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

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Jack Adams was a magistrate and county councillor for Arlecdon and a councillor for Frizington Urban District Council. He later became Lord Adams of Ennerdale and had an influential role as secretary of the Cumberland Development Council. He lived at 6 Wybrow Terrace in Workington in 1921, with his wife Agnes and his father-in-law, Thomas. He was 30 years old and his occupation was recorded as Cumberland Colliery engineman and trade union secretary. The photo of him below is taken from the Whitehaven News County Annual in 1920 when he served on Cumberland County Council.



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Whitehaven Archives holds Arlecdon parish registers including Jack Adams' baptism in 1891, above. From this, we can see that he was the son of a miner.



The acclaimed poet Norman Nicholson spent his life in Millom and in 1921, aged 7, he lived at 14 St George's Terrace with his father, Joseph, a widower of 44, and his maternal grandmother, Eliza Cornthwaite. The census tells us that Joseph was an outfitter and clothier who worked from home and that Eliza ran the house.

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From parish registers at Whitehaven Archives, we know that he was baptised Norman Cornthwaite Nicholson in January 1914 (see below) and he lived at St George's Terrace, Millom for most of his life. During his lifetime, he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and an OBE. He was prolific, writing ten books of poetry and four plays, as well as writing topographical and other miscellaneous works. In his poetry, Cumberland life and industry featured heavily.



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Millom Poet becomes Copeland's First Freeman

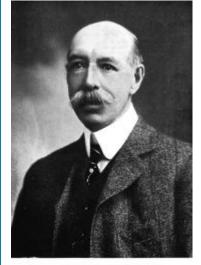
#### Windscale

The toadstool towers infest the shore: Stink-horns that propagate and spore Wherever the wind blows. Scafell looks down from the bracken band, And sees hell in a grain of sand, And feels the canker itch between his toes. This is a land where dirt is clean, And poison pasture, quick and green, And Storm sky, bright and bare; Where sewers flow with milk, and meat Is carved up for the fire to eat, And children suffocate in God's fresh air.

Norman Nicholson

The Robertson-Walker family owned a large mansion on 13 acres of land in Gilgarran, Distington. James Francis Austin Robertson-Walker, a country squire, was listed as a tenant farmer, aged 43, living with his wife Ethel; his father, also called James and his young son lan, aged 3. They had five servants with them when the census was taken: a cook, housemaid, parlour maid, kitchen maid and nurse.

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CHANGE of NAME.—I. James Robertson Walker.

of Gilgarran, in the county of Cumberland, and of No. 2 Mariborough-mansions, Victoria-street, Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire(formerly called JAMES ROBERTSON), do hereby give notice, that I have TAKEN upon myself, and intend henceforth to use in all deeds and writings to which I shall be a party or which I shall sign, and upon all other occasions, the SURNAME of WALKER, in addition to and after that of Robertson, And that such change of name is formally declared and evidenced by a deed poll under my hand and seal, dated the seventeenth day of June, 1893, and intended to be forthwith enrolled in the central office of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England.

Lated this nineteenth day of June, 1893.

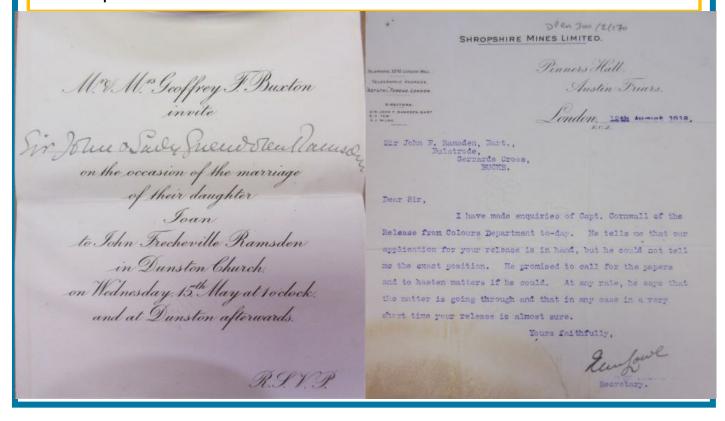
Witness to the signature of the above named James Robertson Walker—Lewis T. Helder, Solicitor, Whitehaven.

James was born in 1851 in Kensington. He changed his name to incorporate 'Walker' in 1893 to inherit the family estate. He is pictured here (left) on his electoral candidate card [undated]. In the archives, there are schedules of all the farms and lands his family owned in Harrington, Cleator Moor, Dean and Whitehaven including land in Distington conveyed to the parish council to build a war memorial in 1919.

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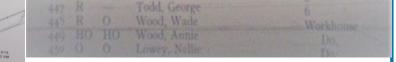
Sir John Frecheville Ramsden, baronet, of Muncaster Castle was 44 in 1921. He was staying at Bulstrode, in Buckinghamshire, another one of his residences at the time of the census. With him were his wife Joan and his teenage children, John and Mary along with ten visitors and eighteen servants including footmen, laundry maids and a chauffeur. Pictured here, from the Pennington collection at Whitehaven Archives, is an invitation to his wedding to Joan Buxton, whom he married at Dunston church in Norfolk in 1901. There is also a letter about his release from the Army in 1918, in which he served as a captain.



Whitehaven Workhouse was situated on Low Road, next to the Cemetery. In 1921, this was used a both a place for the poor and as an infirmary. On 19 June 1921, there were twelve staff, 46 patients and 81 'inmates'.

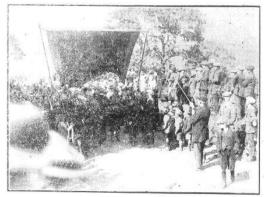


According to the 1921 Kelly's Directory, the workhouse was built in 1856, using red sandstone, with a maximum capacity of 424. The attached infirmary was built in 1905. At the time of the Census, it was run by the master and matron, Wade and Florence Wood, who hailed from Yorkshire. Wade Wood stayed on as master for another 8 years. In the electoral register, they were recorded as living at the workhouse.



The census return shows a number of miners in the workhouse. Others were general agricultural labourers, who would have depended on seasonal work.





THE CROWD AT THE WORKHOUSE GATES.

Some of the workhouse patients and inmates were born in Ireland, reflective of the immigrant population in towns like Cleator Moor and the casual types of work they did. Those in the infirmary were often elderly people, perhaps too infirm or frail to work or with no family to support them. The institution later became Meadow View geriatric hospital. The workhouse was the subject of headlines in 1926 (see left) when striking miners stormed the building for food during a national dispute about pay and

conditions, which lasted eight months.