

## PROCEEDINGS.

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### SUMMER MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting for 1914 was held at Carlisle with excursions in the Alston and Denton districts, on July 2nd and 3rd. Committee for local arrangements :—Messrs. J. F. Curwen, F.S.A., H. W. Cousins, M.Sc., S. Lee, J. G. McIntosh, B.Sc., J. H. Martindale, F.R.I.B.A., H. Penfold, Wm. Thompson, and Edward Wilson, Hon. Secretary. Among others attending the meeting were Dr. W. D. Anderson, Dr. Barnes, Miss Beever, Mr. Breeks, Mr. Buchanan, Messrs. W. G. and R. G. Collingwood and Miss U. Collingwood, Miss Creighton, Miss Donald, Mr. Donald (Mealsgate), Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fletcher, Mr. Henry Gandy, the Rev. C. E. Golland, the Rev. C. J. Goodman, Mr. Harvey Goodwin, Mr. Gordon (Whitehaven), Miss Graham (Langholm), Mr. T. H. B. Graham, Mr. and Miss Highmoor, Mr. C. Courtenay Hodgson, Mrs. and Miss Hodgson (Newby Grange), the Rev. J. Clare Hudson, Sir Joseph and Lady Hutchinson, the Rev. George Jones, Mr. W. J. Lawson, Miss M. Nicholson, Mr. Nicolson (Lowestoft), Mr. and Mrs. Pierpoint, the Rev. G. E. P. Reade, Mr. John Scott (Ilkley), Mr. T. Taylor Scott, Mr. J. Slack, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cecil Slingsby, Miss Taylor (Low House), the Rev. A. R. Tomlinson, Mr. Vickers (Wetheral), Mr. Cranston Waddell, Miss A. M. Watson, Mr. J. Procter Watson, the Rev. J. Whiteside, and Mrs. Edward Wilson.

A sketch-map of the routes taken was kindly provided with the programme by Mr. John F. Curwen.

On Thursday, July 2nd, 1914, the party left Carlisle by the ten o'clock train and arrived at Haltwhistle in showery and thundery weather. The vicar of Haltwhistle, the Rev. E. L. McClintock, received us at the church, which was described by Mr. J. H. Martindale, F.R.I.B.A. As our *Transactions* deal exclusively with antiquities in Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire it would be out of place to repeat at length the interesting details given on this excursion at sites in Northumberland, and a bare outline of some of the papers must suffice.

At Haltwhistle church, John de Halton, bishop of Carlisle, held his second ordination, in December 1294, and the ordinands were

mainly men with Cumberland and Westmorland names. Though the church is traditionally dedicated to St. Aidan, the existing fabric has no remains earlier than the thirteenth century. In plan, it is a nave, 64 feet long, with north and south aisles, and a chancel 46 feet long. The original north and south doors are still to be seen, and in the arcades, of four arches on each side, the capitals are deserving of notice owing to the change of outline from neck-mould to abacus, and the hood mould of the arches bears dogtooth ornament. The ancient sedilia and holes for the rood-loft remain. The font is fifteenth century; the bowl is of the rare hexagonal outline, with carved panels on the sides. The initials of Robert Priestman and the date 1676 have been added, probably when it was restored to the church. There are also indications of a hinged cover. Of communion vessels there are six pieces in silver and two in pewter. Among the monuments, gravestones of the Blenkinsopps and Thirlwalls claim attention.

Mr. Edward Blackburn exhibited an ancient document concerning the tithes, and after leaving the church pointed out the bull-ring in the market-place and other features of the town. The thanks of the Society were offered to the vicar and speakers by the Editor.

On arriving at Alston the stormy weather of the morning had given place to sunshine, and members were guided through the interesting and not unpicturesque recesses of the grey old town by Mr. William Thompson, who described the topography and so much of the history as could be illustrated by remains still in evidence. The course of the ancient road leading from the north into Alston; the prison with its barrel-vaulted roof, to which Mr. Thompson gave an age of rather more than two centuries; the schools built by a former vicar, the Rev. Hugh Salvin, in 1851, and the now derelict shop of the maker of periwigs were reviewed; and the Society was led to the Butts, where Mr. Thompson halted to explain the name. This, he said, came down from the time when this stretch of comparatively level ground in the midst of a hilly site was actually used as archery-butts. In the seventeenth century the earl of Derwentwater leased the land for building purposes, and the lord's mill, which was the only building on the burn in earlier times, became surrounded with a number of irregularly planned houses. Some of these were on the edge of a tenement known as the Jolly Beard, which Mr. Thompson explained as a corruption of Jolly Board, for "board" is often used in that neighbourhood as the name of a public-house. Moving on to the Crosshouse, he exhibited an eighteenth century

"poster," the sale-bill of that property, no larger than half a sheet of note-paper; and at the new Bank of Liverpool pointed out a fine old lintel built into the premises. The Friends' Meeting House, dated 1732, was entered; the parish of Alston with Garrigill was formerly an important centre of Quakerism from the fact that the London Lead Company, which took over the Garrigill and Nenthead mines in 1736 or 1737 and worked them until 1832, was under the direction of members of the Society of Friends, from whose business methods and philanthropy the district derived great benefits. Now, however, the graveyard and meeting-house are only occasionally used. Indeed, the story was told how the weekly congregation dwindled to a single member, who one day took with him a small grandson: after sitting silent for a while the child asked aloud—"Grandfather, er ye gannin to deah owt?" The Grammar School, rebuilt 1828, was endowed with lands which brought an average of £37 a year. These lands are part of Fairhill estate; this income now forms part of the Samuel King Secondary School endowment, and the old building is turned into shops. The Market Cross, next visited, was erected in 1764 by Sir William Stephenson, bart., Lord Mayor of London; at the cross which previously existed on the spot John Wesley preached in 1748 to "a quiet, staring people, who gave little heed one way or the other." At that time the church was in a very poor condition: in 1771 the Rev. Thomas Lancaster, vicar of Alston, and the parishioners built a new church, which was superseded in 1870 by the present fabric. It is curious that although Alston is known to have had a twelfth century rector, and vicars continuously from the beginning of the fifteenth century, there are no monuments or remains earlier than the eighteenth century now in existence. Mr. Thompson described in some detail the early eighteenth century buildings abutting on the churchyard and approaches to the market place, and exhibited a fine map of Alston dating 1775. For his interesting description and the arrangements which had made this visit to Alston successful, the thanks of the Society were offered to Mr. Thompson by the Editor: and members proceeded to the Blue Bell for luncheon.

At Randalholme Mr. S. Lee kindly described the ancient manor-house in his occupation. After it had been examined from kitchen to garret with great interest the thanks of the Society were offered to Mr. Lee by the Editor.

Alston and Kirkhaugh were restored to William de Veteripont by William the Lion, King of Scotland, between 1153 and 1177, and the grant confirmed by King John, 17 May, 1209 or 1210

(see the charters in these *Transactions*, N.S., xi., pp. 270-272). In 1232 the patronage of the church of Kirkhaugh was in the hands of Nicholas son of Ivo de Veteripont (*Ibid.*, p. 283). His son Robert was of Kirkhaugh in 1279 (*Ibid.*, p. 266). Nicholas had leased Alston for 20 years to Randulf (Ralf) de Levington, who died 1253 (*Ibid.*, p. 44) and in connection with this arose litigation with the Crown, which was settled in 1293 by the restoration of the manor to Nicholas f. Robert f. Nicholas de Veteripont (*Ibid.*, p. 286). His son Robert died in 1371, owner of the manors of Alston and Elrington and the advowson of Kirkhaugh. His inq. p.m. mentions 40 cottages or shielings on Alston moor, and "le Houses" in Garrigill, held by John de Williamston (a place further down the valley) who with Richard de Laton held conjointly one messuage and 100 acres in *Raynerholm* by fealty, while Walter de Tyndale held one messuage and three carucates in Kirkhaugh (*Ibid.*, p. 292). The manors of Alston, Elrington and Garrigill came through heiresses to William and Mary de Stapilton; and after more litigation were confirmed to them in 1424 (*Ibid.*, p. 298). The early Chancery proceedings regarding the dower of Mary Stapilton, dating 1436-1440, mention "the ferme of Kirkhagh" (*Ibid.*, p. 304). Her daughter Margaret was "the heiress of Alston Moor" (*Ibid.*, p. 299), whose daughters Joan and Mariota married Richard and Thomas Musgrave respectively.

In Tullie House, Carlisle, are original deeds, calendared by the Rev. Dr. Wilson (these *Transactions*, N.S., xiv., p. 64) from which it appears that on 7th February, 1759, Reynold Whitfeild was son and heir of John Whitfeild of "Randerholme in Alston moore," and on 17 June, 1587, Reynold was still son and heir apparent of John Whitfeilde of "Ranarholme"; but by 1 June, 1616, Reynold was dead. The following notes were made by Mr. J. W. Robinson of Brokenheugh, Haydon Bridge, who also made the Richardson pedigree given later.

18 Nov. 1587. Willm. Eles of Kirkaughe granted to John Whitfeild of Randerholme in the Countie of Comberland one certayne percell of ground called the Ilandes . . . on the east syde of the Ryver of Tyne within the p'ishe of Kirkehaughe.

12 April 1616. Henry Broadwood and Margt. his wife, Nicholas Ridley of Blackcleugh and Thomasine his wife, Richd. Renwick and Grace his wife, which said Margt., Thomasine and Grace were daughters and coheirs of Raynold Whitfield deceased, brother of Ralph Whitfield of Randerholme . . . granted . . . to said Ralph all that manor of Randerholme, etc.

30 Novr. 1622. Ralph Whitfield of Randerholme, Gent.,

demised to George Walton of Sheele Hill, yeoman, all that tene-ment called Sheele Hill for 1000 years, the said Walton paying to the said Whitfield 11/- yearly and two boon days in hay harvest and one carriage of corn yearly from the Market, etc. [This Ralph was the son of John. Ralph was succeeded by John Whitfield his son, who died leaving male issue Robert Whitfield his son and heir.]

30 June 1658. By the Com' for remouing obstructions in the sale of lands and estates forfeited to the Comon Wealth for treason appointed to be sold by the Additionall Act.—Whereas Deuarux Peyto Esq. in his petit'ion haueing set forth y<sup>t</sup> he purchased of y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of Drury House sev'all messuages lands and Tenem<sup>ts</sup> in the Countie of Cumberland and Northumberland late the estate of Robert Whitfield (one of the p'sons named in y<sup>e</sup> said Act) and that William Richardson w<sup>th</sup>holds y<sup>e</sup> possession of a messuage called Randleholme and its 145 acres there unto belonging and an other tenem<sup>t</sup> called the Houses and 49 acres of land thereto belonging and certaine inclosed landes in y<sup>e</sup> County of Northumberland containeing 84 acres; and y<sup>t</sup> Raiph Wallis refuse to pay 1*£* iiij<sup>s</sup> ann' rent and xxiiij*℥* for a ffine Due euerie 21 yeares unto y<sup>e</sup> petition<sup>r</sup> according to his said purchase and the custome of the manno<sup>r</sup> of Und<sup>r</sup> Bancke. Prayeing sumons etc.

Ordered that the said William Richardson and Raiph Wallis be hereby sumoned to appear before us, or some other on their behalves at Worster house in the Strand Midle on Wednesday the 29th of Nouember next haueing 21 dayes notice before of this Order, the said Richardson to shew cause wherefor he detains y<sup>e</sup> possession and rents of y<sup>e</sup> said lands; And the said Wallis to shew cause why he refuses to pay y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> rent and ffine, whereof they are not to faile.

Ex<sup>d</sup> John Smith

William Roberts

Henry Pytt

Jo: Berners

ffran: Mussenden

29 Nov. 1658. Devereux Peyto has "granted and to farme letten" to Roger Bainbrigge for 3 years "All that Capitall mess<sup>e</sup> with the appurt<sup>s</sup> comonly called or knowne by the name of Randle Holme then or late in the possession or occupac'on of William Richardson yeoman with all lands . . . together with necessary howse boote hedge boote and hay boote . . . And also all those customs and services comonly called bound daies otherwise mowing daies and carriage due and accustomed to the Lord of the Mannor of Underbanke from the tenants of the severall tenements."

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[Underbank is adjoining, and would probably in 1658 be part of the farm of Randleholme, but on the Northumberland side.]

In the above lease, Bainbrigge covenanted with Peyto that it should be lawful "to and for the Steward of him the said Deverux Peyto his heires and assynes in that behalfe to keepe and hold Courts within the said Capitall Messuage of Randleholme for the said Mannor of Underbanke and there to stay and abide during the continuance of the said Courts." By the same indenture Roger Bainbrigge covenanted that if he should let, sell or depart with the possession of the demised premises to Robert Whitfield or to anyone for his use or whereby the said Whitfield might obtain possession of the premises that then he the said R. Bainbrigge should pay to the said D. Peyto the sum of twenty pounds within one month after the said R. Whitfield should get possession. Bainbrigge was also deputed to collect the several Lord's rents for the said manor of Underbanke and seems to have generally power to act as deputy for Peyto.

1 Jany. 1667. By an award made by John Dalston under an order of the Court in an action between John Broadwood of Carlisle and *William Richardson of Randell Holme* it is recited that the said Wm. Richardson the older, Hugh Richardson and Wm. Richardson the younger purchased from Robert Whitfield lands and tenements with the appurtenances commonly called Randell-Holme.

In the above-mentioned action, in a schedule to an affidavit made by Wm. Richardson and his wife, there is mentioned "An Indenture Tripartite Dated 21st May 1659 between *Devereux Peyto Esq. and Elizabeth his wife* and *Robert Whitfield Esq.* of the first part, Anthony Greenopp and Robert Coatsworth of the 2nd part and *Wm. Richardson the older, Hugh Richardson and Wm. Richardson the younger* of the 3rd part.

1670-1675. Sundry leases were granted by the said three Richardsons to tenants at Ayle, in all of which rents were renewed, and certain "boon days service in mowing the hay harvest and carriages or catches from the market to the said Wm. Richardson house at Randalholme."\*

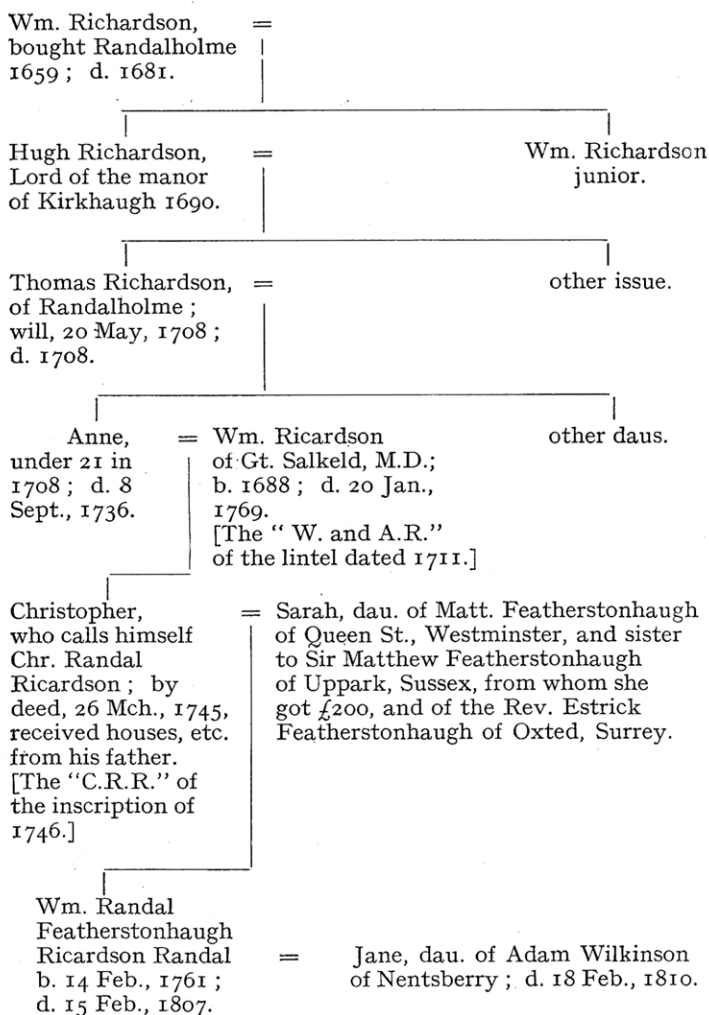
5 Novr. 1690. By indenture of this date made between John Robson of Undertown in the parish of Kirkhaugh of the one part

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\* Edmund Sandford, however, writing about 1675, still speaks of "a faire house called Reinerhome of a yonger branch of the Leard Whitfeild of Whitfeild near ther unto in Northumberland" (*Cursory Relation*, p. 47). As he gives his reminiscences of Kirkoswald Castle "some sixty years agoe," no doubt he writes here from memory of an early period.

and Hugh Richardson of Randleholme in Aldstonmoor gent. of the other part, the said Hugh Richardson is referred to as " Lord and owner of the Mannor of Kirkhaugh."

### Pedigree of Richardson of Randalholme.





According to Jefferson (*Leath Ward*, p. 121), the Ricardsons of Nunwick Hall sold Randalholme to Joseph Salkeld. He was in possession in 1815, and sold it, in 182—, to Greenwich Hospital.

The architectural history has been given by Mr. John F. Curwen, F.S.A., in *Castles and Towers*, pp. 312, 313, with plan on p. 311. He considers the pele tower, which forms the nucleus of the house, as of the early fourteenth century. According to Hodgson (*Hist. Northumberland*) it was the "capital messuage at Alston" held by Nicholas de Veteripont, mentioned above, who died in 1314. There are evidences of a curtain wall on the east and south sides. The tower is  $27\frac{1}{2}$  by 26 feet in plan; the axis east and west; it stands  $34\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground to halfway up the gable where the local freestone walling gives place to the ashlar of the remodelled gable-roof. The basement (now a dairy) is vaulted, and has two storeys over. The walls are  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, with straight mural stairs in the west wall, one turning up the south wall to the second floor. The Whitfields, about 1600, must have added the Tudor wing with the handsome kitchen now in use; about 1650 the tower was remodelled in the classical style, with a fine cornice at the eaves level. Other building was done by Anne and Wm. Ricardson in 1711, as shown by the inscribed lintel now built into the garret. On the north side is a great panel with a coat of arms:—Quarterly, 1 and 4, parted per chevron, three bull's heads erased, 2 and 1, and in a chief a label of 3 points: 2 and 3, on a bar three stag's heads: the whole surmounted by two helms of baron's degree, that on the sinister side with a coronet and a bull's head for a crest, that on the dexter side with a wreath and sheaf of arrows, armed and feathered, passing through a coronet for crest: motto, *Virtute acquiritur honor*. Under this is a separate tablet inscribed "C.R.R. 1746," referring to Christopher Randal Ricardson.

At Kirkhaugh church the Rev. H. E. Y. Breffit, rector of Kirkhaugh, read a paper of which the following is an abstract:—

Kirkhaugh derives its name from its situation on a *haugh* or piece of flat, river-formed land. It was included with Alston and Elrington in William the Lion's grant of these manors to William de Veteriponte, and in King John's confirmation of that grant, May 10, 1209. The advowson was granted by William de Kirkhalgh, for release of a suit at the court of Aldeston, to Nicholas de Veteriponte as an appurtenance to that manor; it descended to the Hiltons and thence to the Ricardsons, lords of Randalholme and Kirkhaugh. The old church had a nave of 41 by  $15\frac{3}{4}$  feet and a chancel of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet in plan. Its annual value

is given in the Taxation of pope Nicholas (1291) as £4 16s. 10d. The cross in the churchyard may perhaps be explained by the Constitutions of William Bleys, 1229, in which it is directed that a handsome cross be erected in every churchyard, to which a procession shall be made on Palm Sunday. On that day the cross was decorated with palms, and thence sometimes called the Palm Cross. Such crosses were usually placed near the south entrance to the church, and the monument at Kirkhaugh stands in this position. The font, 13 inches deep and  $20\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter is octagonal and without ornament; it stands on a more ancient font of similar shape, serving as base, with a modern column between the two. It stood in the churchyard for many years, holding the rain-water, which has left its traces in the basin, and it was restored in memory of the Rev. Octavius James, rector of the parish for 42 years, by whose efforts the present church was built. The communion cup is of a form which came into general use at the Reformation, with the administration of the cup to the laity; the lion passant, which it bears as a mark, dates from 1545 onwards. The cover bears date 1571.

Thanks for the kind reception and address were returned by the Editor, and the party crossed the river on foot to Whitley, where the altar in the garden of the farmhouse was inspected. Mr. Robin G. Collingwood's address may be summarized as follows:—

The Roman fort known as Whitley Castle is chiefly remarkable for its intricate system of defences. It has a rampart, apparently of stone, reinforced by a number of ditches varying from three to seven, the greatest number being on the south-west, where the ground is least defensible; and consists of a flat and somewhat marshy neck uniting the knoll on which the fort stands with the general slope of the ground from west to east. The irregularity of its shape is also noteworthy; it is roughly a rhombus with angles of about  $60^{\circ}$  and  $120^{\circ}$  instead of the usual approximate rectangle. Both these peculiarities have led to the suggestion that it was a Roman adaptation of a British "promontory-fort." In the case of the very similar defences of Ardoch the same suggestion has been made, but cannot be supported either in the light of excavation or after a more careful inspection of the plan; it is indeed evident in the case of the Scottish fort that the defences are all of a piece and show no adaptation of pre-Roman works. The same conclusion is reached by an examination of the visible remains at Whitley. They are thoroughly Roman in character, belonging to the series of multiple-ditch forts characteristic of

Scotland ; and Whitley is in this respect only remarkable as an outlier of that series geographically.

The shape of the fort is one quite common in Roman camps as distinguished from forts, and there is nothing un-Roman about it. It is certainly unusual, but not inexplicable. In spite of certain unduly rigid conventions as to the number of gates, etc., there was always some freedom in laying out the plan of a fort so as to suit the detail of the ground ; the high proportion of length to breadth at Housesteads, where the fort lies along a steep-sided ridge, or at Ambleside where it is cramped between the rocks and the lake, are obvious instances. And if the original contours of the knoll at Whitley are carefully considered, it will be found that the shape adopted gives the only satisfactory solution to the problem of placing there a fort of a given area so as to take all possible advantage of the slopes for defence while keeping the site as level as possible.

These two features are however sufficiently unlike the usual type of Roman forts in the neighbourhood to raise the question whether Whitley belongs to them chronologically. It is at least a possible view that the Hadrianic forts tended to a more rigid type than those founded in large but unknown numbers by Agricola ; and if Agricola decided to hold the head of the South Tyne valley he might well have chosen this site and fortified it in this way. When Hadrian reorganised the frontier the earlier works may have been thought worth preserving. Such speculations however must be tested by excavation.

Professor Haverfield has shown in these *Transactions* (N.S., xi., p. 359) that the ascription to Whitley Castle of the Roman name Alione is originally due to a mistaken emendation by Camden of an inscription ; and accordingly we must abandon for the present any attempt to name the site. This problem, together with that of the exact line of the Maiden Way, might be solved if the fort could be dug adequately ; judging by the great height of its ramparts, the apparently undisturbed condition of the ground, and the unusual features it presents, such an exploration would be peculiarly interesting and probably fruitful in a high degree.

After dinner at the Crown and Mitre Hotel, Carlisle, the Annual General Meeting was held, Dr. Barnes in the chair. By the loss of Mr. R. D. Marshall there was a vacancy in the list of vice-presidents, to which Mr. J. Rawlinson Ford was elected. The death of Dr. Abercrombie left a further vacancy in the Council, and Sir Samuel Haslam Scott, bart., and Mr. Henry Penfold were added to the list of councillors. All other officers of the Society



THE CROSS AT MIDDLE CLEUGH, ABOVE NENTHEAD.

*Phot. by Rev. T. Westgarth.*

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TO FACE P. 183.

were re-elected. The following were elected members of the Society :—The John Rylands Library (Mr. Henry Guppy, M.A.), Manchester ; the Rev. G. J. Goodman, Ashmore, Brampton ; Dr. Symington, Lea Field, Brampton ; Mr. C. E. Pierpoint, Warwick, Carlisle ; Mr. F. C. F. Parker, Skirwith Abbey, Langwathby ; Mrs. John Abercrombie, Augill Castle, Brough ; Harvard College Library, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. (*per* Messrs. Edw. G. Allen & Son, Ltd., 12 and 14, Grape Street, London, W.C.) ; Peabody Institute, Baltimore, U.S.A. (*per* Messrs. Edw. G. Allen & Son, Ltd., 12 and 14, Grape Street, London, W.C.) ; the Rev. G. A. Barclay, St. John's Vicarage, Carlisle ; Mr. Edward Blackburn, solicitor, Low Row, Carlisle.

Dr. Anderson then read his paper (Art. V.) on the Stone Circle at Castlerigg, Keswick, and the Rev. C. E. Golland read his paper (Art. VI.) on the Folklore of Isis Parlis and the Luck of Edenhall.

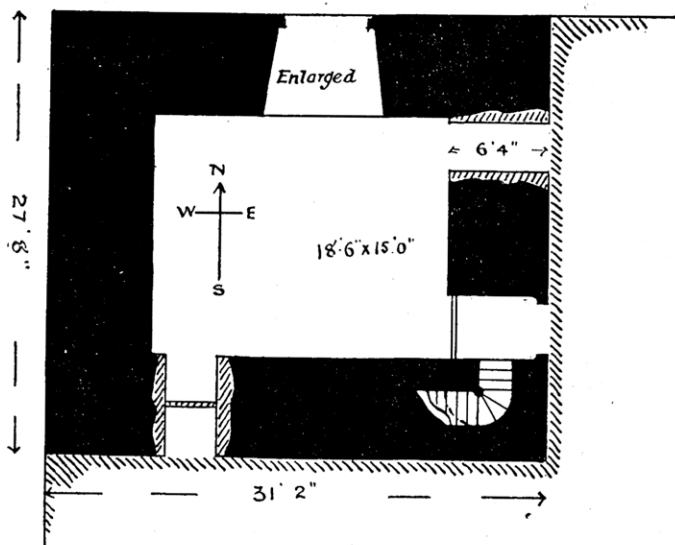
The Editor showed a deed of 1712, passing a small customary estate at Low Wall in the manor of Lanercost and Walton by surrender and admittance from Geoffrey Nixon to Joseph Dalton, son of Rowland of "Ricardgate" ; James Dacre being lord of the manor and Thomas Dobinson, steward of the court. This deed was sent by Mr. N. N. Thompson of St. Bees for exhibition and for presentation to the library at Tullie House. Mr. Thompson contributed also a copy of an indenture of 1508, for which see the Addenda to this volume.

The Editor submitted, from Mrs. Abercrombie, photographs by the Rev. Cæsar Caine and the Rev. T. Westgarth of a group of three cross-shafts in one socket, on Nenthead moor, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile N.W. of the county boundary and about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile S. of the point where the three counties now meet. The three shafts are so arranged as to lie evenly east and west ; the shadows at noon falling as shown in Mr. Westgarth's photograph. The form of the remaining cross is certainly post-Conquest, and the group seems to have been meant for a boundary mark. The place it holds does not appear to tally exactly with any of the boundary-crosses mentioned by Nicolson and Burn (ii., 438-9), but Mr. Westgarth thinks it the Middle Cleugh cross mentioned by Mr. Caine in *Gerardgill*, p. xviii. That it is not on the actual boundary may be explained by the fact that Kilhope and Short's crosses were removed, as Nicolson and Burn remarked, from their original sites, for greater convenience as guide-marks for travellers. The three shafts seem to hint the meeting-point of three boundary-lines, such as those dividing the bishopric of Durham, the franchise of Tynedale and Cumberland ; but it is too far south for these.

Failing this explanation, Mr. Westgarth suggests that the two side-pillars indicated the direction of the boundary, where it turned to the west after running north and south, and he notes traces of an old road running past it from Gatehead in Garrigill, crossing the Tyne at Crooks ford, and up the north side of the Ashgill burn.

Mr. L. E. Hope, F.L.S., exhibited the old padlocks removed from the gates of Carlisle in 1808 and recently acquired by Dr. Barnes for the museum ; also specimens of Roman pottery and a bronze skilnet of the fourteenth century, all at Tullie House.

## Nether Denton Hall:



On Friday, July 3rd, the first place visited was Denton Hall, where the party was kindly received and hospitably entertained with milk and biscuits by Mr. T. H. Ferguson, to whom Dr. Barnes tendered the thanks of the Society. Mr. John F. Curwen, F.S.A., described the place and its history (see his *Castles and Towers*, pp. 276, 277), adding the reasons for believing that the tower is of the fourteenth century, built before the marriage of Isabel Copley to Adam Denton in 1400, as follows :—

1. The great thickness of the walls—6½ feet.

2. The large blocks of unhewn masonry, and the kind of mortar.

3. The very narrow Carnarvon-arched doorways on the first floor—only 1 foot 8 inches wide. "Although," he said, "it would not be wise to lay too much stress upon it, yet experience of other pele towers goes to prove that the doorways increased in width as time advanced, until they reached their greatest width in the fifteenth century, as can be so well seen at Isel Hall."

4. The garderobes in the S.W. angle.

5. And (more or less) the fact that the axis of the tower is placed east and west.

A plan by Mr. Curwen is given on p. 184.

At Over Denton church (described in these *Transactions*, o.s., iii., p. 157, by the late C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., and the Rev. A. Wright) the following paper was read by the Rev. William G. Bird, vicar of Gilsland :—

There are indisputable evidences of the antiquity of Over Denton Church. The name of the village itself, Denton, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *denu*, a deep-wooded valley, and *tun*, an enclosure, hence a village. Therefore the Angle "town in the wooded valley" is a proof that the early inhabitants were Saxons, or to speak more correctly Angles. Not far from the church, on the west side, near to the road leading to the Mains Farm, there are the ruins of a reputed Saxon or Angle village. Bishop Pudsey in 1170 speaks of the church as "the Church of the Ancient Denton." As the see of Hexham was founded in A.D. 678 and the last bishop of Hexham, Tidferth, disappears after A.D. 821, it is more than probable that the pious labours of Christian teachers from Hexham caused a church to be erected at Over Denton for the benefit of the Saxon or Angle inhabitants. If so, the foundation of the church would probably date from about the eighth century, and if from that date the first church may have been a wooden one. But with such a valuable quarry of ready dressed stones of all shapes and sizes only a few yards distant from the site of the church, at the deserted camp of Amboglanna, we can well fancy the present stone building would very early take the place of the wooden one. The present church is built entirely of stones from the Roman camp.

Professor Baldwin Brown, who made a most careful examination of the church, said that in his opinion it belonged to about the eleventh century. The dedication, which might suggest a date, is lost. Until the year 1702 the church was in the diocese of Durham. When the Normans came to power in this district

in 1156, the church had been long existing, and was richly endowed, for while at that time a Justice of Common Pleas had only £20 per annum, the vicar of Over Denton had £5.

The patronage of the church in 1154 was in the hands of Robert the son of Asketil, or Anketil, and Sigrida his wife.

Immediately after the foundation of Lanercost Priory in 1169 by Robert de Vaux, Baron of Gilsland, the rectory and right of presentation of the existing and endowed church of Over Denton was given by David, son of Terri, and Robert, the son of Asketil, and Sigrida his wife (with the consent of the Lord Paramount) to the Prior and Canons of Lanercost. The deed of appropriation by Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham, directs that the Incumbent of the "Church of the Ancient Denton" should be a perpetual vicar, and that out of the ancient endowment at the time of Robert the son of Asketil, the vicar was to have his maintenance—"qui etiam victum præcipat"—and that the vicar should pay an annual pension of half a mark to the prior and canons of Lanercost. In the taxation of pope Nicholas in 1292, under the head of Durham Diocese, Denton in Gilsland was valued at £5, and the pension therein of the prior and canons of Lanercost at ten shillings. In the schedule of Procurations payable in the Deanery of Corbridge and Diocese of Durham, the charge on Denton in Gilsland was two shillings and sixpence, and on the pension of the prior and canons of Lanercost therein, threepence. These are in the same proportions as the value in 1292.

In a roll of livings belonging to the Diocese of Durham in 1498, there appears "ecclesia de Denton in Gillesland." In the valuation of Henry VIII., Over Denton was not mentioned, being probably regarded as part of Lanercost. In 1562, Queen Elizabeth "granted to Cecilia Pickerell the Rectory of Over Denton and right of patronage of the same lately belonging to the Monastery of Lanercost." Cecilia Pickerell did not appear to set much value on this mark of royal favour, for she immediately by deed of conveyance transferred the rectory and patronage to Edmund Downing.

Over Denton next appears in the possession of the Dacres of Lanercost. By a lease dated the 28th December, 1566, "Christopher Dacre of Lanercost grants Nicholas Twydell of Denton the advowson, rectory and patronage of Over Denton with those his glebe lands, tithes, oblations, profits and emoluments to the said rectory advowson belonging or appertaining to hold for twenty one years at a rent of forty shillings."

In 1632 Thomas Tweddle of Willowford in Over Denton con-



veyed the property to Lord William Howard of Naworth. In 1702 Nicolson, the well known Bishop of Carlisle, visited the churches of the diocese, and while at Nether Denton, Mr. Pearson, the rector, said "There is another church at Over Denton which is said to be in the Diocese of Durham," and he gave the Bishop the local gossip of the age concerning the deserted church of Over Denton. Bishop Nicolson then communicated with Dr. Smith of Durham, and was informed that little or nothing was known of Over Denton; that there was mention of it in the old registers, but that there had been no exercise of jurisdiction for 100 years at the least, and if the Bishop of Carlisle would take it, none would interfere. It is perhaps needless to say that the Bishop of Carlisle did take it, and from that date Over Denton became part of the Diocese of Carlisle.

From 1703 to 1736 Over Denton was held by the rectors of Nether Denton, and from 1736 to 1858 by the vicars of Lanercost. In 1854 Gilsland Church was built, and a part of Lanercost parish was allotted to the new church, and in 1858, Over Denton was, by Order in Council, attached to Gilsland. There have been only twelve vicars from 1701 to the present time, 1914.

The church retains its original plan unaltered; the east end and the north and south sides are the original walls, but the west end and belfry are modern, but built on the old foundation; the Roman camp of Amboglanna on the opposite side of the river Irthing being the quarry from which the stones of the church were taken.

The church consists of chancel and nave, the chancel being eleven feet ten inches long by eleven feet two inches wide; the nave is twenty-seven feet long by sixteen feet wide, with seating accommodation for fifty persons. The original chancel arch remains. Professor Baldwin Brown, after a very careful examination, pronounced it to be a Roman Arch. It is in fact a Roman gateway brought from the camp of Amboglanna; the chamfered abacus from which the Arch springs is identically the same as that on the east gate at Amboglanna. The size and shape of the stones are the same as in the west auxiliary gateway of the camp. May it not therefore have been the east auxiliary gateway, as that gateway is now missing from the camp?

The nave has two doorways; the principal one, that in the south, is square-headed, the stone lintel being supported on two quaintly wrought corbels, and was described by the well known antiquary, the late Mr. Sheriton Holmes, as "A very good example of Saxon Architecture," a description endorsed by Mr. William Nanson,

Mr. Whyte, and other archæologists who have seen it. The north door is much lower than the south door, and is walled up. The east window is a modern insertion: the south window in the chancel an insertion of the thirteenth century. On the north side of the nave one of the original windows remains, a round-headed slit only a few inches wide, made before the general use of glass, and therefore kept as small as possible. The other two windows are modern insertions.

Two Roman Altars, now in the vicarage grounds, served from time immemorial as steps to the altar. On the south side of the chancel, within the altar rails, is an opening used at one time as a piscina. On the north side of the chancel, just within the chancel arch, there is another opening in the wall, differing from the one inside the altar rails in that it is much higher up in the wall, and the top is not level, but slants upwards. Mr. Clinch, clerk and librarian to the Society of Antiquaries of London, says "This I think may very well have been intended for a small charcoal fire," and he adds "The Rev. Dr. Fowler spoke of such fires in recesses in the walls as convenient for heating obley\* irons and providing burning charcoal for the censers."

The ancient font in the church is the capital of a Roman pillar hollowed out to serve as a font. On the north side of the nave there is a stone with a large sword having a cross for its hilt, together with a smaller sword or dagger rudely sculptured upon it; this at one time covered a tomb in the nave of the church. The old bell is now at the vicarage; it is only  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and weighs but  $16\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. Antiquaries who saw it in the temporary museum of the Archæological Society at Carlisle were of opinion that it had come down from medieval times. Its canon is not in the centre, a probable mark of antiquity.

When the church was renovated a few years ago, under the floor of the chancel were found a large quantity of human remains lying in all positions, as though a pit had been dug, and the bodies had been hastily flung in without regard to order.

The party afterwards halted at Gilsland vicarage, where the vicar showed the ancient bell from Over Denton church, and the remains of the Roman Wall, so finely displayed in his garden. The thanks of the Society were offered to the Rev. W. G. Bird by Dr. Barnes.

At Blenkinsopp Castle the boundary of Cumberland had been passed, and we can give only short notices of the two sites in

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\* Irons between the plates of which wafers—"oblations"—were baked.

Northumberland visited on this occasion. Mr. H. W. Cousins, M.Sc., headmaster of the Brampton County Secondary School, gave an account of the old home of the knightly family of Blenkinsopp, which they held until 1875. Not much of the ancient building is now visible, but, as the speaker pointed out, the site, overlooking the Tyne from a steep height, was well chosen for defence and explains the former importance of the castle as a fortress against northern invaders. To Mr. Cousins and to Dr. Drummond, the owner of the castle, at the time away from home, Dr. Barnes returned the thanks of the Society.

At Featherstone Castle the party was received by Mr. James Hope-Wallace, who kindly described his residence, showing first the external features of the building and its tower, and then the interior, full of interesting relics and works of art. The place was sold by the Fetherstonhaughs, about 1780, to James Wallace, a native of Brampton, who died Attorney-General at the age of 53. His son Thomas was raised to the peerage in 1828, and built the modern part of the mansion, which he left to his wife's nephew, Colonel James Hope, from whom the present owner is descended. Lord Wallace's mother was Elizabeth Simpson, heiress of Carlton Hall, Cumberland; and at the castle is a very fine staircase from that place. The bed on which "Prince Charlie" slept, in November, 1745, at Highmore House, Carlisle, is another relic of interest. In the dining-room is a canopy, over the sideboard, from Carlisle Cathedral; its original position, Mr. J. H. Martindale said in discussion, was probably over the bishop's stall and the two adjacent seats, and Mr. Hope-Wallace believes that it came to Featherstone about 130 years ago, at a time when Bishop Lytton was making considerable alterations in the cathedral. Among portraits of local interest, there is one of an earl of Carlisle (the third or fourth earl) which may have been placed there during the period when Featherstone belonged to that family (from the Restoration onward until the Fetherstonhaughs regained it). Beside early portraits of Queen Elizabeth and other historical personages, and examples of Rubens, Vandyck and Reynolds, we may mention portraits of Lord Derwentwater and General John, fourth earl of Hopetoun; also those of Elizabeth Wallace, Lord Wallace as a boy, and James Wallace, by Romney, Lord Wallace in peer's robes by Bird, and Lady Jane Hope, by Hoppner. With the thanks of the Society to Mr. Hope-Wallace the meeting came to an end.

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## SPRING MEETING, 1915.

The projected excursion for September, 1914, to see the summer's work at Ambleside Roman fort, having been abandoned on account of the war, the next meeting of the Society was held on April 23rd, 1915, at the Fraternity, Carlisle, by permission of the Dean and Chapter. The arrangements made by Dr. Barnes resulted in an unusually large attendance. The chair was taken by Mr. E. T. Tyson, vice-president. The following were elected members :—Dr. W. D. Anderson, Chestnut Hill, Keswick; the Right Rev. Bishop McInnes; Miss Gwendolen Garston, Burneside; Mr. T. E. Hodgkin; Mr. Dayrell Crackenthorpe, Newbiggin Hall; Dr. E. P. Haythornthwaite; Dr. Richard Fawcett, Broughton-in-Furness; Mr. T. M. Banks, Heversham; Mr. Francis Parker, Acorn Bank.

Mr. John F. Curwen then read a paper by Mr. Dayrell Crackenthorpe on some newly-found details of Newbiggin Hall. The Editor read summaries of the following :—"The supposed Roman Camps at Hall Hill and Chesters, near Alston," and "Notes on Roman Pottery found by the Rev. T. Westgarth at Maidencastle, Stainmoor" (see Addenda to this volume), both by Mr. R. G. Collingwood; "Note on a Roman Milestone at Hangingshaw, near Appleby," by Professor Haverfield (Art. IX.); "The Manor of Melmerby" and "Nunnery," by Mr. T. H. B. Graham; and old deeds from Mr. R. Blair, F.S.A., and Mr. H. Garencières Pearson (see Addenda); and showed the inscribed cross-fragment preserved in the Fraternity with a suggested restoration (Art. VIII.). The Editor announced that unexpected grants had recently been made to the Ambleside Roman fort exploration fund, and that consequently some further work might be done in the summer.

After a vote of thanks to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the Fraternity, the meeting adjourned to St. Mary's churchyard, where the carved stones, originally from the cathedral, but lately removed from the castle, were described by Mr. J. H. Martindale, F.R.I.B.A.

At Tullie House the cast of the Bewcastle Cross was inspected, and remarks offered by the Editor upon recent opinions concerning this cross and the inscribed shaft at Beckermest (Art. VIII.).

At the Citadel, the newly-discovered remains of Henry VIII.'s bastions, now restored as a strong-room for the Courts, were visited, and an interesting paper was read by Mr. George Dale Oliver, F.R.I.B.A., which we hope to print in our next volume, with two or three other papers submitted during the year 1914-15 but unavoidably held over.