



# HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

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## SOUTERGATE

VOLUME ONE

### Soutergate

The word **Soutergate** could have several meanings :- South Gate, Sheep way or perhaps a place of shoe-makers. A 'Souter' was a cobbler or shoe-maker. However, in the earlier Parish Records Soutergate is often referred to as Southergate.

Although the A595 road now runs along the back of the Hamlet, it used to go through Soutergate and wind back past "Soutergate House". This is within living memory and at least one person can remember the 'Fair' making its way through. The 'new' piece of road is still referred to as the 'back road' by many local people.



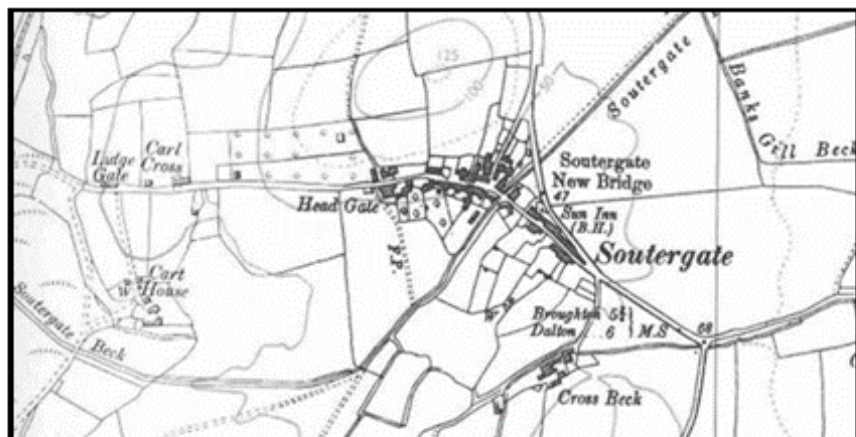
Road through Soutergate with the smithy and "Sun Inn" on the right

**1631 Soutergate**  
Elizabeth Woodburn of Soutergate, Kirkby Ireleth, suffered GBH at the hands of the Parish Constable who had stoned her. She had to write to the Lancaster Assizes to explain that she could not attend court as she was still bed ridden due to her injuries.

### 25 Years Ago

Residents of Soutergate, Kirkby, said they would not pay their water rates in protest at what they said was an inadequate service by North West Water.

North Western  
Evening Mail 7/0403



Soutergate 1930-1965



**Apprentice piece ironwork by John Coward (Smiddy Jack) at "Garth Nook", Soutergate**

### The Smithy

**Jack Coward** (Smiddy Jack) was the blacksmith and we used to love to watch him at work, especially when he was fitting the metal "tyres" to cart wheels, on the "iron ring" (as we called it) beside the beck. Smiddy Jack used to make "boolies" for us kids — metal hoops and iron crooks.

**Gordon Calderbank**



**Robert Coward Wilson and John Fothergill Coward (Smiddy Jack)**

### "CART HOUSE FARM"

"Cart House Farm" stands on the banks of the Duddon estuary on the outskirts of the hamlet of Soutergate, Kirkby-in-Furness. The place names suggest this was a part of the country where the Norwegian Vikings settled in, around A.D. 895, after fleeing the Isle of Man and the armies of King Harold of Norway, from whom they had renounced all allegiance. The word cart could be from the Norwegian word 'Kart' meaning rocky ground.

Walking along the drive and seeing "Cart House" for the first time one is at once impressed by the long low building that has stood there for hundreds of years. It was built in an age before it was fashionable to place plaques over doorways with the date and initials of the original occupants. Looking over the farmyard a very sturdy porch door is seen with a chunky looking chimney to the left of it. There are two other chimneys of a later date one at either end of the building. The east end of the north wall has a recently constructed out-shut and doorway built against the face of it. Here once ran an outside stairway to an upper granary / potato store. The west end of the building, now converted into a cottage, still shows signs of its past use with the original barn door canopy still in place. None of the upper floor windows are in line with the ones on the ground floor.

#### Marriages from "Cart House".

Thomas Hunter of Soutergate and Margaret Towers of Carthouse. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1734.

William James of Soutergate and Elizabeth Hunter of Carthouse. 26<sup>th</sup> June 1737.

Richard Dickinson (bachelor) waller and Mary James (spinster) Carthouse. Both of this parish.

Wit. Thomas Briggs and William Atkinson. November 24<sup>th</sup> 1759.

Cornelius Coward (bachelor) slate river, Carthouse and Margaret Fenton (spinster) of Askewgate.

Both of this parish. Wit. John James, John Shepherd and Joshua Parker. November 17<sup>th</sup> 1827.



More information on "Cart House Farm" by **George Woods** will be given in the next edition of 'Soutergate'.

#### 1841 Census for "Cart House".

William Dickinson aged 65 years. Farmer.

Ellenor Dickinson aged 71 years.

John Dickinson aged 35 years. Slate River..

James Coward aged 21 years. Slate River.

Ann Coward aged 28 years. F.S.

Child Coward aged 3 weeks.

Henery Brockbank aged 45 years. Slate Quarryman.

Jane Brockbank aged 40 years.

Thomas Brockbank aged 18 years. Slate River.

William Brockbank aged 11 years.

John Brockbank aged 7 years.

George Brockbank aged 1 year.

#### Burials from "Cart House" 17th Century.

Isabel, daughter of Roger Kirby, 24<sup>th</sup> April 1681.

Roger, son of Roger Kirkby, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1682.

Agnes, wife of Robert Hunter, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1684.

Margaret, daughter of Robert Hunter, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1684.

John Whineraw, 24<sup>th</sup> November 1694.

Roger Hunter, 5<sup>th</sup> February 1696.



**"SUN INN" Soutergate**

In the early 1950's, when I was living at "Fuchsia Cottage", Soutergate, I was asked by a neighbour, Mrs. Braithwaite, if I would go down to the "Sun Inn" to tell her husband that some visitors had arrived and would he come home.

I did as requested and went in to the small bar. It was sparsely furnished with a wooden bar and a small fire in the corner.

George and his neighbour, Ernie Heaton, were stood with a glass in one hand and a bottle in the other. At this point the landlord, Mr. Carter, came to ask, "Have you chaps gittrn all tha' wants?" "Aye", they said. "Reet", said Mr. Carter, "Pull't door to when ye gang out. I's be off t' "Commercial" for a bit of a crack and a game o' darts."

**Arthur Newton.**

### **"CROSS BECK FARM"**

"Cross Beck Farm" was built in the late eighteenth century by the Mason family. They owned it until the 1970's when it was bought by Edgar and Dorothy Procter.

In 1851 the tenant was Jonathan Kellet from Heysham who farmed 86 acres. He lived there with his wife and seven children. The two older sons worked on the farm with him.

Another tenant called Duckett moved to Canada and created a farm there named "Cross Beck Farm".

Procters moved to "Cross Beck" in 1927 during the depression. Milk was delivered to Soutergate by horse and trap and Mrs. Tom Procter did Bed and Breakfast at this time.

**Dorothy Procter**

The "Sun Inn" and "Fat Lamb" or "Crown" at Chapels are both recorded as being opened in 1886 as Beerhouses both owned by Mr R. Addison (Stationmaster). These inns passed to his wife's ownership in 1895 and were eventually sold to Hartleys' Brewery, Ulverston, in 1952.

Licenses were - Alice Relph 1886-1899, W. Moore 1899-1902, G. Todd 1902-1905, R. Walker 1905-1916, James Hudson 1916-1928, William Postlethwaite 1928-1931. Flo. Postlethwaite is named as licensee from 1933-1934 and since then Percy Brown, John Ben Jackson and Bill Carter.

**Alan and Betty Benson.**



**Alice Relph** the licensee of the 'Sun Inn', Soutergate. The inscription on the tobacco jar reads, "**William Relph, Kirkby, 1881**".

William and Alice Relph left Coniston in the 1870's to live at the "Sun Inn", Soutergate, with their four sons, Thomas, Stephen, and twins, William and Robert. William worked at the iron ore mines at Roanhead and Alice was the Beerhouse keeper at the "Sun Inn". William died in 1883 and Alice stayed at the "Sun Inn" until 1900. She died in 1908.

**Sue New**

## Using the Census Returns

for Soutergate for the period 1841-1881, it is possible to trace some of the changing patterns of employment over that time. Despite the tradition of farming in the village, in 1841, more men described themselves as 'Slate River' than 'Agricultural Labourer'. However, when the farmers themselves are included, the total number employed in agriculture was twenty-nine and slate quarrying, twenty-eight.



**Workers at Burlington Slate Quarries circa 1904**

At this time 'Farm Servant' was used to describe a female worker, yet in 1851, it had become the accepted term for a male worker. 'House Servant' applied to women and girls - reflecting, perhaps, a changing society where houses, other than farmhouses, had hired help. It could also have been an attempt for the house servant to separate herself from the farm servant and give added status to her work. The occupation of 'Char Woman' appeared for the first time in this Census.

'Slate Rivers' and 'Quarry Labourers' still numbered more than 'Farm Labourers' and Farm Servants in 1851, but those farmers' sons and daughters whose occupation was given as 'Farmer's Son/Daughter' were most likely part of the farm workforce and as such should be included in the figure for agriculture. Including the farmers themselves, this makes the total twenty-nine and twenty-eight in slate quarrying - so slate and farming still neck-and-neck. (One of those employed in slate was an eleven-year-old boy who was described as a 'Horse Driver' at the slate works.)

A change came in 1861 when iron ore miners were first shown in the Returns, but still the largest number of men were employed in slate. An 'Engine Driver' is shown in this census and two 'Railway Labourers' appeared in 1851, shortly after the Furness Railway was established.



**Harvesting in fields adjacent to Soutergate 1970's**

By 1871, agriculture had given way to industry and the competition then was between slate and the iron ore mines. However, at this time the general term 'Labourer' was used and could indicate farm, slate or iron ore workers, making comparisons difficult. A new occupation in the Return was 'Spade Maker', an offshoot of the iron ore industry. Reflecting, perhaps, a more affluent society, there was also a Governess, a Teacher and a Surgeon. Always there was at least one, and often more, blacksmiths, grocers, shoemakers and beer-house keepers.

**J. Whitehead** will continue her investigations into the census returns in the next issue of '**Soutergate**'.