

The Davidson's of Quarrybeck, Lanercost, Cumberland ¹

The Davidson's lived at a house called Quarrybeck, a few miles north of Brampton. From the writings of a Rev Thomas Waugh it is evident that Esther Turnbull was living there before Walter Davidson. Esther was born at Lanercost Abbey, in 1800. Walter was born in 1790 and is shown in the 1841 census as being born "outside Cumberland" which means in "Scotland, Ireland or Foreign Parts". The mark on the census seems to be an "S" which might indicate Scotland. Walter is shown as an Agricultural Labourer in the 1841 census and he was married to Esther Turnbull. They had many children and some or all of them are shown in the census information below. Walter died in 1847 of a disease of the Lungs' and was buried at the Lanercost Priory. His memorial inscription read:

*Afflictions sore long time I bore
Physicians strove in vain,
Till God above in tender love,
Released me of my Pain.*

The 'informant' to the death was a Margaret Schollick (present at death swarthal) and I do not know the relationship she had with the family but she may have been Walter's sister.

As can be seen in the 1851 census Esther continued to live at Quarrybeck with the remaining children. The father of Thomas Waugh married one of the daughters of Esther and Walter and lived at the house until 1855. Two years after having Thomas, the Waugh's moved to Cummersdale.

Data from 1841 Census			
Dwelling	Name	Age in 1841	Notes
1	Walter Davidson	45	Walter died 4 Jan 1847, aged 49, at Quarrybeck
	Esther (nee Turnbull)	35	Esther died 1877, age 77, at Middle Farm
	John	11	
	Margaret	10	
	Mary	8	
	William	6	
	Jannet	4	
	Esther	2	
	James	8 Mo	
	2	Mary Davidson	75
Mary Davidson		35	
Thomas Beattie		65	
Data from 1851 Census			
Dwelling	Name	Age in 1851	Notes
1	Esther	48	Pauper and widow of Walter
	Jane (Jannet?)	15	
	James	10	
	Turnbull	8	
	Hannah	6	
	Walter	4	[Of Wattie's gate].
2	James Rutherford	69	Gamewatcher
	Mary Rutherford	48	

I do not know how long Esther and the rest of the family remained at Quarrybeck and the 1861 and 71 census returns may answer this question. Esther died in 1877 at a farm nearby called

Middle Farm where the Hetherington family lived. Why Middle Farm? Well the youngest son of Walter and Esther was Walter, born Dec 15th 1846. He married Mary Milburn on May 1st 1872. Mary's mother was Mary Hetherington. So Esther may have moved to Middle Farm as it was the family of her son's mother in law.

Esther was buried with Walter at Lanercost Priory, as were several other infants without listed surnames. Also buried there was a granddaughter 'Isabella Mary Taylor' who died at Brampton Jan 9th 1884, aged 20. So in addition to Waugh there seems to have been a marriage to a Taylor.

The reverend Thomas Waugh wrote a book called 23 years a missionary and he mentioned being born at Quarrybeck and confirms the story of Walter and Esther. This extract is taken from his book "23 Years a Missionary"

"I (Rev Thomas Waugh) was born on September 3, 1853 at Quarry Beck House near Brampton in Cumberland, and few people have started life in a bonnier place. The quaint old cottage is bounded by a lovely trout stream. It stands at the western entrance to Naworth Park, and is one mile from Naworth Castle, the seat of the Earl and Countess of Carlisle. It is also one mile from the fine old priory at Lanercost, and two miles from the south-western point of the Roman Wallmy mother was born in the same cottage and her mother went to it when six years of age. Being one of the older members of a large family, and her mother being left my father made this their home for three years after marriage and only left it for Cummersdale near Carlisle when I was nearly 2 years old. "

The marriage took place in three years after marriage and left when the Rev was 2 (Sept 1855) so married Sept 1852. Which daughter could it have been "being one of the older members of a large family" so must have been Margaret or Mary who were not in the 1851 census but could have been out working on the night of the census, as was quite common. It is unlikely to be Janet/Jane cause she would not have been described as an older member of the family, she would only have been about 17 at marriage date.



