



*North Bound Goods Train Passing Through Longtown.*



*Lyneside Railway Station.*



*Lyneside Signal Box.*



*What remained of signal box on opposite side of track.*

*Photo. G.L.R. c. 1985.*



*Thistle Bridge over River Esk, near Scots Dyke.*

A neighbour of mine, in Esk Street, Cathy Vevers who lives in the house which was the Marquis of Granby told me that her grandfather, William Hunter, came here from the south of England with his parents. His father was to work on the building of the Solway Viaduct, and when the project was completed they decided to stay on at Burgh by Sands. William went on to earn his living as a fisherman. He was still fishing in 1948 at the age of 87, having had a licence to fish with his haaf-net for 70 years. Colin Bone of Rockcliffe who knew William Hunter began Haaf netting at age 15 in 1958. He is now in his 62nd fishing season. The Viaduct was several times damaged by ice flows and as time went by was also affected by the rising cost of repairs and maintenance. Eventually the Cumbrian ironstone



*Solway Viaduct.*



*Cathy Vevers and her cousin Annie Mary Tiffen.*

mines became uncompetitive and this led to its closure in 1921, though it had played an important role during World War One at the time of the building of the Munitions Factory. At that time its passenger service had been suspended to concentrate on the movement of materials across the estuary. The Viaduct eventually became unsafe and was demolished during 1934-35. The increased prosperity due to those developments in the mid Victorian era relieved some of the pressures and social standards by increasing the wages of a large number of working class people. It appears that the work of the Trades Unions coupled with the introduction of the Cooperative movement did much to help distribute that newly found wealth, a degree more evenly. Gold discoveries in both Australia and America saw a period of expanding trade which served to push Britain, even further forward. This was due mainly to the fact that by that time, Britain was ahead of other countries both in trade and industry. In this way the Country benefited greatly and was able to further benefit from this during the middle years of that century. While all of this was taking place, British agriculture had continued to improve steadily, helped by increased capital and by the introduction of new machinery into farm work.

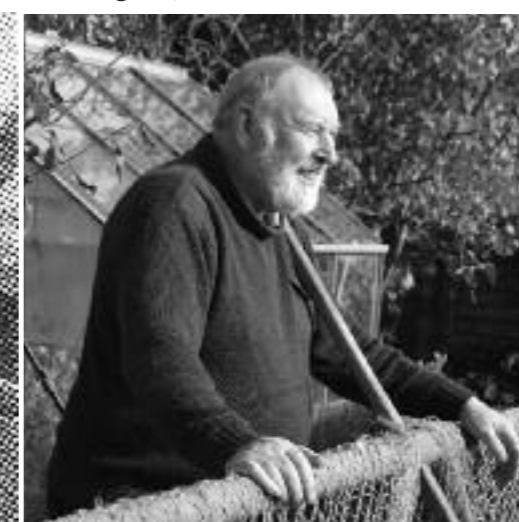
The repeal of the Corn Laws back in 1846, had tended to steady prices but it was said that it, 'gave no check to agricultural prosperity,' for another generation to come. This was attributed to the matter that America: 'was not yet ready to flood Britain with her farm products.' That would come later with drastic results. In 1851, it had been considered that only one third of Britain's farm products, mainly crops for making bread, came from overseas. The Corn Law repeal had been a good thing for the urban areas and had helped industry. In spite of this, Social History tells us that it had no immediate effect on social or economic conditions. History shows that the cities 'belonged to democracy,' while the countryside was 'still in the hands of the landlord class, and of their deputies and allies the tenant farmers, whose affairs were much more flourishing in the eighteen sixties than they had been a generation before.' It was considered that: 'Country house life, with its hunting and shooting, and its political and literary house-parties, was more prosperous, easy, and delightful than ever, though its moral standards were more respectable than in the days of aristocratic licence.'

In those rural parts, such as in the case of our area, there was still no elective local government. In these circumstances, administrative and judicial authority rested in the hands of the: 'Gentlemen Justices of the peace, chosen among the landowners.' The rule of the squire magistrates still prevailed but those courts were under the scrutiny of the newspaper reporters and I have included some of these cases in this book under the chapter, 'Law and Disorder.' In the Longtown area, the Graham family, several of whom were clergymen along with other local landowners, seem to have presided over local matters in a reasonably fair and impartial way. That said, then the old local dialect poem, 'the Mossband Poacher,' which refers to an incident in 1873 when Hugh Mitchell, was fined sixty three shillings by Malice Reginald Graham of Netherby, for stealing Sir Frederick's hares, would seem to tell a different story. That is at least from the poacher's point of view. Malice was a clergyman and brother of Sir Frederick Graham of Netherby, which would mean that the odds were stacked against Hugh. He says that Malice is: 'nowt but a damn't all roogue, and he's the Rector a' Langtoon.'

During the middle of the century, the more improved methods of travel had began to shorten the distance between the village and the city and the spread of knowledge and machinery meant that city dwellers had lost any concept of country life and tradition. It was only a matter of time before these urban methods would consume much of the old rural way of life. Referring once again to the records of Social History, we see that by the 1860s, two things were to happen before that drastic change was complete. These were, 'the economic ruin of British agriculture, and a town made system of universal education.' Over time, more and more land had fallen into the possession of the big landowners who had bought out the small squires and farmers. The self made factory owners and those who had risen to wealth from the industrial revolution were also now buying country estates and building country mansions. The country houses of the small squires had gone, converted into tenant farms. The freehold yeoman were now fewer



*William Hunter.*



*Colin Bone.*

in number than had been the case in past years and by this time middle sized estates were generally the case. Even though estates were bigger it was not necessarily the case that farms had increased very much in size, but on average most seem to have been to some extent bigger than before. Moderate sized farms, worked by family members, without hired help were still very common. During the twenty years or so, following that period earlier mentioned; which saw the repeal of the Corn Law of 1846, more