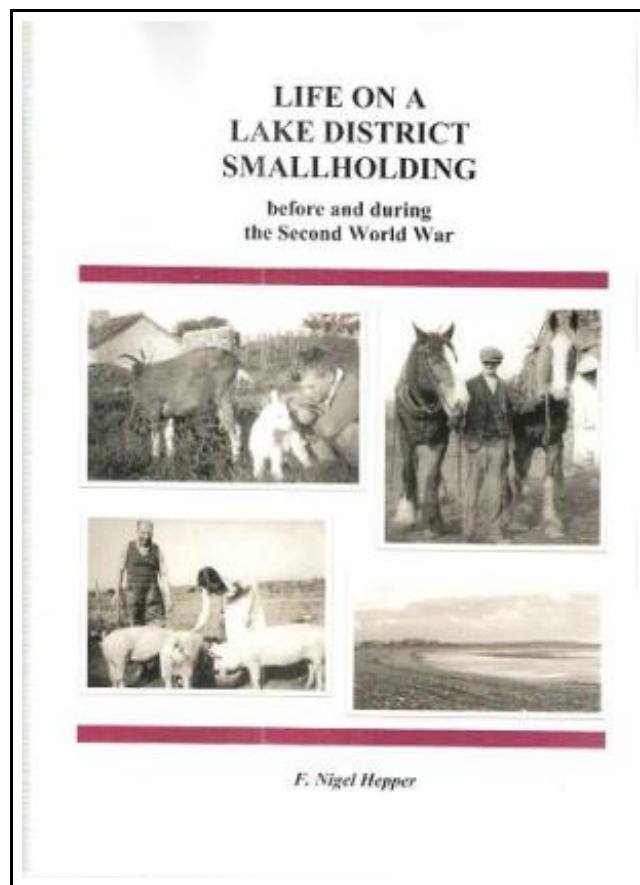


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LIFE ON A LAKE DISTRICT SMALLHOLDING, BEFORE AND DURING THE SECONDWORLD WAR

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Published by the author, Richmond, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Well illustrated, quarto, pp (4), ii, 226, paperback, a new copy. [The Kew botanist, Nigel Hepper, has written a lovely account of his childhood holidays during the 1930's at the family cottage in Cumberland, where the Lake District National Park now extends to the west coast. The seaside was immediately in front of the cottage and the high fells behind. But as war seemed imminent this became the family home for several years during the Second World War and they made a smallholding with an acre of vegetable garden. This book tells the history of the Bootle village area, the cottage and the adjacent farm, how his parents kept pigs, goats and poultry, and managed with lamps and candles and food rationing. At a country house school in Gosforth the boys helped in the stables and rode the resident ponies, as well as playing daily games within sight of Wasdale, The Scree and Scafell Pike. Even in this out-of-the-way part of NW England the war was in evidence with the local gun-range, frequent RAF training flights, the odd enemy bomb and the unexpected arrival of Nazi sympathisers who had escaped from internment on the Isle of Man. Next to the cottage was the Farm, without tractors or electricity, where the author and his brother helped and played during their holidays. Each chapter deals with some aspect of the traditional Cumbrian farm life, from ancient field names, Clydesdale horses, wild flowers and animals, enlivened by the wrecking of a Finnish steamer. Appendices of census returns for 1841-1911 for the Cottage and Farm are also included. This is a carefully researched local history and memoir, illustrated with photographs, maps, scans and the author's enchanting line and scaper-board drawings.].

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