NOTES

1. *Roman Coin-finds from Cumbria*
BY DAVID SHOTTER

The Centre for North-West Regional Studies at Lancaster University has recently (1995) published a *First Supplement* to my *Roman Coins from North-West England* (1990). This includes coin-finds which have over the years been the subject of notes in these *Transactions.*

The coins noticed here continue from that point.

A: Roman Hoards

1. AINSTABLE: Ian Caruana has drawn to my attention the likelihood that a hoard was discovered in the area shortly before 1800; the following entry appears in the Aglionby family papers in Carlisle Record Office (*CRO* D/Ay/6/34): "About ten years ago in ploughing a field in Ld Carlisle's Estate at Low Hall, in Ainstaple (*sic*), there was a number of coins turned up, they gave them to the children to play with and were all lossed before I heard of them, but from the acct. I received, they must have been Roman." The hoard is mentioned, though with no further details, by Hutchinson in his *History of the County of Cumberland* (1794), i, 199.
The find-spot is not immediately identifiable, but might be either Croglin Low Hall or Low Holme.
2. CARLISLE: Denis Perriam has drawn to my attention an advertisement which appeared in *Carlisle Journal* (7 June 1861):
"Wanted to purchase some of the Roman coins (silver and copper) lately found in the neighbourhood of Carlisle. Apply, stating particulars and price, to Mr Moss, Bookseller, Workington." Although other records do not mention the presence of *aes*-coins in the hoard found in 1860 on the site of the North British Railway engine-sheds at Newtown, this seems to be the most appropriate connection – unless the advertisement refers to an otherwise unknown hoard or to coins currently being found in Carlisle. Some such were detailed in the notebooks of the antiquarian, Thomas Dalzell (Shotter, 1990, 68-9).
3. WREAY (NEAR CARLISLE): Ian Caruana has drawn to my attention a reference in *Carlisle Patriot* (for 7 January 1898) to the discovery of a Roman coin-hoard at Wreay in *c.*1762. No other details are given.

B: Casual Coin-Finds

1. BROUGH-UNDER-STAINMORE: In 1995, a *denarius* of Trajan (*RIC* 56 of A.D. 101-2) and a *sestertius* of Faustina I were found close to the fort.
2. NEWTOWN (NEAR IRTHINGTON): A moderately-worn *sestertius* of Commodus was apparently found "many years ago"; it is *RIC* 512 of A.D. 187-8.
3. OLD CARLISLE: A little-worn *denarius* of Commodus (*RIC* 233 of A.D. 192) was reported in 1995.
4. PAPCASTLE: A moderately worn and corroded *dupondius* of Hadrian (A.D. 117-138) was reported as having been found in 1996. The legends could not be made out, though the reverse appeared to show a seated figure facing left.
5. TARRABY: A moderately-worn *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius was found in *c.*1978 during foundation-digging; it is *RIC* 916a of A.D. 153-4.
6. URSWICK: Three *sestertii* were reported in 1995, all in good condition; there were two coins of Trajan (*RIC* 497 of A.D. 103-111; *RIC* 663 of A.D. 114-7) and one of Hadrian (*RIC* 561 of A.D. 119-21). (National Grid Reference supplied).

7. WIGTON: A *sestertius* of Trajan (RIC 503 of A.D. 103-111) was found in *c.*1950 during reconstruction-work on a private house in the area.

(I am grateful to Ian Caruana and Colin Richardson for information on nos. 2-5, and to Angus Winchester for no. 7).

Note: In my paper, "Romans in Southern Cumbria" (*CW2,* xcv, 75), I referred to a *denarius* of Septimius Severus which was found in a gutter in Hartington Street, Barrow-in-Furness. Dr Bill Rollinson (*pers. comm*) has kindly drawn my attention to a theft of coins many years ago from the Furness Museum. The rather bizarre circumstances of this theft suggest the possibility that the find from Hartington Street may have derived from that source.

References

RIC: Mattingly H. *et al., The Roman Imperial Coinage* (London 1923-).
Shotter, 1990: Shotter, D. C. A., *Roman Coins from North-West England* (Lancaster).
Shotter, 1995: Shotter, D. C. A., *Roman Coins from North-West England: First Supplement* (Lancaster).

2. *A probable medieval coin hoard from near Natland, Kendal – SD 85 516901*

BY JOHN MARSH

I reported previously in *Transactions* (*CW2*, xcvi 238ff.) that stories circulating in the metal detector groups in the south of the county would seem to indicate a scattered hoards of coins from the reigns of Henry II (1154-89), Richard I (1189-99), and King John (1199-1216). Lengthy enquiry reveals that coins of Henry, 17 coins of Richard and 11 coins of John (all these coins carry the name "hΣNRICVS) have certainly been found, as part of a likely total of 77 similar coins, over many years. There was also possibly one coin of Alexander of Scotland (1214-24).

The find-field has been known for many years by metal detectorists as a place where coins are likely to turn up. The farmer has been agreeable to metal detectorists searching his land after ploughing, and other coins such as hammered coins and Roman coins have been found nearby. This is, so far as can be ascertained, the line of the Roman road from Watercrook and the subsequent medieval "main" road from Kendal, via the "bothelford", to both York and London. There is no listing or scheduling associated. It appears that there have been no recent finds but the past discoveries over many years, of single coins of the same type, when collated together indicate the existence of a one time hoard of pennies.

The coins in the scattered hoard cover a period of great change in Kendal with the first division of the Barony and the building of the ring work castle on Castle hill, which, apparently, replaced the earlier motte and bailey castle. The first market charter was obtained in 1189; the barony was fined 12,000 marks, the castle was seized by King John, and the baron arrested in 1216. There were, of course, also Scots raids.

3. *The Chapel in the Hause*

BY JEREMY GODWIN

Just over the top of the pass form Boredale (Martindale) towards Patterdale, at grid reference NY 407157, is the remnant of the Chapel in the Hause, a ruin in 1860.[1] Travellers on the top path from Patterdale would see it ahead as they came onto the hause itself; travellers on today's main path from there must turn left onto the Place Fell path, which (as in 1860) passes its east wall. The chapel is an oblong building on an east-west axis, at the east end of a knoll, into which its south-west corner is cut. South and east are rushes: the chapel is dry. Its

exterior measurements are *c.*27 feet east-west and *c.*16 feet north-south; walls 3½-4 feet wide (2½-3 feet, south); internal width of the chapel, 8½ feet; walls are of drystone (local) with right-angled corners on the outside. The south wall stands to 4 feet; east, to 3 feet; south-west corner, to 3 feet; north-west corner and north wall, to 9 inches, but the wall's width can be clearly seen. The door was at the west end of the north wall, 3 feet wide. The bottom two feet of the south and east walls are roughly vertical and look older than the upper courses. At the east end is a hollow, one foot deep and 3½ feet in diameter. The chapel's floor is close-cropped grass, and a line of stones placed in the form of a cross, lies with its head at the east. No roofing remnants (e.g. slates) were seen, i.e. roof would have been of thatch or turf.[2] The chapel's interior would have been simple, and its purpose a place of prayer for the journey, or rest or refuge on it. In 1860 its east wall stood on the parish boundary; it stands just inside Patterdale, though Patterdale and Martindale were anciently chapelries of Barton.

Possibly it was not a chapel;[3] but its east-west axis, its size and shape, and its traditional name, suggest that it was. Were it merely a stell, it would have been less carefully built, and of a less rectangular shape; were it a shepherd's bothy, it would have had a chimney or fireplace. Its north door's placing suggests that the then main path over the Hause ran north of the building: near the west end of the knolls, west and below the chapel, is a length of characteristic pack-horse path, with an upper level for the driver and a lower level for the horse.

Notes and References

1 Ordnance Survey 6-inch, First Edition, Westmorland Sheet XII (1860-1863).

2 Own visit, 25 March 1989.

3 Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *Westmorland* (1936), 166, says "Purpose and date of building is uncertain." Its walls' maximum height in 1936 was four feet. Neither Nicolson and Burn nor Whellan (1860) mention the building; and *The Place-Names of Westmorland's* sole source is R.C.H.M., *l.c.* (E.P.N.S., *Westmorland*, Part II, 218).

4. *William Thackeray and Warthole Hall, Plumbland*

By Rev. F. L. Price

Dr Blake Tyson,[1] in his article on Cumbrian builders' having considered the known work of William Thackeray at Rose Castle, Flatt Hall and Drawdykes Castle, and the possibility of his being responsible for Moresby and Ribton Halls, expressed the belief that other houses might yet be attributed to him.

One candidate for consideration must be Warthole Hall, which stood in the parish of Plumbland. This was built for Leonard Dykes (1634-1720) to replace an earlier house and was until late in the eighteenth century the seat of his family. Concerning the date of its construction, Dr Tyson has drawn my attention to Thomas Denton's description of the house in 1688 as "a pretty regular Pile of building, the front very uniform and fine".[2] His use of the adjectives "regular" and "uniform" suggests that Warthole Hall was by that date a building in the then novel Classical style. Sir Daniel Fleming, however, seventeen years earlier, though he said that Moresby Hall had lately been made "much more beautiful and convenient", made no remark on the architecture of Warthole.[3] It seems reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the house was built between 1671 and 1688, during the period when Thackeray was active and living at Torpenhow, in the neighbouring parish.

The sketch reproduced in the accompanying illustration is at present the only certain evidence of the house's appearance. Though it is indeed "sketchy", it shows several features

Dr Tyson believes were characteristic of Thackeray's work. The first-floor windows have double transoms; the door has a pediment beyond which the cornice projects, as does the window above the door; and this window also has a lintel formed of "diagonally fanning-out stones". Some details of the sketch seem to be explained by comparison with Moresby Hall. On each side of the doorway of the latter, four flat strings link the vertical elements of the design; a similar arrangement at Warthole would account for the horizontal features shown flanking the door and the windows above it. Moresby also has a solid parapet, divided vertically into compartments; that Warthole had a similar parapet seems to be suggested by the sketch.

It appears that Warthole Hall had ceased to be the seat of the Dykes family by 1795, for it was at Dovenby Hall that Mary Dykes celebrated her coming-of-age on 28 December that year.[4] Mary, who had inherited the Manors of Gilcrux and Warthole on the death of her father, Fretchville, in 1784, came into possession of Dovenby Hall in 1791, when her uncle, Peter Brougham Lamplugh, died. Warthole Hall fell into ruin, and was demolished at a date at present unknown: it was shown on the Manor map in 1824, but had disappeared by the time of the tithe survey in 1850. Mounds and a gatepost remain to mark its site.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to the owners of the sketch (who do not wish to be identified) for allowing me to copy and use it, and to Dr Tyson for preparing it for publication.

References

1 *CW2*, xcvi, 161-166.
2 Thomas Denton, *Perambulation of Cumbria in 1688* (CRO, Carlisle, D/Lons/L/12).
3 Edward Hughes, *Fleming – Senhouse Papers* (Carlisle, 1961), 43, 51.
4 *Cumberland Pacquet*, 12 January 1796

5. *Battling Stones*
BY JOHN SATCHELL

In his account of the Sockbridge battling stones, Jeremy Godwin[1] cites two explanations of battling.

The first, in the *Lonsdale Magazine,*[2] describes it as a way of softening shirts made from harden, a coarse hard cloth woven from flax and hemp. "Shirts of this cloth", the author writes, "were apt to make too free with the skin, from their natural inflexibility. To render them a little more tractable and kindly, they were taken to some neighbouring brook, where there was a *battling stone.* The battling stone was a large smooth faced stone set in a sloping position; and the shirts being steeped in the water, were laid in folds upon the stone, and beat with a *battling wood.* It is surprising how soft the cloth was rendered by a few operations of this nature . . .".

The *O.E.D.*, gives a 1570 citation and defines battling more generally as "To beat (clothes) with a wooden beetle during washing" and it defines the word bat as a variant of beetle. An illustration of an imminent beetle-bashing is to be found on the south side of the choir in Carlisle cathedral in a misericord depicting "The Beast in Woman". Dated 1400-1419, this shows a woman screaming at her husband and about to attack him with her washing beetle, an implement reminiscent of a plumber's lead-beating mallet.

Godwin's second source[3] gives much the same definition of battling but adds the following: "a word, now obsolete, used in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire and America. Some used wood ashes as a detergent for the preliminary soaking". Wood ashes, being rich in potash, yield in water a primitive lye.[4]

The standard medieval procedure for making cloth from poor, short-stapled wool was to shrink the cloth into a sort of tough duffel by pounding it in a lye solution, primitively by trampling it in a tub and later by water power in a fulling mill. Thereafter the lye had to be washed out of the cloth and battling, as Wright indicates, would have been a way of doing it.

Webs sold in Kendal were required by a regulation in force in 1566 to be woven a yard wide, the distance a weaver could pass his shuttle from hand to hand, and 22 yards long. After fulling this shrank to about 27 inches wide and 16 yards long. Godwin gives the dimensions of the exposed surfaces of the two largest stones at Sockbridge as roughly four feet by two feet and 25 feet by 26 feet. The smaller of the two would have been big enough for battling clothes but scarcely for a web. The larger would have accommodated a web folded three or more times.

If battling stones were indeed used for removing lye after fulling, perhaps further examples may be found in the vicinity of former fulling mills.

Notes and References

1 *CW2*, xcvi, 236-7.
2 *Lonsdale Magazine* (1822), part 3, 291.
3 J. Wright, *English Dialect Dictionary* (1961).
4 An alkaline solution used for washing.

6. *Two remarkable Cumbrian clay dabbins*
BY N. JENNINGS

Two former clay houses, Greenwoodside (now Stonelea) (NY 452652), and Claywells (NY 457647), both near Smithfield, north-east of Carlisle, demonstrate surprisingly late persistence of medieval styles and traditional building practices. Much useful information can be gleaned from the recollections of persons from the area.

When David Armstrong bought Greenwoodside in 1944 or 1945, it was a two-bay clay dabbin with a small lean-to on the north gable. It was the middle one of three houses which were all called Greenwoodside. At that time it had no crucks, the roof was slated except for a few courses of sandstone, and the walls were cement rendered. A door was in the middle of the front wall and there was a well of dressed stone in the garden.

In the 1920s, when Mrs Elizabeth Jane Armstrong (née Martin) used to visit her friend there and stay overnight, she recalls that there was a chimney in each gable but none in the kitchen lean-to, which did not contain a tap or cooker. There were two tiny rooms on the ground floor with a thin partition between; the sitting room being particularly small. There was no bathroom but there was an earth closet at the bottom of the garden. There was a loft along the full length of the building, accessed by a fixed staircase, without a trapdoor, leading up from near the front door into one of the bedrooms. There was a tie-beam, less than a metre above the loft floor, which formed a very low ceiling for the ground floor.

David Armstrong's father, Thomas, born about 1870, lived at Kirklinton, Newbiggin, and he remembered taking his clogs to Greenwoodside to be repaired. At that time the floor was beaten earth and, more remarkably, there was no chimney. The smoke went out through a hole in the roof. David Armstrong thinks that at this time the loft covered only part of the floor area.

In the 1871 census return this middle house is shown as occupied by Andrew Atkinson, born 1811, and his sons Robert and William, all boot and shoemakers, with a daughter keeping house for them. By 1891 only William remained, with a servant.

The house is described in the Inland Revenue Tax Survey 1910[1] as;

Greenwoodside House and land 2a. 8p.

Cottage clay built and cemented, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, wash house and pigsty.

Owner and occupier Thos. Bell, freehold.

Since the Second World War the house has had to be largely rebuilt and it has been extended in sandstone.

The other house, Claywells, is recalled by Willy Graham of Cargo Farm, Cargo. His grandfather, of the same name, of Brighten Flatt, born in 1862, described actually seeing it built in a single day by the whole parish, when he was a boy.

He later knew it as a ruin in the 1940s.

The Armstrongs also remember this clay dabbin. It lay parallel to the road, and there was a barn at right angles to it. There was a spring, and it also had fourteen acres of land to the north of Hunley Moss. An old lady called Isabella Hope lived there until 1928.

Mrs Edith Cheesbrough (née Wigham), remembers the house from the time when she was a small child. There was a little shop in the house – "it sold sweeties and lemonade, and you could buy two penn'orth of Woodbines". The house was thatched and single-storey, with an earth floor and crucks. The windows were Yorkshire sashes with very small panes. There was no back door but a very low central front door – "you had to duck" – led into a passage. There were three rooms: living room, bedroom, and kitchen, and there was a kitchen range. The fire had an old stone mantlepiece. A hole had to be dug in the earth floor to make room for the grandfather clock.

In the 1910 Tax Survey[2] it is described as;

Claywells Cottage and outbuildings

Clay built cottage, one storey; lean-to shed in brick. The former thatched and covered with iron, the latter slated. Poor class property. Garden and yard.

Occupier Isa. Hope

Owner Geo. Thompson, freehold

Rent £3 p/a, rector pays rates, taxes and insurance, and does repairs.

Area 0.157 acres (25 per)

A search of the 1841 census returns shows it inhabited by John Graham, millwright, aged

60, and his wife and two children. In 1851 it was occupied by Hugh McCourt, agricultural labourer, aged 58, and his wife and three children. In 1861 we find James Winthrop, aged 34, farmer of 14 acres, and his wife and five children.

In 1871 the occupier was Isabella Hope, aged 27, mason's widow, with her sons aged six, three and two. In 1881 she is described as a cowkeeper, still with the two youngest children at home; in 1891 she is again described as a widow, with only the youngest boy, Thomas (an agricultural labourer) living at Claywells.

The first Ordnance Survey map in 1863 and the second, in the 1890s, show identical plans for the house and the barn (it is incorrectly named Playwells). After Isabella Hope's time the house became derelict and was eventually demolished. A few stones of the plinth, or possibly the fireplace, can still be seen but the stream is dry, having been diverted, and the manhole cover stands in the field a little to the east. Less than a mile away, near Highberries, there are some fields lying in a depression and known as Claypits.

There can be little doubt that this house was indeed communally built, in a day, around 1870. Since the plan remained unchanged from the 1863 version (when the older Willy Graham was one year old), it must have been a rebuilding on the same plinth, as the Cumbrian practice tends to be one of patching and piecemeal rebuilding. Many, perhaps most, of the local crucks are reused from older buildings (the size is very standard). It is not visually obvious whether a clay building is a rebuild on an older plinth but many examples of hand-made brick walls standing on cobble plinths can be seen locally and these must be rebuilds. Quite possibly the house was in poor condition by the 1860s and it is not difficult to picture Mrs Hope's neighbours rallying round to help the young widow. Almost certainly the original crucks will have been reused, and very likely the window frames and fireplace as well. The short useful life of this house is not typical of the local clay dabbins as there are still an appreciable number in use, and in good condition, today. Some farmhouses date back at least from the fifteenth century.

Although this is an extraordinarily late record of communal (and indeed cruck) building,[3] I have information[4] relating to a builder, Robert Pattinson, of Oulton, who was born in 1890 and died in 1951. He lived at the Cross Keys in Wigton High Street, a clay dabbin public house. He used to relate that when he was an apprentice he helped with the communal building of a clay dabbin, the last one he ever saw erected. This event must have taken place in the first decade of the twentieth century.

References

1 Inland Revenue Tax Survey P.R.O. IR 58 18718.

2 *Ibid.*, IR 58 18721.

3 For clay dabbins generally see R. W. Brunskill, "The Clay Houses of Cumberland," *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society.*, 1962; J. R. Harrison, "Some Clay Dabbins in Cumberland", *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, 1989 and 1991; N. Jennings, "The Buildings of Moorhouse", *CW2*, xciii, 237-268. For communal building see *Statistical Account of Scotland* 11 (1791-9), 22.

4 Personal communication from Mr Hollick of Wigton.