

# Allerdale and the 1921 Census

We are exploring people in the newly-released 1921 Census, which will soon be available via Find My Past in Cumbria's Libraries.

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NAME and SURNAME.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY.		OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT.			Number and sexes of all living children and step children under 16 years of age. (In respect of Married Men, Widowers and Widows.)		
					(i)	(ii)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(1)	(2)	
41	Mellindorson Jane	63	F	Single	York	British						
42	Thompson Helen Agnes	65	F	Single	Workington	British						
43	Hodgson Alice	61	F	Married	Workington	British						

One of Workington's most famous residents, Helena Thompson, then aged 65, was away on holiday at the time of the census. Her entry shows her described as a visitor at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate.

and the gardens for outdoor meetings of a similar character I ALSO GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Workington Corporation such of my books pictures curios antiques and household effects as my Trustees shall think suitable and useful for the above purposes I ALSO GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Workington Corporation the sum of Ten thousand Pounds upon trust to invest the same and to apply the income from time to time in maintaining in good repair and condition the said property in purchasing antiques or articles of local interest for the Museum and for the general purposes expenses of the Museum AND I DECLARE that portions of the capital may if

Helena Thompson lived at Park End in Workington, which she left to the people of Workington to be used as a museum. She was the first lady magistrate in the town, supported many charities and was awarded an MBE.

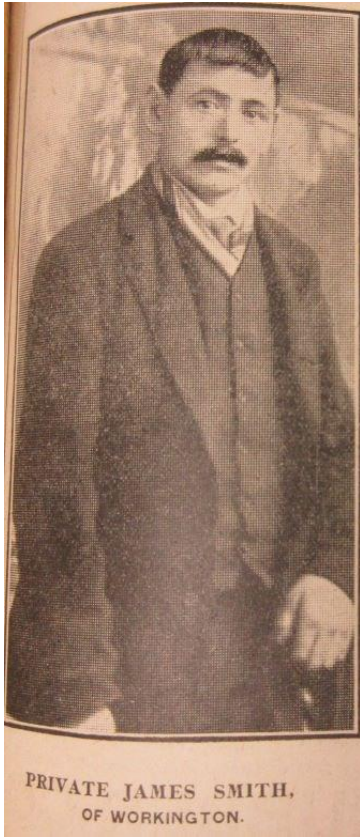
BURIALS in the Parish of *St. John, Workington* in the County of *Cumberland* in the year one thousand nine hundred and *thirty eight* . . . .

Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Mary Ann Norman</i> No. 232.	<i>13 Burn Gap.</i>	<i>March 29<sup>th</sup> 1938</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>Sp. L. Gerson</i>
<i>Helena Agnes Mary Thompson</i> No. 233.	<i>Park End</i>	<i>January 9<sup>th</sup> 1940.</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>Sp. L. Gerson</i>

When Helena died in 1940, she was buried in St John's churchyard (see left for her entry in the burial register).



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PRIVATE JAMES SMITH,  
OF WORKINGTON.

Private James Smith, who once lived on Southey Street on the Marsh and served in the Border Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross "for conspicuous bravery in rescuing wounded men under heavy fire" in December 1914 during WWI. His actions were reported in the *Workington Star* newspaper and he was described as "exceedingly modest".

## VICTORIA CROSS FOR WORKINGTON MAN.

APPROVED BY THE KING.

### Another for a Whitehaven Man.

A supplement to the GAZETTE, last night, states that the King approved of recommendations that the Victoria Cross should be awarded to eleven men for conspicuous bravery at the front.

Amongst those recommended are Pvt. A. Acton, Whitehaven, 2nd Border; and Pvt. J. Smith, Workington, 3rd Border, attached to 2nd Border.

Pvt. Smith is better known here as Jimmy Glenn, and his parents live in Southey-street. He was through the South African war, then went to Middlesbrough, and left work there to re-join his regiment. That "Jimmy" is exceedingly modest may be gathered from the following letter from him, which appeared in the STAR a few weeks ago:—

"Just a line to let you know I am all right and in the best of health, and I hope you are all the same. We are having some awful weather here. We are up to the waist in mud and water in the trenches. I expect you will have heard of me saving two men and being recommended for the Victoria Cross."

Not a word to indicate how the "two men" were saved. He could not have written more modestly had he been saying that he had found a button off a German's tunic. Though modest, that he is brave is shown in the reasons for the recommendation.

It appears that on December 21st, Smith and Acton voluntarily left their trench at Rouges Banes to bring in a wounded comrade who had been lying exposed to a heavy fire for 75 hours against the enemy's trenches. The same day they again voluntarily left their trench and brought in another wounded comrade. While performing these acts of bravery they were subject to a heavy fire, with the enemy's bullets dropping around them like hail, for over an hour.

Good luck to both of them. May they live long to enjoy the honour!

NAME and SURNAME.—	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household.	AGE.	SEX.	MARRIAGE or DEPENDENCY.	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY.	PERSONAL COMPETENCE.		OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT.	
						Personal Competence.	Employment.	Place of Work.	
James Smith	Head	60	M	Married	Cumbria Workington	General Dealer & Fish Hawker	Own account	at Home	
Sarah Ellen Smith	Wife	37	F	Married	Cumbria Workington	Married	at Home	at Home	
Wm. John Smith	Son	15	M	Single	Cumbria Workington	Assistant Hawker in Hawking	660	at Home	
Elizabeth Smith	Daughter	13	F	Single	Cumbria Workington	at Home			
Mary Smith	Daughter	9	F	Single	Cumbria Workington	at Home			
James Smith	Son	6	M	Single	Cumbria Workington	at Home			
Sarah Ellen Smith	Daughter	8	F	Single	Cumbria Workington	at Home			
Catherine Smith	Daughter	2	F	Single	Cumbria Workington	at Home			

On the 1921 census, we can see that James lived with his wife, Sarah, and their six children. At this time, he was working as a General Dealer and a Fish Hawker. It is recorded that he worked at home, assisted by his eldest son William, who was aged 15. A hawker used to buy and sell goods on the street.

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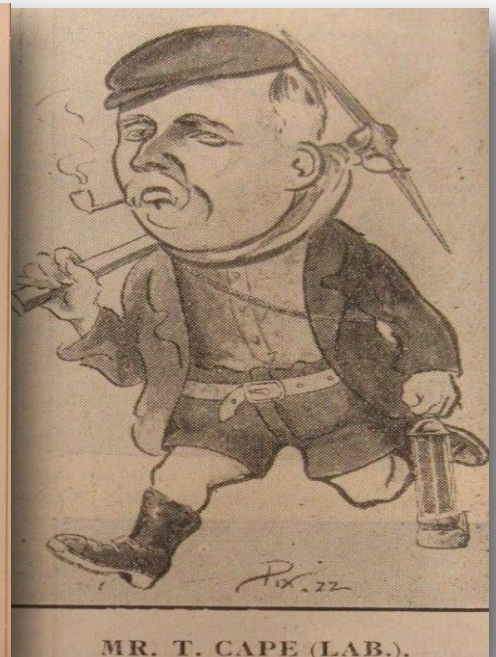
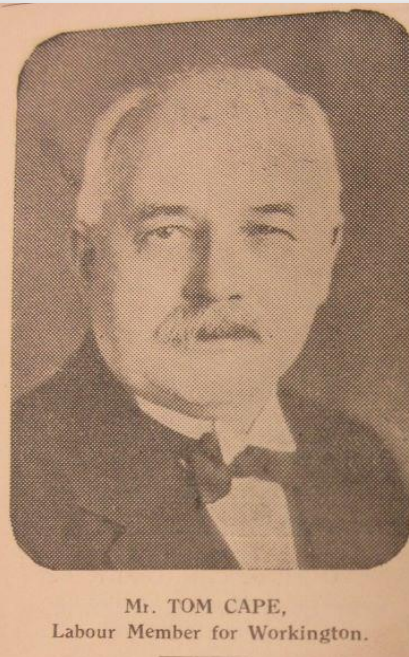
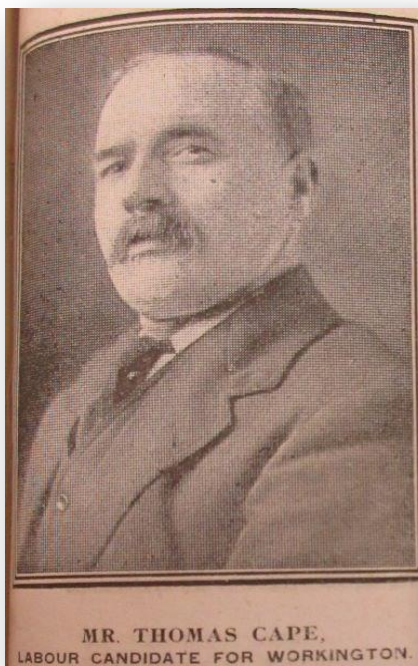
# Allerdale and the 1921 Census

Tom Cape, MP for Workington, was a well-known local figure, who served as secretary of the Cumberland Miners' Association. He came from humble beginnings; he was born in Spread Eagle Yard in Cockermouth (pictured right).

By the time of the 1921 census, he was 52, listed as a miners' agent and living at 91 Harrington Road with his wife Dinah and their four children. His place of work was on St John Street at the Miners' Association.



Cape's picture appeared in several issues of the Whitehaven News County Annual from 1918 to the 1930s due to his nomination as a Labour candidate. This cartoon on the bottom right from 1924 was less than flattering though!



# Allerdale and the 1921 Census

NAME and SURNAME:— <small>of every person who is alive at midnight on the night of Sunday, 24th April, 1921, and who, whether a member of the family or an visitor, boarder or servant in the household or establishment:— (1) passes that night in the dwelling of the household or establishment, or (2) arrives and is received into the household or establishment on the morning of Monday, 25th April, not having already been enumerated elsewhere. <i>No one else need be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back hereof.)</i></small>	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household <small>State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Mother," "Son," "Daughter," "Step-son," or other relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant." (See Instruction No. 1.)</small>	AGE <small>In years and months. For infants under one year, state all years and months. (See Examples.)</small>	SEX <small>Male or Female. Write "M" or "F." (See Examples.)</small>	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD <small>For persons aged 15 and over write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Divorced." For children and under 15 write "Both Alive," "Father Dead," "Mother Dead," "Both Dead," if both parents be dead. (See Examples.)</small>	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY		OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT		
					<small>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County and of the Town or Parish. (2) If born outside the United Kingdom, write the name of the Country and of the State, Province or District, or "British," if the last may be. (3) If born at Sea, write "At Sea." If attending a school or of ill-health, indicate by the purpose of absence. If born in a foreign country, e.g., "British born," "Naturalized British Subject," "French," "German," "Russian," etc. (See Instruction No. 2.)</small>	<small>(1) If working for an employer state the name and business of present employer (person, firm, company or public body) as, if at present out of work, of last employer, adding "out of work." (2) If employing persons for purposes of business, write "Employer." (3) If working on own account and not employing persons for purposes of business, write "Own Account." (Note—For Domestic Servants and others in private personal service, write "Private." (See Instructions 3 to 6, 11, and Examples.)</small>	<small>Give the address of each person's place of work. For a person with no regular place of work write "At home." If the work is carried on mainly at home, write "At home." (No entry is required for any person who is retired or out of work.)</small>		
1. Turton Matthew	Head	57 14	M	Married	Newton Willows Lancs	England	Business Actually 914/5	Own Account Employer 778	At home 0870/02
2. Turton Mary	Wife	45 7	F		Breadban Bucks	England	Home Duties		
3. Turton Roy M.	Son	22 6	M	Single	Birkenhead Chesh	England	Apprentice Mining Engineer 862/6	Bradley Domain Coll. Coy. 030	Bradley Cumb.
4. Turton George	do.	19 3	M	do.	Englefield C. Bucks	England	Book-keeper 939/6	Private 778	At home 0870/02
5. Turton Ivy	Daughter	13 8	F	do. alive	Castle Eden C. Durham	England	Wholesale School		
6. Harrison Kathleen	Staff	55 14	F	Widowed	Heads Hook Cumb.	England	Cook 900/7	Commercial Hotel Workington 778	Workington 0870/02
7. Ireland Sarah	Staff	19 1	F	Single	Great Clifton Cumb.	England	Domestic 778	Commercial Hotel Workington	Workington 0870/02
8. Hall William	Visitor	24 8	M	Single	Newcastle/Sp	England	Commercial Traveller 773/0	Sunlight enamel Paint Coy. Ltd. Shieldhall 778	Newcastle 5000/02
9. Courtney Agnieszka H.	do.	44	F	Married	Southampton	England	no occupation		
10. do. Eliza	do.	56 1	F	Wife of about	Hugstun Wiltshire	England	Home duties		

The Commercial Hotel was situated on Belle Isle Street in Workington. Matthew Turton was the proprietor. On the census, he is recorded as a licensed victualler (pub landlord), living with his family and two members of staff (a cook and cleaner) as well as a few visitors or guests. He came from Newton-le-Willows. At Whitehaven Archives, drawings from a planning application show the layout of the hotel in 1913.

