

PROCEEDINGS¹

I. AUTUMN MEETING, 1947.

THE autumn meeting was held on 10 and 11 September 1947, with headquarters at Tullie House, Carlisle; local arrangements were made by a committee composed of Lt. Col. O. H. North, F.S.A. (President), Miss K. S. Hodgson, Mr R. C. Reid, Mr. H. Valentine and Dr. J. E. Spence, F.S.A. (Excursions Secretary). The first day was warm and sunny, the second windy and overcast, with occasional rain; on both days there was a large attendance of members and friends, and the meeting was an unqualified success.

Wednesday 10 September.

The party assembled at Citadel Station, Carlisle, at 10.30 a.m. and drove via Gretna into Dumfriesshire, the first stop being at MERKLAND CROSS (254718). Here we were met by our honorary member, Mr R. C. Reid, who described the cross and its significance. It is a free-standing cross of the 15th century, inserted in a modern base; it is 9 ft. 9 in. from base to top of the cross-head, with tapered shaft and chamfered arrises; the design and proportions are excellent and the execution, for its period, good, one remarkable feature being that it appears to be cut out of a single stone. Tradition gives three separate and entirely different stories to account for the erection of the cross; these, and what may be taken as the true explanation, are given by Mr Reid in a paper printed in *D. & G. Trans.* xxi (1936/8) 216 f., to which reference may be made for full particulars; here it will be sufficient to note that the cross seems to commemorate an incident at the close of the battle variously known as of the Kirtle or of Lochmaben, on 22 July 1484, when Alexander Duke of Albany and his Scottish supporters, with some English backing, invaded Dumfriesshire in the hope of securing its adherence to his cause; he crossed the Border with 500 horse, with Lochmaben

¹ National Grid references are given in brackets after the names of many of the places visited, in order to facilitate their identification on the one-inch map (New Popular Edition, which gives full particulars of this form of reference).

as his objective, and was accompanied as far as Burnswark by a small English force under one of the Musgraves, which halted there to cover a retreat if necessary. At Lochmaben there was strong resistance, and Albany and his cavalry had to fall back—and the English force at Burnswark, seeing the enemy massing for attack, incontinently fled, but their commander and many others were taken prisoner: for John Kirkpatrick of Hesilbrae captured one “William Musgrave, Inglisman,” for whom he secured the respectable ransom of 80 gold angel nobles (this was presumably the youngest son of Thomas Musgrave of Edenhall, CW2 xxii 193), and another prisoner was John Salkeld, ransomed for £20 sterling. John, Master of Maxwell, appeared late in the fight (it may well be that his intervention settled its issue); he must have attempted to cut the invaders’ line of retreat at the Kirtle, and here he was struck from behind and slain by one Gass, a compatriot who had a grudge against him for the hanging of his friend the Laird of Stanries. The Merkland Cross seems to commemorate both the end of the battle and the death of Maxwell, but there is no record of its erection, and traditions and conjectures have long obscured its true origin.

Next the party moved to BONSHAW TOWER (242722), by kind permission of Sir Robert Irving; here Mr Reid was again the speaker, basing his remarks on his paper printed in *D. & G. Trans.* xx (1935/6) 147 f. The tower is a 16th century structure which has suffered hardly at all from the hands of the modern “restorer”; only its roof shows signs of structural alteration, the original roof having been more steeply pitched. The walls are 40 ft. high, and there is a splayed basement course round the walls 2 ft. 6 in. from the ground. The present outer porch is modern; there is no iron yett to the original doorway, though in the past one must almost certainly have blocked the entrance, over which in raised characters is inscribed the family motto. One enters through this door into a vestibule admitting to the basement and to the wheel-stair in the north-east angle; from the stone roof of the vestibule hangs (as at the neighbouring tower of Robgill, also an Irving house) a stone pendant on which is carved IHS in monogram: this is known in the family as the Crusader stone. The story goes that it was brought back from Palestine by some member of the Irving clan, blessed in transit by the Pope himself and then carved and built in here. That implies that the stone is pre-Reformation and coeval with the tower itself; but the Bonshaw and Robgill stones are identical in

shape and design, and that at Robgill is certainly later than the tower in which it is placed, for it has been inserted in the built-up opening of an original hatch for communication with the floor above; the Bonshaw stone too may be an insertion, though here all clumsiness has been avoided and it might in fact be part of the original vaulting. A photograph of the stone was submitted to Dr. C. H. Hunter Blair, F.S.A., who assigned it to the late 15th or early 16th century at earliest, noting that it could have nothing whatever to do with the Crusades. The basement is ceiled with the usual barrel-vault and is provided with gun loops; the south window of the hall on the first floor is furnished with stone seats, two of the windows have small aumbries in the jambs and there is a large and handsome buffet, under an arched head, on which the family plate was once displayed; there is also a fine fireplace with moulded jambs. Apart from a prison at basement level and a garderobe in the north-west angle on the second floor, the tower has no intramural apartments or passages, and its entrance has always been on the ground level: architecturally, therefore, it pertains to the mid-16th century. The earliest reference to an Irving on the Border is in 1459, but it was not until the Battle of the Kirtle that we first hear of an Irving of Bonshaw; John Kirkpatrick of Hesilbrae, the captor of William Musgrave, was of insufficient standing to negotiate for the ransom of his prisoner, and entrusted the negotiations to William Irving of Bonshaw. The bargain was apparently that Irving should conduct Musgrave to England and bring back the "fourscore angells nobilis of gold" for Kirkpatrick; but he kept the gold, and managed to retain it for 24 years. In his day the tower was probably of timber, with a palisade round it; the present tower was probably built by the next Laird, Edward Irving. The place was twice devastated by the English: in 1544 Lord Whar-ton, the English Warden, on returning from a raid burnt Bonshaw, and in 1570 the Earl of Sussex, with a force of 4000 men, burnt Annan and Dumfries and demolished Caerlaverock and Bonshaw with gunpowder; the tower burnt in 1544 was no doubt of wood, and that "demolished" by gunpowder in 1570 of stone, built *circa* 1550 (as its architectural features suggest); the damage was made good, and the tower has remained substantially the same since that period.

From Bonshaw the party drove to SPRINGKELL (255752), where the buses and cars were left, and where Col. Sir Edward Johnson-Ferguson, Bart., of Springkell very kindly allowed us to

examine his beautiful gardens; thence we walked through the finely wooded policies to KIRKCONNEL CHURCH (253755) in its secluded glen, half a mile away. After a picnic lunch, in as lovely a setting as the Society has ever had the good fortune to enjoy, Mr Reid gave the following address:

" This is the old church and churchyard of what was once the parish of Kirkconnel. Much of the church has disappeared, and what is left has been altered and repaired to form the burying ground of the Maxwell family, who for about two centuries were the lairds of Springkell. Though there are now no architectural features by which it can be dated, the church is pre-Reformation and must have served the parish long before that upheaval. When in 1560 the Reformation was established in Scotland, the economic and religious convulsion which had occurred in England 15 years before took a different form this side of the Border. In England religious continuity was somehow wonderfully preserved; village and parochial churches were maintained, though new doctrines were taught in them: the new church took over from the old, priesthood gave way to clergy and the structure of administration in rural areas survived. But it was very different in Scotland, where continuity was spurned, a complete break with the past was effected and a new ecclesiastical machine was attempted. The result was that for 50 years after the Reformation a great many parishes were not served by any clergy, the supply of whom was not enough to go round. Dumfriesshire was no exception; in many surrounding parishes there is no record of any ministers before 1610. In 1609 the Scottish Parliament had to pass an Act amalgamating parishes wholesale; after an oblivion of half a century the old parishes of Kirkconnel and Irving were rolled up into Kirkpatrick Fleming, and what are now the three contiguous parishes of Kirkpatrick Fleming, Hoddam and Middlebie were, prior to the Reformation, no less than nine parishes. For practically two generations Christianity functioning as an organised church must have been unknown in Lower Annandale; education and all forms of cultural activity disappeared, and did not begin to revive until after the Union of the Crowns. That is what the devastating upheaval called the Reformation did for Scotland; if, therefore, Cumberland and Westmorland suffered from the lawless Scottish borderers, it was to some extent because the restraining influence of the Church was absent. Save as a place of burial the peaceful churchyard has been deserted and no service held in this church since the

Reformation. The building must once have been larger than it is today; its chancel and probably part of the nave have disappeared, for the normal door on the south side is missing. The structure formerly had a barrel-vaulted roof above which, on wooden flooring, was an apartment at the west end, approached by an external flight of stairs on the south side; perhaps the priest who served this cure lived in that apartment, a not uncommon arrangement in Scotland. It is unlikely that the upper floor extended the full length of the church, for the existing vaulting is very low. A few years ago the whole structure was smothered in ivy, and it is to the credit of Sir Edward Johnson-Ferguson that the ivy has been very carefully removed. According to tradition the vaulting still stood in the days of Burke and Hare, and the priest's room above it was used by night-watchmen in that corpse-snatching period.

"It is by the memorials to the departed that this site is best known. First, outside the gate there is a free-standing Latin cross 9 ft. high; its top is damaged and one of the side arms destroyed, it is without inscription or decoration and at the best is of very crude workmanship. No date can with any certainty be assigned to it, and tradition is silent. A few recumbent slabs of red sandstone, two bearing the date 1632, seem to be the earliest gravestones. But it is two oblong stones raised on short supports, lichen grey, that draw to this spot everyone who is interested in Border ballads; for under them lie Fair Helen of Kirkconnel and her lover Adam Fleming. No lettering relieves the smaller slab which, tradition affirms, covers the grave of Helen Irving; and at the first glance the larger slab seems equally devoid of inscription, but one was seen and recorded by Pennant in his *Tour of Scotland* (1772): the stone bears in faint relief a sword with depressed quillons and a grooved blade, and a crudely inscribed (and now almost obliterated) *Hic jacet Adam Fleming*. The story is a familiar one. Helen Irving, of the Kirkconnel family, was loved by two men, Adam Fleming (whose family has left its name in that of the modern parish) and a Bell (perhaps of Blackethouse). The lady preferred Fleming, and came hither to meet him by an old thorn tree—only recently swept away by a winter flood; Bell, inflamed by jealousy and disappointment, concealed himself on the opposite bank of the river and, emerging, aimed a shot at his successful rival, but Helen, observing his intention, stepped before her lover and received in her breast the bullet aimed at him. Swift vengeance was wrought on the

slayer by Fleming, who then fled the country and sought forgetfulness in foreign wars, but brought back to his lover's grave a broken heart to be laid beside her. Tradition says that Helen was killed in Queen Mary's reign, towards the end of the 16th century; the Historical Monuments Commission says that the lettering on the stone "might be consistent with an early 17th century date. The letters are a mixture of crude majuscules and minuscules and greatly defaced, Lombardic in feeling but affected by Roman forms, a mixture of capital and small letters inexpertly cut." No archaeologist would be prepared to risk his reputation by essaying a closer date, and there the tradition might be left. But only yesterday Sir Edward Johnson-Ferguson gave me this note about Adam Fleming:

'Many years ago my father, at a dinner party in London, was talking to a Mr X about his recent visit to Madrid; the talk went on to the taking of the Alhambra by Ferdinand and Isabella, and my father told the story of how Adam Fleming, after the murder of Helen, was said to have fled to Spain and taken service under Ferdinand. Mr X had considerable interests in Spain and, meeting my father again some time later, he said he had found a reference among his papers that it was a Scotsman, name of Fleming, who planted the flag of Ferdinand and Isabella on the Alhambra when it was taken.'

King Ferdinand died in 1516, and it is just possible that Fleming may have lived till well on in that century. One would like to think that it was our Adam Fleming who performed those prodigies of valour at the pitiless storming of the Alhambra, and with a recklessness born of despair planted the flag of Christian Spain upon that Moslem stronghold, though even midst that scene of carnage his thoughts must have turned back to this tragic spot and the loved one he had lost—

'I wish I were where Helen lies;
Night and day on me she cries;
Oh that I were where Helen lies
On fair Kirkconnel-lee.'"

Miss Claudine Murray then read a paper on the Border Ballads and Fair Helen of Kirkconnel. The Border ballads, she pointed out, are a precious and perhaps unique heritage. One would like to trace their mixed ancestry in the long line of Celtic bards, followed by the skalds of the old Scandinavians, through the Norman minstrels to the wandering harpers and the Town Pipers of our Borderland in the not-so-long-ago. One must not look to

the ballads for historical accuracy in such matters as the outcome of a battle, for instance (for valorous deeds were sung by minstrels of two opposing races); but can one say that the accounts of modern happenings are always impeccable? The great value of the ballads, to those who love the past, lies in the vivid picture of life and portrayal of character in a people whose descendants many of us are proud to be. Even in the "fairy-tale" ballad we have a wonderful insight into the minds, the fears, the stage of civilization of the folk who made and sang them. So we can picture the long line of singers: the Cymric bards whose early Arthurian stories gradually became the centre of long epic poems, added to century after century; the Viking skalds who sang the deeds of their chiefs, often the ancestors of the traditional pipers of the Western Isles; the Town Pipers of our Border towns, who from time to time went on tour through the countryside, adding to their income by singing and playing in lonely pele-tower and farm. We know the names of some of these Border minstrels: there was John Graeme of Sowport, the Long Quaker, Blind Harry, and two rivals who went by the names of Sweet Milk and Ranting, Roaring Willie—these two, each of whom had composed a version of the story of Jamie Telfer, differed bitterly over the question of the eventual outcome of that fray, and the feeling between them ran so high that at last they fought a duel, which ended in the death of Sweet Milk. The Ballad of Adam Bell, Clym of the Clough and William of Cloudesly is probably one of our oldest, of about 15th century date; the Battle of Otterburn, in its various versions, is of about the same date. It is possible that Thomas the Rhymer, himself the subject of one of the loveliest ballads, was the author of at any rate some early version of a few of them; others were of "communal" authorship. The ballads fall into some four categories, (i) historical accounts of battles, (ii) the romantic type, telling of the fate of various pairs of faithful lovers—fates which were inevitably tragic in a time when Borderers seldom died in their beds, (iii) folk lore and fairy stories and (iv) the raiding or riding ballads. Miss Murray illustrated her paper by recitations from a number of ballads, ending with *Fair Helen of Kirkconnel*. It was an occasion which made a deep impression on the whole party, and Lt. Col. North, President of the Society, moved a particularly warm vote of thanks to Miss Murray, whom we should all have liked to hear at greater length.

Finally a visit was paid to BIRRENS Roman fort (218752),

where Mr Eric Birley gave an account of the excavations conducted on the site and the results of recent air-photography (see PSAScot. lxxii 275 f. and *D. & G. Trans.* xxv, 1948, 132 f.), pointing out that while Birrens, like Bewcastle and Netherby, was long held as an outlier of the Hadrianic frontier, it had also been an important post on the main trunk road through Annandale to the Forth-Clyde line, and had had an extremely complicated structural history; it was hoped that it would be possible, before long, to put in hand further excavations there.

The party then returned to Carlisle, where Council met at 6 p.m., and the Annual Meeting took place at 8-15 p.m., with Lt. Col. North in the chair and some forty members present. On the recommendation of Council, Mr. F. Gerald Simpson, M.A., Hon. F.S.A.Scot., was elected President of the Society and Lt. Col. North, on completion of his two years' tenure of that office, became the first occupant of the newly constituted category of Past Presidents. Dr J. E. Spence and Dr I. A. Richmond were added to the list of Vice-Presidents, Mr C. Roy Hudleston and Mr Robert Hogg to that of members of Council, and Mr R. N. Birley was elected Honorary Auditor in place of Mr Norman F. Wilson, to whom the Society's gratitude was expressed for his faithful services in that capacity for twenty-one years; and the remaining officers and members of Council were re-elected *en bloc*. Mr Simpson was unfortunately prevented by ill-health from attending the meeting and assuming his new office in person, and on the motion of Mr Eric Birley the Society's best wishes for his early and complete recovery were expressed. The chairman announced that Council had decided to revive the post of Chairman of Council, and that Mr Eric Birley had been elected to that office; it was hoped that the burden of routine work on the Society's President might thereby be reduced appreciably. 20 new members were elected and there were several exhibits, but no papers were read.

Thursday, 11 September.

The second day was spent in West Cumberland, the first visit being to MORESBY, where Mr Eric Birley read a paper on the Roman fort (Art. III above) and the church was described by the rector, the Rev. T. W. Coles; from the church the party moved to Moresby Hall, where Mr C. Roy Hudleston read a paper on the place and its past owners. Moresby was owned by the Moresbys and their descendants until 1576, when the property was bought by William Fletcher, whose family owed its rise in

the social scale to its success in trade; he was succeeded by his son Henry, who married a Senhouse. Henry is said to have been responsible for the front of the house, its most notable feature, which is said to have been designed by Inigo Jones in 1617; but it seems likelier that it was the third Fletcher of Moresby, another Henry (a Cavalier like his father) who built the new front on to the hall. This Henry was succeeded by his son William, in whose days Moresby was described by Sandford as "the ancient seat of the Moresbys, but now the fair house and habitation of one Squire Fletcher, and a fair castle there for the defence of the country in ancient times but not now habitable,² and a pretty haven place here called Parton, where sometimes ships arrive." The haven at Parton had a history of its own, but that could not be referred to in detail on the present occasion. Coal had been found within the manor, and this led naturally to the formation of a harbour, an enterprise in which the Fletchers and Lamplughs joined (though they were by no means always agreed). The danger that Parton might present to the port of Whitehaven was not overlooked by the watchful Sir John Lowther, who was plaintiff in a lawsuit against William Fletcher in 1680 and defendant in another one, in 1719, in which Thomas Lamplugh was plaintiff. William Fletcher was M.P. for Cockermouth in 1689—a surprising thing, for he was a recusant who was constantly being harried because of his adherence to his faith. In 1692 he was summoned to take the oaths, but he did not appear, because he was a prisoner in Carlisle. He died in 1703 and a brass was set up to his memory, in Moresby church, by his son and heir Thomas; the brass was removed when the old church was pulled down in 1822, and was kept in the coal-hole of the new one, until it was stolen: in 1880 it was reported in the hands of a private collector. Thomas Fletcher was the last and the worst of the family. Like his father he adhered to the Roman Catholic faith, and in 1708 his name comes first in a list of those who refused to take the oaths; but he later renounced the faith of his fathers and, worse still, used information he had acquired from his association with Roman Catholic priests and laymen against them. Nicolson and Burn rightly say that Moresby came to the Broughams from Thomas Fletcher, and to Sir James Lowther from the Broughams; Hutchinson agrees, but Jefferson elaborates as follows: "After the death of Thomas Fletcher Moresby was sold under a decree in Chancery in 1720 to John

² No doubt the ruins of the Roman fort are here intended.

Brougham of Scales, who sold it in 1737 to Sir James Lowther of Whitehaven"; there are two or three mistakes in this, for Moresby was sold in the lifetime of Thomas Fletcher, who was living for several years after; nor was the sale in 1720 but in 1734, and Thomas Fletcher himself was a party to it, though it would seem that for some years his ownership had been rather shadowy. The best description of the hall is in Whellan, pp. 419-21.

A picnic lunch was eaten on Dean Moor, and a number of members visited the STUFDOLD GATE STONE CIRCLE (040223) under the guidance of Mr Herbert Valentine (see the excavation-report and plan in CW2 xxv 268 f.); thence the party proceeded to the PACK-HORSE BRIDGE AT ULLOCK (077240), described by Miss K. S. Hodgson. This is a very characteristic and almost perfect specimen of the type, and one of the very few which are easily accessible. Except for some concrete on the roadway (and even that, fortunately, has not quite hidden the ribbing of the causeway) it is almost in its original condition. The overall span is 15 ft., that of the arch 12 ft. 4 in.; it is 6 ft. 4 in. high and 4 ft. wide, the roadway itself being only 2 ft. 4 in. wide; the voussoirs project upwards to form a slight parapet, as so frequently. The course of the road which the bridge carried goes slantwise up the bank to the cottage, after which it is faintly visible across one field and thereafter probably continues as an occupation lane; on the bank it is plainly indicated by the settlement cracks in the chapel wall, but is then lost. There is another pack-horse bridge at Calva, but it does not seem to fit into the same route. The tracing of these old roads before they are completely lost is an urgent need which may be recommended to the attention of our members who live in that district. There is no recorded date for the Ullock bridge, but that at Calva is dated 1685; W. G. Collingwood showed (CW2 xxviii 120) that most of these bridges were put up between 1660 and 1760, from the great building activity which followed the Restoration until the new roads and wheeled traffic caused pack-transport to fall into disuse.

The next visit was to BRANTHWAITE HALL (067254), where Mr Hudleston was again the speaker. Branthwaite hall is on the lines of so many old Cumberland houses: the late 14th century pele tower, the Tudor wing added on the north side (in 1604, as the date on the boss of the label shows) and the west front remodelled in the Renaissance style. The Skeltons who

lived there married Curwens, Irtons and Lamplughs; Thomas Skelton, born 1574, was presumably the builder of the Tudor wing; he married Julian Curwen and, according to Sandford, he had the misfortune when a young man to kill one of the Senhouses: "they had sore fight for it in riding home from Cockermouth market," he writes, adding that Skelton was forced to sell various properties to free himself and his accomplices; the affair seems to have been after 1604 and before 1609. The Skeltons remained Roman Catholics and were constantly in trouble for their beliefs. In 1678 there was a warrant to search the hall, Thomas Skelton the then owner being a Popish recusant. The last of the family in a direct line was Francis Skelton, who died childless in 1704; his widow married, secondly, Richard Butler, who was out in the '15, tried and found guilty of high treason, but died in a London prison before sentence could be carried out. She suffered much hardship because of his part in the rebellion, and indeed it seems likely that eventually she was obliged to sell the property. Somehow or other it was restored to a Skelton, Lt.-Gen. Henry, but in what manner is not at present known. He died without children and left Branthwaite to a brother officer, James Jones, who had saved his life in a campaign in Flanders; Jones was succeeded by his son Arnoldus, who changed his name to Skelton; he mortgaged the property in 1781 to George Bigland, who became its owner in 1793 and sold it in 1798 to John Christian Curwen, whose descendant Mrs Chance is the present owner.

The last place visited was BRIDEKIRK CHURCH (117337) where the speaker was the vicar, the Rev. T. R. Colman (see CW2 xxiv 352 f.); interest centred on the remarkable carved font, with runic inscription, found at Papcastle "in the pasture south of the south-east angle of the city, by the lane called Moor-went" (Stukeley, *Iter Boreale* 51). The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Dr Spence for an exceptionally interesting and well-balanced programme.

II. SPRING MEETING, 1948.

The spring meeting was held in Kendal on 10 April 1948, when some fifty members were present. Dr Spence announced the programme of meetings which had been arranged by Council at its meeting earlier in the day; Mr J. C. Dickinson reported on the progress of volume xlvii of *Transactions*, and announced that he was obliged by pressure of work to resign the editorship on its

completion: Council had appointed Mr Eric Birley to succeed him in that office. The following papers were communicated: "The Estates of the Lanercost Canons" by the Rev. J. R. H. Moorman (ART. V.), "Viking Burials in Cumbria" by J. D. Cowen (ART. IV), "Notes on Ireleth School and Chapel" by J. L. Hobbs (ART. XI), "Captain Thomas Ollivant" by C. Roy Hudleston (ART. IX), "Border Service (1662-1757)" by J. L. Kirby (ART. VIII), "A Bibliography of the writings of Canon James Wilson" and "The Cumberland and Westmorland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science" by the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch (see pp. 205-213 below), "A Calendar of the Records of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, 1638-1914" by R. Sharpe France, "Some early railway history in Furness" by J. Melville and J. L. Hobbs and "Also, along the line of the Wall" by J. P. Gillam. Mr Eric Birley reported that Council had appointed, in accordance with Rule X, Mr. W. W. Taylor as Local Secretary for the Carlisle district and Mr C. Roy Hudleston in a similar capacity for the Penrith district, and that it was hoped to make further appointments of local secretaries in due course. Mr W. E. S. Patrickson was appointed an additional Honorary Auditor; and 20 new members were elected.

III. JOINT MEETING WITH THE ISLE OF MAN NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

An extra meeting was held on 1-4 June 1948, with headquarters at Tullie House, Carlisle, in honour of the Isle of Man Society, which had given us so enjoyable a time on our visit to the island the previous year (see CW2 xlvii 210 f.); the programme was arranged by a joint committee of the two Societies, our representatives being Mr F. Gerald Simpson (President), the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch, Miss M. C. Fair, Miss Clare Fell, Mr T. Gray, Mr C. Roy Hudleston and Dr J. E. Spence (Excursions Secretary). The weather was not uniformly kind; there were heavy showers on the first day, and almost continuous rain on the second; the third day was mainly fair, with long intervals of sunshine, and the fourth day about the same; the visiting party numbered about 40, and there was a large contingent of our own members.

Tuesday, 1 June 1948.

The morning was spent in CARLISLE, first at the castle (by permission of the Ministry of Works and the Officer Commanding the Border Depot), where Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., was the speaker, and then in the cathedral, where Mr C. G. Bulman

described the history of the fabric and the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch spoke on the part it had played in the history of the diocese. After lunch, we drove via Irthington and Castlesteads to LANERCOST, where Mr Charlton read a paper by Mr J. C. Dickinson on the history of the priory and pointed out its chief features of interest, while the Editor described the Roman inscriptions from Birdoswald and Banks preserved there. The next stop was at BANKS TURRET (52a, see CW2 xxxiv 148 f.), where the Editor deputised for the President, whom continuing ill-health had prevented from accompanying the party; here a sudden downpour compelled a hasty return to the buses, but when we came to BIRDOSWALD the sun was shining and the ground was dry, and the Editor gave a brief account of the site and its importance, and our visitors were able to enjoy the fine view of the Irthing gorge as well as seeing the excavated remains of the fort gateways. In the evening the Mayor of Carlisle, Councillor Miss E. Welsh, very kindly gave a reception at Tullie House in honour of our visitors; it was a most enjoyable affair, giving an opportunity for the renewing or making of many friendships, and for discussing a great many matters of archaeological interest, and Lt. Col. O. H. North, Past President, voiced the Society's gratitude to the Mayor for her kindness, amid general applause.

Wednesday, 2 June.

The second day was spent on a circuit through Penrith and Keswick, the first visit being to LONG MEG, where Miss Clare Fell was the speaker (see CW2 xlvii 230 f.); thence we drove to PENRITH, where Mr C. G. Bulman described the architectural features of the Castle and the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch its history and that of the church, where the kindness of the vicar allowed us to shelter from the rain; there, too, Dr Spence described the Giant's Grave (see CW2 xlvii 219-25). After lunch the first stop was at BARTON CHURCH, where the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch communicated the following note:

"Full accounts of this church will be found in CW1 iv 407 f., CW2 xxii 134 f. and xxxvii 178 f.; in those articles two divergent views will be noticed as to the position of the church tower: was it originally designed as a western tower or has it always been, as it is now, a central one? While preparing a description of the church for our visit here I followed up a hint from our member Mr. C. G. Bulman, and made a discovery which seems to prove that the latter has always been the case: if the measurements of

the church are taken it will be found that the nave is exactly double the length of the tower, and if the process is extended into the present chancel, it will be seen that the distance necessary to make the chancel of the same length as the tower—tower and chancel together thus equalling the nave—brings one to the place where a small piece of early 13th century work still remains (this being the only example of that period in the church). Is this just a coincidence, or does it show that here we have the point where the east end of the Norman church came? It is difficult to believe that the latter is not the case. If so, the tower was always a central one, and the first piece of post-Norman work was a rebuilding of the east end, presumably so as to let in more light.

“In the account of this church in *RCHM Westmorland*, the coffin-lid to Christopher de Lancaster is ascribed to the early 14th century, but he was certainly alive in 1383 (CW2 x 468); this affords further evidence of the difficulty of dating local remains by standards that apply elsewhere. In the same volume the chancel panelling is dated late 17th century, but the initials L.D. and the date 1609 are carved on it; it may be noted that Lancelot Dawes became vicar in 1608.”

The party was welcomed to Barton church by the vicar, the Rev. E. Hudson, whose descriptive booklet about it, well illustrated, added greatly to the interest of the visit.

The next visit was to have been to the KESWICK STONE CIRCLE, but by now the rain had become particularly heavy, and it was found necessary to drive straight on to Keswick; tea was provided there at the lake-side café, and after tea we drove back to Carlisle via the east side of Bassenthwaite, Uldale and Warnell Fell.

Thursday, 3 June.

On the third day we drove via Old Carlisle and Cockermouth to ST. BEES, where Mr J. C. Dickinson described the church and its history, and pointed out its interesting series of early sculptured stones; thence we proceeded to EGREMONT CASTLE, where Mr Dickinson was again the speaker. A picnic lunch was eaten in Gosforth village, where the vicar kindly provided shelter and hot water for the ladies of the party; and after lunch Miss M. C. Fair described the GOSFORTH CROSS and HOGBACKS (on which see CW2 iii 398 f. and xxviii 408 f.). Thence we moved to CALDER ABBEY, by kind permission of Mrs Rymer, where Miss Fair once more spoke (see in particular

CW2 iii 392 f.). The last visit of the day was to BRIGHAM CHURCH, where Mr C. Roy Hudleston read a paper on the history of the church and on its associations with the Christian family, one member of whom acquired notoriety in the mutiny on the Bounty.

Friday, 4 June.

The last day was devoted to FURNESS ABBEY, approached from Carlisle via Keswick, Ambleside, Windermere, Newby Bridge and Barrow, where lunch was taken. The abbey was described by Mr Dickinson, tea was taken in Grange and thereafter the party dispersed, after an extremely successful meeting, in the course of which it had been possible to show our visitors a great deal of the more impressive scenery of the district, as well as a good selection of its antiquities; the only misfortune was that the weather was not better..

IV. SUMMER MEETING, 1948.

The normal summer meeting of the Society was held in the Wigton and Cockermouth districts on 13 and 14 July, headquarters being at Tullie House, Carlisle; the organising committee consisted of Mr F. Gerald Simpson (President), the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch, Mr C. Roy Hudleston, Miss K. S. Hodgson, the Editor and Dr. J. E. Spence (Excursions Secretary). With the exception of a brief shower on the first morning, the weather was fine and mainly sunny, and the excursions were attended by a large number of members and friends, including Professor R. Laur-Belart, Director of the Swiss Institute of Prehistory and Early History.

Tuesday, 13 July.

The first stop was at ROSE CASTLE (372461), where Mr C. R. Martindale was the speaker; he surveyed the history of the property since its conveyance to Bishop Mauclerke in 1230, and the long and complicated development of its structure from, no doubt, an initial timber building to the present series of stone buildings, in which is incorporated the work done by Bishop Rainbow under the guidance of Thomas Machel, the competent rector and architect and antiquary of Kirkby Thore, who "introduced Regular Architecture" to these parts, and the very extensive work done for Bishop Percy by Rickman and Hutchinson (1829); Bishop Percy employed Sir Joseph Paxton to lay out the gardens, which have for long been among the finest in Cumberland. Inside the castle he drew particular attention to

the broad staircase, charged with the arms of the bishops and the see alternately, and the fine 18th century Chinese wallpaper in the drawing-room. (See also J. H. Martindale's description in CW2 xxviii 397 f., with illustrations). Lt. Col. North congratulated Mr Martindale, on behalf of the Society, on the lucidity and interest of his maiden address to it, and expressed the hope that he may describe many more monuments to us in the years to come, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded by acclamation to the Bishop of Carlisle for his kindness in permitting us to visit Rose.

The next visit was to WARNELL HALL (351414), by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Reed, where Mr C. R. Martindale again acted as guide, basing his description on W. T. McIntire's account in CW2 xxxv 270 f. and J. H. Martindale's in CW2 xx 238 f., to which reference may be made for fuller details; he pointed out that it was a good specimen of the typical Cumberland fortified residence, once consisting of a central courtyard completely enclosed within buildings and curtain walls, though two of the four wings are now represented by foundations only; the earliest structure traceable is the remains of a pele tower at the north-east angle, and the gateway, tower and external arch are fairly perfect; the early Elizabethan house, built by Thomas Denton, was probably T-shaped in plan; its original windows remain at the back, but the front was rebuilt and extended in the 17th century; the arms of the Dentons and the date 1683 may be seen above the door of the new front, and the flight of semi-circular steps to the entrance door is particularly graceful. Lt. Col. North voiced the Society's warm thanks to Mr and Mrs Reed for their kindness in allowing us to visit Warnell hall, and for the loving care which it was plain that they had devoted to the maintenance of its fabric in such excellent condition.

Thence we drove to Caldbeck, where lunch was taken; many members of the party took advantage of a kind invitation by the rector, our member the Rev. C. E. Last, to eat it in the grounds of his beautiful rectory. After lunch, CALDBECK CHURCH (325398) was described by Mr Last, who based his account on the description by C. F. J. Martindale in CW2 xxxv 271 f. (see also CW2 xx 239 f., describing the Society's last visit to Caldbeck before the thorough and successful restoration of 1933), and he also directed our attention to the tombstone of John Peel in the churchyard.

From Caldbeck we drove to OLD CARLISLE (260465), where

the Editor described the site and its place in the Roman organisation of Cumberland; he referred to the papers by Haverfield and R. G. Collingwood in CW2 xx 143 f. and xxviii 103 f. respectively, and drew attention to a hitherto unnoticed Elizabethan reference to the discovery of Roman inscriptions there; the site had been used as a quarry for many centuries, its final exploitation being the result of the enclosure of Westward parish in 1811; during the following twenty years it was excavated sporadically by the Rev. Richard Matthews of Wigton Hall, who found half a dozen inscriptions there, but was disappointed with the results of his digging, and thereafter it was only through the watchful care of our member Mr Harold Duff that discoveries made in the course of ploughing had been recorded. The site was known as Palmcastre or Palmcastle in the Middle Ages, as Canon James Wilson had been the first to point out, and that made Old Carlisle's equation with Vortigern's place of refuge, otherwise known as Guasmoric, in Nennius a matter of certainty; the remains of the fort were now the most conspicuous feature of the site, but the early accounts draw equal attention to the widespread remains of an external settlement, and it was to be hoped that one day that might receive attention from the spade: one of the inscriptions from the site was a corporate dedication by the inhabitants of the *vicus*, which was perhaps the most promising example of the type still available for excavation in our district. We had been joined at Old Carlisle by parties from the Nelson and Tomlinson Schools in Wigton, to whom a warm welcome was extended, and the next visit, the last of this day, was to the MUSEUM OF THE NELSON SCHOOL, where Mr Harold Duff exhibited a number of finds made at Old Carlisle, and described the principles on which the museum, a most successful one of its type, had been developed.

Council met at Tullie House at 6 p.m., and a General Meeting was held there at 8-15 p.m. with Dr J. E. Spence in the chair; he expressed the Society's regret that the President had not felt well enough to attend that meeting in addition to the three meetings of the Cumberland Excavation Committee, the Committee for Prehistoric Studies and of Council which had preceded it. The chairman referred to the loss which the Society had sustained by the death of T. Cann Hughes, a Vice-President, and of C. S. Jackson, a member of Council and for many years honorary secretary and treasurer of the Parish Register Section, and the meeting stood in silence for some moments as a tribute

to their memory. 30 new members were elected, and the following papers were communicated: "Some Bronze Age burial circles at Lacra, near Kirksanton" by J. A. Dixon and Miss Clare Fell (ART. I), "Trial trenching at Burrow in Lonsdale" by Lt. Col. O. H. North and E. J. W. Hildyard (ART. II), and "George Smith the Geographer and his ascent of Crossfell" by Professor Gordon Manley (ART. X). Exhibits included a remarkable series of unfinished or faulty stone axes from a recently discovered site in the Langdales (see p. 214 below) shown by Lt. Col. North and the Hon. Marjorie Cross, a stone axe found at Holme by Mr R. N. Birley and a Bronze Age Beaker from Ainstable which Miss K. S. Hodgson exhibited and described (see p. 215 below); and also an interesting 18th century commemorative medal, found at Holme, on which see Mr R. N. Birley's note, p. 223 below.

Wednesday, 14 July.

The second day was spent in the Cockermouth district, the first place visited being BOLTONGATE CHURCH (229408), described by Dr Spence (see the report of his address there on the occasion of the Society's previous visit, CW2 xxxv 274 f.); the hope was expressed that this remarkably interesting structure might be made the subject of a special architectural study, for publication in a future number of *Transactions*.

Thence there was a pleasant drive, along winding roads on a give and take course, to CAERMOTE ROMAN FORT (202368), where Dr I. A. Richmond, F.B.A., V.-P.S.A., was the speaker; he drew attention to the original discovery of the site by Father West in the 18th century (*Guide to the Lakes*, 1778, 127 f.), its description by W. Jackson and R. S. Ferguson in the early days of this Society (CW1 iii 43 f. and vi 191 f., with plan by Joseph Cartmell, C.E.), and the trial excavations by Haverfield and the Cumberland Excavation Committee in 1902 (CW2 iii 330 f., with plan by W. G. Collingwood). There are two structural periods in the visible remains: a cohort-fort, rather more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres in size, with turf ramparts and, no doubt, timber buildings, reasonably assignable to the Flavian period, though specific evidence for that date has not yet been recovered; and a fortlet, rather over an acre in size, occupying the north-west portion of the original fort, into which it has plainly been inserted at some later stage—to judge by analogies elsewhere, in the course of the second century. Excavation had produced over three stone weight of lead from a rough building outside the north rampart,

and Dr Richmond pointed out that its presence could be best explained on the assumption that the Romans had worked the lead mines in the Caldbeck area, and that Caermote had been where a detachment was stationed to maintain order in the mining district, and where its products had been collected for forwarding elsewhere. It would be well worth while to carry out further excavations there before long, in order to recover sufficient evidence to date the main periods of occupation of the site.

The next stop was at ISEL HALL (158337), by kind permission of Sir H. Lawson, who was there to receive the Society and show it over his ancient and beautiful residence, on which see in particular CW2 xxiv 353 f. and xi 122 f.; here the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch read a paper by Mr C. Roy Hudleston on the Leigh and Lawson families, with whose inter-relationships the history of the property is so closely bound up. From the hall the party then walked through the gardens, across a pasture field by the side of the Derwent and so to ISEL CHURCH, where Mr Lowther Bouch gave an address; he directed attention to its features of interest, and pointed out that it still awaited a really satisfactory description in our *Transactions*; the Editor hopes to be able to include a paper on Isel church by Mr Lowther Bouch himself in a future volume.

From Isel we drove to Cockermouth for lunch, after which the first move was to COCKERMOUTH CASTLE, by kind permission of Lord Leconfield and the Leconfield Estate Company; here, as at Old Carlisle on the previous day, we were joined by a party from a local school, Cockermouth County Grammar School—which included a visiting contingent of ten or a dozen Swedish boys and girls—and we were also glad to welcome a number of members of the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association. The history of the castle was described by Mr John Charlton, who also guided the large party round the ruins (for further particulars see J. F. Curwen's article in CW2 xi 129 f., and W. T. McIntire's address in CW2 xxxvi 209 f.); Dr Richmond expressed the Society's thanks to Lord Leconfield, and we then moved on to PAPCASTLE ROMAN FORT (111316), the last place to be visited. Here the Editor gave an address, referring to R. G. Collingwood's account of the Society's trial excavations of 1912 (CW2 xiii 131 f.) and quoting at length from Stukeley's detailed notes (*Iter Boreale* 51), too often taken at second hand in Hutchinson's unsatisfactory précis; he pointed out that the fort, standing on the summit of the hill, was only one part of

Roman Papcastle, for Roman buildings and objects had been found over a wide area down the hillside to the Derwent, and it seemed reasonably clear that the settlement must have been more like a town than a village. The name of the place was certainly not *Aballava*, as R. G. Collingwood and many others had assumed (that is now identifiable as the Roman name of Burgh-by-Sands); it might well have been *Derventio*, from the river Derwent—as Stukeley suggested—but that was not yet certain. R. G. Collingwood, besides excavating at Papcastle, had collected a good deal of evidence for chance finds there from local residents, and it was greatly to be hoped that some of our members in that district might follow his example and provide a new and up to date survey of the site, noting where finds had been made and listing them; there had been a good deal of new building there since 1912, and there must inevitably have been a number of discoveries of Roman material, but none had been communicated to the Society. Finally, he drew attention to Whellan's mention (p. 293) that "the large edible snail (*Helix pomatia*) is said to be common in the adjoining hedges, and may have been introduced by the Romans as an article of diet"; the latter point must remain open, but a local resident, who chanced to be within hearing, subsequently drew the Editor's attention to the fact that a party of Italian farm-workers had recently been seen collecting such snails with the intention of feasting upon them, and had stated that Papcastle was the only place in England which they had yet visited where such snails, familiar to them in Italy, had been noted.

A unanimous vote of thanks to Dr Spence, for the excellence of his arrangements for the two days' excursions, brought the meeting to a close, and the buses returned to Carlisle.