

## Chapter 1 : Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons "Lakeland Stories

*December 7, December 7, 1 Comment Arthur Ransome Cumbria Discover Explore Lake District Lakeland maps The 'Real' Ransome Country Having looked at the extent of the 'lake country' in Ransome's books, I thought it would be interesting to compare it with the real world, i.e. the places we can actually visit on foot, on bike, by.*

How big is Ransome Country? In terms of published maps, there are four main sources: Perspectives on perspective A note on the map in Winter Holiday, attributed to Capt. We can say the same of most of the others. The lake is always drawn more or less as an aerial view, even if the lighthouse tree on Wild Cat island tends to appear in profile. However, in the Swallowdale map, Kanchenjunga is seen as if from below. They also invite comparison with another, more recent, Lakeland icon " the Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells of Alfred Wainwright published between and This malleable perspective has been widely emulated since. However, if we are going to make the effort, then the map in The Picts and the Martyrs would appear to be the most reliable. On the other hand, it is incomplete. However, it changes shape. In Swallowdale the lake is considerably broader in proportion to its length. The Picts and the Martyrs map makes it equally wide around Rio Bay but the difference is less marked elsewhere. Varying outlines of the lake from the four sources referred to. These variations, along with others already noted in Part 1, mean that even deriving the length of the lake, let alone extrapolating from this to other features, is full of pitfalls. But we took the plunge in Part 1 and concluded that it is about as long as Windermere, i. Based on this, is there anything we can say about the scale of other features? Well, there is some other firm data, not about lengths but about heights. The map in Pigeon Post gives the height of Kanchenjunga as feet. This agrees very well with the height of Coniston Old Man, today given as m: Apart from this and a few other heights on the Pigeon Post map, Ransome is generally very careful not to specify measurements exactly. The same formula recurs in the first description of the Swallowdale moors: This stretch of moorland appears in the maps in both Swallowdale and The Picts and the Martyrs. In both, it appears about the same length in relation to the lake: This immediately casts doubt on the claims that some people have made that the Swallowdale moors are based on the Blawith Fells, west of Coniston Water. Today, much of this land is enveloped in conifers as part of Grizedale Forest, but far more of it was open moor when Ransome came here as a boy and as a young man. Even so, 8km is not 10km. Sailing, for the most part, came a little later. There is a difference in the way that children perceive the scale of the world, especially when it serves as a seedbed for the imagination. We should also remember that the Swallows and Amazons are almost entirely reliant on small sailing vessels or their own feet to get around. Bicycles figure in Pigeon Post and cars and buses crop up occasionally, while trains are how they get to and from the lake country. Ransome, as child and young man, was in the same position. It would take well under an hour to get from, say, Nibthwaite to Ambleside by car. And really this is the key to answering our question: And we should remember that at the start of Swallows and Amazons, Roger is just seven. In Swallowdale, he is eight. This makes the trek across the moors take on a slightly different magnitude, not to mention the return trip by Roger and Titty alone " and she is no more than ten. We can say, baldly, that the lake is about 10 miles long. We can infer that the country on either side spreads rather less than ten miles from Kanchenjunga to High Greenland. But the mere mention of Kanchenjunga and High Greenland takes us to a different dimension. On the maps, the lake country is small enough.

**Chapter 2 : Arthur Ransome ( ) - Find A Grave Memorial**

*This map of Arthur Ransome locations in the Lake District, with the associated chronology of Arthur Ransome's life, was originally published as a leaflet by The Lake District Art Gallery and Museum Trust, now the Lakeland Arts Trust.*

Tales of adventures and holiday intrigue by Arthur Ransome? Remember climbing Kanchenjunga, mining for gold and avoiding pirates? Remember protecting birds and sleuthing? So do I, fondly. So, this year I went sleuthing. I travelled to the Lake District in Northern England to climb Kanchenjunga in search of Arthur Ransome; journalist, novelist, sailor, spy. He also wrote the biography of Oscar Wilde which precipitated Lord Alfred Douglas to launch into a scandalous trial. As the train pulled in to Windermere Station I felt the same excitement and anticipation stirred up before meeting an old friend. There was no homing pigeon to let go but I felt I was coming home. I was determined to see the lake. Hefting my pack, I walked down the hill. After too much walking I was hungry for lunch and annoyed they called the town the same name as the lake when the town is actually called Bowness. The lake is far from the town. The sun came out as I reached the water. The farms and forests made green-hued patchwork around the glinting lake. Struggled to find suitable food, bought fixings and, as fat swans too lazy to even stand watched me balefully, strolled on board a cruise of Windermere. The captain sat on his comfortable stool and sighed as chatty Chinese folk cheerfully ignored his interesting details about the length and depth of the lake. People enjoyed the sunshine, both around the water and on it; lots of different sailboats and cruisers. There was a houseboat. I did not see a plank. The place was incredibly preserved. Scattered buildings fitted into the theme with one or two modern outcrops that implied influential friends. I could only get as far as Ambleside where I had to wait for an hour for the next bus for Coniston. Found supplies and then dropped into a pub for grog ginger ale and hot chips. Thank goodness I did because, after an excellent bus trip the driver a Henna Dame, recently widowed and newly full-time on those curly stonewalled roads, I needed that fuel for the refreshing walk up to my hostel. My pack was heavy but the views were incredible. Henna Dame supposed car hire firms kept big cars so punters would have to bring them back scratched. You will pay extra for any damage, of course. The land was stunning and relatively untouched. Sheep yelled to each other. With a well-stocked kitchen and dining area, it had a comfortable living room and a terrific view down the valley. The staff were relaxed and friendly, used to dealing with walkers, school groups and naturalists of all ages and stripes. In the morning I got up, ate a hearty breakfast and sat on the front door step to tie my boots. The house martins flew across my vision, getting closer and closer, curving around the front of the building. Worried they were trying to get to their nest, I backed away and one did disappear into the eaves. The others continued to buzz me. We squatted in the sun while the young YHA host spread his map on the ground and pointed the Old Man out to me. I expected to see those little figures in shorts clambering up the slopes beside me. He ducked into one of the old workings. The weather came and went. I felt shivery even in June especially through my sweaty shirt. Old Mine Workings Old Man Coniston There were friendly folk murmuring over their picnics, people walking their dogs and plenty of grass for the sheep to gnaw. A small dappled brown bird came along the path with me, a white patch on her rump showing as she flashed away to the side or flounced up ahead. The rocks were bursting through the green grass and there was plenty of bracken growing. But higher up, around the old workings, slate lay piled artistically. There must have been good reason; water, or those enormous cables needing housings or perhaps some kind of machine required flat areas. The closed copper and slate mines left more than their scars on the hills; their rusty remnants now crazy sculptures in the landscape. The cairn at the top of the Old Man and a view down to Coniston Waters It was thrilling to think that I climbed, walked and stood just where Ransome might have been. Perhaps once he sat right there and ate pemmican corned beef sandwiches. That might have been the very spot where he contemplated the S. Potter, Wordsworth and Ruskin are honey for bee tourists, but for me, the only attraction was Arthur Ransome. He was the man who taught me to respect nature. He taught me about birds and taking responsibility for the care of the environment. I wondered about other walkers as I climbed Old Man Coniston. Were they for Ransome? I chatted to a father-son duo, both fans of Pigeon Post. Later I bought a copy for the hostel when I discovered neither of the hosts had read it. You can read it when you visit.

It was quiet on the Old Man as I sat in the sun. A small chirpy bird from below flew straight up very high, hovered a bit, and then dropped down again, chirruping and whirring as it sank. Far too small and chirpy for a bird of prey but then it might have sighted a tasty insect. But wait, this small, whistly, feathered thing did it again! It flew up as high as me, chirping all the while and then floated down. It was playing a game! Go up as high as possible and then drop down; wheeeeeee! The chirpy bird turned out to be a meadow pipit, their mating flights called parachuting. It was the same bird "speckly brown" I saw flitting and flirting on the path. I know because I asked a fellow back at the hostel. Fellow traveller on Old Man Coniston The wind blew too cool for sitting still. I ran out of food. It would take a couple of hours. I noticed a fault line directly behind the big mining operation. Not quite in the lie of the land. Which was jagged and unpredictable enough already. I felt huge and bulbous as we tourists stooped our bulky way through those cramped rooms imagining the smoke and coughing and poetry readings. How did Dorothy manage in long skirts? Looking down on Dove Cottage, Grassmere I queued to buy Grassmere Gingerbread and a wonderful cross between biscuit and cake it was. Kendal mint cake, another local essential, was good enough for the likes of Sherpa Tenzing and Sir Edmund Hillary. Local vegan treats From Grassmere I negotiated grumpy bus drivers and got myself to Kendal. I rushed into the museum ten minutes before closing. The Arthur Ransome room was depleted because some of the exhibits, and yes, those red Turkish slippers, were showing in a special exhibition at Coniston Waters. Portrait of Ransome and two of his sketches On my last day at Coniston Water I was not able to find a sailing school or someone to take me out in a boat, apart from the tourist launch. Note to dog owners: Apart from the canoeing school and the little launch there was a kayak powering along with a man singing happily in what sounded like Hindi. Fellow walkers murmured behind me. Baby canoeists cackled and hallooed like lost ducks. Real baby ducks puffed and fluffed behind their proud mother who seemed to travel backwards. Oak leaves shook and danced in the sunlight. I wished I could have been sailing. The Ruskin Museum turned out to be more about Coniston than the titular hero. Work implements, especially those of mining and lace were front, and a room devoted to The Bluebird project, Donald Campbell and his fatal attempt at the speed record, centre. Not sure why it was named Ruskin lace? Apart from his wife, with whom he did not have sex, he also enjoyed romance with a Spanish lady and with another girl of ten years old. His apologists think there was nothing whatsoever wrong with him and he was just high minded and moral. He certainly liked nature, painted nicely and gave inspiring lectures. She was the first boat Ransome sailed with the Altounyan children. It felt like the tip of an iceberg without much rhyme or reason. For a start, the red slippers that started off the whole shebang, the gift from the Altounyan children, which caused him to pen Swallows and Amazons, were hidden under a shelf without a label. Various intriguing documents were displayed, such as his passports, both in Russian and in English. There was some doubt about his affiliation when he returned to England but more serious concern when they thought his new wife Eugenia was smuggling diamonds.

Chapter 3 : Arthur Ransome | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*Arthur Ransome first visited the Lake District as a tiny baby. He said that his father, 'carried me up to the top of Coniston Old Man at such an early age that I think no younger human being can ever have been there.'*

Having played Titty in the original movie of *Swallows and Amazons* I remember film locations but, being 12 years-old at the time, I needed to embark on a voyage of exploration to refresh my memory. Curiously, the platform looked shinier than when we roared off in a yellow taxi with Virginia McKenna, who played my mother, Mrs Walker. Arthur Ransome knew the Furness Railway well. It brought him from Leeds, where he was born, up to The Lakes for treasured family holidays. You can call in for tea or stay at the house, the old stables or the converted barn where we once filmed our night scenes. I wanted to run down the field full of buttercups, like the Walker children when they first arrived on holiday, to see if Swallow was in her boat shed. Here the old stone jetty still lies below tall horse chestnut trees. I remembered how icy the water felt and was struck by the fact that it smelt the same. It was in the Grizedale Forest nearby that, during the filming. Later, as a young man, Arthur sailed there with Dora and Barbara Collingwood. Her brother, Roger Altounyan, also had his five children sailing to Peel Island without life-jackets. One of the secrets of filming *Swallows and Amazons* is that it was made on four different lakes. I still have the white elephant flag we captured. A member of The Arthur Ransome Society said: He rented Lowick Hall for a while and ended up at Hill Top near Haverthwaite, part of which is now a holiday cottage. I was left assured that the imaginary landscape mapped in the frontispiece of each book is an amalgam of real places, most of which can still be found. Eventually I came across another representation of the crossed flags. It was embroidered on a kneeler at Rusland Church where Arthur Ransome and his Russian wife, Evgenia, lie buried in the peaceful countryside they loved. Interested in *Swallows and Amazons*? Here are some top tips and ideas by Sophie Neville: The society offers grants for young members to travel and participate in Ransome-ish activities. It produces three different journals while keeping a stall and extensive library. Family membership enables you to join in summer camps usually held on Coniston.

**Chapter 4 : Arthur Ransome's Lakeland homes and places where you can stay | Sophie Neville**

*The four Ransome children, Arthur, Joyce, Geoffrey and Cecily, spent their summer holidays on Swainson's Farm at High Nibthwaite, at the southern end of Coniston Water, where you find the 'Knickerbockerbreaker' rocks featured in "Swallowdale".*

Overview[ edit ] The series begins with *Swallows and Amazons* , published in 1929. It tells the story of the Walker children, who sail a dinghy named *Swallow*, and the Blakett children, who sail a dinghy named *Amazon*. The Walkers are staying at a farm near a lake during the school holidays; the Blaketts live in a house on the opposite shore. The Walkers consider themselves explorers, while the Blaketts declare themselves to be pirates. The children meet on an island in the lake, and have a series of adventures that weave imaginative tales of pirates and exploration into everyday life in inter-war rural England. In subsequent adventures in the series, the children change roles and become explorers or miners. Dick and Dorothea are often referred to as "The Ds" and appear in subsequent novels. Dick considers himself a scientist, while Dorothea sees herself as a writer. Two of the books feature the Callums without the *Swallows* or *Amazons*: *Coot Club* and *The Big Six*. They are set in an accurate representation of the Norfolk Broads , particularly the small village of Horning and its surrounding rivers and broads. John, the oldest, is the captain and usually in charge. Susan is first mate, in charge of stores, cooking, and the general well-being of the crew. She sometimes acts as a surrogate mother. Titty, the "able seaman", is the most imaginative member of the crew. She often imagines her own adventures and becomes a hero in the novels, such as when she wins the war in *Swallows and Amazons* or finds an underground spring in *Pigeon Post*. Their youngest sister Bridget originally nicknamed "Vicky" due to a resemblance to pictures of Queen Victoria in old age; the nickname is dropped in later books as she loses the resemblance when she grows older also joins the crew in *Secret Water*. Roger is seven in the first novel and Bridget has her second birthday. Bridget grows up quickly into a six-year-old when she becomes a full character. The crew of the *Amazon* are the sisters Nancy and Peggy Blakett. Nancy "who does not use her baptismal name of Ruth because her uncle has said that pirates are supposed to be ruthless" is a strong character who would probably be considered a tomboy. She often leads both the crews of the *Amazon* and the *Swallow*. Peggy, real name Margaret, puts up a show of being as tough as Nancy, but often needs the encouragement of her sister to get through the more dangerous parts of their adventures. She is frightened of thunderstorms. A third major set of characters are brother and sister Dick and Dorothea Callum, introduced in the fourth book of the series, *Winter Holiday*. Dick and Dorothea are the intellectuals of the group, Dick in matters of science, Dorothea in the arts. The Callums later acquire a dinghy of their own, the *Scarab*. The Callums were originally seen as useless to the group, until it was realized that they had great skating ability. The Callums are the link to a different location and another set of characters. Following their appearance in *Winter Holiday*, they appear in two following books set in the Norfolk Broads, where they meet the *Coot Club*: *With a Couple of Exceptions*, the exact ages of the characters are never established. In the first book they run from Roger, at 7 years old, to about 12 to 14 John and Nancy. All characters age as the series goes on; the final book occurs three to four years after the first see timeline below. There is an inconsistency in the only two dates mentioned in the series. In the first book the year is stated to be 1929; while in the second book, *Swallowdale* , which is supposed to take place one year later, the year is given as 1930. A second inconsistency is that while Bridget is only a year old in the first novel, she has aged five years by the time of *Secret Water*. While the emphasis of all the books is on the activities of the young protagonists, many "generally benevolent" adult characters also appear. A painfully shy geologist, named Timothy, is also accepted by the children during *Pigeon Post* and included in their adventures. Settings[ edit ] The *Swallows and Amazons* series has strong links with the real world. Most of the unfinished *Coots* in the North would also have been set on the lake had Ransome completed it before his death. The lake and the surrounding fells are based on an amalgam of Windermere and Coniston Water , places where Ransome spent much of his childhood and later life. Many places in the books can be identified with real locations in the area, though Ransome has modified the real location in producing his fictional setting. Generally, the geography of the lake resembles Windermere

though Wild Cat Island has a number of important elements from Peel Island on Coniston Water while the fells and hills surrounding it more closely resemble the area around Coniston. Coot Club and The Big Six are set in an accurate representation of the Norfolk Broads, particularly the small village of Horning and its surrounding rivers and broads. Coots in the North also begins in the Broads before moving to the lake in the north. These stories appear to be metafictional in relation to the rest of the series, and were originally planned by Ransome see below as stories written by the children. The final published works, however, are presented simply as continuing adventures in the series, though different in a number of ways. Most obvious is the inclusion of fear and violence which is mostly absent from rest of the series and the extended voyages would have taken the children from school for unacceptably long periods. Both books are described on their title pages as "based on information supplied by the Swallows and Amazons", a description which is absent from the rest of the books in the series. They describe the story of Peter Duck being made up by the Walkers and Blacketts on a wherry in the Norfolk Broads during the winter following the events described in Swallows and Amazons. This composition was later referenced in Swallowdale, but not in Peter Duck itself. This book is sometimes included with Peter Duck and Missee Lee as metafictional because the story would involve the children being away from school during the nesting season, which is in term time. Also while the use of firearms is reasonable in the context of the plot it seems to be at odds with the more peaceful adventures of most of the rest of the series. Timeline[ edit ] The following diagram shows the implied timeline of the books in the series. Click to expand the timeline Illustrations[ edit ] Current editions of the Swallows and Amazons series have illustrations which were drawn by Ransome himself. The first edition of Swallows and Amazons was published almost without illustrations. Ransome so disliked the pictures by Steven Spurrier that were commissioned by his publisher, Jonathan Cape , that the only pictures in the first edition were the endpaper map of the lake and a map of Wild Cat Island. For the second edition, Clifford Webb was commissioned to produce the illustrations, which met with grudging approval from Ransome. Webb also illustrated Swallowdale, but Ransome decided that he would personally illustrate the third book, Peter Duck. As this book was supposedly based on information supplied by the children themselves, Ransome drew the pictures as though done by the characters. These illustrations were so popular that Ransome illustrated the remainder of his books himself. Typically, figures in the pictures are shown from the back, though there are some which show the faces of a few of the characters. Taqui Altounyan, the oldest of the children to whom the first edition of Swallows and Amazons was dedicated, recalls that "He shirked drawing faces and got over that difficulty with back views of shaggy heads of hair or hats". Ellen Lewis Buell welcomed the latest work in the six-year-old series that had firmly established "a special niche in juvenile literature".

### Chapter 5 : Arthur Ransome, Cumbria

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

### Chapter 6 : Books Cumbria: Children's : Ransome

*In Search of Swallows and Amazons: Arthur Ransome's Lakeland [Roger Wardale] on [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Roger Wardale's year search uncovers the secret locations featured in Arthur Ransome's original Swallows & Amazons adventures.*

### Chapter 7 : Swallows and Amazons series - Wikipedia

*Using diaries of Ransome and his wife, journals of his friends and Ransome's own notes, Roger Wardale has pieced together the story of how "Swallows and Amazons" and its Lake District successors came.*

### Chapter 8 : Arthur Ransome " Afloat in Lakeland | Great Northern Books

*Museum of Lakeland Life & Industry: Arthur Ransome memorabilia - See traveler reviews, 11 candid photos, and great deals for Kendal, UK, at TripAdvisor.*

### Chapter 9 : Museum of Lakeland Life & Industry - Visit Kendal | Arts & Culture | Kendal | Cumbria

*Arthur Ransome - Swallows and Amazons Arthur Ransome () was one of the outstanding writers of children's literature in the twentieth century. For many years he lived in the Lake District and based his characters on the children of friends.*