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THE COCKERMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BOOK
(1651–c.1765)

Edited by
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The ‘church book’ of the Independent congregation at Cockermouth is a remarkable document charting the origins and life of a nonconformist church from its foundation in 1651 through to the eighteenth century. The bulk of it written by George Larkham, the first pastor of the Independents in Cockermouth. The book charts the vicissitudes of the church from the Interregnum, through its struggle for survival in the face of official persecution under the Clarendon Code from 1662, to freedom of worship after the Toleration Act of 1689. It sheds light on the links between Larkham’s congregation and other Independent churches in Cumbria and on relations with other religious groups, notably the Quakers. This volume presents for the first time a full scholarly edition of this important document.

Robert Wordsworth, an engineer by profession, describes himself as ‘a latter-day historian’, having embarked on the study of history in his retirement. This volume draws on work he undertook as a postgraduate research student at Lancaster University.

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