

## PROCEEDINGS.

## I. SPRING MEETING, 1956.

THE spring meeting was held at Tullie House, Carlisle, at 2-15 p.m. on Saturday, 24 March; the President, Canon C. M. L. Bouch, F.S.A., was in the chair. Council had met during the morning as usual to transact routine business. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President reported, with regret, the deaths of Mr W. V. Wade (see the obituary notice, CW2 lv 368 f.), Col. A. T. Porritt and Mr C. W. Robinson, and on his motion members stood in silent tribute to their memory; he congratulated our Vice-President, Mr T. D. Shepherd, on the award of the C.B.E. in the New Year honours list. He announced that the Council of the Royal Archæological Institute had agreed that the Institute's summer meeting in July 1958 should be held in Carlisle, jointly with this Society, on the occasion of the celebration of the octo-centenary of the city's first charter, and that Council had made the following grants for excavations in the coming season: from the Research Fund £25 to Mr R. L. Bellhouse for researches at Old Carlisle and on the Cumberland coast, and £25 to Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., for further work in the Bewcastle and Bramp-ton districts; and from the Roman Wall special fund, £25 to Mr J. P. Gillam, F.S.A., for the completion of his work on the Roman bath-house at Bewcastle (in co-operation with the Durham University Excavation Committee—see CW2 liv 265-267). He reported that Mrs Bagot had kindly undertaken to house the stock of parish registers at her home, Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, and that application for copies should be made to her; and that Council had decided that, as an experiment, the Society's autumn meeting should be held on a Friday and Saturday (see p. 165, below). Eight candidates were elected members of the Society. The following papers were then read or reported: "Excavations at Harrow's Scar milecastle, 1953" by I. A. Richmond (Art. II, above); "Some Roman roads in Cumberland" by R. L. Bellhouse (Art. IV); "The large house, 1350-1850" by R. W. Brunskill; "The work of the Parish Register Section" by the Rev. F. B. Swift (Art. XIV); and Miss K. S. Hodgson exhibited and described the Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery from Netherhall, for which see now Art. I, above.

For the editors, Mr Eric Birley announced that *Transactions*, n.s. lv, was out of their hands, and should be issued to members in the near future, and that plentiful material was available for n.s. lvi, the printing of which had already begun.

## II. EXCURSION TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

An extra meeting, arranged by the Excursions Secretary (the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A.), was held in Gloucestershire from 1 to 3 May, with headquarters at Gloucester; the Editors are indebted to Miss Cross for a report on the meeting, here briefly summarized. The detailed planning, including the provision of well-qualified speakers, had been done by Mrs E. M. Clifford, F.S.A., who had hoped to be our principal guide, but at the last minute she was prevented by illness from accompanying us; thanks are due to Mr Robins, who most kindly deputised for her.

On the evening of *Tuesday, 1 May*, we were received by the mayor and mayoress of Gloucester, and by members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, in the City Museum; after welcoming addresses, refreshments were provided, and we had an opportunity to examine some of the museum's treasures, notably the Birdlip mirror. On *Wednesday, 2 May*, we first visited NORTH CERNEY CHURCH, where the Rev. A. J. Turner was our guide, drawing our attention in particular to the two "manticores" portrayed outside the building—fabulous beasts with human heads, lions' bodies and scorpions' tails. The church is aisleless, with north and south transepts, and was skilfully restored by Mr S. E. Dykes Bower, F.S.A.; it is notable for its stone pulpit, deeply undercut with wreaths of lilies. Next we visited CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA, where the National Trust's custodian acted as guide; we were particularly impressed by the mosaic in its dining-room and by the elaborate bathing facilities: in the small museum, the most remarkable exhibit was a perfect pair of curling-tongs. Lunch was taken *al fresco* here, after which we drove to Cirencester; there we first visited the CHURCH, mainly perpendicular, with a nave rebuilt by Henry VIII, on a site within the Roman town of *Corinium Dobunnorum* where a church had been built in Anglo-Saxon times. Thence we walked to the CORINIUM MUSEUM, where we were welcomed by its honorary curator, our member Professor Donald Atkinson, F.S.A., who drew our attention to its most notable exhibits, in particular the *Sator Arepo* graffito on plaster from a Roman house in *Corinium*, and some fine mosaic pavements. The last visit of the day was to

CIRENCESTER PARK, where Lady Apsley gave us tea and her son, Lord Bathurst, showed us some of the many treasures of the house. On *Thursday, 3 May*, our first visit was to BERKELEY CASTLE (to many of us, the most impressive of all the items on the programme of visits); from there we drove to HETTY PEGLER'S TUMP, a Neolithic gallery-grave in which excavation produced the remains of at least 21 burials, not to mention a later one, at a higher level, which yielded three Roman coins. After lunch, we drove first to ULEY BURY CAMP, an Early Iron Age hill-fort of 36 acres, defended by two ditches and at its only entrance, on the north side, by triple ditches and high ramparts; thence we went to OWLPEN MANOR HOUSE, a fascinating little Elizabethan building, where we were shown round by its owner, Mrs Bray; thence to the Early Iron Age earthworks on the top of MINCHINHAMPTON COMMON. Tea was taken near Stroud, and we were back in Gloucester in time to visit the CATHEDRAL, noteworthy for the gorgeous decorated tabernacle in which the body of Edward II was laid after his murder at Berkeley Castle, and for the choir built with money contributed by pilgrims to his shrine. This concluded the meeting.

### III. SUMMER MEETING, 1956.

The summer meeting was held in the Keswick and Penrith districts on 3 and 4 July, with a good attendance of members and their friends. The arrangements for it had been made by a committee composed of the President, Mr N. Hudleston, Brigadier J. W. Kaye, Major R. Scott-Little, Dr J. R. K. Thomson, Mr T. Wilson and the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A. (Excursions Secretary). The weather was fine and warm on both days.

#### *Tuesday, 3 July.*

The coaches left Penrith at 10 a.m. and drove first to the Berrier road, near Greystoke, where Mr R. L. Bellhouse described the ROMAN ROAD and the methods by which he had recently traced its course in this area (cf. CW2 liv 17 ff.); we followed the course of the road, in many places still recognisable, under his guidance, and then proceeded to TROUTBECK, where Mr Bellhouse gave his account of the Roman camps (Art. III, above). Next we drove past Keswick to CROSTHWAITE CHURCH, where Mr C. B. Martindale described the structure; he pointed out that it is basically Sir Gilbert Scott's restoration of 1844, but incorporating the interesting arcades of *circa* 1553 and many windows of that period or earlier, some of those in

the north aisle being of the 14th century; these, and the 16th century windows in the south aisle and the clerestory retain a fine set of consecration crosses, 12 externally and 9 internally, all on the left-hand side of the window, many of them first discovered by the late Dr F. C. Eeles; the east window is a late 19th century restoration of that inserted in 1844, which is said to have been a measured copy of its 14th century predecessor. Three pieces of medieval glass survive, one in the north aisle and two in the east window of the south aisle; the 14th century font is of great interest, its bowl having heraldic ornament and its supporting column tracery; near it are 15th century effigies of members of the Derwentwater family, and near the east end of the south aisle there is a fine brass, dated 1527, to Sir J. Radcliffe and Dame Alice his wife. From Crosthwaite we drove back to CASTLERIGG STONE CIRCLE, described to us by Miss Clare Fell, F.S.A.; she reminded us that C. W. Dymond contributed a survey of the circle and a view of it, with accompanying memoranda and a discussion of earlier descriptions of the monument—by Stukeley, Gray and others—in his paper on “A group of Cumberland megaliths” (CW1 v 39 ff., especially 50-55). Dymond was the first to notice a circular ditch, 13 ft. in diameter, inside the circle and just north of the rectangular enclosure which is perhaps its most remarkable feature; in 1885 Benjamin Williams reported to the Society of Antiquaries that there were traces of three cairns within the monument. A stone axe and a “club-like implement” were found there before 1855, and a roughed-out stone-axe close to the circle in 1875 (it is now in the Fitz Park Museum, Keswick); the only excavation attempted there, in 1882 by W. K. Dover, was within the rectangle: it yielded a little charcoal but no datable objects. Miss Fell pointed out that in plan the Castlerigg circle resembles a final degeneration of the passage-graves of the Boyne culture of Ireland, themselves ultimately derived from the Iberian peninsula. Recent excavations at Stonehenge have shown that its embanked circles were constructed in late Neolithic times or by the “Beaker folk” of the Early Bronze Age; the small stone circles were undoubtedly places of burial, but it is generally agreed that the larger ones, such as Castlerigg, were not primarily erected for that purpose, but rather for ceremonial and religious use. It is interesting that Professor Morrow’s astronomical calculations (*Proc. Durham Univ. Philosophical Soc.* iii, 1908/9) gave a date of 1400 B.C. for the building of Castlerigg—not much later than that deduced by recent archaeological study of such circles.

After lunch, we visited MILLBECK TOWERS, described to

us by Brigadier J. W. Kaye, its owner. The building was erected in the 18th century as a carding-mill; a deed of 1797 shows that it had been in operation for some time, but its date of erection is not known more precisely; the mill's ledger for 1823-1856 and day-book for 1830-1841 survive, giving a wealth of detail of its production and its customers, at home and abroad. It ceased production in 1886 and lay derelict until 1903, when it was converted into a residence: a tower was built on to each of its front corners, the gable-ends and wheel-house were removed, rooms were partitioned off and a staircase was added. Flintoft's painting of 1831 shows the mill when it was working, and a photograph of *circa* 1900 shows it shortly before the conversion. The mill-pool and race, the pay-office, the mill bell and the grass banks of the tenter-ground remain. It is hoped to give a paper on the house, by Brigadier Kaye, in an early volume of *Transactions*.

From here we drove to ISEL CHURCH, described to us by the vicar, the Rev. E. G. Bucknill, and thence to ISEL HALL where, by permission of Sir Hilton Lawson, Mr R. W. Brunskill described the building; he referred to accounts of the house in CW1 xii 156-160 and CW2 xi 122-128, with plan, and pointed out that it displays work of three periods: first a pele tower, probably of the early 15th century, with vaulted basement, unadorned walls of great strength and thickness, and battlemented parapet—only one original window remains, and there are three instead of the usual two storeys for living accommodation above the basement; a 16th century extension is set at an angle to the tower and is linked to it by a tapering staircase, and there are 17th century extensions at either end of this block; many of the 16th and 17th century details of windows and decoration remain intact.

Tea was taken at the Armathwaite Hotel, except by members of Council, who left to hold their meeting in Penrith. The GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Crown Hotel, Penrith, at 8 p.m., with the President in the chair. He reported that our Vice-President Sir Matthew Fell had presented a group of documents, relating to Chancellor Ferguson and to the Society's excavations at Furness Abbey to the Jackson Library at Tullie House; and that a number of overprints by the late Miss Fair were now in the Society's hands, and that particulars of them might be obtained from the General Secretary (Miss Ainsley). The President announced that, at the request of the Lord Lieutenant of Westmorland, Major J. W. Cropper, the Editors were preparing a special itinerary for the use of the Queen on her forthcoming visit to the county. Twelve

candidates for membership were duly elected. The following papers were then read: "Governor Stephenson" by Brigadier J. W. Kaye; "The rise and fall of the Westmorland Parrs" (Art. IX, above) by Mrs Marjorie Rowling; and "The Salkeld Screen in Carlisle cathedral" by the President.

*Wednesday, 4 July.*

We first visited NEWBY HALL (cf. *RCHM Westmorland* 184 f. and pl. 17, and R. Morton Rigg's article in *CW2* xii 120-125 with plan and two plates), where Mr Brunskill was the speaker; he pointed out that this is probably the most perfect surviving example, in our district, of a non-fortified manor house of the 17th century, most of the architectural details and even the original lead glazing remaining intact. The house has hall, kitchen and parlour units on the ground floor and bedrooms above, reached by a stone spiral-staircase which projects from the main block; the hall retains its original segmental fireplace arch, and some of the original panelling can be seen on both floors. The plan of the house is clearly influenced by Renaissance ideas, but the retention of the hall as the principal living-room, and details of the windows and subsidiary doors, show that medieval feeling had not yet been lost when it was built. Next we drove to MORLAND CHURCH, described to us by Mr C. B. Martindale (cf. *RCHM Westmorland* 175-177, with plan and elaborate description of the structure and of its fittings); he pointed out that the west tower is probably the earliest structure remaining in any church in the diocese of Carlisle, betraying undoubted Saxon characteristics; its two lower stages are 11th century work, the top stage a 16th century addition with a battlement in which 13th century ornament has been re-used. Lunch was taken at Eamont Bridge, when we drove to SOCKBRIDGE HALL, where Mr Brunskill was again our guide (cf. *RCHM Westmorland* 214 and pl. 17, and M. W. Taylor's *Old Manorial Halls*=E.S. viii, 1892, 64-68): he pointed out that there was formerly a pele tower to the north-east of the existing buildings and that its accommodation was extended in the 16th century by the erection of the present main block of hall, buttery, kitchens and bedrooms; the present south-east wing was added *circa* 1700 — unfortunately, its interior has been stripped, and only the mullioned and transomed windows remain to recall its former character. From Sockbridge we made the short journey to KIRKBARROW HALL (*RCHM Westmorland* 37 and pl. 17, E.S. viii 76), described to us by Mr Brunskill as an interesting example of the small group of houses distinguished by their multi-storey porches, erected in the district

towards the end of the 16th century; its principal distinction lies in the "upper cruck" form of roof-construction, clearly seen on the first floor. Hence we drove to HUTTON JOHN, where our member Mr Nigel Hudleston gave us an account of his house, basing it on the late Ferdinand Hudleston's paper in CW2 xxiv 160-180 (with plan and 4 plates), and then guided us round it, drawing our attention to some of its special treasures, such as the portrait of Father John Hudleston, the friend of Charles II, and a number of documents from his muniment room. This concluded a meeting which all present enjoyed greatly, as was made clear when the President moved the customary vote of thanks to the Excursions Secretary and her local committee, and to the owners of the various places which we had visited.

#### IV. AUTUMN MEETING, 1956.

The autumn meeting was held in the Penrith and Alston districts on 14 and 15 September; holding it on a Friday and Saturday was an experiment designed for the benefit of those of our members who find it difficult to attend a mid-week meeting, and the numbers present on the second day seemed to justify the experiment. Arrangements for the meeting had been made by a committee consisting of the President, Mr C. G. Bulman, Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., Mr R. Hogg, Dr J. R. K. Thomson and Major R. Scott-Little (acting as Excursion Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., who was unwell). The weather on both days was fine and warm.

##### *Friday, 14 September.*

Members travelling by coach started from Carlisle at 10 a.m. or Penrith at 10.30, and the first visit was to KIRKOSWALD CHURCH, described by Mr C. G. Bulman. He first referred to the ancient families which once held the manor of Kirkoswald—Morvilles, Multons, Dacres and later Musgraves of Edenhall—and then to the dedication of the church to St. Oswald, generally (and in his view justifiably) taken to indicate a pre-Norman foundation; but he pointed out that the earliest documentary mention of it is dated 1167, and no structural work earlier than the 12th century is to be seen in it. The first church was probably a small Norman building of the "two-chamber" type, a rectangular nave separated by an arch from a small chancel with an apse at its east end; the usual later extensions then took place, first on the north side and then on the south, and a little later, probably *circa* 1314, an additional bay was built at the west end. The church was made collegiate in 1523:

Thomas, Lord Dacre, then founded a college of a provost and seven priests—but it was dissolved in 1547; meanwhile it had left its mark on the church, for a spacious new chancel was built, probably *circa* 1525, in the late Gothic or Tudor phase of the Perpendicular style, with a very lofty chancel arch, and very sensible mullioned windows to give plenty of light to the chancel. The east window was apparently inserted at some date after February 1704, when Bishop Nicolson noted the chancel roofless and “no window in the East; but, in the place thereof, an Alabaster Monument” with an inscription dated 1609 (E.S. i 115) — unless this was masking a walled-up window. Finally, Mr Bulman mentioned the fact that the tower at Kirkoswald is completely detached from the church, standing on the hill above, and explained the reason for it as a purely practical one: the site of the church was determined by the position of an ancient spring, but the village grew up on the other side of the hill, near the mills driven by the Raven brook—and the tower was built on the summit of the hill between, so that the parishioners might hear its bells. The church was thoroughly “restored” in 1878. Next we visited KIRKOSWALD COLLEGE, where we were welcomed by Lt-Col. T. Fetherstonhaugh, who described it to us. For details of the house and of the Fetherstonhaugh family reference may be made to CW2 xiv 196-237, with plan and several plates. One point, however, deserves reconsideration: in that account, at p. 216, it is suggested that “The oldest part of the present building appears to have been erected in Henry VIII’s reign, when what is marked black on the plan probably made, with other buildings since demolished, the home of the priests who lived there”—for this was the site of the ancient vicarage of Kirkoswald, enlarged when the College was founded to house eight priests instead of only one. But the main section of this “oldest part” takes the form of a pele tower, as the President notes, adding the following comment:

I have always found it difficult to imagine that, as late as *circa* 1525, a house designed for the home of a college of priests would take such a form. I was therefore most interested to hear Lt-Col. Fetherstonhaugh refer to the strategic importance of the site, and to suggest that the low-lying ground immediately west of it would in former days have been a marsh; for a house built there would be in a strongly defensible position, would guard the bridge or ford over the Eden just below it, and could be linked by beacon on the tower with Kirkoswald castle. May not this “oldest part” represent a “vicar’s pele” such as that at Corbridge, modified perhaps when the College was established.

After Lt-Col. Fetherstonhaugh had described the successive additions to the house, made by his forebears in the 17th and 18th centuries, we were privileged to go over it; the heraldry in the hall, and the portrait of Charles I in the drawing-room, attracted special attention.



Thence we moved to GLASSONBY OLD PARK, where Miss K. S. Hodgson described the Bronze Age tumulus, excavated in 1900, which yielded the finely moulded urn and the exquisite bead now preserved at Tullie House( see the excavation-report by W. G. Collingwood, CW2 i 295-299, with illustrations). Lunch was taken by most members at Little Salkeld, but some members of the party availed themselves of an invitation by our member, the Rev. F. B. Swift, to visit Addingham vicarage garden before the first afternoon rendezvous, at SALKELD HALL, where he was the speaker. This was the original home of the Salkeld family, for whom see T. H. B. Graham's paper in CW2 xxi 63-72; George Salkeld, baptized 1608, sold the hall and the rest of his property in the parish of Addingham, *circa* 1640/44, to Thomas Cholmley, father of a prominent Round-head colonel of the same names, to whom he bequeathed the property in his will, proved 1654; one or other of them carried out considerable alterations to the house, still identifiable on its west side. Chancery proceedings and other documents show that at that period the house was called Lowhall, and that Colonel Thomas Cholmley died in 1655 leaving a widow, Katherine, and four small children. Because of his services to the Parliamentary cause, the widow was granted financial aid, including a sum of money which enabled her to buy the manor of Little Salkeld, which had been confiscated from the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle (to whom it reverted on the Restoration). Lowhall passed through various hands, late in the 18th century changing its name to Salkeld Lodge, and later still to Salkeld Hall. Next a short stop was made at CREWGARTH, which Miss K. S. Hodgson described to us; it is an ancient settlement, square in shape, which might well have had its origin in the Bronze Age, but it has not been excavated, and we cannot at present be sure that it is not of medieval origin.

From Crewgarth we moved to EDENHALL CHURCH, where Mr Bulman again spoke; he dealt first, briefly, with the manorial history of Edenhall, and with the dedication of the church—to St. Cuthbert, not necessarily proof of a pre-Conquest church on the site. The church is basically of the same original type as that at Kirkoswald, never enlarged by the building of aisles, but with new windows inserted at different periods; the very attractive embattled tower at the west end was built *circa* 1450: it is a very good piece of Perpendicular design, with fine ashlar masonry and bold, characteristic base course. There is a small niche, containing five shields with heraldic arms, externally over the west window. The interior of the church is almost entirely modern, "restored" at various times in the 19th century; there

is a fine monumental brass in the chancel, a rubbing of which Mr Bulman exhibited, dated 1458 and commemorating William Stapleton and his wife. Interesting fittings include the 17th century communion-rails and west gallery and the heraldic glass, showing alliances of the Musgrave family, which probably came from the Hall on its rebuilding in 1820. Mr Bulman concluded his address by alluding to the mural monuments in the church, some of them of great interest. (Cf. CW2 xiii 228-233 for the church, xxvii 20-26 for the manorial history; also Jefferson's *Leath Ward*, 1840, 391-405, with external and internal views of the church as it was in 1840, and copies of the mural monuments, most of them to members of the Musgrave family). This was the last visit of the day, and we returned to Penrith, where Council held its necessary meeting while the rest of the party took tea.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in Penrith Town Hall at 8 p.m., with the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Society proceeded to the election of officers and members of Council for the year next ensuing. On the nomination of Council, reported by Miss K. S. Hodgson, Canon Bouch was elected to serve a further year as President. The remaining officers and members were re-elected *en bloc*, except that Major R. Scott-Little was elected Excursion Secretary in the room of the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., who had written asking to be relieved of that office, the duties of which her state of health prevented her from attending to. Miss Cross's resignation was accepted with deep regret, and the President voiced the feelings of the Society in wishing her a speedy recovery, and in thanking her for her services. The President then reported that Council, after considerable discussion, had decided to recommend the following addition to the Society's Rule VI:

"The President shall be nominated at the meeting of Council or of members which usually takes place in the summer, or if there is no such meeting, in writing to the Chairman of Council and in any case not later than 31 July in any year. The President shall serve for three years but shall be eligible to serve again after a break of not less than one year."

The addition to the Rules was accepted without dissent. Next, the Treasurer's report for the Society's year, 1955-56, and the statement of accounts and balances as audited, were communicated by the General Secretary, Miss Ainsley; and thirteen candidates for membership were duly elected. For the Editors, the President reported that the printing of *Transactions*, n.s. lvi, was well in hand. The following papers were then read: "Population problems of Cumberland and Westmorland" by

G. P. Jones and "A Roman signal-tower on the Solway" by R. L. Bellhouse. Miss K. S. Hodgson gave an interim account of the excavations which she had been engaged on at Old Brampton, and the President described the special *Itinerary* provided for the Queen on the occasion of her visit to Westmorland in August: the text of it had been written by several members of the Society, its maps had been provided by the surveyor to the Westmorland county council, and the book had been printed by the Society's printers, Titus Wilson & Son; a copy of it had been placed in the Society's library at Tullie House, as a record of the occasion.

*Saturday, 15 September.*

The weather was not quite so good this day, visibility from the summit of Harter Fell being very poor. Members left Penrith at 10-30 a.m., and drove over the pass into the Alston district, the first call being at RANDELHOLME, where Miss K. S. Hodgson read a paper communicated by Mr C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A., whose commitments had made it impossible for him to be present in person; it is printed herewith:

RANDELHOLME. By C. ROY HUDLESTON, F.S.A.

"Randelholme is one of the border towers of the 14th century adapted to modern requirements at various dates. The early tower measures  $27\frac{1}{2}$  by 26 ft. externally, has walls  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick, and is  $34\frac{1}{2}$  ft. high from the ground level to halfway up the gables. The ground storey is entered by the original doorway on the west. It has a full-centred pointed arch and within are the draw-bar holes in the wall. The vault is semicircular, of waggon form, with plain soffit, and is fully centred. There is a small window on the east side. Straight stone stairs in the west wall lead to the two upper floors and the roof. This is of the earliest recorded date, when the manor was held by Nicholas de Viteriponte in 1315. In 1600 the long wing to the north, in the Tudor style, was added. This contains two original door-heads, each cut out of one stone, one triangular-headed, the other elliptical. In 1650 the house was remodelled in the classical manner, and the well-moulded cornice at the eaves level is of this date. In 1680 and 1711 further changes were made. Randalholme was part of the Veteripont estate in Alston.

"In 1371 died Robert de Veteripont, who had been high sheriff of Cumberland in 1355. His shrievalty was hardly over before (in 1357) he was the ringleader in a shocking crime. With his son William, John Parvyng, Rector of Skelton and men from

Alston Moor he broke into the house of Nicholas Skelton at Skelton, attacked him and cut off his foot. Nicholas's wife was then pregnant and she died of shock. What punishment befell de Veteripont for this cruel deed does not appear: it is at least certain that his ownership of various manors and lands was not disturbed, for at the inquisition held after his death it was found that he owned the manor and advowson of Alston, and that John de Williamston and Richard de Laton held of him one messuage and 100 acres of land in Raynerholm by fealty. The volume on Cumberland place-names does not mention this inquisition, and the earliest reference to Randalholme known to the compilers was in 1579, by which time the name of the place was almost as it is to-day. The compilers, unaware of the earlier form, have therefore made the derivation Randolph's holme, but in 1371 reference shows that it was Reyner's holme, a Norman personal name which has given us Raynersete in Burgh-by-Sands. When Robert de Veteripont died in 1371 his heirs were his grand-daughters, Elizabeth and Joan, girls of 22 and 21. The former married Thomas Blencow, the latter William de Whitlaw, and in the partition of the estate the Whitlaws were given Alston, Elrington and Garrigill, which in 1442 were held by Thomas Whitlaw of Whitlaw or Whitley Castle.

"From him descended John Whitlaw or Whitley who left three daughters, married respectively to Warcop, Musgrave and William Whitfield. Randalholme fell to the descendants of William Whitfield and it was owned by this family until Robert Whitfield sold it in 1659. The last Whitfield married a Fetherstonhaugh of the College, Kirkoswald, the registers of which church contain the record of the burial of Mary, daughter of Robert Whitfield in 1651. The new owner was William Richardson but it was not until 1667 that his title to Randalholme was established, after a long dispute in which Devereux Peto contested Richardson's legal right. The third Richardson owner of Randalholme was Thomas, who died in 1708. He was the last of his line and his successor was his daughter Anne, who married Dr. William Ricardson of the Great Salkeld family. The initials W. and A.R. on the lintel dated 1711 refer to this pair, who were the parents of Christopher Randal Ricardson, the C.R.R. of the inscription of 1746 with the coat of arms on the north front of the house. The arms are 1 and 4 Ricardson and 2 and 3 Hutton, Christopher Ricardson's mother having been a Hutton. Christopher's son William Randal Fetherstonhaugh Ricardson assumed the name of Randal. He died in 1807, the last of his line, and Randalholme was sold to Joseph Salkeld, who later sold the property (before 1833) to Greenwich Hospital."

The next visit was to CLARGILL HALL, by permission of Miss Carse.

The following notes by Mr C. R. Hudleston were read:

#### CLARGILL.

"Clargill belonged to the Whitfields of Randalholme as early as 1579, when they had as tenant Nicholas Whitfield, who was presumably a relative. They sold the property in 1581, and in 1626 John Teasdale bought it. His only daughter, Mary, married Ralph Whitfield and took Clargill back to that family.<sup>1</sup> The property descended to Nicholas Whitfield, who died in 1744 leaving a son Thomas who was sheriff of Cumberland in 1746. He married in 1724 Anne Mowbray and died in 1773, when he was succeeded by his only child Anne, who married at Alston in 1777 Dr. Thomas Graham of Carlisle.

The Whitfields of Clargill were styled earls and countesses of Whitfield, and Surtees in his *History of Durham* (ii 209) quotes from *Border Minstrelsy* (i 245) the song of Hobbie Noble, a Border reiver:

"The great Earl of Whitfield loves not me  
For nae gear fra me he e'er could keep;  
And Anton Sheel he loves not me  
For I gat twa drifts of his sheep.

Surtees explains that the Earl of Whitfield had no right to the title, but as in other cases he, a gentleman of ancient descent and lord of a wild and extensive domain, was often styled earl, and "a certain Mrs Whitfield, a descendant of Hobbie's earl was commonly habit and reputed Countess of Clargill."

Dr Graham, husband of the "countess", is said to have been distinguished for his genius and eccentricity. He asked to be buried at midnight in Milltown Birks Wood (which he owned) in Kirklington parish. When he died in English Street, Carlisle, in 1789, his wish seems to have been fulfilled for a writer of 1884 describes his grave in the wood as fenced with iron palisades and planted with evergreens. Before his death the doctor had told his tenant Mr Bowman that he could have the property rent free if he would promise to be buried beside him in the wood. This tempting offer Mr Bowman refused, his scruples against burial in unconsecrated ground being stronger than his desire to hold the property without paying rent.

Mrs. Graham, the so-called Countess of Whitfield, died in 1796 at Clargill and was buried at Alston. The bulk of her fortune, said to be £70,000, went to a cousin on her mother's side, Mr George Mowbray of Sunderland.

Clargill became the home of the eccentric Rev. Octavius James, who was appointed curate of Alston in 1841 and Rector of Kirkhaugh in 1846. It was he who added the third storey to the house and inserted the rooms in the gable.

He was burnt to death in bed at Clargill Hall on 4 January 1889. He slept in his study, which contained all his papers and documents, and some fine furniture all of which was destroyed. Mr James had a daughter, who under the nom de plume of Austin Clare was a novelist."

Lunch was taken at Alston, and WHITLEY CASTLE was visited afterwards.

Mr John Gillam, F.S.A., gave a description of the Roman fort at WHITLEY CASTLE, remarkable for its unusual shape—a rhomboid, instead of the customary rectangle—and for its multiple ditch-system, still exceptionally well preserved. The best account of the site and of finds made there, by the late R. C. Bosanquet, is in PSAN4 i 249-255, with a reproduction of Thomas Sopwith's careful plan, which brings out well its shape and its defences. Bosanquet himself described the fort to this Society on its visit in 1929 (CW2 xxx 208), when he expressed the hope that it would be excavated in the lifetime of some of his hearers; it is good to know that Mr Noel Shaw has begun digging there, with the support of the Durham University Excavation Committee, in 1957.

The last visit of the day was to FETHERSTONE CASTLE, where our host was Mr Clark-Lowes, who described the buildings. Here an excellent tea was provided, which members greatly enjoyed.

<sup>1</sup> On 24 November 1682 William Whitfield, son of Thomas of Clargill, Cumberland, was apprenticed to Benjamin Ellison, mercer of Newcastle, and was made a freeman on 22 July 1692 (*Newcastle Mercant Adventurers*, Surtees Society, ci 313).