

## PROCEEDINGS.

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### I. SUMMER MEETING, 1963.

THE Summer meeting was held in the Lake District on 12 and 13 July 1963, the headquarters being Rydal Hall. The arrangements were made by a committee consisting of the President, the Chairman of Council, Mr R. Hogg, Prof. G. P. Jones, Mr B. L. Thompson, the Hon. General Secretary and the Hon. Secretary for Excursions.

A meeting of Council was held on the evening of 11 July, Miss K. S. Hodgson presiding.

#### *Friday, 12 July.*

More than 120 members and guests assembled at RYDAL HALL (CW2 xxxiv 204) to hear the President give an account of the Fleming family (see Art. XIX, above).

The party proceeded to TROUTBECK CHURCH (CW1 iv 23) where the vicar, the Rev. G. S. D. Turner, described the church and exhibited the parish registers and two communion cups, one of 1584 and the other of 1688, the latter inscribed "given to Troutbeck — the gift of Agnes Birket, dau. of Capt. Geo. Birket".

Mr B. L. Thompson gave an account of prehistoric finds in the neighbourhood and sketched the development of the parish. The forest was divided between Troutbeck and Ambleside in 1551, and the Troutbeck portion consisted of 72 "Five Cattle Tenements" with rights on two common pastures (Woundale and the "Hundreds") and several common fields. There were also three parks: The Old Park (near the Lake), The New Park and The Dale Head (these two now forming Troutbeck Park farm). Apart from agriculture the main industries of the parish used to be charcoal-burning and slate-quarrying.

Travelling south the party called at ALLEN KNOTT earthwork, where Mr R. A. C. Lowndes described the site. In preparation for the visit, Mr Lowndes had excavated a section through the rampart which was open to the inspection of members, as was a drawing of the section and a plan of the earthwork.

For Mr Lowndes' description of the site, and the results of his excavation, see Art. VIII, above.

A picnic lunch was taken at HUGILL, where the Iron-Age Settlement (CW1 vi 86, xii 6, and xiv 460) was described by

Miss Hodgson who also spoke of the way of life of the pre-historic community.

In the afternoon a cruise on WINDERMERE was rather marred by the weather, there being a downpour of rain when members embarked in two launches at Waterhead (and the President and party in Mr G. H. Pattinson's 1869 *Esperance*). During a trip to the Ferry and back Mr Thompson spoke on local history, referring to the older houses on the shores of the lake; to Belle Isle (formerly Longholme) with its round house of 1774-1775; the ferry-boat accident of 1635 when 47 people were drowned; the regattas which began in the latter part of the 18th century; and the first steamers, the *Lady of the Lake* 1845, and the *Lord of the Isles* 1846, both wooden paddle-boats. Mr Thompson also referred to char-fishing, char pies and potted char, and even managed to produce a char to show the party.

After tea at GRASMERE a visit was paid to the church (CW2 xiv 312), where Sir Robert Ewbank spoke of the life of the dalesmen and gave a description of the church. The original parish, some thirty-five miles in circumference, was divided into three townships: 1. Grasmere; 2. Langdale; 3. Loughrigg, Rydal, and part of Ambleside (Beneath Moss). Each township had its separate gate to the churchyard. They occupied and maintained their own parts of the church with some portions, such as the tower, held in common. Two bells were cast at York in 1721; a third was made at Cockermouth in 1809. Members were shown the 14th-century font and the unusual poor box, dated 1648.

The general meeting was held in the evening at Rydal Hall with the President in the chair. Sixty members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The President made sympathetic reference to the deaths of Sir M. Powicke and Dr R. C. Reid.

Miss Hodgson reported on the discovery of a Roman pottery kiln at Brampton and paid tribute to the help which had been received from the Education Authority who owned the site. It was agreed that a letter be sent thanking them for their co-operation.

The Hon. Treasurer gave a statement on the Society's satisfactory financial position. Thirteen members were elected.

Miss M. E. Burkett displayed several Roman exhibits recently excavated at Ambleside. A greyware burial-urn, believed to be of a date between A.D. 80-100, had been found boxed in by slabs of stone and contained the bones of a middle-aged female. A selection of Samian ware showed a variety of patterns,

floral, animal and geometric. Other items consisted of pieces of cooking-pots and jugs, also one rim of amphora. Glass beads, a key and many nails were also shown. An enormous amount of leather, including soles of different sizes with parts of the thonging still intact, was reported. Members showed particular interest in a slate tombstone which showed evidence of three burials on it.

The following papers were communicated: "A section of the Roman road south of Low Borrow Bridge" by Mr E. M. L. Macadam (Art. V, above); "The Orton Scar find and Thomas Reveley of Kendal" by Professor Birley (Art. VI, above); "Halden, Lord Catterlen and his descendants" by Mr W. Percy Hedley (Art. IX, above); "The deeds of Broad Oaks" by Professor G. P. Jones (Art. XIII, above); "The lieutenancy in Cumberland and Westmorland, 1660-1760" by Mr R. C. Jarvis (Art. XVI, above); "The militia in Westmorland in 1715" by Mr R. C. Jarvis (Art. XVII, above); "Lamplugh portraits" by Mr A. R. Jabez-Smith (Art. XVIII, above. This paper was read in Rydal church); "The Stockdale family, the Wilkinson brothers and the cotton mills at Cark-in-Carmel, c. 1782-1800" by Dr W. H. Chaloner (Art. XXIV, above).

*Saturday, 13 July.*

On the second day, in brilliant sunshine, the tour was continued with a visit to WINDERMERE PARISH CHURCH (CW1 iv 44 and CW2 xxxiv 30), where members were received by the rector, the Rev. C. Elliott, who produced the ancient Communion cup for inspection. The building, which dates mainly from 1480, but which was drastically restored in 1870, was described by Mr Thompson, who mentioned particularly the well-known Cartmel glass in the east window, the ancient catechism painted on the plastered walls of the nave, and the curious Gunpowder Plot inscription by Christopher Philipson, 1629. Members were told that the best account of the window is still that by Mr Ferguson (CW1 iv 44), but present experts on medieval glass incline to the opinion that the three central figures may be dated c. 1500-1520, St Barbara and St Katherine both c. 1480, and St George c. 1500. The most ancient glass in the window is the Virgin and Child in the third light above the transom, early 14th century. Mr Thompson also touched on the former chapel at Ladyholme, an island in the lake; this was an independent chantry founded by Walter de Lindesay before 1256 and existed till the Reformation.

The next visit was to Kentmere, to the prehistoric SETTLE-

MENT of MILLRIGG. Miss Hodgson said there was the usual massive enclosing wall formed by a double line of orthostats with rubble filling in the inter-space — two entrances lined with even larger blocks. Hut-walls were the same type. The site was excavated by Mr John Charlton and Dr Spence, when the speaker was present.

The large hut to the S.E. (?) was thoroughly dug. It had a sort of low bench of stones round the wall, a fire-spot, and a hole about 18 in. long and 12 in. wide and deep, also fire-marked, perhaps for "earth-baking" small animals, e.g. hedgehogs.

The only find was a small piece of an armlet of white pottery, a Roman type, thus dating it, like other Lake District Iron-Age type settlements, to the period of the Roman occupation.

At BURNESIDE HALL, Mrs O. R. Bagot gave an account of the house and from original documents told of its owners. She said this good example of a fortified manor was more easily recognisable as such when Machell saw it in 1692.

"There is a charming sketch of it reproduced both in *Transactions* (CW1 vi 94) and in Miss Ewbank's *Antiquary on Horseback* 101. There have been many alterations during the last and present centuries, but the pele-tower, though ruined, is still handsome, and the interior of the present house has various early features. There is a barrel vaulted room on the ground floor, a screen still *in situ* on the first floor, and the remains of handsome plasterwork, very similar in style to that at Low Brundrigg, which is dated 1667. There are three Gothic arches leading from the present kitchen (originally the undercroft) into the pele, which is remarkable for a passage which runs through the centre. The curtain wall and gate-house are still to be seen. The house as a whole conforms to Mr Brunskill's articles on early houses in the North, with kitchens on one side, a hall in the centre, and living-rooms on the other side. It appears to have been originally built in the 14th century.

"The families associated with the house are de Brunolveshead, Bellingham and Braithwaite. It is doubtful if the daughter of Gilbert de Brunolveshead who married a Bellingham in 1290 carried Burneside Hall as her dower, as there was a Brunolveshead who owned a considerable property in Kendal in 1340. He may have been a son or grandson of Gilbert, but was certainly not a Bellingham and appears in at least five deeds now at Levens Hall. He is not mentioned by Nicolson & Burn. He was certainly rich enough to build Burneside Hall and may have done so. The Bellinghams and their fortunes are variously reported, and they lived at Burneside during the late 14th and 15th centuries, selling it in 1535

to one Fitzwilliam of Kendal, who sold it to a Machell of Kendal, who in turn sold it to Robert Braithwaite of Ambleside. The house remained in the hands of the Braithwaites until the time of the profligate and prolific Thomas Braithwaite. This gentleman was probably responsible for the re-decoration, for the plasterwork and for the glass (now unhappily no more) which Canon Weston found in 1881. Thomas ruined the estate by marrying two wives and producing, in all, 18 children. He mortgaged the estate without disclosing the fact of his second marriage to his farmhand's daughters. There is a letter from his eldest son, Thomas, to Daniel Fleming to say that he is endeavouring to sell, and that among others, Col. Grahme of Levens might be willing to buy. Evidently there was trouble with creditors, and it was left to Richard Braithwaite, grandson of Sir Thomas, to sell to Thomas Shepherd of Kendal to whom the estate was greatly in debt.

"It is sad that so much which was seen in this interesting house on the first visit of the Society is now no longer there, but two world wars with their labour difficulties have caused the disappearance of the stained glass with the coats of arms of all the Braithwaite alliances: Williamson, Bindloss, Benson, Bradley, Briggs, Lawson, Lamplugh, Barton, Salkeld, Brisco, Askough, Penruddock, and possibly Machell."

After a picnic lunch, members were kindly received at COWMIRE HALL (CW2 i 119) by Major and Mrs S. Gordon. The house, once the home of the Briggs family was later owned by the Newbys, passing through an heiress to Richard, son of Sir Daniel Fleming.

Continuing their journey the party was joined by Professor G. P. Jones, who led them to THORPHINSTY HALL, CARTMEL FELL, and described the premises as follows:

"The present building is believed to date from the early 18th century and there is a date 1708 over one door, but there must have been a habitation on or near the site much earlier, as is indicated by the name, which is derived from the Scandinavian masculine personal name *Thorfinnr*, and either OE *stig*, ON *stigr*, 'path, track' or OE *stigu*, 'pen, sty'. If the former, it is likely that the path skirted the extensive marsh which has given their names to the neighbouring farms of Swallowmire and Cowmire.

"Thorphinsty was the subject of litigation in 1275-6 between the Prior of Cartmel and Henry, son of Henry de Thorphinsty. In 1508 it belonged to the Priory, the tenant then being Henry Hutton. In 1536 the tenant was William Hutton. After the Dissolution, the Prior's tenants became, presumably, tenants of the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1577 and later, the claim of Thomas Hutton was disputed by others,

but after his death, in January 1601/2, there followed a William Hutton, who held Thorphinsty in 1613 and died in February 1616/7. Then came Thomas Hutton who died in 1642, and in 1665, at Dugdale's Visitation, the estate belonged to George Hutton. It continued in the family until at least 1796, when it belonged to James Long and the Rev. James Long Hutton, who was the son of William Hutton of Buckingham, whence it may be concluded that the Huttons had ceased to live in Cartmel Fell. William's father was perhaps Richard Hutton (born 1722) and that Richard may have been the one who gave £40 to the poor of the chapelry. William's mother was perhaps Mrs Jane Hutton, who, in 1728, was due to take her turn, in respect of Thorphinsty, as overseer of the poor.

"In addition to its value as farm land Thorphinsty may have been of some importance as a source of timber. About 1565 it was complained that the woods of Thorphinsty, then occupied by Thomas Hutton, were being spoiled by Duchy of Lancaster tenants, who ought to use peat for fuel but were burning timber which might have been useful for copper-works at Keswick (M. B. Donald, *Elizabethan Copper*, 120). In 1760 an agreement was signed for the sale of Thorphinsty charcoal (R. Sharpe France, *Guide to Lancashire Record Office*, 227). For an account of the Huttons see *VCH Lancs.* viii 282-283."

Tea was taken at HODGE HILL, CARTMEL FELL (CW1 xiii 300), where Mrs M. E. Johnson described the Elizabethan house, and Dr Fahy spoke of the Philipsons who formerly resided there, tracing the family from Brian Philipson n.c. 1487 to the first recorded owner of the house, John Philipson, who married Anne Dickson in 1610, and their descendants of the 18th century. Mrs Burgess adds the following note:

"The Birket family bought Hodge Hill (and also the Manor of Winster) from the Philipsons about 300 years ago, and they are still in my possession. It is interesting to note that John Philipson, Roger Byrketh, and also Richard Tayleyor and John Addeson held Calgarth jointly in 1390 (*Records of Kendale* 69). The Philipsons and the Birkets seem to have kept in touch down the centuries."

A visit was also made to CARTMEL FELL CHURCH (CW1 ii 389 and xii 297), which rewarded the gathering with much archaeological interest. Here again Professor Jones was the speaker. He mentioned that the church and its woodwork and glass were described by Chancellor Ferguson and the Rev. T. Lees, as long ago as 1875 (CW1 ii 389), and more recently by J. F. Curwen and Canon J. T. Fowler (CW2 xii 297).

"The building was erected about 1505 to serve as a chapel of ease in Cartmel parish, the officiating priest being at first maintained by contributions collected in the chapelry. In 1520 Robert Briggs provided a small salary and board for John Holme, who was to serve as priest for the inhabitants and also to pray for the souls of the benefactor and others. In 1531 Thomas Smyth of Pontefract bequeathed to the chapel a chalice worth 40s. Originally the chancel was divided from the nave by a rood screen, and the wooden figure now in the vestry is thought to be a relic of it. At first, it would appear, the chancel was narrower than at present, and on each side of it, in the late 16th century, there was added a vestry, the one on the north side having two storeys, with windows, and perhaps serving as a priest's lodging. At that time probably, and certainly later, the chapel floor was covered with straw, an item in the Chapel Wardens' Accounts (kept in the church) records the expenditure, e.g. in 1725, of 2s. 6d. for 'strawing the chapel'.

"The most remarkable objects now visible are the three-decker pulpit (1698), the enclosed pews on the north and south sides, and the east window. The pew on the south side, rebuilt in 1811, belonged to Burblethwaite Hall, the property of the Knipe family, of Sir Christopher Philipson and, in the 18th century, of the Robinsons of Staveley and Watermillock (CW2 lxii 173). On the north side, nearest the chancel, is a small pew (1696) with initials thought to be those of William Hutton of Thorphinsty. Next to it is the Cowmire pew, enclosed in carved woodwork, believed to be the work of Flemish craftsmen in the early 16th century. The screen perhaps enclosed a small chapel. In Chancellor Ferguson's time there were traces of religious paintings on the panels, and there still remains, at the back near the window-sill, what was probably the top of a tabernacle containing the image of a saint.

"The east window shows St Anthony, not inappropriately the patron saint of this chapel in a charcoal-producing district, with his boar and staff. It also contains representations of the donor and his wife and scenes connected with the seven sacraments. The history and provenance of the window are uncertain. There is evidence that the glass was brought from Cartmel about 1831, but what exactly had happened to it between the time it was made, possibly in the 15th century, and then is unknown. The present order of the constituent pieces was arranged by Canon Fowler sometime before 1910 (Canon S. Taylor, *Cartmel People and Priory*, 139). Inscriptions in the margin suggest that the donors were members of the Briggs family, and the fact that their house of Cowmire is in Crosthwaite, formerly a chapelry of Heversham, and that Myles Briggs was a benefactor of Heversham (C. M. L. Bouch and G. P. Jones, *Short . . . History of the Lake Counties*,

31), raises the question whether the window could at any time have been in that church. On the other hand, there is the explicit statement that it was brought from Cartmel to the Fell. The connection of the Briggs family with it is further evidenced by an inscription, visible only in strong sunlight, recording that 'Willm. Brigg goeth to London tuesday xijth day of Aprill God save hym'. Unfortunately, since 12 April fell on a Tuesday in far too many years, we cannot know the one in which he travelled."

At the conclusion of the excursion members were invited to BIRKET HOUSES, WINSTER, where they were most hospitably received by Mrs Burgess and shown several pieces of Philipson furniture, including a refectory table, cradle and unusual settle, once housed at Hodge Hill. They were also able to admire a very fine Jonas Barber clock, one of a pair made, for his two daughters on their marriages, made at nearby Bryan Houses.

## II. AUTUMN MEETING, 1963.

The Autumn meeting was held in North Westmorland on Friday and Saturday, 6 and 7 September 1963, with headquarters at the George Hotel, Penrith. The committee responsible for the arrangements consisted of the President, the Chairman of Council, Mr R. Hogg, Miss Charlesworth, Mr R. W. Brunskill, the Hon. General Secretary and the Hon. Secretary for Excursions.

Council met at the George Hotel on the evening of 5 September, Miss Hodgson presiding.

### *Friday, 6 September.*

About 120 members and guests gathered at BARTON CHURCH (CW<sub>1</sub> iv 407 and CW<sub>2</sub> xxii 134) and were received by the vicar, the Rev. J. M. How, who described the building. Particular interest was paid to the central Norman tower, a feature rarely seen in the parish churches of Cumberland and Westmorland.

The party then moved on to ASKHAM HALL, where they were welcomed by the Earl and Countess of Lonsdale. After outlining the history of the building, Lord Lonsdale conducted members through the Hall with its 15-century chapel and later additions.

The tour continued to SHAP ABBEY (CW<sub>1</sub> x 281), where the speaker was the Rev. J. C. Dickinson who stated that the Premonstratensian Abbey was founded at Preston Patrick, as



a cell of Cockersand Abbey, by Thomas, son of Gospatric, soon after 1190. He continued:

"Before 1201, however, the house was transferred to Shap where their founder gave them the present site. The Abbey never became rich: its possessions were largely local and included the advowsons of Shap, Bampton and Warcop. Shap was one of the larger convents of medieval Lakeland, generally having about twenty brethren, but in 1379 there were only six, probably because of the Black Death and its attendant outbreaks of plague.

"The history of the house is obscure and uneventful. Its most famous member was Richard Redman, who became abbot about 1459 and was for some years visitor of the English houses of the Premonstratensian order. In 1468 he became bishop of St Asaph where he rebuilt the Cathedral, being translated to the see of Exeter in 1496 and to Ely in 1501 where he was buried.

"The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 assessed the net annual income of Shap Abbey at £154, and there is mention of an abbey dole to twelve sick and poor every Friday. The monastery was suppressed in 1540, most of its estates, as well as its site, ultimately passing to the Lowther family. It has recently come into the charge of H.M. Office of Works who have greatly improved the condition of the fabric and cleared the site of much debris.

"The present remains consist largely of substantial parts of the church and the cloister range, though apart from the western tower which survives little damaged, little of the fabric stands to any height. Almost all of these belong to the original 13th century lay-out, but the western tower was added about 1500 and may well be a small-scale copy of that attached to the north transept of Fountains. As at Furness the east end of the church was rebuilt in the 15th century. Some of the western and southern sides of the cloister are not now visible, but a good deal of the ground floor of the eastern range survives and includes a fireplace in the undercroft. South-east of the cloister, near the river, are foundations of the reredosier and of the infirmary hall. Amongst recent small finds is a stone portable altar."

After a picnic lunch in the Abbey grounds, members went to the prehistoric double stone circle at ODDENDALE (CW1 iv 178), where Miss Hodgson spoke.

The next visit was to MAULDS MEABURN HALL (CW2 viii 25), where Mr R. W. Brunskill described the building and referred to some of its previous owners. He said that:

"The manor of Meaburn was held by the de Morvilles until the rebellion of 1173-4 when Hugh de Morville forfeited the holding to the crown save for a portion which was retained

by his only daughter, Maud. She married a Veteripont, and about 1230 Ivo de Veteripont granted to his daughter, Joan, one toft with a croft 'with all my garden across the stream and opposite my Hall in the vill of Meaburn'. The ground across the stream, still known as 'The Park', retains the remnants of a high stone wall, and was for long a deer park of the Lowthers.

"In 1241 Robert, son of Ivo, granted the manor of Maulds Meaburn to Richard le Fraunceys and it remained in this, or the Vernon family, for more than 300 years. Presumably the Hall played some part in the unsettled conditions of the later Middle Ages, and it is known that the Hall was defended against a raid of the men of Crosby Ravensworth in retaliation for the murder of Nicholas de Hastings by men of Richard le Fraunceys at the gates of Crosby Hall. There is no indication of what form the Hall took at this time. It may quite possibly have been a timber structure.

"The oldest surviving portions, the middle and north of the main block, appear to be of the late 16th century and probably represent a rebuilding of the original Hall in permanent materials. Shortly afterwards the manor passed to the Lowther family and the first of their extensions, the South wing, is dated 1610 by a lintel over one of its doorways. This would be the work of John Lowther, later knighted, and who died in 1637. This Sir John was succeeded by his son John who died in 1675 and was in turn succeeded by his grandson John, the second baronet and first viscount. He gave Maulds Meaburn to his brother Richard, and it was during his occupation that further alterations were made to the South wing, including the erection of the fine staircase and the mutilation of the dated lintel to read 1676.

"John Salkeld Bland, in *The Vale of Lyvennet*, ascribed to Richard Lowther the erection of some of the farm buildings, which still contain a lintel dated 1693 and the initials R.L., and also the lay-out of the grounds. Certainly the imposing stone gateposts could be of this period, as could the former bowling green with its charming houses of ease and retirement.

"Richard died in 1704 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert. He was Governor of Barbados and married Katharine Pennington, and as well as real property in the colony was reputed to have acquired large quantities of sugar and rum which he stored in Meaburn Hall. According to Bland, Robert intended to rebuild the Hall on a site opposite the mill (which still stands just across the Lyvennet) and had started to pull down the middle part of the Hall, but died in 1745.

"He was succeeded by his eldest son, James, who, inheriting the Lowther and Whitehaven estates of the family, became by far the richest man in the province and one of the most wealthy in the kingdom. As Lowther Hall was in ruins following the fire of 1720, it is not unlikely that Sir James,

Earl of Lonsdale, spent part of his life in Maulds Meaburn Hall. Certainly there long survived a tradition that the Hall was haunted by the ghost of the Earl, pacing the rooms and bellowing at the servants, and that a coach drawn, needless to say, by six headless horses and guided by a headless driver, used to fly at his command up and down the road over Morland Bank.

"The Earl died in 1802, and throughout the 19th century and to the present day the Hall has been occupied by the tenants of the Meaburn Hall farm. Within the building little of the original arrangement survives, but the 17th-century staircase remains, the 10-ft. wide fireplace opening remains to be seen, there are stone stairs rising in a spiral from the kitchen to the upper floor, and there is, or was, a deep splayed window commanding the entrance. There also survived until recently the seals on the door of the Green Room, recalling another ghostly legend of a brotherly quarrel and parting by death."

At CLIBURN CHURCH (CW2 xii 131), the vicar, the Rev. T. W. H. Rutherford, after describing the church pointed out two Roman inscribed stones in the porch.

Tea was taken at Clifton Hill Hotel where Mr W. A. J. Prevost spoke on the Retreat of the Highlanders in 1745, paying particular reference to the skirmish at Clifton.

The annual general meeting was held in the evening at the George Hotel, Penrith, with the President, Mr C. Roy Hudleston, in the chair. The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were submitted and approved.

The President stated that the Society continued to make progress and appealed for efforts to increase the membership. The Treasurer's statement revealed a satisfactory financial position. He referred to the setting up of a sub-committee to consider celebrations for the Society's centenary in 1966.

The Chairman, Miss K. S. Hodgson, announced the formation of a sub-committee to deal with the revision of the constitution.

33 applications for membership were recommended by Council and these were duly elected. 3 deaths were reported and there had been 4 resignations. 21 names had been deleted from the list due to non-payment of subscriptions.

The Hon. Secretary gave the figures of present membership. They were: Honorary members 8, Life members 53, Free members 9, Patrons 3, Ordinary members (Personal 450, Libraries 70), a total of 595. This revealed an increase of 22 on the previous year. 42 volumes of the *Transactions* were exchanged with other organisations and 13 free copies were supplied to national libraries.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted the accounts for 1962/63 and stated the financial position could be regarded with satisfaction. These were submitted to the meeting and passed unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Hon. Auditors for their services was approved.

On the proposition of the President, seconded by Miss Hodgson, Miss C. I. Fell was unanimously elected President of the Society for the ensuing three years.

14 nominations had been received for 12 seats on Council, which necessitated a ballot. The following were elected: Mrs O. R. Bagot, Mr R. L. Bellhouse, Mrs A. Bromley-Boorne, Mr G. C. Bulman, Miss D. Charlesworth, Miss A. B. G. Charlton, Mr B. C. Jones, Mr C. B. Martindale, Mr J. Melville, Mr P. Senhouse, Rev. F. B. Swift and Dr R. L. Storey.

The honorary officers were elected *en bloc* and their services acknowledged by a vote of thanks.

After the formal business the following papers were communicated: "Some cairns in High Furness" by Miss Clare Fell (Art. I, above); "Excavations of a Romano-British farmstead at Eller Beck" by Mr R. A. C. Lowndes (Art. II, above); "An Anglo-Saxon pin from Birdoswald" by Miss Rosemary Cramp (Art. VII, above); "The early history of the Washington family" by Messrs W. P. Hedley and G. Washington (Art. X, above); "King Henry II's mistress, Annabel de Greystoke" by Mr G. Washington (Art. XI, above); "Four Cumberland widows in the 14th century" by Miss Constance Fraser (Art. XII, above); "The founding of Maryport" by Prof. E. Hughes (Art. XX, above); "Dr Myles Cooper" by Mr T. Cockerill (Art. XXII, above); "The Coopers of Beckfoot" by Mr C. Roy Hudleston (Art. XXIII, above).

Mr Lowndes exhibited several sherds from the Eller Beck (Romano-British) site. Dr Hardy produced a 17th-century book which had belonged to a member of the Fothergill family.

#### *Saturday, 7 September.*

The second day began with a visit to KIRKBY THORE, where Miss Charlesworth gave an account of the ROMAN MILESTONE<sup>1</sup> which stands alongside the Roman road from York to Carlisle, presumably in its original position. At the nearby FORT the speaker pointed out that although little can be seen from the ground, an air-photograph (facing p. 64) shows that a central gateway on the north side lies about halfway

<sup>1</sup> At the instigation of Mrs J. Pumphrey, Westmorland County Council have recently erected a protective iron frame around the milestone.

across Burwens Field. Evidence of an earlier fort with turf rampart and timber buildings was shown by an excavation in 1961 (Art. IV, above). The civil settlement which grew up around the fort developed into a walled town and together they occupied a site of about 36 acres.

At HALE GRANGE Mr C. Roy Hudleston drew attention to its connection with Holm Cultram Abbey and spoke of its history and owners subsequent to the Dissolution.

The President was the speaker at GAMELANDS STONE CIRCLE. Miss Fell stated that this circle is not mentioned in the early histories of Westmorland but a plan of it was first published in CW1 v and repeated in CW1 vi 183-185, which gives an account of Chancellor Ferguson's excavation in 1880 and a discussion of the name:

"The whole area inside the circle has been ploughed about 1862, a number of the stones buried and others destroyed by blasting. A sandstone slab, possibly from a central burial cist, and two worked flints were found. Gamelands was classified by Prof. R. G. Collingwood as one of the great stone circles of our area, which he suggested were primarily for ceremonial, rather than for burial purposes (CW2 xxxiii, 173-177). His classification by the size of the stones used and the apparent absence of a central cairn is demonstrably false — for example, Gray Croft, Seascale, when excavated, was shown to have a central cairn (CW2 lviii, 1-8). The value of Collingwood's paper lies in its stimulus to research, rather than in its interpretation of our prehistoric material.

"The circle today consists of 33 stones of varying sizes, all glacial erratics of Shap granite except one which is of limestone; the diameter east/west is 138 ft., north/south 132 ft. The stones appear to be set in a low bank with a possible entrance at the south-east. It can be compared with the Druid's Circle, Penmaenmawr, where an enlarged Food Vessel of Abercromby Type 3 was found in the primary cist and tentatively dated 1450-1400 B.C. (*Proc. Prehistoric Soc.* xxvi 303-339).

"This limestone area of Westmorland is rich in evidence of early settlement (Greenwell, *British Barrows*, 381-401). Beyond Sunbiggin Tarn lies Raisit Pike, a long cairn with cremation trench similar to others of late Neolithic date in Yorkshire, while Canon Greenwell also excavated an oval cairn on Crosby Garret Fell which yielded bone pins and an antler macehead of the late Neolithic Dorchester Culture (Piggott, *The Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, 110, 271 and 358).

"It is regrettable that this area, so attractive to early settlement, should now be defaced by the licensed removal of weatherworn limestone for suburban rock-gardens."

After a picnic lunch a call was made at RAVENSTONEDALE CHURCH (CW2 ii 401), where the vicar, the Rev. F. M. A. Farrer, gave its history and displayed the Communion plate and registers. Members were also shown the unique church hour-glass which, although missing for many years, had now been re-acquired.

The tour continued to TARN HOUSE, RAVENSTONEDALE, the 17th-century home of the Fothergills, where an account of the family was given by Mr C. Roy Hudleston.

The last visit of the day was to SMARDALE HALL, where Mr R. W. Brunskill was the speaker. He said:

"Looking more like a piece of provincial France, or Scotland, than part of one of the more remote villages of Westmorland, Smardale Hall and its forbidding corner turrets present one of the most unusual examples of a lightly fortified manor-house in the county.

"I have been able to find no early reference to the building, but the land at Smardale was held in 1203 by Nigel and Eva de Smardale from the Sandford family; it passed to the Warcopps at the end of the 14th century when Thomas Warcop held Smardale through his wife Katherine who was a Sandford. The land remained in this family until 1580, when Frances Warcop married Sir John Dalston. It remained with this family until comparatively recent times.

"The building is probably of the late 16th century, when it would be a rebuilding by the Dalstons of their new possession. It is rather unusual in that the whole of the quite extensive accommodation is contained within one elongated building of two equally important floors, rather than in the buildings with wings or projecting porches more common in this period, or in the buildings with single-storey hall and multi-storey cross-wings of the preceding century.

"The shape is, however, reminiscent of the bastle houses of Cumberland, such as the so-called fortified barn in Naworth Park, and buildings of the period in Newbiggin (Cumrew) and Glassonby. The building has a defensive air, in spite of its large mullioned and transomed windows, and this springs from the circular, slightly battered, turrets which guard each corner. Two of the turrets contained spiral stone staircases, one of which survives, and it is interesting to compare these obsolescent staircases with the innovations at nearby Gaythorn Hall where the idea of the projecting turret was maintained but the spiral stair was superseded by straight flights around a square masonry core. It is the character of these turrets at Smardale, and especially their conical caps which give the building such a foreign appearance.

"Original windows remain in the north end, other windows are later copies or modern replacements. There is an original

doorway in the East wall with an earlier carved stone boss above it, possibly a survival from an earlier hall, or perhaps a relic of the chapel which was reputed to have stood nearby. within the building the wide arch of the kitchen fireplace may be traced and several of the rooms have original moulded ceiling beams."

### III. SPRING MEETING, 1964.

The Spring meeting was held in the Town Hall, Kendal, on the afternoon of Saturday, 4 April 1964.

The chair was taken by the President, Miss C. I. Fell, and there was an attendance of 90 members and friends.

The President referred with sympathy to the loss the Society had sustained through the deaths of Mr E. J. W. Hildyard, Major W. G. Pearson, Mr K. R. Pumphrey and Mr W. Towers.

She also gave a brief account of the proceedings of the sub-committees appointed to deal with the programme for the Centenary Year, the revision of the constitution and the Regional Groups.

The Secretary submitted 29 applications for membership which had been approved by Council. All the candidates were elected.

An illustrated talk entitled "The Origins of Domestic Building in North-West Britain" was given by Mr B. R. S. Megaw, F.S.A., Director, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

The President referred to the proposal by Manchester Corporation to flood the Winster Valley for the purpose of constructing a reservoir. This was a threat to one of the loveliest and unspoiled areas in the Lake District. Prof. Jones proposed that the following resolution be sent to the authorities concerned:

"This meeting of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society deplores the suggestion that much of the Winster Valley should be flooded to make a Manchester Corporation reservoir, because such a project, if carried into operation, would, by submerging some buildings of historic and architectural interest and threatening others, destroy part of a precious national heritage."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The following papers were communicated: "Recent work at Kirkby Thore" by Dorothy Charlesworth, F.S.A. (Art. IV, above); "Notes on Maiden Castle" by Ralph Downing; "Esk-meals sand-dunes occupation sites, phase II" by J. Cherry, B.Sc.; "The struggle over Corby 1605-26 — Lord William Howard v. Thomas Salkeld" by H. S. Reinmuth, M.A., Ph.D.; "Birkbeck Documents, pt. ii" by C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A. (Art. XV,

above); "John Barwick, Dean of St Paul's" by Bruce L. Thompson, M.A.; "A trip to Whitehaven in 1739" by W. A. J. Prevost; "The development of Askam-in-Furness 1850-1920" by Alan Harris, M.A., Ph.D.

There was a number of exhibits including a food vessel from Thursby; Mr W. Fletcher, medieval pottery from a settlement at Smithy Beck, Ennerdale, and a jet ring, probably Bronze Age, from Hurbarrow Farm, Ponsonby; and Mr Cherry, a stone axe from Seascale. Miss Burkett exhibited a plan of the rescue excavation outside the Roman station (Galava) at Waterhead, Ambleside, and photographs of a Roman shoe found on the site.

### Corrigendum.

CW2 lvi 167 — "Proceedings". The first sentence should read:

"Thence we moved to Grayson-lands, Glassonby, where Miss K. S. Hodgson described . . ."

The equally important tumulus at Old Parks, Kirkoswald, with which the original entry in Proceedings was confused, was totally destroyed between 1892 and 1894. The destruction and the finds made during its removal were described in CW1 xii 275-276 and xiii 389-399. Thanks are due to our member, Mrs Esme Rowley, M.B.E., for drawing attention to this error.