

ART. XXXIV.—*On the Roman cemeteries of Luguwallium, and on a Sepulchral Slab of Roman date found recently.*

By the President.

*Communicated at Seascale, September 21st, 1892.*

IT has long been known to local antiquaries that the principal cemetery of the Roman town of Luguwallium lies to the south of the present city of Carlisle, right and left of the London Road—the Great North Road of the mail coach and the post chaise—where it passes, by a deep cutting through the famous Gallows Hill.\*

In the last century this road (before it was made!) crossed over Gallows Hill on the east side of the summit, between the hedges which bounded the enclosed lands. It is well seen in a view of Carlisle from Harraby Hill, prefixed to the section on Carlisle in Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland* (published in 1794),† and also in an undated view by J. Lowes, of the last century.‡ In the year 1786 the mail coach began to run between Manchester and Glasgow, passing through Carlisle;§ to facilitate its pas-

\* The name Gallows Hill, or Gallowhill, is a very old one; the bridge over the Petterill, below it to the south, is mentioned in a return to the Exchequer in 1610 as Gallow Bridge. The Highlanders of the 1745 were executed on Gallows Hill, on the highest portion facing the south; the foot of the gibbet was discovered at the end of the last century. The bodies of the Highlanders were buried in what was afterwards a garden, belonging in 1829 to a Mr. Graham, on the western side of the road. There is some confusion about the name Harraby Hill, as it is sometimes applied to Gallows Hill, and sometimes to the hill opposite, where the turnpike once stood. Harraby, Harraby Green, and Harraby Mill are all to the south of the Petterill, and so is Harraby Hill; but in modern times the name is misapplied to Gallows Hill, perhaps because people are ashamed of that name; perhaps because, as spectators assembled on Harraby Hill to view the executions on Gallows Hill, confusion had been engendered.

† Vol. ii., p. 585.

‡ The writer has two copies of this view, which was probably engraved for some periodical.

§ Parson and White's *History, Directory, and Gazetteer of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland.*

sage, the road over Gallows Hill was lowered, somewhere about the beginning of the century. In so doing a great number of urns were discovered along the line of the eastern hedge, but the workmen invariably broke them in the expectation of finding coins.\*

In the year 1829 the county magistrates re-built the bridge over the river Petterill, which runs between Harraby Hill and Gallows Hill. In connection with this improvement, they made a deep cutting through the latter; several graves and objects of antiquity of Roman date were then found, and are recorded in the columns of the local papers, and, very briefly in Jefferson's *History of Carlisle*, pp. 323-324. These we reproduce.

On Thursday, July 2nd, 1829, a fall of earth took place on the east side of the new cutting through Gallows Hill; a leaden coffin came down with the earth, and was broken into three or four pieces. The contents of the coffin were lost in the fall, and nothing but a portion of a skull was recovered, with some hair attached to it of a reddish colour, which from its length might belong to a female. The length of the coffin was 3 feet 7 inches, depth 10 inches, and breadth 22 inches. A stone coffin was found the same afternoon, but particulars do not appear to have been preserved.† Other interments occurred; a fortnight later, on Thursday, July 16, a kist of strong flags was found, 7 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 2 feet 6 inches deep; it was 6 feet below the surface, and was covered with rough slabs of oak. It contained a leaden coffin, 6 feet 10 inches in length, and about 2 feet in width; there had been an outer coffin of oak, 7 feet 2 inches long, which was quite decayed; no vestige of the corpse was found, except some hair. Six coins were found; two of Antoninus Pius, and

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\* *Carlisle Patriot*, October 9th, 1829. *Sub voce* Roman Antiquities.

† *Carlisle Patriot*, July 3rd, 1829; *Carlisle Journal*, July 4th, 1829.



one of Faustina: the others were not identified.\* A small urn in good preservation was found on the following day. On Tuesday, September 29th, a large sepulchral slab was discovered, which is engraved as No. 497 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, and is here reproduced by permission of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries. The inscription has been thus expanded:—

Diis manibus Aurelia Aureliana vixit  
Annos quadraginta unum Ulpius  
Apolinaris conjugii carrisime posuit.†

This stone is now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle in the Black Gate. When found‡ it lay face downwards over a grave about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface, which contained an oak coffin about 6 feet long; in this eight small and much corroded copper coins were found. Near to it the head of a Corinthian pillar in red stone, 24 inches by 6 was found; also six urns of various dimensions, one full of ashes; four lachrymatories, and three jet rings.§ About a fortnight later, a glass bottle, much broken, was found, with lettering on it; and also a large number of silver coins,—one account says several hundred; the other a small urn, full of silver coins: many of these were in good condition, but they were dispersed without their dates or legends being recorded, except that one was a Faustina.|| It is possible that some of the coins and other relics may be in the

\* *Carlisle Patriot*, July 17, 1829; *Carlisle Journal*, July 18, 1829.

† *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, p. 251. The engraving represents a male figure, whilst the deceased was a female!

‡ It was found on the eastern side of the road,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface, at the highest part of the hill, about 15 feet from the late hedge, and nearly opposite the spot where the milestone stood.

§ *Carlisle Patriot*. October 2nd and 9th, 1829; *Carlisle Journal*, October 3rd, 1829; *Arch: Æliana O.S.*, vol. ii., p. 419, where very little information is given.

|| *Carlisle Patriot*, October 23, 1829; *Carlisle Journal*, December 19, 1829.

Morton

Morton Collection of local antiquities, given by Mr. Robert Ferguson to the Museum in Tullie House, Carlisle. The Morton Collection had incorporated with it a collection both of coins and other relics, made by the late Mr. Christopher Hodgson, (brother of the historian of Northumberland) who, as county surveyor, was officially connected with the cutting of the road through Gallows Hill. The newspapers of the period expressed regret that Carlisle then possessed no museum for the preservation of these relics; but on December 19, the *Carlisle Journal* announced that a museum was being formed, and articles were to be sent to "T.A., Museum Office, 5, Court Square;" this attempt apparently failed.

Further discoveries were made on Gallows Hill in June, 1847, of which the following is a memorandum taken from the pocket book of Mr. Christopher Hodgson, where is a sketch, which is reproduced here:—

*On the West Side of the Turnpike road at Gallowhill,  
June, 1847.*

A rough hammered monument found in sinking the reservoir to hold water to supply Carlisle. The shaft sunk about 2 inches deep in the base, some urns were found near these stones containing ashes. The shaft was in a sloping position when found, and the average depth was about 4 feet below the surface. If placed there for any purpose and any marks be thereon, those at the shaft opposite A are the only ones, but its hard to say whether they are characters or accidentals. They are on a part of a natural bed of the stone. Top of the base: its about 1 foot high: and the shaft

2 .. 10 in higher  
2 sunk

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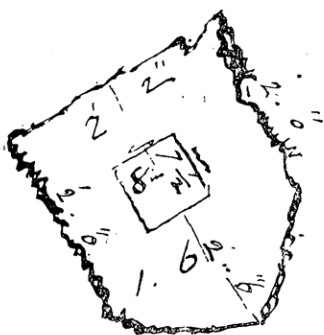
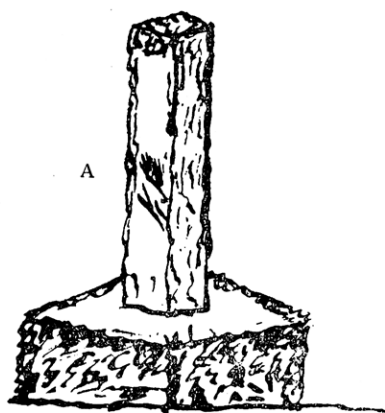
3 .. 0

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Whether these urns found in 1847 were Roman or British Mr. Hodgson does not say; but the interments found in 1829 were certainly Roman.

In the autumn of the present year, 1892, Mr. Charles  
Dudson

Dudson of Carlisle commenced extensive excavations on the east side of the cutting through Gallows Hill, between the cutting and the Newcastle Railway, with a view to the erecting of something like 50 houses for artizans. In so doing he came upon several finds; these



consist of wooden coffins, pottery, &c., and the burials appear to have been in every case by inhumation, not by cremation. The most interesting is one in which the coffin boards, still preserved, measure 8 feet in length; the

the inside was filled with a fatty earth, in which was a skull ; on the top, face downwards, lay an inscribed stone, 20 inches high, with the following inscription :—

D	M
FLAS	ANTIGONS PAPIAS
CIVIS GRECVS	VIXIT ANN <sup>os</sup>
PLVS MINVS LX	QVEM AD
MODVM	ACCOMADATAM
FATIS ANIMAM	REVOCAVIT
SEPTIMIADONI	

The lower portion of the slab has been intentionally broken off, a groove having been cut through the seventh line of the inscription for the purpose, though the fracture follows a rather different line. All agree that the first six letters of the fragmentary line are SEPTIM, but opinions differ as to what follows :—SEPTIMIABONIR \* \*, SEPTIMIADON \* \* \* SEPTIMIADOM [INA \* \* \* SEPTIMIA [C] ONI [VX \* \* \* The second I may be accidental, though the writer thinks not. The phraseology is peculiar, and has given rise to widely varying conjectures, the consideration whereof is postponed for the present.\*

Another grave was found covered by a large stone, which was reported to bear an inscription. The supposed letters, on examination, turned out to be merely quarry and accidental marks, rather resembling the letter E or F several times repeated.

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\* This inscription was brought before the Cambridge Antiquarian Society by Professor Clark, F.S.A., during October term of 1892: it was also the subject of discussion at the Society of Antiquaries, on January 12th, 1893: see also the *Academy*, December 24th, 1892, where is printed a communication from Mr. F. Haverfield, F.S.A.



SEPULCHRAL SLAB FROM CARLISLE.





FROM ROMAN CEMETERY, CARLISLE.

The writer was present at the opening of one grave, which was covered by a huge stone 6 feet 3 inches long, 2 feet 6 inches broad, and 6 inches thick. On this being raised an oak coffin was revealed, 6 feet long by 15 inches wide, and full of clay, but no human remains or relics were found. The coffin lay, roughly, north and south. On the lower side of the covering slab a grotesque figure of a man, about 3 inches high, was deeply cut, which is here reproduced.

Other discoveries indicate that this cemetery was of great extent :—thus,

In 1864 a discovery of considerable interest occurred in Grey Street\* (Carlisle) . . . in digging foundations about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep on ground not previously disturbed. The objects brought to light consist of a square cist of red sandstone, carefully hollowed out, as is also its cover; in this cist lay a glass vase in remarkable good preservation, measuring 12 inches in height; breadth of each side 5 inches. It has one broad handle, strongly ribbed, and contained burnt bones, to one of which an iron nail was found adhering. On the underside is the letter M; within a circle \*\*\*. On the mouth of the glass *ossuarius* lay a lamp of light cream coloured ware, and on its left was a small urn of light ware.†

Other sepulchral remains were discovered at the same place, which are described in the *Archæological Journal* and in the *Journal of the British Archæological Association*.‡ In March, 1875, two vases of Roman date, with cremated ashes, were unearthed on the west side of the London Road a little to the north side of Messrs. Cowan and Sheldon's Works. Near to them was a stone column,  $2\frac{1}{2}$

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\* Grey Street runs to the east, out of the London Road, a little to the south of St. John's Church.

† *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxi., p. 88. See also *British Archæological Association Journal*, vol. xx., p. 84, where the objects described in the text are engraved. The glass vase is in the Morton Collection, No. 186, in the Meyler-Warlow MS. catalogue. A figure of a lion, carved in stone, was also found, and is No. 533 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.

‡ *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxi., p. 88. *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. xx., p. 84.

feet

feet high, in the shape of a fir cone, having a serpent encircling it from top to bottom;\* this is now in the Morton Collection. In July, 1878, a fine head carved in stone, and evidently part of a sarcophagus was discovered in Charles Street, London Road.† This head is now in the Carlisle Museum, having been purchased by the Museum Committee, with the Fisher Collection of local antiquities in 1892.‡ In October, 1885, an urn of Roman date, full of bones, was found 3 feet below the surface at the north-west corner of Tate Street,§ Botchergate. Fragments of a similar urn were found with the last, same time and place.|| Human bones associated with Roman pottery were found in Collier's Lane, midway between Crown Street and the County Hotel, about four years ago; the writer then obtained from the excavators a magnificent human skull, stained to a jet black colour by some cause or other. Coming further to the north Mr. C. Hodgson has recorded that when the foundations were dug for the present Gaol at Carlisle, "coins were found of Vespasian, Trajan, Antoninus Pius, &c., and a great quantity of urns containing bones."¶

We thus have positive evidence that the principal cemetery of Luguwallium extended, probably sparsely, and to no great width, along the present Botchergate and London Road almost to the river Petterill, a good measured mile.\* \*

Interments of Roman date have been found near

\* *Carlisle Patriot*, March 26, 1875.

† Charles Street runs to the east, out of the London Road, a little to the north of St. John's Church.

‡ It is No. 29 in the MS catalogue of the Fisher Collection.

§ Tate Street runs to the east, out of Botchergate, opposite to and north of the Crown Hotel.

|| Both the urn and the fragments are in the Carlisle Museum; Nos. 208, 209 in the MS catalogue of articles from Old Museum.

¶ *Arch: Æliana O.S.*, vol. ii., pp. 313-314. Re-printed in the *Transactions* of this Society, vol. iv., pp. 342-343.

\* \* It is a mile from the Market Cross of Carlisle to where the Papias slab was found on Gallows Hill.

Carlisle

Carlisle elsewhere than in this cemetery. In March, 1862, portions of sepulchral monuments were found near to the bed of the river Caldew, in the goods yard of the Caledonian Railway, under the West Walls, and in company with a large urn full of ashes.\* In 1873 two interments were found close to Spring Gardens Bowling Green, in the street between it and the present Grammar School: one was a lead coffin encased in oak; the other of oak only, but there was reason to believe the leaden coffin had been taken away previously.† In March, 1885, a large monumental slab with the figure of a child, and inscribed

D I I S  
V A C I A I N F  
A N S A N I I I

was found in the Spring Gardens Bowling Green near the North End of Lowther Street.‡ In November, 1878, a large monumental slab, now in the Carlisle Museum, was found face downwards in a pit near Murrell Hill; it has on it a representation of a lady with child and fan. The place where it was found is near the Roman road to the westwards.§ On April 24th, 1879, a heavy lead coffin of Roman date was found at Botcherby, in the grounds of Mr. Hamilton, market gardener, on the west side of the road leading through Warwick Road to Botcherby and at the high end thereof.|| A second coffin was found in the same place a day or two later.

We thus have in addition to the great cemetery south

\* *Archæological Journal*, vol. xix., pp. 176-7. See Nos. 496 and 500, *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.

† *Carlisle Journal* of October, 1873, where will also be found a letter from the present writer endeavouring to give a modern date to the first found of these coffins; he was wrong.

‡ *Transactions* of this Society, vol. viii., pp. 317-320. The slab is in the Carlisle Museum.

§ *Transactions* of this Society, vol. iv., p. 325-7.

|| *Transactions* of this Society, vol. iv., p. 325.

of Luguwallium, isolated interments on almost every side of it. It remains to notice an interment on the north side of the river Eden. In November, 1873, a stone cist, in which was an oak coffin with a lead lining, was discovered by some workmen while draining in Rickerby Park near Brunstock Beck. The cist was of Lazonby flags, 3 inches thick, and was 6 feet long; the coffin was 5 feet  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches long by 1 foot  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 11 inches, and lay east and west, and the cover was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface of the ground. A small fragment of bone was found, and some teeth; also some oxidised iron nails.\* This gives a clue to the position of the cemetery belonging to the Roman camp at Stanwix, and to the suburbs between that camp and the river Eden.†

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\* *Carlisle Papers*, November 1873. Personal information.

† *Ante*, p. 343, 344. Also Ferguson's *History of Cumberland*, p. 100.