: inaudible comment] No, no, you keep it for now. I've got a copy of ... [GW: Have you?] I've got a copy on the computer, it's just not working right at the moment. So I'll crack that later this week, and I know it ... you have a look through that, and ... see if you can figure out anything interesting about different people there. It's interesting to me to know where these people lived, because these addresses don't tally with the modern addresses. And that Pine Cottage being Fern Cottage, [GW: Fern Cottage], yes, that's a mistake. But people did make mistakes.
- GW Father came in ... [?]
- DV I haven't come across a Whiteway, but I don't think all the village is in there.

⁷ Gerald's father, Folliott Whiteway, married Sarah Jane Bell in the 3rd Qtr of 1892 in Ulverston Registration District [indexed as Vol 8e page 1315], so probably came to Lindale after the 1891 census.

- **GW** [unclear comment]
- DV I don't think all the village is in that. I shall have to go back to [16 mins] Barrow to get ... to have a look at the full document.
- GW And I believe that the record of the baptisms, and the burials, in the archives now ... that's at Kendal isn't it?
- DV Is it?
- GW I've asked the Vicar, because there's a lady writing to me now, at the moment, asking me if I could trace her forefathers, and I think her forefathers are relations of mine, [DV : Good heavens], they were Bell family. Well that's interesting.
- DV It is an interesting document. Well, why don't you keep that for a day or two, [GW: I'll keep it for a day or two], and have a look at that, and perhaps we could have a look at the map as well?
- GW Yes, let's get it open. [sounds of shuffling papers] OK. I'll keep this for a day or two.
- DV And what about a quick look at [17 mins] that map? Now that map is ... 18 ... no it's 1913 that map. I would have liked an 1890 map, but there isn't one of Lindale. They haven't got one in the library anyway. And this is ... these colours are what we did last November. We went round the village, and ... the red ones are houses that have disappeared, [GW: I think they have], houses that have fallen down, the orange ones are building ... [GW: The Mill Pond], that's the old Mill Pond,
- GW That's the big ...[?] house.
- DV That's the Institute there.
- GW Well, this was glebe land.
- DV Was it? That's interesting.
- GW The church stands ... the church is there, isn't it?
- DV The church ... the church ... let's have a look. There's the church ... there's the church ... there's the ... [18 mins] [inaudible comment from GW] ... there's the graveyard.
- GW Ah well, here we are.
- DV So you're looking at it from ...
- GW The pond, the pond.
- DV There's the pond.
- GW That was the mill pond. This is the school hill. [DV: That's right] There's the school houses there.

- DV That's the school house. Now that was there in 1890 surely? That wasn't a new building after ...
- GW 1890. No, it wasn't there.
- DV It wasn't there in 1890?
- GW No. It was built in ... it was built in the ...
- DV It was there in 1913, because that's when the map was made.
- GW It was in 1913.
- DV But not in 1890. That's interesting.
- GW It was early ... it was about ... 19 ... 1903, the school house was built.
- DV That's why it's not in the census ... We were looking for a school master, and we couldn't find a school master in this census.
- GW Ah, the school master was Coward.
- DV Yes. Well he's not in here⁸. [19 mins] And we didn't find the Parsonage, we didn't find the ... [GW: the Vicarage] ... the Vicarage, we didn't find that on ...
- GW Mr Irvine.
- DV He's not in this ...
- DV There isn't a parish boundary anywhere through the village is there?
- GW [unclear start of comment] Lindene in the parish of Lindale.
- DV [20 mins] Yea, well the ... I didn't extract this by myself, it was done by a librarian, so she's just given me what she thinks is Lindale. So ... and there's no Lindene on it. There's none ... and there's ...
- GW No, well, it was a plantation.
- DV There's none of this on it. There's no Brocca on it. So I think she's missed out. It's not ...

⁸ The copy of the 1891 census that Denys Vaughan had then was obviously incomplete. A school house is included, (with Thomas Coward, aged 29, as 'Head Teacher of Elementary School'), and the Parsonage, (occupied by Thomas Irvine aged 34). They are both in the National Archives document RG12/3474, on folio 113, for original pages 1 & 2 of Lindale.

- GW That's where I had mi first house.
- DV Really? Yea. Is it still there?
- GW Yes, yes. Wood Villa.
- DV How did you come into the carriage works?
- GW Oh, I bought the carriage works in an auction sale.
- DV Yes. Who was giving it up?
- GW Wilsons.
- DV Wilsons the original ...
- GW They have the garage as well now.
- DV Yes, I remember them in the garage.
- GW Yes, George and Chris.
- DV So did buy ... did you just buy the works, or did you buy anything else?
- GW I bought all the land there.
- DV You bought ... did you buy the house?
- GW The cottage ? [DV : Yea] No, I didn't buy it.
- DV [21 mins] You just bought the land?
- GW I just bought the land, and at that particular time, the village hall had just bought their place, and then I bought all the buildings at the rear of the village hall, that included the blacksmith's shop, the paint shop ...
- DV Now where's the blacksmith's shop ... is that on this site?
- GW It will be on this site, yes, [unclear short comment about it]
- DV Now do you remember what year that was, or how old you were at the time?
- GW No. I wouldn't commit myself with dates actually.
- DV So it was somewhere about between 1930 and 1940 I guess, was it?
- GW No. It was in the 50s.
- DV Oh, after the war? [GW: after the war] Good heavens! So the carriage works stayed as a carriage works until ...
- GW Well ... not ... not really working. It went on to the garage side.

- DV So it was run as part of Wilsons [22 mins] business. You don't remember when it was last used as a carriage works, do you?
- GW I can't give you that. [DV: No] Yesterday afternoon I could have done, because mi daughter Joyce was here, and I could have asked her. I married Mrs Wilson, yer see, George's wife, George's widow, I married her, yer see, after Doris had died.
- DV So you ... Doris was your first wife?
- GW Doris was my first wife. Mary was my second wife⁹.
- DV Mary was your second wife, oh yes, gotcher. Ah well, yes, so ... oh that's interesting, so it's nice to tie in the carriage works with the garage. [GW: Yes] We were looking on here for the carriage works, there was no mention of it in 1891, and there was no mention of a ... of a coach maker. There were a lot of painters, and there were a lot of joiners in this village ... [GW: and blacksmiths] and blacksmiths.
- GW See here, you have Robert Castle, he was a blacksmith, [DV: Yes], [23 mins] and his blacksmith's shop was at the end of this road, and they ... converted into a ... a bungalow now.
- DV Yes, yes. And there's the old smithy down above the Lindale Inn, yes.
- GW [starts talking whilst DV is talking, so initially inaudible] ... my father's ... my father's smithy was up at the carriage works. He worked for Wilsons. My dad did, he was with them for 50 years.
- DV So he made his ... what sort of iron works would he do for coaches?
- GW Well, the springs, the lamp holders, the steps leading up to the carriage, and ... all for the carriage.
- DV Did he ever make agricultural parts?
- GW Not really, no. I worked for him in agricultural, because we made tractor trailers and that, down here at ...[?]. And of course our local blacksmith, Ogden, worked there, [DV: Yes, yes] [24 mins] ... course father picked the[?].
- DV Who did the joinery for the bigger houses at this time we're talking of, the 1890s, round about the turn of the century, because there's a lot of houses like ours, you've been in our house, I guess you've looked at the woodwork in our house. My father was a joiner, and he was very interested in the way the doors were all what I would call bevelled. He said, oh, that's cart work, we don't see a lot of that round Barrow, it's cart work. The joiner who did that looks as if he was making carts as well. Was there any truth in that?
- GW [starts talking in a whisper whilst DV is still talking, so initially inaudible] ... yes, yes, I agree with that. Strong.

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⁹ The death of Doris Whiteway was registered in Sept 1981, age 66, her date of birth then given as 21 March 1915. Gerald's 2nd marriage was registered in April 1984, his spouse being then named as Edith M Wilson, so presumably known by her second name, Mary.

- DV Strong, over built if anything.
- GW That's right, to much timber was used on various jobs.
- DV But the roof's not going to fall in.
- GW No, not at all. There'll be plenty of ...
- DV [25 mins] Yes, well, people complain about their wood rotting, and I say, well, Gerald Whiteway put this in when the bomb dropped, and it's still alright.
- GW You've got a nice place there, haven't yer.
- DV Oh, it's a grand spot, yes it is.
- GW You were lucky with that.
- DV Very lucky, we were. Just the way things turn out, yes.
- GW Have you ever looked at ... well, you will look at it every day, that lintel that's over the fireplace ?
- DV Do you know it's cracked ? [GW : Yes ?] Got a crack in it, yes. It wasn't very well supported. When Postlethwaites changed the fire place, they should have propped it, they should have built under it, but they've left six feet with it hanging ...
- GW Ah, I see, yes. [continues talking inaudibly whist DV is talking]
- DV It's not that kind of rock, it's not a very strong rock. Heat and pressure, yes. It's a kind of rock that's made of lots of little bits all joined up, which is it it's nice figuring, and it hasn't much strength. But I had an engineer [26 mins] look at it, and he said, oh, it'll see you out, [GW:Yes], it'll see you out.
- GW Had somebody blacked it all though, had it been done over with paint?
- Possible DV Red paint. [GW: Red?] Mrs Armstrong had ... [GW: Oh.] They'd had the original ... there must have been a range in there when the house was built, because there's a water pipe service to it, we've come across that, and Mrs Armstrong had a ginger tile fire ..., modern fireplace, 1930s fireplace, put in, and then she'd painted it over with red cardinal paint, and it looked pretty awful. So we got rid of that, and one of Postlethwaites fellars, a chap called Pargetter from Flookburgh, built the fireplace, just got the stone and just sat there and built it, but he didn't think about the sill, the lintel. If he'd thought about the lintel and the weight on it, he'd have ...
- GW Did'nt we put some French doors in in place of a window there?
- DV You did, [27 mins] you did.
- GW Are they still there?
- DV Yes, they're still there.

- GW Are they still there?
- They're still there, but there's a conservatory outside them now, [GW: Ah] because there was a bit of rot in the ... one of the bottoms, there was a damp patch along the wall, which had rotted the bottom, so I took the damp out, and I replaced some with concrete, and the French windows are fine, but to protect them we've ... that's now all indoors, it has a conservatory on. But the interesting thing about those doors is that you built them on a slant, didn't you? [GW: Yea, yea] Because it ... obviously the space had moved, so you made the doors to fit the space [GW: to fit the space] yes, yes, and you can see the top, tapering. [GW: inaudible comment] Yes, yes, oh that's ... they're still there, they're double-glazed now.
- GW What did you do with the dairy part ... there were slabs in there, weren't there?
- DV Oh well, I did a ... I did a bit of a silly thing there, I think. I took the slab out, [GW: Yea] to give us a bit more room, [28 mins] and we used the slabs for footpaths outside.
- GW Did you break those up?
- No, we didn't break them, they're still there. And that little cold cupboard that was in the middle, [GW: Yea, I remember that] we took the doors off that, and we plastered the wall, and we put slabs down on the floor, and then dug into that to see where the foundations were. D'y know there aren't any foundations there. The bottom stone of that dairy is straight onto clay. It's a big stone about this big, about two feet by a foot and a half, or something like that, and it just sits on the clay, so I covered that up again quick. But there's no movement, [GW: maybe not, maybe not] No, there's no movement there.
- GW It's big enough to take that slab. [continues speaking quietly when DV starts speaking]
- DV So it's a nice work room. Straight onto clay. I think they may have put clay down there, and as you know, [GW: just for bedding] yea. There's only one wooden floor in the house, and that's the room where the French [29 mins] window was, all the rest are straight on to the ground, slabs onto the ground, yes, yes.
- GW But if I remember rightly, that lintel, the fireplace, it's a huge piece of stone.
- DV Oh, it's about 7 feet by ... 7 feet long, it's a foot from top to bottom, and I don't know what it is from front to back. It's a fine piece of stone.
- GW 'tis a good piece.
- DV Yes, anyway, right ... well, we'll leave that ...
- GW Are we going to keep together about it?

[recording cuts at 29 mins 30 secs, then restarts at 29 mins 32 secs]

DV Continuation, Wednesday the 25th November.

[no continuation except a microphone check; recording ends at 29 mins 51 secs]