



FIG. 1.—FRONT VIEW OF HALL WITH SHOP ADJOINING.

TO FACE P. 125.

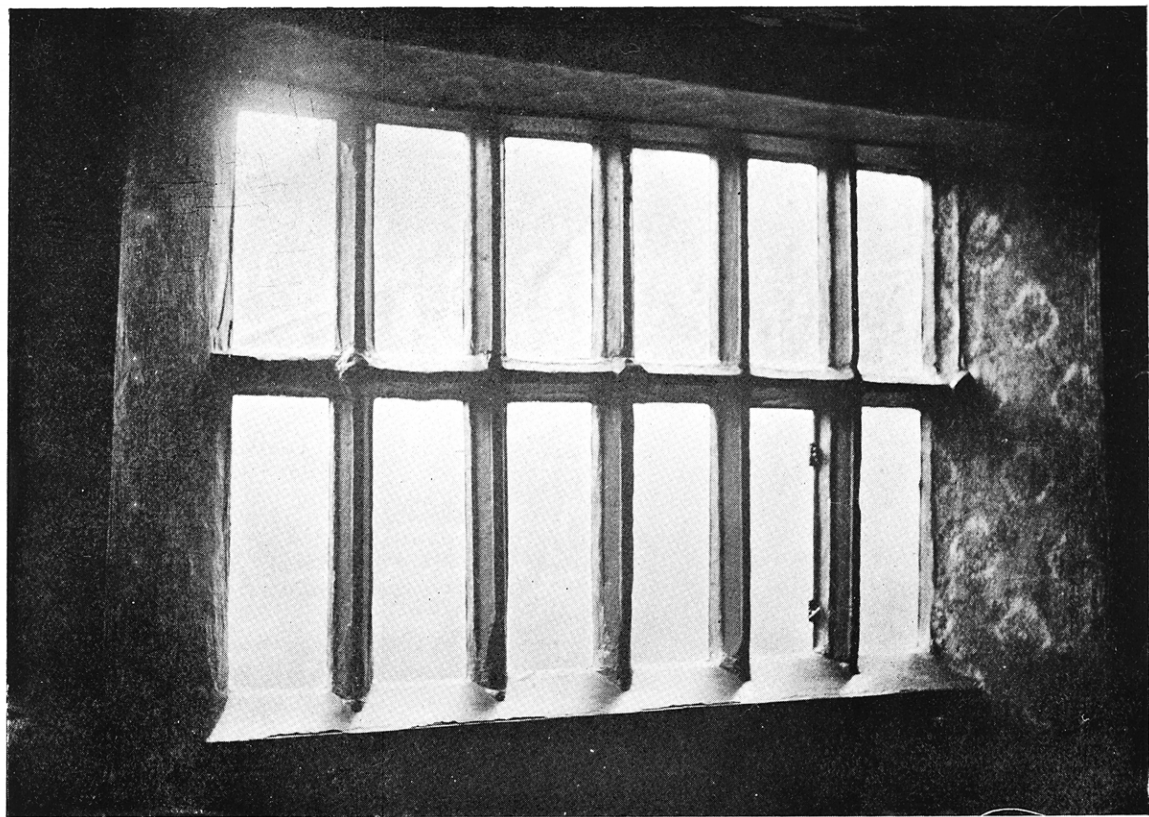


FIG. 2.—SOUTH WINDOW OF HALL FROM INSIDE.

ART. XII.—*The Hall in Kirkby Lonsdale.* By COL.
W. H. CHIPPINDALL.

Communicated at Kendal, September 11th, 1929.

WHEN Mr. Justice Carus purchased the manor of Kirkby Lonsdale from the Crown, in 4 and 5 Philip and Mary,* he was confronted with the difficulty of housing himself and his family. The small Manor House, situated a quarter of the way down the Mill Brow on the north side, though large enough for the couple of monks who had attended to the manorial affairs for the abbey of St. Mary in York, was far too small for the large family which would be seated here in future. The only way out of the difficulty was to build a new house; as enlargement of the old Manor House, placed on a steep hill side, would be both difficult and costly.

With this object he selected a site on the south side of the Market Street where he built his Hall on foundations measuring 72 feet by 45 feet and raised it two stories high with attic rooms in the gables, of which there were two, viz.: the two furthest away in the photograph (Fig. 1).

At the back of the hall was an extensive garden, now cut up for a variety of uses.

The whole of the front, facing the Market Street, has been so completely altered, by converting it into shops and an hotel, that its ancient character is not readily apparent, and the shop on the right hand with a third gable is a comparatively modern addition, as the masonry of the two buildings is different, that of the shop being of a lower type.

* See *Transactions*, N.S. xxvi, 302.

On entering the modern King's Arms Hotel and passing into what is now the tap-room one is confronted by a fine mullion and transom window of twelve lights (Fig. 2), while to one's right there is a noble arched fire-place which has now a wooden seat placed in it for the accommodation of visitors (Fig. 3).

On going into the garage at the back of the hall, the mullion window on the ground floor and a similar one in the first storey can be seen (Fig. 4).

There are elderly people, still living, who remember this inn being called The Hall, a title which it appears to have always had as may be gathered from "Drunken Barnaby's" description of the Kirkby Lonsdale inn where he put up, viz.:—

"Thence to Lonesdale, where I view'd

An Hall, which like a Tavern shew'd."

These lines, which are a translation of the original Latin, appear in a late edition; but the original seems to have been published in 1638,* from which we may conclude that the poet was at this inn about 1630-35.

The last Carus to live there was Mr. Justice Carus' granddaughter Elizabeth, widow of Sir Nicholas Curwen of Workington, who died in 1611 and was buried in Kirkby Lonsdale church, where her monument is still to be found; evidently her two daughters and co-heiresses, having married out of the county, sold the house, as no longer of use to them, probably to the Prestons of Holker who bought the manor; but to whom does not appear. That it became an inn very soon after Lady Elizabeth Curwen's death is to be gathered from the poet's account of it as "an Hall."

On 7 October, 1715, Benjamin Brown, High Constable of Kendal Ward, called the Trainbands to arms, at Kirkby Lonsdale, to appear before Captain Daniel

* *Transactions*, N.S. xii, 82.



FIG. 3.—THE INGLE-NOOK.

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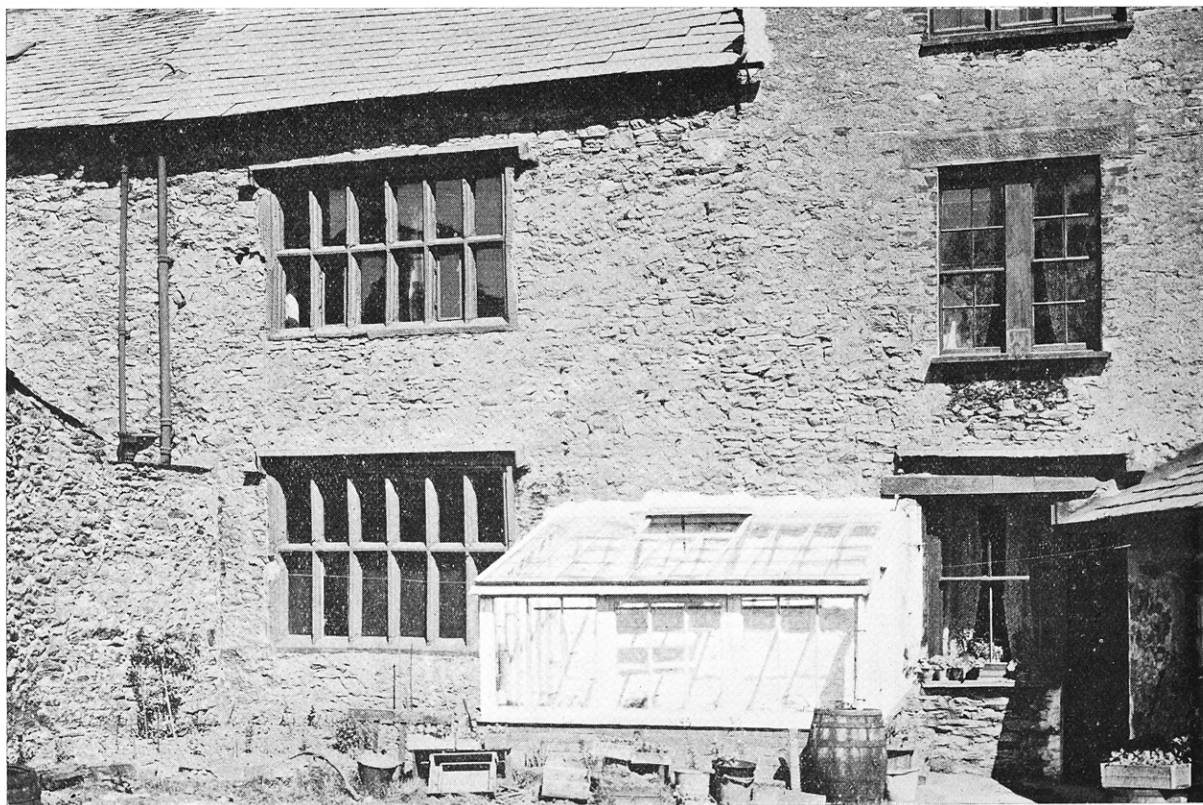


FIG. 4.—SOUTH WINDOWS SEEN FROM THE BACK OF HALL.

TO FACE P. 126.

Wilson, "at Richard Witton's, in Kirkby Lonsdale on Tuesday the 11th inst."*

On 14 October 1715 he was "attending Captain Fleming at the King's Arms [in Kirkby Lonsdale] when the constable brought the soldiers in."†

In 1727 the King's Arms was kept by Thomas Rowlandson.‡

The next notice of it is from the existing deeds of the property (now owned by Messrs. Yates and Jackson, Ltd., of Lancaster, brewers) dated in 1745 when Philip Foster conveys to John Batty (tallow-chandler) All those premises known as the Hall and shop adjoining for the consideration of £293. 6s.§

In the Kirkby Lonsdale churchwarden's accounts for the year 1755-6 we find Mr. John Batty being paid £4. 17s. 9d. for wine supplied to the church and chapels. In addition to keeping the inn John Batty appears as a grocer and ironmonger which trade he probably pursued in the shop adjoining the Hall or Inn, as in the same accounts for 1761-2 he was paid £12. 17s. 6d. for supplying lead for the church roof. On 23 October 1771, he purchased several shops in Kirkby Lonsdale and was described in the deeds as "grocer and tallow-chandler." On 26 November, 1771, when he purchased the estate of Deansbiggin, he is described as "grocer."

The Hall or Inn then passed to other hands but appears to have remained an inn ever since and has recently been dignified by the name of the King's Arms Hotel.

* S. H. Scott, *A Westmorland Village*, p. 53.

† *Ibid.*, p. 55.

‡ Tosca Estate Deeds.

§ My thanks are due to the above named firm for this extract from their deeds.