



## Woodside

Henry Lonsdale gave a brief account of the long history of Woodside:

'During the stirring times of the uxorious Tudor, (Henry VIII) the family of Arlosh or Losh were comfortably established at Woodside, four miles south of Carlisle. . . . the Loshes were originally grangers by occupation, under the rule of Holm-Cultram Abbey, in Cumberland; and that one branch of the family made a raid eastward, and effected a clearing at Inglewoodside, and there laid the foundation of the present home—Woodside. . . .

Deeds exist in the possession of the family proving a three-centuried habitation at Woodside; but there is no explanation of how the name of Arlosh came to be diminished by a syllable to that of Losh; indeed, the two names seem to have been used alternately. Thus in a deed of conveyance, dated 1627, the purchaser is described as "William Arlosh *alias* Losh, yeoman at Woodside;" in 1631 another such property is conveyed to the same individual, who is designated William Losh, and five years subsequently (1636) he reverts to the "William Arlosh *alias* Losh." . . .

Be the name Arlosh or Losh, the family who settled at Woodside were not without powers to support the laudable ambition of extending their lines: they married, multiplied, and migrated; and from the position of yeomen rose to the ranks of the squirearchy. They were an active, enterprising race, ready to add house to house, and land to land, till they became masters of a fine estate that extended from the south of Wreay, along the left bank of the Peterill, to Harraby Green, within a mile of the Border city itself.'

William Hutchinson, who published an engraving of Woodside in his *History of Cumberland* in 1794, admired the house: 'Woodside, the seat of John Losh, Esq. adjoining this chapelry, the residence of his forefathers for many generations, is a handsome house and elegantly furnished: his extensive estate is in high cultivation.'

After their father's death in 1814, Sarah and Katherine interested themselves in developing the house and its extensive gardens. In his diary in 1825, James Losh mentioned 'looking at the new buildings, gardens etc at Woodside'. In 1828 James noted that: 'Sara and Catharine arrived unexpectedly from Woodside. Their object seems to be to consult their Uncle William as to the best mode of warming their house.' James admired the work which was done at various times. He referred to 'what my niece Sara has effected with such taste and pains at Woodside'.

After Sarah's death in 1853, the house was inherited by her great nephew, the 19 year-old James Losh (later Arlosh), William Septimus's only surviving son. In a fanciful article in *The Gaitsgill Chronicle*, he described the atmosphere of the old house: 'The young squire (John Losh) of the new period has been a traveller, the final polish to his university education given by the grand tour and we find straightaway in a finely proportioned room, a marble chimney piece of Italian work and plaster cornices so delicate as to warrant the belief that deft Italian fingers must have wrought and wreathed them . . . And so have clustered round the walls of their old stronghold different fronts to the one old house: the western, trim and formal once as was the taste "when good Queen Anna ruled the realm", the Northern of the Georgian type, with a string course fair to look upon, and a dainty portico, and the Southern, the latest, in Italianized Tudor; and as of the outside, so of the interior, the produce of many ages and many minds, . . . The long corridors laid in wood polished bright by the friction of the years, the broad and easy oaken staircase with dark and heavy balustrade, the dining room with its quaint copper casements, the later library with its rich ceiling of carven beams and rafters, and its coloured shadows flung now and again by the shifting sunbeams through the upper lights of coloured glass, and the long parlour . . .'

In 1890, James Arlosh's only child, Godfrey, was killed in a riding accident when he was studying at Brasenose College in Oxford. James and his wife Isabella moved to Oxford and seemed to lose all interest in Woodside. They died within a fortnight of each other in 1904 and Woodside and its contents and the extensive Losh estates were left to Manchester College, a Unitarian college in Oxford.

Woodside was sold in July 1911 to a Liverpool ship-owner, Andrew Gibson. The contents of the house, save for 130 books retained by the college from the library, were sold by a Carlisle auctioneer the following year.

Mrs Gibson died before the couple could live in their new house. Woodside was deserted and fell into disrepair. In 1936 it was sold.

Today, much reduced in size, the house is but a shadow of its former magnificence.