Cumbria Eden flood history 2013

Sources

Descriptive information is contained in newspaper reports, diaries and, further back in time, from Quarter Sessions bridge accounts and ecclesiastical records. The main source for this study has been from newspaper accounts.

Newspaper Sources

Newspaper descriptions include much that is of human interest but only limited information which can be used to define the magnitude of the flood. It is only the latter information which has been extracted for the most part, indicating levels or depths on roads and buildings which may still be identifiable. Such details provide a means of assessing the comparative magnitude of floods.

The two principal urban areas within the Eden catchment which are vulnerable to flooding are Appleby and Carlisle. Papers which cover part of Cumbria include:

- Cumberland Packet (Whitehaven) 1774 to 1915,
- Carlisle Journal, 1801 to 1960s,
- Carlisle Patriot (later Cumberland News) 1815 to present
- Penrith Observer, 1860 onward
- West Cumberland Times (Workington) 1874 onward
- Westmorland Gazette (Kendal) 1818 onward

The online British Newspaper Archive has a limited number of newspapers and years of record available for Cumbria. The following were available in May 2015.

- Cumberland and Westmorland Advertiser, and Penrith Literary Chronicle – 1855 – 1871
- Cumberland Pacquet, and Ware’s Whitehaven Advertiser – 1777– 1808, 1812 – 1871
- Westmorland Gazette 1818- 1867, 1871
- Kendal Mercury 1835 -1870
- Carlisle Journal 1801-1805, 1810-1811, 1814-1815, 1818-1820, 1833 - 1867
- Carlisle Patriot 1816-1871

Note for later papers
- Lancaster Gazette 1870-1893

Descriptions are generally imprecise and without details of levels reached or the extent of the area flooded. It is therefore difficult to make judgements as to the comparative severity of the events.

Associated meteorological information

The publication British Rainfall 1863 – 1968 (Symons British Rainfall from 1863 to 1900) was inspected to identify potential flood dates and to ascertain the meteorological conditions associated with flooding – thaw, thaw with rain, frontal rainfall, convectional storms etc.
Information contained in the **Chronology of British Climatological Events** is mainly drawn from British Rainfall and refers only to daily rainfall totals and not to extremes in less than one day.

The Carlisle Journal of 30 January 1903 gives a list of comparative levels at Eden Bridge Carlisle from a register kept at the City Surveyor’s office:

- 1852 Dec 13 21 feet 11 inches
- 1856 Dec 8 23 feet 0 inches (Highest since 1822 when water was 1 foot higher than 1771)
- 1868 Jan 31 21 feet 2 inches
- 1891 Dec 10 20 feet 7 inches
- 1892 Sep 2 20 feet 4 ½ inches
- 1898 Nov 3 20 feet 0 inches
- 1899 Jan 19 20 feet 5 inches
- 1903 Jan 27 20 feet 10 inches

The Journal 24 August 1928 lists further high floods on the Eden at Eden Bridge.

- 1903 Jan 27 21 feet 3 inches
- 1903 Feb 25 18 feet 3 inches
- 1903 Feb 27 20 feet 10 inches
- 1903 Oct 6 18 feet 8 inches
- 1908 Mar 9 19 feet 0 inches
- 1909 Jan 18 19 feet 0 inches
- 1910 Feb 1910 (3 times) 18 feet 3 inches
- 1914 Nov 14 18 feet 3 inches
- 1914 Nov 30 18 feet 6 inches
- 1924 Dec 27 21 feet 3 inches
- 1925 Jan 2 22 feet 10 inches
- 1926 Sept 22 19 feet 3 inches
- 1927 Sept 22 19 feet 6 inches

And the following in subsequent papers:

- 1934 Dec 18 18 feet 10 inches
- 1947 Apr 22 19 feet 5 inches (said to be the highest of the winter)
- 1954 Oct 29 No level given (journal notes - Highest at Carlisle since 1945; probably 1941 (snowmelt) was higher. But a note indicates that the bed of the river at Eden bridge has been lowered by 4 feet (no date given).

Formal gauging on the Eden commenced at Warwick Bridge in 1959 and at Sheepmount (Carlisle) in 1967. It would of course be useful to tie the historical levels to the gauged records.

HIFLOWS UK has been accessed to identify summer events which have appeared in the annual maximum series of each gauging station. Thus events are designated for example AMS1 AM25 which means that the event was the Rank 1 annual maximum (peak) discharge for the summer months April to September but only the Rank 25 annual maximum for winter and summer events combined. Only events of AMS Rank 1 to Rank 3 are identified. This analysis shows that summer
events only rarely provide the annual maximum, and these events tend to be well down the annual maximum rank list. In fact for some stations out of 40 years of record there may only 3 or fewer events which occurred during the summer. The HIFLOWS information is shown in pink colour.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and sources</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>? 1571 Tobin (1979)</td>
<td>Thunderstorm</td>
<td>A major flood was reported on the River Eden when the river created two channels around the north of Carlisle. (In the early 19th century the old river course was filled in and the new channel known locally as Priest’s Beck or Prestwick Beck assumed the role of the main river)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carling P A. 1997 CBHE 2 Jan 1752</td>
<td>Frontal plus snowmelt</td>
<td>Derwent catchment (also affecting upper Kent at Longsleddale). Details and quotations provided in separate chronologies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradbury 1995 from West Cumberland Times 15 Jul 1770</td>
<td></td>
<td>We learn from Brampton that at the head of the Irthing there was much rain which brought down the Irthing so</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Newcastle courant 21 Jul

Two boys in search of bird’s nests at Newby Holme were so much surrounded that no help could be given them. They stood in the water knee deep for 10 to 12 hours holding bushes [Were they on an island?]. A young girl was got out at the foot of Cambeck with difficulty. A great deal of fine wood was carried off from the new bridge being built over the Irthing and it is feared the work is damaged.

17 Nov 1771

The great flood on the Tyne Wear and Tees

Appleby: On Saturday about 3 pm the Eden began to rise and swelled higher than was ever known so that foot passengers could not get along the road. The rain began the preceding day and continued that night, next day and till a little after eleven at night. The flood levelled about 20 yards of the park wall belonging to the Earl of Thanet. The water ran with a strong current along Bridge Street and on the high side of the low cross. It also came down the churchyard and ran out at the church gate. The arches of the church were cracked. Bolton Mill 3 miles downstream was carried away. The miller and his family with difficulty saved themselves. (This was the second time that the mill had been carried away by the water.

Carlisle On Sunday was the greatest flood ever known. It was so high in Rickergate as to drown a horse in a stable. One house was demolished in Caldergate. The mill at Botcherby was swept away.

The eruption of the Solway Moss took place. It contains about 1300 acres of deep and tender moss, impassable to foot passage. The surface of the flow is about 50 to 80 feet higher than the fertile plain between it and the River Esk. Its bursting surprised the inhabitants of 12 towns in their beds. Nobody was lost but many saved their lives with difficulty. Next morning 35 families were dispossessed with the loss of most of their corn and cattle. Some houses were completely covered, others up to the thatch. It continued to flow with further rains till it reached the Esk- no salmon have since entered. It covered areas to a depth of 15 feet.

27 Aug 1781

CBHE

Cumberland Pacquet, 11 Sep 1781

We hear from Carlisle, that many thousand stooks of corn came down the river Eden on Tuesday se’ennight [probably 27 August, not 4 Sep]; several boat loads were taken up at Crosby, Linstock, and Rickerby, and a great quantity hooked off from Priest beck bridge. It is said that one farmer upon the banks of the river Irthing has lost upwards of 200£ worth of grain by the late flood."

CP 19th Weather is colder than usual and we have had several showers prejudicial to the hay harvest. However earlier in the month the temperature in London reached 90 degrees in the shade.

CP 26th “We hear from Brough in Westmorland, that on Thursday last, about two o’clock in the afternoon, the river Swindale (which runs through Market Brough) was suddenly swoln to an unusual height, and in a few minutes increased to such a flood as had never been seen there, in the memory of the oldest person living. This uncommon rise (which was an absolute phenomenon) was supposed to have been occasioned by a heavy shower of rain, and hail-stones of a prodigious large size, which fell amongst the mountains about a mile above Brough, and which, soon collecting, forced a passage, through some mosses, into the river.- On receiving this
2x Dec 1790 Hampshire
Chron 3 Jan 1791
16 Jul 1792 Cumberland
Paquet 17 Jul
Letter in Kendal Library
25 Aug 1792 Cumberland
Pacquet 4 Sep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2x Dec 1790</td>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>A very heavy snow was succeeded by thunder and lightning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1791</td>
<td>Chon 3</td>
<td>A little after 6 o clock yesterday an unusual darkness came on, increasing for 15 minutes, then we had the most violent thunderstorm, known for many years. The rains rolled through the streets like a tide. Several cellars were overflowed [probably Whitehaven]. Besides the dreadful storm on 16th, general throughout the region, a great deal of rain fell on Carlisle on 17 and 18th. The hay harvest is much affected. Sudden heavy rain carried away 2 arches of a bridge on the turnpike road from Hexham to Carlisle [Doesn’t say where].</td>
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<td>16 Jul 1792</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>A little after 6 o clock yesterday an unusual darkness came on, increasing for 15 minutes, then we had the most violent thunderstorm, known for many years. The rains rolled through the streets like a tide. Several cellars were overflowed [probably Whitehaven]. Besides the dreadful storm on 16th, general throughout the region, a great deal of rain fell on Carlisle on 17 and 18th. The hay harvest is much affected. Sudden heavy rain carried away 2 arches of a bridge on the turnpike road from Hexham to Carlisle [Doesn’t say where].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paquet 17 Jul</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Severe thunder and hail storm that caused great damage in North Westmoreland area including Ravenstonedale (SW of Kirkby Stephen). To be checked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Aug 1792</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>On Saturday 25th it rained for the greater part of the day at Carlisle and the next night also a very heavy rain fell and by four o’clock on Monday morning the River Eden had overflowed all the adjacent low grounds. The road between the two bridges was covered to a depth of 3 feet upon the causeway; the lower part of Rickergate was also overflowed, and several houses there were endangered by the flood. The inhabitants in them were brought out in carts to the upper part of the street. Happily no lives were lost. Boats, carts etc were used for several hours on conveying people and cattle from Stanwix to the city where the fair was held. The river continued to rise till noon and towards the evening it abated a little. The flood has done much damage in the low grounds; the river was almost red and its waters expanded beyond what any person can remember, covered several fine fields of corn just ready for the sickle. The bridge at Appleby has received some damage and a number of horses, cattle and sheep have been lost. At Brough under Stainmore the front of a house was washed down and great loss has been sustained in that neighbourhood. A bridge at Bolton in Westmoreland is washed down. A number of sheep cattle and horses were carried off the lowlands by the rapidity of the flood. The front of a house at Brough has been washed...</td>
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down and otherwise greatly injured.
[Severe storms reported at Bootle in Lancashire]
Thunderstorms were reported at Whitehaven and Workington. The storm lasted two hours at Carlisle; it started two hours later at Appleby and lasted about the same time.

13 Aug 1795
Cumberland
Pacquet 18
Aug
? 1806

CBHE
6 Sep 1807
Lancaster gaz.
12 Sep
1 Feb 1809
Carlisle
Patriot Feb 5
1831
22 Aug 1809
Cumberland
Pacquet

CP 15th Aug In the course of the past week we have had frequent showers of heavy rain with thunder and lightning. On Thursday morning we had an awful thunderstorm with stock killed.
CP 22nd Aug The weather is uncommonly severe. On Wednesday last very heavy rain continued without intermission till late the following day. The Eden, Caldew and Petteril were considerably swelled. [Reference to heavy rain in the Newcastle area]

15? Sep 1809 Persistent rain
Kentish Gaz 3
Oct
Carlisle: The Rivers Eden Caldew and Petteril overflowed their banks. The largest proportion of the damage was effected by the Caldew where the flood descending in its fury resembled a mighty tide. In Shaldongate, Caldewgate and by the Damside houses were flooded to three four and even six feet. Furniture was carried away and a house was washed down only a minute or so after they had made their retreat. Immense quantities of grain were driven down by the current. Timber trees and hedges were carried away and stone walls levelled. At Sebergham a field of potatoes was swept away not only the roots but every particle of soil leaving a bed of gravel. A nearby woollen mill was destroyed as was Sebergham bridge. The bridges of Hawkesdale, Whelpa, Hesket and over the River Ellen near Maryport were carried away. At the River Ellen a boy was drowned crossing the bridge on horseback when it gave way. A woman was drowned in her house from the River Waver. The Rivers Tyne and Esk were also much swollen.

12-14 May
Carlisle: Thunderstorms occurred at 5 pm on three successive days. They were accompanied by hail. The streets
1811
Caledonian
Mercury 20
May

were deluged and in some places impassable. The Rivers Eden and Caldew overflowed their banks and many houses were flooded in Caldewgate. A boy was drowned in the Eden at Warwick Bridge. A three year old boy was drowned in his house at Cumrew SE of Carlisle. The rain that fell on the neighbouring mountains came down with such impetuosity to bear everything before it and the water rushed in the back door, burst open the front door and carried furniture out into the yard. Another boy who was in bed managed to escape. Two cows were killed by lightning at Cumwhitton. The storm of hail and rain was extraordinary at Armathwaite and formed a torrent that carried everything away until it reached the Eden where the rock and gravel have completely destroyed the mill race and choked the channel of the river. At Humphrey close it nearly swept the bridge away. Buildings were damaged by lightning at Dalston and Cummersdale.

5 May 1811
Lancaster Gaz.

31 May 1815
Carlisle journal 3 Jun

Wigton was visited by a storm resembling a waterspout, the greatest ever remembered accompanied by thunder, lightning and hail. The streets were absolutely inundated. Furniture was floating in cellars.

13 Nov 1815
Carlisle journal 26 Oct 1849

One of the abutments of the arched Causeway Bridge next Rickergate was undermined and caused great scour at the base.

(As above this information related to repairs to the Causeway Bridge and historical causes of problems.)

30 Dec 1815
Carlisle Jour

26 Oct 1849

The water rose in Rickergate 2 feet higher than was ever known before, a circumstance accounted for by the broad and flat buttresses of the bridge next Rickergate. Severe further damage was caused to the bridge.

23 Jul The eastern part of the County of Carlisle was visited by a tremendous thunderstorm. It was accompanied by hailstones of large diameter. A cow was killed at Longrig. A house was badly damaged at Bewcastle. Hail and ice caused much agricultural damage at Whaldb and Parkbroom and broke windows in villages of Longtown, Netherby, Scaleby and Kirklington, Crosby and Castle Shields.

30 Jul In Appleby there was a sudden shower of hailstones and ice some of which measured 1 ½ inches in circumference.

22 Aug 1816
Stamford Mercury 30 Aug

Thunderstorm lasting an hour and a half

The storm raised a flood that carried away houses and fences and left hail 3 inches deep. Three bridges were broken down between Cannonobel and Langholm. A waterspout burst on Irvin Hill. The road for several miles is entirely carried away and at one point where a bridge was carried away, the water has left a chasm 40 to 59 feet deep. Upwards of a thousand trees have been torn up by the roots.

5 Jan 1817

The Eden has never risen to so great height as in the last flood since the overflowing of Solway Moss in 1771. A
man from Kirkoswald was found drowned in the Eden near Nunnery.

Some of the most violent rain ever remembered fell on Carlisle and many house were inundated in the lower part of the town. The Caldew rose to a great height almost instantaneously and much damage was sustained along its banks. A waterspout fell on Tindal Fell carrying away timber, trees, sheep. Kirk house and houses nearby were all inundated and damage was done to the waggonway of the Earl of Carlisle’s collieries.

Severe thunderstorms reported widely over Cumbria but particularly severe in the Brampton area. At Crookdake between Wigton and Maryport, a man was killed by lightning.

Thunderstorm extended over the northern and eastern part of the county and was particularly violent on Alston Moor where a man was killed along with several of his animals. Animals were also killed in the vicinity of Carlisle.

Following four days of continuous rainfall thunderstorms were reported in some areas but floods were widespread in northern England. The low grounds around Carlisle were overflowed by the Eden. Such a heavy and continuous fall from Saturday to Monday has never been known at this season.

Carlisle: At Drawdykes two miles for Carlisle hailstones brought down fruit and branches and corn a potato crops were levelled. The storm covered a large part of the north of England and the south of Scotalnd. A pig was killed by lightning.

The Eden overflowed all the low land in its vicinity and swept away considerable quantities of hay, and damaged corn and potatoes etc. The newly formed bank from the Bridge to the Castle Walk was put to the test and the result is most satisfactory.

Widespread rain occurred near the coast. During the thunderstorm a cow was killed by lightning at Allonby.

The new bridge being built over the Esk on the Carlisle to Glasgow road was destroyed. Much standing corn was destroyed and 20 sheep were drowned.

Frontal storm affecting River Greta notably at Threlkeld
22 Dec 1824
Carlisle
Journal
17 Sep 1918
Westmorland
Gaz. 25 Dec 1824
11 Jul 1829
Carlisle
Patriot 18 Jul
24 Aug 1829
Carlisle
Patriot 1 Aug
14 Oct 1829
Frontal rain
Carlisle
Journal 17 Sep 1918
Westmorland
Gaz. 17 Oct 1829
21 Sep 1830
Westmorland
Gaz.
8 Feb 1831
Snowmelt plus rainfall
Cumberland
Pacquet
15 Feb 1831
Greater than in the last

**CJ** refers back to occasions of Caldew floods and notes a flood on this date with no other details.

The Rivers Eamont and Lowther were exceedingly swollen; no details of flooded property given. The entrance to the town of Penrith was flooded partly caused by the backing up of an old bridge. **WG** also refers to the making of a new cut in the town which saved the town from worse flooding.

A thunderstorm lasting over an hour struck Carlisle. Several houses were struck by lightning and damaged and several people were struck and injured by lightning.

Thunderstorm for several hours. The temperature fell during the night from 72F to 55F and a strong wind blew up from the northwest. Damage was done to hay crops along the Eden Petteril, Wampool, Esk etc. The Eden was never known to rise with such rapidity. A cow was killed by lightning at Curthwaite and several houses were flooded at Croglin from water coming off the neighbouring hills. The water stood more than two feet deep in streets in Penrith. Roads were ploughed even in solid rock especially in the area of Melmerby and Lazonby with water pouring off Cross fell. Five or six small bridges were carried away – some of them county bridges. Several bridges between Alston and Brampton shared a similar fate. At one place near Nunwick Hall, Great Salkeld, large stretches of wall were carried away into the Eden and ploughed the road to a depth of ten feet.

The rainfall on 14th was heavy throughout Westmorland. The Eden at Appleby was tremendously swollen equaling the height of the flood of February 1822 which committed such ravages on the county. On Stainmore in Brough and neighbourhood great damage has been done.

At Carlisle the thaw was accompanied by rain over two days. The Eden overflowed and was 6 to 7 feet on the meadows next the banks. Caldew and Petteril were equally swollen. Houses were flooded and evacuated at Caldewgate. The New bay at Dalston and the bay at Holme Head was washed down. The Eden was within a few inches of the level in 1822. The Caldew was at its highest since 1809 when it washed down the Hawksdale (?) Bridge.
At Penrith it was one of the greatest floods remembered. In several streets the water was 3 feet deep. Lowther bridge was so greatly injured as to be impassable.

A thunderstorm seems to have been general throughout Cumberland. Five cows were killed by lightning at Crofts near Carlisle. At Carlisle the storm continued almost without intermission for 4 hours. Buildings were damaged by lightning (cotton mill) and some people injured but recovered.

Severe thunderstorm with heavy rain reported at Penrith with damage from lightning – but no flooding reported. [Very severe flood damage from a thunderstorm flood in Liverpool where the water rose with such rapidity that people barely escaped with their lives. Also in London where Westminster Abbey was struck and a pinnacle was struck and fell down]

A thunderstorm with rain hail and large pieces of ice occurred in the morning and then with a break later in the day. All the streets were flooded [Carlisle] and in some places one had to wade to a considerable depth. Channels swept along the streets with great rapidity. The Caldew and Petteril rose rapidly and swept away every loose thing that lay in their courses. All the low ground was flooded. The Eden rose late at night with ‘a rapidity never before exceeded and to a height rarely surpassed’. The most serious damage was at Warwick Bridge where a new bridge was being built. A cofferdam and formwork were washed away. Severe losses were sustained by farmers in the Barrock Fell area where the water tore up channels in the surrounding fields. The flood covered the road at Low Hesketh and at each end of Botcherby bridge.

Destructive thunderstorm: Rain combined with hail and large pieces of ice occurred for several hours in Carlisle. Damage was most serious in Brampton where hail as large as pigeons eggs fell with a southwest wind causing serious damage to windows facing in that direction. Scarcely a house facing in that direction escaped without loss; some houses had 60 panes broken. Howards Arms Inn had 110 panes broken. Fruit was knocked off trees or badly damaged. A woman was killed by lightning at Natraass Alston. At Brampton large hail fell with a circumference of 3 inches; thousands of panes of glass have been broken. The storm also occurred at Wigton and Penrith but there were no reports of damage. No reports of flooding were found for the Eden or Cumbria but serious damage was done in South Scotland Dumfries area with bridges washed away and several deaths by
Lightning occurred at Dalton on 11th and 13th. The hailstones were of immense size and the oldest inhabitants of Dalton never knew the streets to have been so flooded. A few houses were flooded. [Dalton is near Kendal, Dalston is near Carlisle – not sure which this refers to DA]

Nothing in Carlisle Journal for 1840.
Nothing in Westmorland Gazette 1840

There was a most tremendous thunderstorm and torrent of rain at Sleddale, Swindale Shap Rosgill and Bampton. The rain had fallen in waterspouts for most suddenly the becks from the mountain had swollen the River Lowther to a most unusual size. The rush was so sudden that several lambs and a calf were seen floating down the river at Bampton. In the evening the Rivers Eden and Eamont were also greatly swollen. Great quantities of soil have been washed away.

Description of a severe thunderstorm with lightning mainly at Longtown, Wigton, Cockermouth and Keswick but no reports of flooding. [FLOODING was also reported in Scotland including Glasgow and Edinburgh and in Yorkshire and Lancashire with damage mainly from Lightning but flooding occurred at Milnrow near Rochdale where several bridges were washed away and houses were flooded].

In Carlisle streets were flooded 2 feet deep. At Longtown many house roofs were damaged [but it appears this was the result of accompanying wind].

The River Irthing was flooded to a greater extent than for many years. Although the day was wet and rainy in Brampton, there must have been heavier rainfall further east 'on account of such a rapid and extraordinary influx of waters. On the northern side of the bridge leading to Longtown the road was impassable throughout the day. It made a rapid expansion over neighbouring fields the surface covered with huge branches and hedges

Thunderstorms were widespread but flooding was limited. No flooding was reported in Carlisle.

Penrith: The storm surpasses the one which occurred on 27 Jun. Hail accompanying the rain broke many skylight windows. The water came down Castlegate like a mountain torrent. The ground apartments of the Royal Oak Hotel were flooded and nearby shops. A field of turnips was completely washed away.

Greystoke: A storm of extreme violence occurred and 9.53 inches of rain fell in an hour and a half [Do I believe
Northumberland has been visited by the most terrible thunderstorm resulting in extensive damage to property but no loss of life. On 27 to 29th the weather was oppressively hot and close. The storm commenced at 7 pm and continued until 4 the following morning. By midnight the Caldew Petteril and Eden began to roll from bank to brae. The Caldew rose most rapidly. Between one and two o’clock the watchman at Shaddongate heard a sudden roar and saw an immense stream of water along the road by the Shaddongate riverside which ‘in an incredibly short time’ was covered by it. John Street and Lonsdales Lane were soon covered. It caused havoc to mills and houses and damaged a partially completed bridge. A body of water forced its way for about 50 yards from the Damside up the Dalston Road. The water was deepest at the Sun Inn. Residents in Queen Street and Willow Holme have also suffered. On the eastern side of the Caldew there has not been serious loss. Water street was flooded but none of the houses suffered inconvenience. The wooden bridge at Cummersdale was washed away. The centres of the bridge at Southwaite just finished have been carried down by the current. So disastrous a flood has not occurred since 1821 (sic presumably 1822)

At Dalston the flood level was far beyond anything for the last 20 years. The long footbridge was carried away. Brampton and surrounding area were seriously affected. Brampton beck overflowed its bounds and flooded a number of houses. Cambeck bridge was demolished.

All along the Irthing the effects of the flood were evident and many sheep were washed away.

The Esk Liddel and Lyne in the vicinity of Longtown overflowed and caused much damage to crops and loss of stock especially sheep. A sawmill was undermined. At Lairdstown on the Lyne a family were removed by boat. As far as Canobie there are rumours of lives lost. In the Langholm area several small bridges were washed away. On the Liddle above Netherby, a farmer had 51 sheep washed away and his crop is entirely covered. Considerable damage is reported at Longtown where a farmer lost a dozen sheep and a sawmill was carried away.

Penrith – some houses in low parts of the town were flooded.

Appleby: The thunderstorms have not been as serious here as elsewhere.

‘So disastrous a flood has not occurred since 1821’.

At Kingwater the bridge at King Bridge ford was swept away and great damage to crops is reported from Clocky Mill to Kilewood. The wooden bridges at Bewcastle also suffered greatly.

Damage along the Caldew was severe; large crops of hay were covered with sand.

60 sheep perished at Harker.

[Very severe thunderstorms were also reported in London accompanied by falls of ice breaking glass including in Buckingham Palace allowing water to flow down staircases etc., also the Houses of Parliament. There was
8 Aug 1846
Carlisle
journal 15 Aug
29 Jun 1848
Kendal
Mercury 1 Jul
27 Nov 1848 Seathwaite 6.62"m

muc
h flooding especially from the Fleet where some people were taken out of houses from upstairs.]

A heavy fall of rain occurred on the Carrick and Brackenthwaite Fells (near Castle Carrock, River Gelt catchment), flooding the farms in the low grounds and destroying an immense extent of crops. Carts were washed out of their yards, roads torn up and trees brought down by the force of the current.

Thunderstorm at Brough. Before any rain fell in the town the river which passes through came down in a flood from the hills ‘about a foot high in abreast which might be heard some time before its arrival’. A cow was struck by lightning and killed.

29 Jun 1848
Kendal
Mercury 1 Jul
27 Nov 1848 Seathwaite 6.62"

CBHE
13 Aug 1852
Westmorland
Gazette 21 Aug
2 Feb 1852
Westmoreland Gazette
Feb 7

CBHE
12 Dec 1852
From West
Cumberland Times (1898)

Carlisle
Patriot 1 Jan 1853

Eamont ‘All the way down by Dalemain to Eamont Bridge the river overflowed low grounds. A horse was lost at Pooley. The village of Eamont Bridge was flooded on both sides of the bridge. The river was never known to be higher since the great Candelmas flood of 1822. The pumping station and the snuff mill downstream from the bridge were flooded. Low Mill was surrounded.’ The Lowther also was high. Near Brougham Bridge on the Clifton road the road was impassable for horses.- also the road to Brougham Hall.

24 Dec Persistent rainfall for some weeks. Very strong winds not experienced since January 7 1839 occurred with much damage. The Rivers Petteril, Caldew and Eden rose to a great height. The road between Brampton and Carlisle at Petteril Bridge near Botcherby was submerged to several feet. Most of the description is of damage by wind. Penrith has again been flooded and was only 2 inches lower than in the flood of 12 Dec. Middlegate above the Ship Inn was flooded to a depth of about 3 feet. The cellars on the Long Front were all flooded. The Ship Inn was so surrounded that people gained access by windows. At Appleby the road leading to
Appleby Bridge was impassable for some time but flood damage to houses was limited.

9 Aug 1855
Carlisle
Journal 10 aug

At Burton near Appleby a thunderstorm was accompanied by a tremendous flood. The centre of the storm was on Roman Fell and Long Fell and continued for 3 hours without intermission. The flood swept down hedges, fences, gates, uprooting trees like bushes. Quarry Lane roared like thunder; large stones came rumbling down. Bell Nook Beck was greatly swollen. ‘Such a flood has never taken place in the memory of the oldest inhabitant’. The Eden at Appleby reached an unusual size but no damage was reported. [See also Kent and South Lakes]

At Appleby the Eden rose to an unusual size; the thunderstorm lasted from 7 to 10 in the evening. The Fell Beck which runs through Warcop was higher than the oldest resident can recollect. Many houses were flooded for the first time, driving residents to their upper storey. At the Saw Mill the dam and logs were carried away. The bridge leading to the high road was completely swept away. Warcop Mill was much flooded and so rapid was the onset that bags of grain were carried away before they could be removed. Filholme and High Green have had their meadows flooded. Nearer the village it came rolling down in a wave nine feet or more high entering into the mill and houses in its line.

25 Oct 1855
Carlisle
Patriot

Rains occurred without intermission through the day and the greatest part of the night. On the following, Friday, morning the Eden was swelled to a great height, the road on the other side of the bridge leading to Battlebarrow was flooded over. Many houses in Chapel Lane were two to three feet deep and the water took its course along the lane towards the Tabernacle. Broad Close was a complete sheet of water. ‘It was the largest flood there has been for 5 years’.

7 Aug 1856
Carlisle
Journal 15
Aug

7 Dec 1856
Carlisle
Patriot

Snowmelt plus rain

Widespread and severe flooding occurred from a combination of Eden, Caldew and Petteril. At Armthwaite, residents were awakened by a roar like thunder as the water entered their houses. Armthwaite Castle was surrounded on all sides, rising very rapidly at midnight, washing over the steps and filling the cellars and lower apartments to a depth of 6 to 7 feet (within 2 feet of the level in the great flood of 1822). At Warwick Bridge several houses were flooded with water to a depth of 5 feet 4 inches. Great damage was done in the neighbourhood of Crosby. ‘At Rickerby the water has not been known to rise so high for fifty years past.

Carlisle - At Carlisle the Warwick Road was covered to a depth of five or six feet. The Petteril swamped Hargrave’s wool mill and Robinson’s flour mill. At Eden Bridge the water rose 8-10 inches higher than ever known before. Water was prevented from entering large parts of the town adjacent to the Sands above the
bridge by increasing the height of the embankment. Around the Castle bank the water stood some feet in depth. The Hyssop Holme island and baths and the Willow Holme stretching to Rockcliffe and on the other side to Grindsdale Beaumont were all flooded. In Caldwegate the water was nearly four feet deep in Bridge Street. The Damsides including the Dalston Road high up Shaddongate and Denton Holme were flooded by the Caldew. In Caldcoats the water actually reached 11 feet in places.

‘The flood at Carlisle is the highest on record exceeding that of 1822’

At Armathwaite and Rickerby the river did not rise as high as in 1822. Following this flood a fund for sufferers was set up and victims received between one shilling and sixpence and five shillings or alternatively blankets and coal.

Penrith – Eamont Ullswater was rarely known so high. From Pooley Bridge via Dailmain to Eamont Bridge the river overflowed low grounds. The village of Eamont bridge was flooded on both sides of the Bridge. Not so high since 1822. Low Mill was surrounded. The Eden was up as far as the Langwathby toll bar. (Nothing on Penrith itself)

Appleby – Flooding higher than at any time since 1822. It was a sheet of water surrounding the town. Owners in Bridge St, Chapel Lane and Wigh Wiend removed goods to higher ground and were indeed flooded to several feet. The church was flooded for the first time since 1822 (when the water reached half way up the pew doors. This time it was 1½ feet deep a few inches below the level in 1822. Both arches of the bridge were full. Chapel Lane had water 3 to 5 feet in depth. The dwelling part of the school house and neighbouring houses were flooded severely. The large holme on St Nicholas Farm has great quantities of gravel and sand and a weir has been destroyed. The dam and framework at Brough Mill was washed away; mills at Milburn and Hilton shared the same fate. At Colby the brook running through the village flooded Colby Hall to a height previously unknown. At Long Marton and old house was washed away. No reports of county bridges destroyed or seriously damaged.

11 Jun 1858
Carlisle Journal 18 Jun

A violent thunderstorm occurred over Carlisle and other parts of the lake District. No flooding was reported at Carlisle. Further thunderstorms occurred on 14th and 15th. Although there was loss of stock by lightning no flooding was reported. One farmer lost 50 sheep in the same field. [Thunderstorms without serious flood reports also occurred in Lancashire and Yorkshire]

19 Jul 1859
Carlisle Journal 22 Jul 1859
Westmorland Gaz.

Storm followed a period of drought, the earth completely dissicated and vegetation burnt up and wells and watercourses dried up.

Carlisle: Thunderstorms occurred over the city on 22nd and more severely on 23rd. The water rushed with great force down Rickergate where most of the cellars were deeply flooded. A chemist and the Durham Ox Inn were particularly affected. A few houses in Tait Street and Damside were flooded.

The storm was very localised for at Linstock and Botcherby very little rain fell whilst at Warwick Bridge there was a flood.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Jul 1861</td>
<td>Westmorland</td>
<td>A violent thunderstorm passed southeast of Penrith. At Temple Sowerby the floods entered houses in streams. The road to Penrith was completely flooded. A waterspout was observed on the Beacon and discharged itself near the Round Hill Well on the Bowscar Estate. One also occurred at Calthwaite at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Sep 1861</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>Rain fell from 10 pm to 2 am with unparalleled heavi ness in a thunderstorm, with 2.12 inches in the centre of the city in 4 to 5 hours and 1.75 inches in 2 hours at Carlisle Cemetery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Nov 1861</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>‘Continuous fall of rain’ A thick covering of snow on the mountains was quickly dissolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May 1862</td>
<td>Westmorland</td>
<td>Violent thunderstorm was reported at Penrith and at Edenhall, reported to be the worst for several years. Lightning killed several sheep. Heavy rain was reported but no flooding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May 1864</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>Corby and Hayton were affected by a thunderstorm which had much more serious effects in the Tyne Valley [See northeast floods]. Hail broke window and lay 18 inches deep in places and stripped soil from fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brampton: **Thunderstorm with hail and ice upwards of 2 inches in diameter**. Windows were broken on the south side. The wind drove the hail and made holes in the window like bullet holes. This continued for more than half an hour. Fruit and vegetables were destroyed. So great was the accumulation that three days afterwards there were still heaps of ice in spite of the intense heat.

5 Dec 1864
BR/CBHE
Greatest daily rain at Seathwaite this year: 6.47 inches. "This was the last of three wet days; the fall on the 3rd 3.10 in., on the 4th 5.95 in., and on the 5th 6.47 in., making 15.52 in. in three days; 21.77 in. fell in 10 days"

22 May 1865
Westmorland Gazette 27 May
A severe thunderstorm occurred over Penrith and also Temple Sowerby and Langwathby. Following a period of close and oppressive heat, hail and rain fell accompanying persistent lightning. **Hail was as big as marbles and some 2 inches in circumference.** Some low-lying districts were instantly flooded and dwellings inundated before residents could take any remedial measures. Skylights were broken by the hail. Penrith: thunderstorm with hailstones as large as marbles lasting about an hour. [No mention of flooding there but a storm at Preston caused flooding of streets].

15 May 1865
Carlisle Journal 23 May
Penrith: Water overflowed the streets and rushed like a river; low lying districts ere instantly flooded before the occupants could take any measures to keep the water out. **Many skylights in the town have been broken.** Fruit trees have been damaged. The storm was also violent at Langwathby and Temple Sowerby. The railway station off Fishergate was completely flooded. The water rose to the height of the fireboxes of the engines.

30 May 1865
BR/CBHE
Seathwaite 6.41”
K Stephen 1.25”
Kendal 2.36”
Lesketh How 3.90”
Loughrigg 3.26”
Also heavy rainfall the previous day:
Ambleside 3.90”
Appleby 1.29”
Carlisle 1.52”
Cockermouth 1.59”
Wigton 1.76”
9 Sep 1865
BR/CBHE
.a very warm moist wind arose on the 9th, and a fall of 6 in. at Seathwaite, and 2 in. at Arncliffe took place.

13 Jul 1866
Carlisle
Patriot 17 Jul
Carlisle: severe thunderstorm accompanied by large hailstones the size of marbles and pieces of ice one weighing nearly 2 ounces and measured 4 inches and 1/8\textsuperscript{th}. A man was struck and injured, and several animals including a horse were killed. A great number of panes of glass were broken in rooflights. 200 panes were destroyed at the Citadel Station. [The storm also occurred in Northeast England and S Scotland].

Very high rainfall but principally in S Yorks and Lancs

15-17 Nov 1866
British Rainfall
15 Nov
Seathwaite 6.38”
Kendal 2.20”
High Close 2.79”
Patterdale 2.62”
Lesketh How 3.26”

15 Nov
Seathwaite 6.38”
Kendal 2.20”
High Close 2.79”
Patterdale 2.62”
Lesketh How 3.26”

13 Nov 1869
BR/CBHE
Greatest daily rain at Seathwaite this year: 6.70 inches

9 July 1870
Watkins & Whyte (2008)
9 July 1870
9 July 1870
Kendal
Mercury 16 Jul
Lancaster Guardian 16 & 23 July
BR
Carlisle
Upper Dentdale
Kirkby Stephen: The river Eden rose 3 feet in 20 minutes, the stream running in some parts 18 inches deep in the streets, filled some low lying cottages to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. 24 hour rainfall was 1.80”

River Eden rose 3 feet in 20 minutes and subsided very rapidly, doing much damage.
Carlisle patriot and Cumberland packet give no information on rain or flooding in the Eden, but provide
Dry sultry weather was followed by a thunderstorm and flood in Carlisle. The drains were incapable of carrying off the flood and many streets were flooded. Horses waded knee deep along the West Walls at the foot of Head’s Lane. Houses of poor people living in Damside were inundated and also in several parts of Caldewgate. Penrith: The storm was localised in part of the town and the dry and dusty streets were soon flooded
Thunderstorm at Carlisle, Brampton and Warwick Bridge with water flowing along roads.

Penrith: thunderstorm with hail caused pools in the streets and cellars and kitchens were flooded. One house was damaged by lightning.

Flooding of low-lying land occurred throughout Cumberland and Westmoreland. In Carlisle farmers lost sheep at Willow Holme and Rickerby. Fields inundated had not been flooded since 1856. The rising flood carried cattle off at Aglionby. Water level reached 22 (probably 21 feet – correction from Peter Spencer) feet 11 inches at Eden bridge (18 inches lower than the great flood of 1856 and 2 inches higher than the flood of 1868. As in 1868, the flood invaded the Filter Beds. Overflow from the Petteril made the Warwick Road impassable for 200 yards and the residents of Botcherby had to reach the city by means of Harraby. Houses in Brunton Place were flooded. The Caldew ran over the highway in Shaddington and flooded houses in the lower part of Caldewgate.

PenrithObs notes that the Penrith District had one of the heaviest floods for the last 30 to 40 years on the Eden, Eamont and Lowther.
2 Jul 1875
Westmorland 
Gazette 10 Jul

Stainmore and Brough: A ‘waterspout’ on Stainmore near Tran house caused the river which runs through Brough to rise suddenly to six feet higher than its usual level. It carried all before it; stone walls were washed down and the road leading to the Wesleyan Chapel was washed away altogether along with some outhouses. Sheep and cattle were carried away and drowned. The water was 3 feet high in cottages adjacent to the river. Fish were caught in rooms. On the hill the storm washed away a cow shed and ploughed up the earth to a tremendous extent.

1877
Bennett and Doyle (1998)

‘A catastrophic flow down Swart Beck after heavy rain one night in 1877 is attributed to the failure of Top Dam. The flood destroyed a silver refining house’ The dam location is approximately 3 km from Glenridding.

16 Aug 1877
BR
Carlisle
Patriot 17/24 Aug

Penrith The Ludham 0.82” in 1 hr

Rainfall very localised (described as a waterspout).

1877

Penrith The Ludham 0.82” in 1 hr

Rain began at 3 pm on Friday 17th with a thunderstorm and within 2 hours grain was beaten down. But rain continued with little intermission until the following Wednesday afternoon. [Flooding occurred in west Cumberland – Whitehaven, Cockermouth, Workington, Dearham and Wigton].

27 Jun 1878
BR

Penrith Ludham 0.51” in 12 mins Total storm duration 20 mins.

A whirling waterspout was observed south of Naworth (S of Lanercost). It lasted about 3 minutes and travelled from NW to SE although the wind below was easterly. Rain fell in torrents.

30 Aug 1878
Westmorland Gazette 7 Sep

Shap 2.34”
Keswick PO 2.52”

Carlisle: Tweed mill at Raven Nook was struck by lightning and badly damaged.

27 Dec 1878
Patterdale 3.27”

Rainfall observer at Shap (Copy Hill) noted “Strong gale and heavy rain, 2.06 in., causing considerable floods on the following day.” [R. Lowther/Eden]

8 Jun 1879
Westmorland Gazette 14 Jun

Thunderstorm

Brough: The Swindale was so much swollen that it carried everything before it causing considerable damage to pasture land. It completely washed away the road at High Mill and Brewery and come within a foot of the

27 Jun 1881
CBHE/BR

Patterdale hall 2.93”

Brough: The Swindale was so much swollen that it carried everything before it causing considerable damage to pasture land. It completely washed away the road at High Mill and Brewery and come within a foot of the
A thunderstorm passed over Kirkby Stephen. A waterspout burst on Hartley Fell tearing up the ground in every direction. The Eden and its tributaries are greatly swollen. Large trees and gates are being dragged out of the river.

Rainfall observer at Shap (Copy Hill) noted “On 9th, 10th and 12th strong N.W. gales occurred, with rain and hail, the highest mountains being covered with snow on the 13th, on which day 1.48 in. of rain fell, causing a great flood…” [Lowther/Eden]

Observer reported – ‘storm of wind and rain and great floods’.

In some parts of the Pennines (Bedale) the event produced the greatest flood since 1822. Limited reference to flooding on the Eden.

A storm of rain and wind raged in Westmoreland. Walls have been washed away, houses blown down and a quantity of stock along the Eden have been destroyed. A farmer near Appleby has lost 200 sheep, washed away in the flood and another farmer in the same district lost about a score.

(Flooding reported on Swale Ure and at Todmorden and thunderstorms in Wales)

Rainfall widespread in Cambridge Derby and West Yorkshire.

Shap had 0.40” in 18 minutes

Shap - A waterspout burst on Hardendale Fell and the Force Beck was full in a very short time. Thunderstorms at 16.25 and hail fell for 3 minutes.

A somewhat severe thunderstorm occurred on 25th but was welcomed by farmers since crops badly needed moisture. The train from Kirby Stephen to Penrith was slowed by water on the line from adjoining flooded fields
Carlisle Journal 26 Jun

which left sand and soil on the line. At Kirby Stephen there was almost total darkness between 5 and 6 pm. An exceptionally violent storm broke over Appleby after 5 pm lasting for more than 1 hour. Much damage was done to sloping macadamised street but no casualties of a more serious nature were reported. Noted that the long looked-for rain has come at last after a long drought in which rivers were lowered far below their normal levels.

8 Jul 1884

Tropical heat was experienced for several weeks; then thunderstorms occurred for several days culminating on 8th.

Westmorland Gazette 12 Jul

Appleby: For a time the main street had the appearance of a rapidly flowing river – water forced its way through houses. Many animals were killed in the neighbourhood.

Brampton (6 Jul): The rain was the heaviest experienced for a number of years. Many houses in the vicinity of the beck were flooded to 3 to 4 feet. One woman was drowned.

Carlisle: Several buildings were struck by lightning

Matterdale: 5 cattle were killed at one place and several other animals elsewhere

[Very high temperatures and thunderstorms were reported in various parts of England]

13 Jul 1884

Westmorland Gazette 19 Jul

Another thunderstorm. The only flooding reported was at Kirby Stephen where the streets were flooded and one cow killed by lightning.

23 Jul 1886

Carlisle Patriot 23 Jul

Widespread thunderstorms occurred in northern England. In the Eden Valley the rain flooded many villages [doesn’t say where] and laid hundreds of acres of meadow land under water.

24 Jul

Yorkshire Gaz

Heavy rain fell at Kirby Stephen which was flooded. A little boy was swept away by the flood and drowned at KS.

17 Aug 1887

Carlisle Patriot 19 Aug

Thunderstorm after a prolonged drought

Carlisle: flooding was caused in some places and the rivers came down turbid. Buildings were struck by lightning and damaged. Cattle were killed at Warwick Bridge. At Pedder Hill there was a great fall of hail which accumulated in some places to 13 inches depth.

24 July 1888


R. Raven and Kirkoswald

See Chronology for Swaledale.

A waterspout burst and completely carried away the surface of 3 acres of land, leaving nothing but bare rock, together with sheep and bridges, the Raven being 2 feet higher than ever known at Raven Bridge Mill. Pastures
were covered with mud and in some places a new course was taken. All the way to Kirkoswald, it carried away all the footbridges and water rails. At Howscales a flock of sheep were surrounded by flood water and 10 were carried away into an adjoining field. At Kirkoswald Mill a piece of rock weighing many tons was broken and boulders beaten upon it.

July was one of the most inclement months on record. Last week fellsiders had the experience of waterspouts in 2 or 3 places. At the source of the Raven beck above Kirkoswald several acres of land were stripped of soil, flocks of sheep carried away and stones and rocks were hurled down. [Noted also a storm at Gildersdale near Alston]. A peculiar feature of the rains was their local character. Even the heavy downpour of Sunday afternoon was unfelt in some districts 5 miles south and east of Carlisle. The carcases of many sheep were washed up.

[CJ notes destructive floods near Langholm in Eskdale which caused Rennald Burn to come down in a great flood. A bridge on the Langholm to Eskdalemuir road was carried away and Eskdalmuir PO was flooded to 18 inches and a number of sheep were drowned.]

Observer notes very high level in Derwentwater

Patterdale: Rainfall lasted 80 hours. Water broke out of its course and made the highway its channel with much damage to roads and walls. At Dalemain Mill the stables were invaded whilst at Eamont Bridge some houses were flooded. At Kirkbythore a bridge was washed away. ‘Never within living memory was Ullswater so low and so high within three days.

Appleby: The Eden rose to a great height. Te new bridge suffered damage; the centre of the western arch and the stonework on it collapsed and a large part of the middle pillar.

The thunderstorm lasted for upwards of an hour at Carlisle but the storm was felt with its full severity on the shores of the Solway. There was no loss of human life but lightning killed horses and bullocks. Lower parts of Penrith were flooded.

CP gives an extended description of a severe thunderstorm. On Sunday last Carlisle and surrounding district in common with a wide extent of country in the north of England and Scotland was visited by a thunderstorm of almost tropical intensity. It commenced shortly after 9 am with a lull at 11 but then a more severe burst after 4 pm, a brief lull after 5 pm then the sky became very dark after 5.30 with further thunder and rain. Damage to
houses and death of animals was reported. At Burgh many roads were flooded. Lightning damage was also reported in Brampton. In the Penrith area heavy rain was accompanied by hailstones up to an inch in length. Windows were smashed in many houses.

In Penrith many houses were flooded; at the junction of Albert Street and Sandgate water collected. Houses were flooded in Wordsworth Street and Lowther Street and the water collecting at the foot of both ran down Hunter Lane like a river. Several houses in Great Strickland and Hackthorpe and Morland were flooded. Queen Street was flooded knee deep. A number of animals were killed by lightning.

At Kirkby Stephen immense hailstones fell and during the storm a large ball of fire was observed to fall on Hartley Fell. At Whinfell a crop of turnips was swept from the top to the bottom of the field.

At Ravenstonedale there were also morning and afternoon storms and the stream running through Coldbeck soon swelled out into a good sized river and damage has been done to weirs.

CJ reports flooding in Carlisle in the Parham Beck area in Wood Street and Duke Street. Hailstones up to 1 inches also occurred at Dalston. In Penrith Queen Street was flooded to knee deep. Many houses were flooded at Temple Sowerby owing to the stoppage of drains. [Thunderstorms with hail and lightning damage were also reported through Lancashire, Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffs and North Wales.]

On Wed 7th distant thunder was heard in Carlisle with 0.64” rain.

We have had a great deal of stormy weather this week and occasional heavy rains have beaten down cereal crops. The spate on the Eden on Wed 7th was very welcome owing to the preceding prolonged dry weather.

Heavy rainfall North Lancashire and Lakes.

Rainfall observer at Penrith Fir Bank noted daily rainfall 1.54” heaviest in 25 years; Newton Reigny 1.61”

Flooding noted in Langdale, Duddon and Ribble also overflowed

Eden level reached 19 feet 9 inches [presumably this was 25th]
1891 rainfall

West Cumberland Times Carlisle Patriot 4 Sep 1891

There was no reference to thunder except at Aspatria.

A southwesterly gale commenced on Monday 31st and lasted until Tuesday night and did much damage. The Eden was again very high and the Swifts and Sorceries (Sp?) were again partly flooded. There was however no loss by the floods such as occurred the previous week. Many low lying stations are again under water with meadows covered.

A thunderstorm with lightning damage was reported in the Aspatria district on 29th.

Kirkby Stephen: Eden overflowed and low-lying lands were flooded. Sheep and other stock were seen floating down. Some houses by the riverside were flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 feet. Nearly all the wooden bridges between KS and Mallerstang have been swept away. The main road between Warcop and KS was impassable. A farmer at Galsgill had 6 cows washed down the river. The High Bay weir at KS was seriously damaged.

Shap: the mountain becks and the Lowther are very full.

Ravenstonedale: the River Scandle was swollen to many times its usual size. Six cattle were washed away but were recovered alive.

2 Sep 1892 ‘Heavy rains for the past 24 hours’

Newcastle Journal 6 Sep

Gauge at the Waterworks 3.10”

At Kirby Stephen the River Eden is rising to an alarming height flooding houses and compelling the inmates to escape to higher storeys. Rowlandson and sons Brewery is flooded and in the Eden valley a large quantity of corn and meadow are under water.

The heavy and continuous rainfall on Thursday caused a great flood on Friday in the Eden. Carlisle level 20 feet 4½ inches (compared with 10 Dec 1891 when level was 20 feet 7 inches – highest on record was 1856 23 feet 8 inches). Rickerby Holmes, the Stoney Holme and the Swifts resembled a large lake and Cricket field, The Bitts, parts of the Sauceries and the Sheep Mount from the left bank of the Caldew to the railway bridge were submerged. Estimated that 550 acres were flooded in the Carlisle basin bounded by Rosehill and the North British bridge on the east and west and Rickerby and Botherby on the north and south. CJ has further details of streets flooded. Flooding was greater this year than in Dec 1891 because of the prolonged flood with sewers fully charged. A boy was drowned in the Petteril which was in high flood.

At Kirkby Stephen houses were flooded and in Appleby the main thoroughfare to the railway station was impassable for many hours being 3 feet deep. A large number of houses were flooded to 2 feet. The Sands were covered to a depth of three feet. The boat house and two boats were carried away from Castle Bank. The flood was the heaviest there for the past 10 years.

At KS the rain and hail fell in such enormous quantities as to flood the entire district in a few minutes. In KS a large number of windows were broken by the hail [as at Richmond]. Some houses were flooded to 4 feet high

Rain centred further south where observer noted that flooding was not great due to rain distributed over 24 hours.

13 Feb 1893 Patterdale Hall 3.07”

BR
8 Jul 1893
Lancaster Gaz.
15 Jul
Westmorland Gazette 15 Jul

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<tr>
<td>8 Jul 1893</td>
<td>Thunderstorms in various parts of the northwest including north Westmorland with hail and rain. A large number of windows in Kirkby Stephen were broken by the hail. In some low-lying districts houses were flooded to 4 feet. This day very severe hailstorms occurred at Richmond and Harrogate. The storms also affected the area from Kirkby Stephen to Penrith where windows were forced bodily out of frames and much damage was done to glasshouses. Ravenstonedale: Thunderstorm for an hour with strong winds followed by hailstones of extraordinary dimensions breaking a large number of windows. Shap: Hailstones the size of plums which with the strong wind did much damage. One house had 60 panes broken and 30 acres of corn was completely destroyed. Kirkby Stephen: Hailstones as large as marbles broke scores of window panes. Streets were rapidly immersed especially in the neighbourhood of the Wesleyan Chapel where water rushed into cottages. The Wesleyan Sunday School was flooded. Lowther and Melkinthorpe: Two horses and several cattle killed by lightning. Appleby: Streets were flooded (no reference to house flooding).</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Feb 1894</td>
<td>Remarkable mildness of winter until early Jan then cold. Snowmelt? The only mention during the year was to 11 February when there was a severe gale with widespread damage throughout the country. There were accompanying coastal storm surges which affected the Cumbrian coast and flooding on the Derwent. The Eden rose to 19 feet at Eden Bridge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Jul 1894</td>
<td>Thunderstorms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Aug 1894</td>
<td>Carlisle Cemetery 2.58”</td>
<td>The British Rainfall report (scanned as a separate file) relates the thunderstorm, rapidity of rise, destruction of</td>
</tr>
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</table>
bridges, stranding of trout in fields, and movement of sediment and debris as follows:

River Gelt AUGUST 9th 1894

A tremendous fall of rain about 10 miles east of Carlisle near Castlecarrock; the Gelt rose so rapidly that it took the wooden bridge at Gelt mill, carried it over the parapet of the bridge at Middle Gelt and deposited it in a field at Ryeclose, about 7 miles distant. It also carried away the stone bridge in Gelt woods at Helbeck, and so damaged a bridge on the Newcastle & Carlisle line that only one pair of rails could be used. The river rose so high that trout were left stranded in the fields, some of them 500 yards from the bed of the river. Just before reaching the Irthing the Gelt took a new course, and from 20 to 30 acres of meadow land were left covered with between 2 and 3 feet of sand. Eighty trees (large and small) were stranded in one field. Without pursuing the list of damage, which must include quite a dozen bridges (large and small), we may say that it resulted from excessive rains on the ridge separating Northumberland from Cumberland, especially the portion about 7 miles long reaching N.N.W. from Gilderdale Forest (3 miles W. of Alston) to Cold Fell (2,039 ft.). It was very local, for in many surrounding villages hay making went on all day. The event seems to have closely resembled that on Bloody Bush Edge, on July 2nd, 1893, which was fully described and illustrated in British Rainfall, 1893. The two localities are scarcely 40 miles apart. An observer in the neighbourhood says that he observed clouds coming from the direction of the Solway, and one after another they settled on the top of the Fells, until they accumulated like long drifts of snow. Soon after this he heard a great roaring noise, and floods of water came down every hollow; the little river Gelt rose, not by inches, but all at once, to a raging torrent, and swept trees and bridges before it.

CP refers to one of the most tremendous rainstorms within living memory lasting nearly one hour with slight intermissions and drainage was overwhelmed. Most serious was the blocking of the rail line out of Carlisle at Fenton Battery where the track was undermined by damage to a bridge and the rails sagged by 1 foot. The line to Newcastle was closed for some time. Also in Carlisle Carr’s biscuit factory, Ferguson’s Mill, Becks Mill were flooded. Beneath Crown Street bridge the water was 2 to 3 feet deep. Warwick Road was converted to a stream. Four tenements on Back Duke Street were flooded to a great height. In Gloucester Road on the south side of the railway the water was about 2 feet deep. Through the choking of drains at Rickerby House the drive in front of the house was flooded knee deep. A bridge near Hole Eden between Warwick Bridge and Little Corby was washed away. The road between Warwick Bridge and Heads Nook was knee deep for about a mile. At the Cairn Bridge a small portion of the parapet wall on the Cumwhitten side gave way. A number of houses in Scotby were flooded. The rainfall though phenomenally heavy seems almost to have been confined to Carlisle and the immediate district. At Whitehaven there was no rain whatever; at Silloth only a few drops in the afternoon; at Curthwaite, 7 miles
west of Carlisle, there were only one or two slight showers.

CJ gives further details of flooding in Carlisle principally at Caldewgate. Surface water came gushing out of manholes. The greatest overflow was near the junction of Hawick Street and York Street stated to be connected to the sewer through which the once open Dow Beck runs to the Caldew. From this flowed a great stream which flooded to a depth of 2 feet half a dozen houses at the low end with a sheet of water nearly a foot in depth. Of Back Duke Street and ran like a river down Hawick Street, past Trinity church and down Church Street into Rigg Street, Queen Street and Broadguards, flooding all the shops and houses in its course. On the other side of Church Street from Caldcotes to Willow Holme was a similar sheet of water with shops and houses flooded. The greatest depth was in Carr’s Works where the water came up from behind as well as in front. In Bread Street it entered every house an attained a depth of 3 feet. Through a butcher’s shop opposite Trinity Church the water ran and deluged the stables behind.

In Shaddongate the flood was not so extensive as in Church Street but this was perhaps owing to the water rushing past the end of Rigg Street being able to run into the Caldew near the new brewery Company. Out of a manhole close to the millrace the water gushed making the roadway impassable.

In Newton road the water ran out of a manhole opposite Bright Street flooding most of the houses in the rear between the street and Port Road. At all the points in Caldewgate where sewer overflow occurred, heaps of soil were swept up.

In the lower part of Crown Street where the water generally accumulates in times of heavy flood the street was completely flooded to a depth of four feet, the water extending from Collier Lane underneath the railway bridge to Robert Street. At Millholme Terrace the water rushed into many of the houses. At Scotch Gate and Rickergate cellars were flooded. At Holme Head Works the flood caused work to stop. The Caledonian Goods Yard was a vast lake.

The storm extended beyond Brampton and the rail line was flooded in many places between Brampton and Wetheral above the height of the rails. At Corby part of the village was flooded. At Broadwath the Cairn came down very rapidly and Platts Mill was flooded to a depth of several feet. In the neighbourhood of Heads nook the water flowed down the road like a river to knee-depth. Daily max temperature in Carlisle 66.8; min 54.2; Pressure 29.56 at 9 am.

Rain which fell heavily on Thursday continued on Friday and Saturday morning almost without intermission. Eden and tributaries are in heavy flood. Swifts and adjacent holmes are partly under water. Great damage has been done to crops on flooded fields. On Friday afternoon there was a brief but violent thunderstorm. We have had the only thoroughly wet days since March thus welcomed by farmers because of the drought. A boy was drowned in Dufton.
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Jul 1897</td>
<td>Hartlepool</td>
<td>A weir at Brough was carried away. A large quantity of hay as well as sheep and other livestock have been observed floating down. Valuable meadow land has been damaged by the deposit of sand. A severe thunderstorm was reported covering much of the north of England and in Carlisle at 9 pm. Lightning damage to several houses was reported and death of 11 sheep at Kirklington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Aug 1897</td>
<td>Penrith Greystoke</td>
<td>The intense heat has changed the appearance of the grass crop. The heavy rain which accompanied yesterday’s thunderstorm has freshened the pastures but laid the grain crop in some places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Aug 1897</td>
<td>Carlisle Cemy</td>
<td>After a few days of excessive heat a severe thunderstorm occurred on 5th and continued upwards of an hour. As generally happens in heavy rain, Crown Street in the vicinity of the railway bridge was flooded to a depth of 3 feet. The storm was unusually violent in the vicinity of Wreay and also at Wigton where the streets were flooded for some time. Damage was mainly caused by lightning. [Reference also to thunderstorms in the midlands, Lancs and Scotland].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Aug 1897</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>There has been no diminution of the heat since the storm on 5th. Another severe thunderstorm: On 11th some parts of Cumberland Dumfries and Ayr had another thunderstorm. Between 4 and 5 in the morning a severe storm passed over Silloth; most of the streets and green were completely covered and gullies unable to cope with the large amount of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Nov 1897</td>
<td>BR Daily totals</td>
<td>Carlisle Patriot flood reports cover mainly west Cumbria and include the death by drowning of two boys. There is no reference to flooding in the Eden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Dec 1897</td>
<td>Westmorland</td>
<td>Heavy rain starting on 26th. At Shap from Sunday to Wednesday 5.35 inches fell with 1.13 in 9 hours on Wednesday 29th. Several houses in Shap were flooded and shops were only approachable by wading. The main Street known as the Straits was flooded and also the Crosby Ravensworth road, caused by the Crook Syke overflowing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Aug 1898</td>
<td>Brampton Denton Ho</td>
<td>Observer noted ‘caused floods which damaged footbridges and carried away haycocks’. Reports of heavy rain on Monday 1st) and Wednesday (3rd). The rains of the last 8 to 10 days have dashed the corn somewhat but revived the pastures. The northern part of Cumberland on 8th was visited by a severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
thunderstorm. The streams were for a time raging torrents and several bridges were swept away. Lightning at Bewcastle hit (but did not kill) seven people. (CJ refers to intense rainfall on Christenbury Crags). The Raven and Croglin on Friday night (5th) were higher than at any time during the last 8 or 9 years. The Raven has made several new courses on the Fog Close Farm. At Raven Foot where the beck enters the Eden, much damage has been done to the weir. At Kirkoswald bridge a hundred cartloads of rubbish were washed away. At Walmersyke the wooden bridge over the Croglin was lifted from its foundations and the meadows have been covered by sand and mud. In the Nunnery Walks all the old wreckage left by previous floods has been washed away. A farmer near Appleby had a 30 acre field of corn laid flat. Many fields at Kirkbythore were flooded. At Kirkby Stephen several houses were flooded and there was about 6 feet of water in a portion of Rowlandson’s brewery. At Mallerstang the river carried away a large slice of the main road. All through the dales the roads have suffered.

Eden and tributaries were in heavy flood yesterday with Swifts and holmes under water. [Very heavy rainfall in Borrowdale and Derwent water spread over meadows at its lower end].

The Eden rose at Appleby, coming out on to the Sands but not completely covering the road. All though the dales the roads have suffered badly. Between Kirkby Stephen and Hawes Junction a landslip occurred on the Midland Railway

Gale accompanied by heavy rain, starting evening of 1st and all day 2nd. Carlisle 0.50” on 1st, 0.84” on 2nd

Patterdale 4.07/2.47
Greenside 4.85/2.60
Ullswater 2.80/

The Eden rose during the night to 20 feet 0 inches at Eden bridge, and was the heaviest flood since 2 Sept 1892 when the level at Eden Bridge reached 20 feet 4 ½ inches. The flood in the Caldew was very big. Swifts and Rickerby Holme was one sheet of water, the water in the paddock and on the ‘straight’ being about 4 feet deep.

The cricket field was flooded.

Severe flooding occurred on the Esk where it was said the water had not been so high at Longtown for over half a century (since 27 July 1846).

The main flooding was in the south of the lakes with the River Kent and Kendal the worst affected. However, there were severe effects on the boundaries of the Eden catchment that could be considered flash floods. Westmoreland Gazette reports ‘The ruin of Patterdale Road’ The church bridge at Troutbeck was partially destroyed. On the Patterdale side of Kirkistone Pass there is serious damage to the main road. Grisedale Bridge at the foot of the pass is entirely washed away Rain commenced at 18.00 on Tuesday and 24 hours later 5.73
inches rain had fallen at Patterdale hall Gardens. Glenridding Beck carried away about 50 yards of wall. Rose Cottage and the cellars of the Temperance Hotel were flooded.

Violent thunderstorms were reported in west Cumberland, mainly with descriptions of effects of lightning. ‘Carlisle has escaped the violent thunderstorm which swept over the north’ Fisheries report notes that the Eden and Esk are still low.

Destructive storm: A severe thunderstorm with heavy rain passed over the north of England and Scotland on 12th. Damage was done to crops and several persons were killed by lightning. Great damage at Brampton; houses flooded: Storm occurred just after midday and continued for about two hours. It flooded low-lying houses in the space of a few minutes to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, the streets being quite unpassable. Damage was done to stock of Milburn’s Tweed Mill. Water rushed down Lovers Lane in a torrent. That portion of the Sands opposite the cottages at Lovers lane had the appearance of a lake, flooding all the cottages up to Sand House Inn. Great damage was done in Lovers lane which was recently repaired by the parish council. At the Sands entrance immense holes have been made in the roadway, the paving stones being washed out and carried a considerable distance. The water poured through the doorway of Mill House where it stood a foot deep. The damage to Lovers Lane near the Craw Hall entrance is even more serious, the entire roadway except a small portion in the centre is washed away. At the corner of the road a little above Hamblesgate a portion of the fence was carried bodily into the reservoir. The two lower kitchens of the White Lion were flooded to a depth of several inches. In Low Cross Street houses were similarly affected whilst at the bottom end of the town below the police station water stood fully three feet deep. Gelt was in flood and sheep and lambs were seen floating down amongst the debris. The present is the most severe storm that has occurred for many years.

Westmoreland: In Kirkby Stephen cellars and low-lying dwellings were flooded. Railway traffic was dislocated due to undermining of the line at Bleaithgill. On Stainmore, at Black Horse the water rushed down a riving and the culvert was unable to take it, the water rose until it reached the level of the rails – about 14 feet – sweeping away the loose ballast and leaving the rails 4 feet clear. On the fells the storm appears to have been more disastrous. A waterspout was observed along Hartby Fell just below Nine Standards. On the clouds clearing away a huge rent was observed in the earth presumably where the waterspout had burst.
Kirkby Stephen: Water rushed down the main streets and a few low lying houses were flooded especially near the Wesleyan Church and also at the extreme north end of the town where the water rose to a considerable height and swept down the Beck Lane into the Eden. The railway east of KS was badly affected with ballast swept away to a depth of 4 to 5 feet. Water was up to the axles of carriage wheels. Signals were also thrown out of order by lightning.

One of the most severe storms in recent years in the north of England occurred on Monday (11th) In Cumberland between 3 and 5 pm and in Lancs and Yorks some time later. Kirkby Stephen church tower was struck and partly demolished. At Harrogate camp a Colonel was killed by lightning. The storm was renewed on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday.

Heavy thunderstorms have prevailed in Carlisle and district every day since Monday. The heat has been oppressive. In Caldewgate Carlisle hail the size of hazelnuts commenced 1.30 and continued until 2.15; it stopped up the gulley openings and streets in the west end were soon in flood. The water backed up into houses which lie off Church Street especially in Duke Street, Queen Street, Rigg Street and adjoining streets. A flood of water ran down from Port Road and Caldcoes from Wigton road and out of adjacent streets. Many houses were flooded and in one house in Duke Street the water was only a few inches from the bedding. Along Kendal Street, the water came like a sea and at Caldewgate Schools children were sent home; the infant’s department was flooded. Hailstones 15 inches deep lay in front of the Pheasant Inn, the bar of which was flooded to 6 inches. At Murell Hill a nursery garden was destroyed. At Carr’s Bread and Flour company in church Street, water came in front and back and entered a patent oven causing an explosion. The storm extended over Stanwix and water poured down the bank and on to the Bridges. The bowling green at Edenside was covered by ice and water. In Devonshire Walk, hail lay to a depth of over a foot. Damage by lightning was reported at Little Salkeld and Appleby, though no flooding was reported.

A wave of almost tropical heat has been passing over the country with a remarkable succession of thunderstorms. A feature of the storm was the restricted area covered. Caldewgate suffered most but elsewhere as in Denton Holme and Devonshire Walk behind the castle and in the Castle itself there were heaps of hail a foot deep while a few yards away there was no trace of any fall at all. From some houses the drift was carried away in bucketfuls while neighbours a few doors away were left untouched. Hailstones were sometimes as big as pigeon’s eggs. Further west Newton Road in front of the infirmary was flooded from side to side. In
Junction Street the water was ankle deep and at the junction of Nelson Street and Blencowe Street the road was covered to a considerable depth. Corporation Road also experienced the severity of the storm with water rushing down Stanwix Bank and flooding Eden Bridge. It is difficult to recall when so much thunder and lightning have occurred within the space of four days.

Streets were also reported flooded at Longtown with lightning damage at the Post Office, at Brampton, Haltwhistle with lightning but no flood damage reported. Also in Kendal district and south of Scotland.

The rivers are down in flood, the land is sodden; the corn is laid and twisted. Nothing else was reported! Thunderstorms marked the weather on 21st and 22nd. On 23rd the storm in Caldbeck district was very heavy. [Note a thunderstorm at Settle had hail 1 ½ inches in circumference.].

Border districts of Eskdale and Liddesdale were affected by thunderstorms and a haystack was set alight at Cononbie.

Cold stormy weather. The rains have brought down much of the snow which fell last weekend. Nothing more reported!

Violent thunderstorm: The district was visited by a violent thunderstorm on Saturday morning from shortly before 8 and lasting for several hours with slight intermissions. Especially severe after 10.30. and again around 1 pm. Some streets around Carlisle were temporarily flooded. The cotton mill at Dalston was set alight in the third period causing its complete ruin. Further details were given of houses struck by lightning. At Brampton a young man was killed by lightning.

At Brampton torrents rushed down streets flooding low-lying houses. At the White Lion Hotel, the lower kitchens were under water and in houses in Lower Cross street and in Humble’s Yard the water stood several inches deep. In the Kirkhouse district the storm was very severe and this is where the man was killed. Farm stock were also killed around Penrith and Plumpton. Some parts of Kirkbride village were flooded.

Thunderstorms were reported at temple Sowerby, Lowther, Kirkby Stephen, Stainton and Morland. No flooding was reported but animals were killed and houses struck by lightning.

Widespread heavy rainfall from a deep depression moving across Ireland and northern England extending over 2 days. Rainfall on 11th exceeded 1 inch over the whole of Ireland except the extreme NW and SW, and parts of
Lancashire and W Riding of Yorkshire. On 12th the heavy rain continued in NW England and extended to Northumberland as well as southern Scotland and south to Derbyshire. (Complete BR rainfall list scanned)

BR notes that serious floods occurred in the Eden and Petteril rivers

Heavy flooding was reported on the Eden and water level at Eden bridge was 20 feet 10 inches, the highest since 1874 (See initial notes on comparative levels). The flood on the Caldew was one of the highest in recent years and rose above the retaining wall of Milbourne Street railway siding, It was however far short of the level in 1856.

Thunderstorms were reported at Kirkby Stephen, and Appleby with accompanying hail but no reports of flooding.

This daily amount occurred on two separate occasions.

To be checked

Extensive flooding reported in Lancashire notably Burnley, but nothing found on the Eden.

WG reports an Ullswater storm for 3 hours. The becks were overflowing and never known to rise in so short a time

No reference to flooding found

Owing to long continued rain, the rivers Eden Caldew and Petteril overflowed their banks and thousands of acres of land were submerged. The flood was especially severe in the Botcherby area where an inn was
surrounded and covered the whole of the road.

Streets were flooded in Appleby to 6 to 9 inches.

Heavy thunderstorms were reported at Appleby where the Brampton Horse Fair was in progress. Many streets were flooded to a depth of 6 to 9 inches. Residents were imprisoned in their homes. Campers at Fairhill were flooded out. Hailstones fell as large as large marbles.

In the neighbourhood of Brackenber Hill (nr Settle?) where a large number of military were encamped, a gunner was killed by lightning.

At Wigton after rain and hail, parts of Wigton streets were flooded and the Church of England Day School. A cow was killed by lightning at Nealhouse. Hailstones were of unusual size.

A heavy thunderstorm occurred at Greystoke near Penrith.

No further flood information found.

The reference in 1928 is confused whether the date was for 1913 or 1914 – to be checked. (NOT 1913)

Thunderstorms occurred in south Westmorland (Kendal area) on 21 Jul but WG has no reference to flooding further north.

Rainfall observer at Grange, Borrowdale, noted Rain 4.72 in. Big flood.

See also Met. Mag., September, 1914, p 146"

No reference to rain or flooding in either CJ or CN.

Scaleby is NE of Carlisle, halfway between Brampton and Longtown (between the Irthing and Esk catchments). Rainfall accompanied by severe gales.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall (inches)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Oct 1916</td>
<td>BR Yorkshire Post</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>A very heavy month’s rain in the Lake district in October. Crossthwaite had over 12 inches. There has not been so much flood water in the rivers for 17 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Sep 1918</td>
<td>BR Orton</td>
<td>2.55 Penrith Laurel Bank 2.15</td>
<td>A near stationary low pressure system which became deeper during the day brought very widespread rainfall in the north of England N Ireland and the Snowdonia area of Wales, affecting the Lake District and Northeast England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Oct 1918</td>
<td>BR/Patterdale Greenside 4.25</td>
<td>1918 October 3: Daily rain at 3 Cockermouth raingauges equalled or exceeded 3.10 inches, with 3.50 in. recorded at the wettest of those sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sep 1919</td>
<td>Westmoreland Gazette</td>
<td>2.78 Sedbergh</td>
<td>Thunderstorm with 17 sheep killed by lightning at Wharton near Kirkby Stephen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Sep 1920</td>
<td>Westmorland Gazette</td>
<td>2.53 Patterdale Greenside</td>
<td>WG has no reference to rainfall or flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Feb 1920</td>
<td>BR Sedbergh</td>
<td>2.78 Patterdale Greenside</td>
<td>A series of storms over the period from before Christmas to New Year brought widespread flooding and damage from gale force winds and resulting tidal flooding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 to 29 Dec 1924</td>
<td>Watermillock 2.80 Ullswater Hallsteads 2.91 Patterdale Greenside 5.00</td>
<td>See below – the same event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1925</td>
<td>Carlisle Journal has extensive descriptions and a supplement of photographs</td>
<td>Note from event in July 1927 with reference to Penrith ‘many dwellings were flooded inches deep, reminding of the costly flood of New Years Day 2 years ago’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eamont - Eden tributaries were in flood including Caldew, Petteril, Eamont and Lowther. Pooley Bridge, Eamont Bridge, Carleton and Brougham were flooded. Ullswater equalled its highest level of 1857 (sic) (presumably 1856)

Eden – The river inundated many rivers along its course from Kirkby Stephen to Warcop, Langwathby, Lazonby and Kirkandrews. In Carlisle Caldewgate was inundated to a great depth due to combined river levels in the Eden and Caldew. Water level reached 22 feet 10 inches at Eden bridge. At Carlisle Sewage Works the water level was 18 inches higher than in 1856.

Tributaries – Tributaries in flood included the Caldew, Petteril, Eamont and Lowther, which together flooded Lanercost Priory, Kirkoswald, Hesket-New-Market Millhouse, Carleton, Penrith, Plumpton, Brougham, Eamont Bridge, Pooley Bridge and Thrimby Grange. Ullswater equalled its highest level of 1857. (Rivers to the northwest were also in full spate and many small villages such as Wigton, Gamelsby, Kirkbride, and Lessonhall were inundated.)

Sudden storm sweeps the north: Fire and flood follow terrifying night: The storm broke at 3.30 am after fine oppressive (heat wave) days. Preceding temperature was 77 F at Carlisle and 88 F in London. At Carlisle the deluge lasted 2 hours. The storm affected 6 counties of Northern England and North Wales. The Caldew and Petteril underwent an astonishing change in a few hours and overflowed their banks in places; the Eden was more steady in its rise. Rickerby Park was inundated, the cricket field and bowling green at Edenside was covered as was the lower part of the Swifts and high up the Weaver’s Bank in Victoria Park. In Carlisle Caldewgate and Sheddongate districts were the main victims of the flood. As compared with the floods of 2 years ago there was an extension of the affected area in Caldewgate. Roads were flooded from the corner of Ashley Street to Wood Street near Cumberland Infirmary. The overflowing of the Dow beck was the main problem. Some houses on Port road were flooded. At Caldewgate water was more than knee deep on both sides of the street; shops and houses were flooded. Parts of Carr’s Works were affected. Water ran through Hawick Street and into Caldewgate like a river. Also affected were houses in Broadguards, Queen Street, Rigg Street and Burn Street. Church Street water flooded the sidewalks, the crown of the road being clear save for a stretch of 20 yards at the west end. The Dow beck rose rapidly; its course from Morton leads through Bedford Road, Silloth St, Hawick St and then through Caldewgate. It is thought to have burst from underground in Hawick Street and Duke Street and flowed down into Church Street. Other parts affected were Crown Street under the railway bridge, the tennis court and putting green at Ferguson Park, Denton Holme the far end of Richardson Street and half way across Norfolk street and Dalston Road near Longsowerby. By 13.00 the Petteril at the foot of Warwick Road had overflowed. Parts of the Tilbury road Botcherby was flooded and the roadway near the City Golf course. The Caldew burst its banks near the Stampery. Although
Newton is in the higher part of the city some houses on Newton Road were invaded to a depth of 1 foot, due to the overflowing of the Parham Beck which goes underground just behind Peel Street. There was a flooded area in Cobden Street between Port Road and Newton Road.
A Caldewgate looking west, B. Water on the Houghton Road near Tarraby, C. Caldewgate, the Pheasant Inn, D. Warwick Road near the laundry and E is this a ‘wall of water’?

Rail traffic was held up between Barnard Castle and Kirkby Stephen where rain washed out ballast from the line near the summit.

Cattle and sheep were drowned or killed by lightning at Wetheral and elsewhere; houses were damaged by lightning. A boy was drowned at Wigton playing near a flooded river. At Lanercost an elderly resident said it was the biggest flood in the Irthing for 40 years.

River Lyne burst its banks and caused diversion to motor traffic. The River Esk overflowed flood banks erected to protect the auction market. Longtown to Carlisle Road was flooded knee deep in several places.

An intense convectional storm on Gale Scarth Pass, caused intense erosion and moved huge boulders in Longsleddale valley.

Heavy rainfall was also reported at Shap, Swindale, Rosgill, and Bampton flooding the Swindale and Wet Sleddale Becks. Crags Mill bridge across the Lowther was damaged. Part of Rosgill Bridge was swept away and the Parish Crag bridge between Rayside and Rosgill was also damaged.

6 Oct 1926 Watkins & Whyte (2007) There are no entries for heavy rainfall on this date for anywhere in the country

4 Nov 1926 Patterdale Greenside Rainfall was widespread over the Lake District but greater to the west and south
A great amount of damage was done by a thunderstorm in mid-Cumberland which started about 3:00 and was intense for about an hour but continued at a normal rate into the night. Rain was accompanied by hail as big as marbles. At Penrith spouts on houses and businesses overflowed into the street and in the more confined thoroughfares the water flowed inches deep over the full width of the road. In Friar Street – subject of flooding in extreme floods – the underground beck burst at several places and many dwellings were flooded inches deep, reminding of the costly flood of New Years Day 2 years ago. Acres of corn have been beaten flat by rain and hail. The fell becks were in full spate and the lowland rivers soon became full and in places overflowed. Cloudburst on the Borders: Between Kershopefoot and Newcastleton a cloudburst washed away ballast on the Waverley route affecting railway traffic.

A 6 year old boy was drowned at Kirkby Thore on the Troutbeck a tributary of the River Eden. Reports of a dam failure at Glenridding. The dam provided power to the Greenside lead mines. A landslide occurred at Shap. At Carlisle the water level reached 18 feet 3 inches. The River Irthing overflowed at Brampton.

More details in Westmoreland Gazette

‘In the early hours of Saturday morning disaster descended upon the little village of Glenridding and in half an hour created indescribable havoc and damage running into thousands of pounds. It was just about 12 months ago that the inhabitants of Longsleddale Valley suffered from the furious destruction of a cloudburst at Gate Scarth Pass but the torrent which swept down from the hills on that occasion and ravined the path for half a mile tossing about like so much rubble, boulders of huge girth and weight, paled into insignificance in the face of the weekend catastrophe in Glenridding Valley.

High up on the slopes of Helvellyn there used to be a tarn covering an area of 6 acres and the waters of which
were impounded by a dam, forty feet high and 100 feet thick at the base and 80 feet thick at the top. From this Tarn, Kepple Cove, were released thousands of tons of water which swept in a huge wall down the hillside, smashing down centuries old trees and whisking them away like matchwood, transforming the face of the fell and washing it smooth of deep-rooted rocks; sweeping in a mighty devastating wave over the roadway; in at the front and out of the backs of houses and finally emptying into Lake Ullswater, leaving behind it chaos and a feeling of awe.’

There follows a description of personal losses. Rattlebeck Cottage which stands at the Edge of Glenridding beck was severely damaged and the stone bridge opposite was washed away entirely, not a stone remaining. The cottage according to Mr Parker, the resident, had been flooded once or twice a year ever since he entered it. The tarn dam was found to have a gap 30 feet wide and 40 feet deep. It is about 1800 feet above sea level and 2 ½ miles from Glenridding. (some additional material not copied)

Could this be considered a GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood)??!
The Chronicle reported a big flood on the River Eden and tributaries with thousands of acres submerged. The main road from Carlisle to Newcastle was flooded near Carlisle Golf course.

The heavy downpour of rain lasted 24 hours brought down the Eden and other rivers in heavy flood on 21\textsuperscript{th}. A large tract near the city was inundated. In several parts of the north there were heavy thunderstorms on Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} but the Carlisle district escaped. The level at Eden Bridge was 20 feet 8 inches and the worst experienced since January 1925 when the rainfall was accompanied by a southwesterly gale when the level was 22 feet 10 inches. The Journal lists previous high floods on the Eden at Eden Bridge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 27 1924</td>
<td>21 feet 3 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2 1925</td>
<td>22 feet 10 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 22 1926</td>
<td>19 feet 3 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 22 1927</td>
<td>19 feet 6 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27 1903</td>
<td>21 feet 3 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25 1903</td>
<td>18 feet 3 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27\textsuperscript{th} 1903</td>
<td>20 feet 10 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thunderstorms and rain was accompanied by strong winds.
winds. Oct 6 1903  18 feet 8 inches
Mar 9 1908  19 feet 0 inches
Jan 18 1909  19 feet 0 inches
Feb 1910 (3 times) 18 feet 3 inches
Nov 14 1914  18 feet 3 inches
Nov 30 1914  18 feet 6 inches

This week’s rainfall has been common over the whole Eden catchment. Eden and Petteril both overflowed their banks and adjacent Holmes were several feet under water. Rickerby Park, Stoney Holme the lower part of the Swifts the cricket pitch at Edenside, rugby and football grounds and roads near Petteril Bridge and Botcherby were under water. The cenotaph at Rickerby Park was completely surrounded and the low-lying portion of Victoria Park was submerged. The Caldew was in flood on Tuesday morning and Holme Head Bay was a foaming cataract. Cummersdale Holmes were not flooded to any great extent. The main road between Newby and Crosby was impassable.

At Appleby the Eden rose 6 inches above the flood on New Year’s Day 1925. Houses and shops on the Sands and Bridge Street were flooded. A torrent flowed down Chapel Street. The bowling green and tennis courts also suffered. Opposite the bowling green Atkinson’s garage was invaded, the walls crashed and the big doors burst under the strain and oil drums were washed away. At Eden (Temple Sowerby) Bridge on the main road from Appleby to Penrith the depth of water was the highest for 40 years.

Villages adjacent to the Pennines were inundated. The road at Melmerby was flooded for 150 yards, the highest known for 30 years. At Briggie the road was covered to a good depth. A house was flooded to over 1 foot at Broadmeadows and also Stag Inn and Gullom Holme where the water reached the window sill. Inhabitants at Melmerby indicated the bulk of the water came with a rush. Stank Bridge one mile west of Melmerby was washed away and the road closed. Little Salkeld Mill was greatly damaged; the dam was completely washed away and the house flooded. The river at Eden bridge Langwathby overflowed to a great extent for 100 yards on the road to a depth of 2 feet. At Lazonby Townfoot the water came down in a great volume and buses were unable to cross from Lazonby to Kirkoswald.

Roads from Kirkby Stephen to Appleby were impassable. A new footbridge giving access to a glen at KS was washed away. Water swept down the main street from the south and many houses were flooded. Hartley Mill House was surrounded by deep water. The Podgill Lunehead Creamery abutting the Eden was demolished and milk cans were washed down the Eden.

Lyne and Esk kept within bounds but Brisco Hill Burn, a trickling stream flooded the roadway to a considerable depth, trapping motorists.
Rainfall was also reported at Manchester and in Dumfries where houses and shops were flooded.

Heavy rainfall occurred over most of the Lake District for several days starting with a thunderstorm on 9th and then persistent rainfall on 10th and 11th. In Patterdale District houses and roads were floods and trees uprooted in the accompanying gale. By the end of the period Ullswater and Brotherswater were joined. The Glenridding Grisedale Becks were raging torrents and carried huge boulders. The basements of Glenridding Hotel were flooded to 18 inches. A landslide occurred up the valley.

Storm affecting Stainmore, Knipe Moor

A cloudburst occurred on high land on Stainmore in the Augill Beck and Swindale Beck catchments (tribs of Eden) and at a point of the river at Musgrave. On these becks and on the Eden down to Appleby thousands of trout grayling etc were suffocated by peat and clay. Some jumped out of the river. Anglers captured numbers at Appleby to restock. At the top of Augill Moor, the ground covering an area of 3 or 4 acres had been scooped out to a depth of 10 or 15 feet of peat with a subsoil of blue clay. The land was broken up onto lumps weighing 3 to 5 tons and hurled half a mile down the hillside. On Augill Beck the banks were broken in some places baring the rocks to a depth of 20 feet. Bridges and stone walls were damaged. The land adjoining the beck was covered with a thick layer of peat soil and lumps of earth weighing a ton were hurled on to the land. The cloudburst occurred many miles from houses but the people in Musgrave (where the Swindale Beck enters the Eden) could hear the noise of the havoc.

The great Storm: Carlisle Streets Flooded: House fired by lightning: water enters Newton dwellings:

A thunderstorm occurred over Carlisle on Wednesday afternoon (18th). It followed a period of dry weather then sultry atmosphere in the morning. Rain began shortly before 4 pm and was severe for about an hour but continued heavy into the evening. Drains were unable to cope. Water rose to 2 feet deep in low-lying parts of the city especially in the Newton district. Parham Beck was in flood and found its way into houses in Bright St and Peel St. The bowling Green at Newton was a small lake. The water made its way down Port Road into Caldewgate where Carr biscuit factory bakehouse was flooded. A large part of Crown St was also under water. The water rushed round into Botchergate where pools collected in front of the Palace Theatre. Water collected at the bottom of Rickergate. Lightning caused a fire at Portland Square. At Dalston 3 horses were killed and a chimney stack was demolished. One man was killed by lightning at Great Salkeld.

The storm had a very local character, notably in the Carlisle area and south of Penrith but many parts of the lake District escaped. North of Carlisle the rainfall did not affect the district beyond Scotch Dyke (There was no rain at Allonby on the Solway coast). It is 4 years since we have had a storm of such severity – September 1926 – not previously identified.

[Several people killed in other parts of England; cloudburst at new mills Peak Dist when the water rose so rapidly that 3 men were drowned – one swept away from his own window; others killed by lightning at Ascot,
20 Aug 1930
Westmorland Gazette
It was reported to be the hottest August for 54 years. The thunderstorm was a prelude to a heatwave reaching 90°F.
Manuscript: Manchester and Southport]
The Congregational Church Spire was struck at Kirkby Stephen. Ullswater was reported to be at its highest level in summer months. The pier at Glenridding was under water and the boats stopped operating.

20 Aug 1931
Yorkshire Post
20 Aug
Westmorland Gazette
Following a cloudburst on Helvellyn a great volume of water rushed down the hillside carrying away walls and boulders making a noise like the heaviest thunder. Villagers were aroused at 5.30 to find their homes under several feet of water and mud. Extensive damage to hotels and houses occurred in Glenridding.

For the second time in four years Keppel dam burst. The water overtopped the bridge in the centre of the village and swept down to St Patrick’s Well. Since the event in 1927 the dam had been rebuilt but it was found that a breach 30 feet long had been made. Near Greenside Mine many small bridges were washed away. Visitors saw a giant wave sweep down the valley. At Rattlebeck cottage the house was filled with silt and the road outside was boulder strewn. Water entered the Coop Stores as well as Ullswater House, Glenridding Hotel and Beech House. Trout were picked up on the main road.

3 Nov 1931
Hay (1934)
British Rainfall 1931
Yorkshire Post
4 Nov
Westmorland Gazette
7 Nov
Widespread rainfall occurred in Westmoreland. In the Patterdale area walls were washed away and great cavities created in roads. Boulders gravel and sand litter the meadows around hartsop and Ullswater where the flood was said to be the worst for 47 years. Glenridding Hotel, The Coop the Parish Hall and Rose Cottage were again flooded. The foundations of the bridge were seriously damaged. Battlebeck Bridge was impassable, the earthwork at one end being carried away. Approaches to hartsop were flooded to a depth of 4 feet and the village was cut off. Three landslides occurred, the largest at Dodd end Hartsop where huge trees were buried or carried away. Walls surrounding three cottages at Brothersfield were washed away and the cottages flooded. There was damage to the road over Kirkstone Pass.

18 Dec 1932
Keswick 4" Borrowdale valley
Cumberland
more than 8" during the storm period.
Keswick daily rainfall nearly

Enormous floods joined Ullswater and Brotherswater Lakes. Three inches of rain fell in 3 hours. Streams for Helvellyn grew into raging torrents overnight and roads were flooded to several feet.

BR shows the synoptic chart for the day with an intense low off the NW coast of Scotland with trailing fronts and a strong southwesterly airstream.

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Glenridding, Patterdale affected
Widespread rainfall occurred in Westmoreland. In the Patterdale area walls were washed away and great cavities created in roads. Boulders gravel and sand litter the meadows around hartsop and Ullswater where the flood was said to be the worst for 47 years. Glenridding Hotel, The Coop the Parish Hall and Rose Cottage were again flooded. The foundations of the bridge were seriously damaged. Battlebeck Bridge was impassable, the earthwork at one end being carried away. Approaches to hartsop were flooded to a depth of 4 feet and the village was cut off. Three landslides occurred, the largest at Dodd end Hartsop where huge trees were buried or carried away. Walls surrounding three cottages at Brothersfield were washed away and the cottages flooded. There was damage to the road over Kirkstone Pass.

Eden and Petteril were both in flood. Brunton Park football ground flooded, as well as Rickerby Park, and isolated the two counties cenotaph. The Edenside cricket ground was also submerged. There is no reference to houses flooded in Carlisle in the Carlisle Journal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Dec</td>
<td>Carlisle Journal</td>
<td>Rain was accompanied by a gale with mild temperatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 &amp; 23 Dec</td>
<td>CBHE</td>
<td>Cockscomb Castle 5.2&quot; (132 mm) in six days.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carlisle 0.70&quot; Rain over 24 hours was accompanied by a gale with mild temperatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Aug 1932</td>
<td>Westmorland Gazette</td>
<td>Thunderstorm at Patterdale and Martindale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>Martindale: Sheep were killed by lightning. Some roads were flooded in Patterdale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Dec 1932</td>
<td>Westmorland Gazette</td>
<td>Thunderstorm at Patterdale and Martindale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Extensive flooding occurred in Patterdale. Meadowland at Hartsop and Deepdale was submerged. Brotherswater and Ullswater were again said to be joined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Jul 1936</td>
<td>Yorks Post &amp; Leeds Intell</td>
<td>A heavy thunderstorm broke over the Ullswater district and heavy rain almost ruined Penrith Market that was being held at the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Oct 1936</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Heavy rain for more than 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Dec 1936</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>No reference to storm or flood in either newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sep 1937</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>No reference to storm or flood in either newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 July 1938</td>
<td></td>
<td>The River Eden at Carlisle was swollen far beyond its normal volume but except for one or two places it kept</td>
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</table>
within its banks. To the north of the city the flooding was very severe with flooding of the Lyne and Esk. The Carlisle Edinburgh road was flooded to a depth of nearly 3 feet at West Linton near Longtown. Carlisle suffered little.

Patterdale: Many roads were impassable and campers were washed out of their tents. The Hartsop road was flooded to a depth of 5 feet.

WG shows a photo of flooding at Appleby but there is no accompanying text.

On 21st there was more than an inch over most of England north of Kendal
Storm Sweeps Solway shore; damage in Silloth: widespread floods inland: the damage in Silloth was mainly tidal. The overflow from the Eden covered a wider expanse at Carlisle than at any time during the winter. At Eden bridge the level was 19 feet 5 inches on 22nd. The bowling green was under water. At Botcherby it covered holmes below Rose Hill and extended nearly to houses in Warwick Road.

Rain has twice caused flooding of the Eden Caldew and Petteril. At Low Cummersdale one house was flooded from the Caldew.

No rain or flood information given.

CN reports ‘A heat wave in Carlisle’ with Monday 26th being the hottest day of the year 84 F. Thunderstorms and rain also visited the district (but does not specify where). Thunder was heard on the night of Tuesday to Wednesday 27/28th.
18 Jul 1947
BR
Carlisle journal
18/23/25 Jul
Cumberland news 19/26 Jul
Temple Sowerby 2.24 in 1 hr
Tot=2.24
Flooding occurred in the centre of the village; water had to be pumped out at the Kings Arms Hotel.
No rain or flood information given in either paper.

11 May 1948
BR
Carlisle journal 14/18 May
Temple Sowerby 1.97 in 3 hrs
No reference to rain or flood in either paper.

23 Jan 1949
BR
Carlisle journal 13 Jun
Caldbeck 2.55
Terrifying crash heralded thunderstorm: The storm started at 6.45 am and was followed by torrential rain centred over the area between Lowther Street and Abbey Street. Two small fires were caused by lightning.

1 Jun 1949
BR
Carlisle journal 3 Jun
Caldbeck Upton Sch. (R Caldew) 0.79 in 30 mins

25 Oct 1949
BR
Carlisle (Spital Cemetery) 2.95
Braithwaite (Blackwood) 2.6
Patterdale Hall 3.01

22 Jul 1951
Westmorland Gazette Jul 28
An inquest was held on the death of a boy drowned in the River Eden at Kirkby Stephen. ‘A wall of water drowned a boy’. A seven year old boy was swept off Bolam Bridge steps and drowned by a wall of water several feet high down the River Eden. He had been playing with friends on the steps when the wall assumed to be caused by a cloudburst on Mallerstang, carried him off. He could not get clear in time; an oil drum caught on the crest hit him.

26 May 1953
Yorkshire Post 26 May
Wetheral: Five cattle were killed by lightning at Croft Farm. No reports of flooding. [Widespread thunderstorms around the country]
In September there was a steady succession of depression passing across or to the north of Scotland. There was a 48-hour total of 6.00 inches at Wet Sleddale (Lowther/ Eden) on 17th/18th.

The mountains in the west received abundant rain throughout the month.

Highest at Carlisle since 1945; probably 1941 (snowmelt?) was higher. But a note indicates that the bed of the river at Eden bridge has been lowered by 4 feet (Date?).

The unsettled weather continued in December and there was a fall of 6.32 inches at West Sleddale for 1st/2nd bringing the three day total to 9.07 inches.

Farmers were flooded for the fourth time in the latest downpour.

A 13 year old boy was killed by lightning at Appleby.

The Penrith observer noted that a downspout unable to take the hailstones burst during the brief violent thunderstorm.
Penrith: Worst hit was the Town Head district where the water was several feet deep on the road and several inches deep in houses. The flood affected a 2 mile stretch of the main A6 road from Penrith to Carlisle. Water tore turnips and other crops out of fields on to the road and breached walls. At Plumpton 4 miles north of Penrith a cow was killed by lightning and farm buildings flooded. Penrith main street was turned into a river.

LEP has 2 photos showing cars stuck in deep mud.

Eamont at Udford 1961-09 AMS rank 3 AM 50

Winds S to SW strong; frontal, orographic; warm and cold fronts moving east – vigorous depression in the Atlantic. High rainfall mainly in Lowther catchment.

15 Jan 1962
BR

Winds W strong to gale; frontal orographic; warm and cold fronts moving quickly east.

2 Apr 1962
BR

Wind SW fresh to strong; frontal, orographic; warm front and cold front with wave moving east.

10 Jul 1962
Westmorland Gazette 13 Jul

Shap: Traffic was delayed as a downpour washed boulders and gravel across the A6

7 Jul 1964

Lowther at Eamont bridge 1962-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 26

Some city flooding occurred on the weekend. Water was in cellars at George Street Maternity Home and 2 houses in Mardale were also threatened.

10 Jan 1965
BR

Snowmelt flood

Eden at Temple Sowerby 1964-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 46
Rain hit school sports – nothing else!

Cold front moving eastward
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
<th>Location 3</th>
<th>Location 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Jul 1965</td>
<td>Appleby Castle 79.0</td>
<td>Appleby, Highfield 76.5</td>
<td>Orographic, thundery; unstable air mass</td>
<td>Nothing on rain or flooding in either paper but reference to a swimmer struck by lightning in Lake Windermere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Aug 1966</td>
<td>Hutton John 50.5</td>
<td>Geltisdale 62.0</td>
<td>Carlisle 32.8</td>
<td>St Bees 64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penrith had its wettest day of the year but with only 0.75” and Temple Sowerby ‘over an inch’</td>
<td>Depression, frontal orographic, thundery; wave depression off southwest England deepening and moving north-north-east. Also northeast England and much of Scotland.</td>
<td>Eden at Temple Sowerby 1964-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 38</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Saturday nights storm caused some of the worst flooding in living memory following wet weather during the previous 2 weeks but it was concentrated in Borrowdale and Langdale. Flooding was reported in the Ullswater area. The Greenside Youth hostel at Glenridding was flooded when the Glenridding beck cleared the stone bridge and was diverted straight down the valley into the hostel [No ref to flooding in Glenridding]. The cellar of the Sun Hotel in Pooley bridge to about 2 inches. [Flooding was also reported at Dumfries (River Nith) and at Longtown].</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CJ notes great variation in damage. Borrowdale was badly hit but Penrith, Carlisle and Wigton escaped reasonably lightly. Longtown also suffered torrential rains and high winds. Lightning struck the bridge Street surgery which was destroyed by fire.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In the Carlisle area water had to be pumped out of Harraby Secondary School and Harraby Community Centre. People were rescued from cars stuck in floods under a railway bridge at Cumwhinton and under a bridge in St Ninians Road Carlisle. Wigtown Fire engine got stuck at Moorhouse Hall in 2 feet of water on the way to Little Bampton. There was a four foot flood at Aspatria but firemen managed to stop water getting into a new housing estate at Beacon Close. Three cottages in Queen Street and 3 at Parsonby had a foot of water in them. At Silloth Cumberland cottages had about a foot of water in their cellars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sep 1966</td>
<td>Eamont at Ufford 1961-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 32</td>
<td>Lowther at Eamont Bridge 1962-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 29</td>
<td>In Carlisle Harraby community centre was again flooded. Tilbury Road was blocked by water. Roads around Longtown were under water including the A7 between Carlisle and Edinburgh. The road from Longtown to Brampton was flooded at Brisco Hill. Homes flooded included Haelin Cottage near Penton and a cottage on the</td>
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</table>
border near March bank. Floodwater on the hospital Roadswept into Rayfield Estate with 3 houses flooded to a depth of 3 feet. [More to add to the Derwent file]

Borrowdale was twice devastated. Water again flowed through Seathwaite farm (photo in CJ) and through the house to a depth of 3 feet. The road to Seathwaite was covered by huge mounds of boulders and pockmarked by gaping holes. Rosthwaite escaped the brunt of the new floods

No reference to rain or flooding was found

Depression, frontal orographic, thundery; warm sector depression occluding and moving northeast over northern England. Very widespread and heavy rain, some totals over 100 mm in Wales.

A large number of towns and villages were flooded including Kirkby Stephen, Warwick Bridge, Eden Hall, Crosby on Eden, Brampton, Lanercost, Wetheral, Grange, Penrith and Carlisle. Cumberland Journal reported the loss of two bridges, one at Langwathby which had stood for 280 years and the Jubilee bridge at Appleby. Caldewgate in Carlisle suffered even more than in 1925 because of a new industrial estate at Willow Holme which was flooded with up to 6 feet of water. Over 600 houses were flooded along Warwick Road and Botcherby; 150 families had to be evacuated and 6000 people were affected in some way. The football pitch at Brunton Park was under 7 feet of water.

The vagaries of climate, often assumed to be of less concern in our modern era, brought a flood as great as any in recorded history in March 1968. Bridge Street, St. Lawrence's Church, the Police Station, the Methodist Church on the Sands and many houses were flooded, probably without the loss in wines and spirits that depressed the citizens of 1771, but with a far longer bill for repairs. The Jubilee Bridge at Bongate [built 1887] was irreparably damaged by this flood...." "1970: Jubilee Bridge replaced.
A. Appleby March 1968. Note bridge in background  

15 Jul 1968  
Renwick 61.2  
Frontal, orographic, thundery; depression over central North Sea with trough extending over northern England.

B. Carlisle March 1968

31 Oct 1968  
Hutton John 56.6  
Askham Hail 56.1  
Johnby, Hill Cottage 54.1  
Depression, frontal, thundery; complex depression extending from southwest Ireland to North Sea with front moving slowly south over Northern Ireland and Northern England.

20 Aug 1969  
Irthing at Greenholme 1967-09 AMS Rank 3 AM 28  
Coal Burn at Coalburn 1967-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 13

Reference only to heavy rain showers  

14 Aug 1971  
Eden at Sheeepmount 1967-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 37 (no other summer AM floods at Sheepmount)  
Petteril at Harraby G 1969-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 24 (no other summer AM floods at Harraby G)
No reference to flooding; only an agriculture report which said ‘the harvest may be saved despite the rain’ and referred to ‘last weekend’s storms and torrential rain’.

Downpour flattened harvest hopes. Continuous overnight rain and fierce winds in Cumberland and N Westmoreland caused delays on roads. Slight flooding was reported on minor roads

Irthing at Greenholme 1967-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 6
Coal Burn at Coalburn 1967-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 1

Reference to recent thunder and rains as being welcome for agriculture after the long drought.
Evening news has nothing on floods

Eamont at Pooley Bridge 1970-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 35 (No more summer AM floods)

No reference was found to flooding.

EN 4th Thunderstorms swept West Cumbria and cut power to 4500 homes especially in the Salterbeck area of Workington and Harrington. Floods destroyed foodstuffs at Whitehaven Coop. Water started coming in under the door about as soon as the storm started.
EN 5th notes that Brampton was swamped again. Another fierce thunderstorm swamping the same area as 48 hours ago. The White Lion had 6 inches of water in just 15 minutes – the pub having been flooded on Thursday. Milburn’s ironmonger on High Cross Street was also hit. Serious flooding had occurred on Thursday (3rd) at Wellmeadow Terrace 8 houses which were evacuated. The problem was said to be a nearby beck and culvert which failed to take the heavy amount of rainwater. Flooding also occurred on Dacre Road, Berrymoor road and a number of shops in the centre. Ruts up to 4 feet deep had appeared in some roads and a large crater had appeared near the old brewery. A boy was drowned in the river Gelt by a ‘10 foot wall of water’, 65000 homes were left without power. Lightning injuries were sustained at Dalston Lime House School which was also flooded and Lowther Wildlife Park. Carlisle’s worst affected areas were Caldewgate, Raffles, Newton Road, Harraby and Warwick Road. Wades furniture store was both flooded and hit twice by lightning, damaging their roof. Houses in Raffles Avenue were flooded to 4-5 inches (‘It’s the second time in 6 months we have been hit’). In Caldewgate the Pheasant Inn cellars and the bar were flooded. Morton Street was flooded. In the City
After only 10 minutes of torrential rain, Appleby’s houses shops and hotels started flooding. Streets near the river were flooded and houses on higher ground were soaked where blocked drain could not take the sudden force of the water. Thirty houses were flooded and at the royal Oak Inn the water came in front and back in just 19 minutes leaving no time to move anything. The Fire station was also affected by flooding.

Downpour causes flood chaos. Roads in Carlisle and area were blocked by floods on 21st Areas in the Raffles, Botcherby, and the city Centre were worst hit.

Pensioner’s homes in Longtown’s Lochinvar Close were hit for 3rd time in 6 weeks having been previously...
flooded last week. It was also said to be the 6th time in 10 years since they were built. Flooding also occurred at the centre of Rockcliffe village.

River Eden has fallen although Rickerby Park is still under water; the Caldew is still high.

Thunderstorm with hail

A fatal accident occurred on the M6 just outside Rosehill, Carlisle as a result of a sudden extreme hailstorm which covered the carriageway to 2 inches deep and made the road very slippy. One car with a caravan stopped on the roadside and was then hit by a series of further vehicles. One man was killed and several injured.

A very deep depression passed between Scotland and Iceland on 19th with its associated frontal system moving quickly across Scotland but becoming slow moving across northern England causing flooding.

On 8th thunderstorms developed over NW England SW Scotland and the Midlands.

No reference to rain or flooding in N&S

Appleby: 5 houses, six shops and a pub were flooded from the River Eden.

No reference to rain or floods in N & S

Warm/cold fronts swept across Ireland and Scotland during the night of 28th/29th. The cold front moved more slowly across England and minor waves formed along it.

Lowther at Eamont Bridge 1962-09 AMS Rank 3 AM 41

No reference to rain or floods in News & Star

The Sykeside campsite at Brotherswater was covered to a depth of 2 feet

A cold front crossed the UK on 13th. Drumburgh observer reports a thunderstorm with 25 mm in 40 mins.

Wetheral observer reports a torrential shower.

Flash floods left Carlisle knee deep in water after heavy rains overloaded drains. Worst hit was the Harraby estate with some houses 2 feet deep. Children from Pennine Way Junior School were sent home leaving teachers to mop up. The water came down Pennine Way and entered nearly every classroom, hall and dining hall. The Infants school escaped damage. Harraby N Cumbria Technical College had damp carpets. Some
flooding occurred at Carnaud Metalbox factory. Residents at Welsh Road cul-de-sac in Harraby were cut off. Several houses were flooded at Pennine Way. Other flooded streets included Haig Road, Allendale Road and Edgehill Road opposite the Technology College. At Carlisle Golf Course ‘it was the worst flooding for 45 years’.

Caldew at Cummersdale 1997-09 AMS Rank 1 AM
No reference to rain or floods in N & S

16 Sep 1997
Hiflows UK
News & Star
16-18 Sep

19 Sep 2000
COL
Hiflows UK
News & Star
19 Sep

24 May 2002
COL
Hiflows UK
News & Star
19 Sep

30 Jul 2002
COL
Hiflows UK
News & Star
19 Sep

9/10 Aug 2004
COL
Hiflows UK
News & Star
19 Sep

20 Aug 2004
Hiflows UK
News & star
19 Sep

3 Oct 2004
Hiflows UK
News & Star
19 Sep

Penrith 45.9
Edenhall 37.8
Wetheral 36.1

Eden at Great Musgrave Bridge 2000-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 6 (No other Summer AM floods)
Dacre Beck at Dacre 1997-09 AMS Rank 3 AM 7

No reference was found to heavy rain or flooding

A thundery day reported
Dacre Beck at Dacre 1997-09 AMS Rank 1 AM 1

Floods: Cumbria mops up after downpour: A fortnight’s rain in just three hours: Rain caused floods all over the county. Penrith was worst hit as the Leisure Centre, police Hq and many of its major shops were flooded. The Somerfield supermarket in Friargate was flooded. Some streets had 4 to 5 inches of water. Properties in Scotland Road were also flooded as was an antique shop in Duke St. Roads became dangerous including the A66 between Reghed Centre and Threlkeld and the A686 near Alston. The Rose and Crown pub in Low Hesketh had to be pumped out by fire crews.

Coal Burn at Coalburn 1967-09 AMS Rank 3 AM 14

11th Days of torrential downpours: EA said the rivers coped with the rain but localised flooding occurred. Water was 18 inches deep under the rail bridge at Kingsmoor Road between Carlisle and Cargo. Roads were flooded near Unthank, Scotby and Hutton in the Forest.

12th More than 13 mm fell in 1 hour at Carlisle last night at 5 pm. Earlier hot summer sunshine had persisted till late afternoon. Flooding occurred at St Peter’s Drive and Naworth Drive but to small depths.

Dacre beck at Dacre 1997-09 AMS Rank 2 AM 5

Wet weather and lightning but no floods reported.
23 Aug 2005
COL

Shap: This has been the wettest month since I started in 1999, total fall was 180.7mm; the average is around 100mm for October. It also includes the wettest day as well, with a staggering 62.3mm, 18mm of this falling in one hour.

The problem started off in Whitehaven and Egremont around 6 pm, then up to parts of Workington, Flimby and Maryport, then quickly spread to Keswick and Carlisle.

With rainfall on Friday night at least 65 homes were flooded in N and W Cumbria. Photos show flooding at Warwick Road (refurbished after major January floods) and Cumwhinton Road. Flooding occurred at Milbourne Street Denton Holme (where 140 homes were flooded in January floods). In one house water was coming in through the window. On Brunton Crescent the water reached 1 foot in depth with the maximum at 9 pm. Brunton Avenue was also flooded. On Greystone Road water was 10 inches deep on one side of the road. On Corporation Road the water was up to the first step of the Magistrate’s court. Parts of Harraby were also flooded despite escaping the worst of January’s floods. Residents on Allandale Road were flooded from water streaming from a nearby hill.

Schools were flooded; Harraby Inglewood Infants was flooded to 6 inches. The Technology College boiler room was flooded to 5 feet Harraby Community Centre will be out of action for 6 months Pennine Way primary was also flooded. Longtown Primary school was flooded. Businesses in the Willowholme industrial estate were inundated up to 2 feet deep with water bubbling up through the drains.

After a generally sunny month, the 23rd was rather on the cloudy side as frontal bands of cloud and rain spread E’wards across the British Isles.

The afternoon of 11th brought some heavy showers over Wales, N Ireland and N England with some flooding occurring in parts of Wales. Torrential rain and thunderstorms were also reported across parts of Lancashire and Cheshire.
Penrith Maulds Meaburn: 30 mm fell in just 1 hour on 11th.

No reference was found to heavy rain or flooding in N&S

Heavy, thundery rain moved NE through the NE Midlands and N England during the early hours, with the Met Office reporting 11.6mm of rain in one hour at Shap Fell.

No reference was found to heavy rain or flooding

Flash floods hit Armathwaite and Ainstable; rain poured into the villages from fields and becks. Up to 5 feet of water reached Drybeck farmhouse in Armathwaite and up to 4 feet in Ainstable. Carlisle largely escaped. The New Crown lost barrels of beer as water flowed into the cellar and caused the electricity supply to fail.

At Gelt Hall Farm Castle Carrock the house was flooded and cows in the fields were up to their stomachs. The occupants said ‘we have lived here since 1979 and never seen anything like this’

In Low Row near Brampton neighbours knocked down the wall of a house next door to prevent a couple’s home being swamped with floodwater.

[Serious flooding also occurred in Gloucesershire]

Rain spread N during the morning of 21st, with heavy falls over N Ireland and parts of N England in the afternoon. By the evening the rain had reached S Scotland - with cloudy and damp conditions continuing further S. According to the Met Office there were thunderstorms over parts of Wales and Northern Ireland and the heavy rain in Ireland was also thundery. No thunder reported for Cumbria

Low pressure remained close to Ireland during the 31st and pushed a sequence of fronts and troughs E across W and Cent parts of the British Isles.

See Northeast flood history

Skies soon clouded over from the W as the fronts over (and to the W) of Ireland moved quickly E and only the SE corner of England saw much sunshine during the day. By midday there was a large pressure gradient across the British Isles, with readings of 977.3mb at North Rona and 1030.8mb at Jersey Airport. As a result it was a
stormy day over N and W parts of the British Isles; according to the Met Office Lerwick recorded a wind gust of 93mph and North Rona a gust of 111mph. During the day there were some very heavy falls of rain over Ireland, Wales, Scotland and NW England; places in Cumbria and W Scotland reported local flooding during the day. By sunset hundreds of people taking part in a run in the Original Mountain Marathon near Keswick were stranded by flooding and torrential rain. About 12 people were taken to hospital with hypothermia and minor injuries, Northwest Ambulance Service said. Shap Fell recorded 73.8mm of rain from around lunchtime to the early hours of Sunday, according to the Met Office. As vast amounts of rain flowed over the saturated ground, rivers across the Lake District rose to dangerous levels - notably the River Cocker, which burst its banks overnight into Sunday.

A low pressure centre crossed the UK on the 17th to give a cool and wet day across Britain. Overnight rain affected much of England, Wales, S and E Scotland with falls also in E Ireland. Thunder in parts of Cent S England around dawn later affected East Anglia as the heaviest rain moved N and E. By the evening rain was falling across much of E Scotland and S'wards to the N Midlands.
Drumburgh (NW of Carlisle): A record highest daily September rainfall of 41.8 mm (1991). Brampton It was the wettest day in records in 13 years of recording. There was little reported flooding in the area. Fortunately the rivers coped very well and were quickly back to normal levels. Not a thunderstorm
References


Huddleston, F. (1930) The cloudbursts on Stainmore June 18 1930 British Rainfall 287-92


