

## PROCEEDINGS.

### SUMMER MEETING.

THE first excursion of the season was held in the Carlisle district on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19th and 20th, 1934. The local arrangements for the meeting were in charge of a committee composed of Miss Hodgson, Mr. T. Gray, F.L.A., Miss Mabel M. Barker, D. ès L., Mr. W. T. McIntire, F.S.A., and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C., F.S.A., Hon. Excursions Secretary. The arduous task of controlling the parking of the numerous motor vehicles at the various places visited was performed by Mr. George Aitchison, M.B.E., and Mr. M. G. H. le Fleming, who acted as Transport Officers. Despite the disagreeable weather conditions which prevailed during the first day of the excursion, there was a very large attendance of members and friends who were rewarded for the patience with which they endured the heavy showers of the early part of the excursion by enjoying the brilliant sunshine of the second day.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH, 1934.

The party assembled at Carlisle Railway Station at 10-30 a.m., and, setting out in the midst of threatening rain clouds, made its way by motor coach and private car to Irthington, where the first halt was made.

#### IRTHINGTON CHURCH.

This interesting building was described by Dr. J. E. Spence, who, after reminding his hearers that this was one of the eight churches in Cumberland dedicated to St. Kentigern and alluding to the possibility of Irthington having been one of the halting places of that great missionary saint, went on to speak of the building itself. A church is known to have existed on the site in 1169, and in 1224, William de Vallibus, the founder of Lanercost Priory, bestowed the advowson of Irthington Church upon that religious house. Little was left, Dr. Spence stated, of the original church, but an interesting drawing in the porch showed its appearance before the extensive restoration of 1848. According to this drawing, the east window, the windows at the east end on the north and south, and that in the west gable, were

all 12th century work. There was a north door to the chancel, and over the east end of the nave was a bell-cote which housed the sacring bell.

Of the original church of the later part of the 12th century, there remained the chancel arch with its deep mouldings and the arcades of three bays of the nave. The capitals of the nave arcade were interesting, as they were decorated with plantain leaves, which were also to be seen at Fountains and Dore abbeys and in some Sussex churches. The north-west capital, which resembled one in York Minster, might be of a slightly later date. Under the west window on the south of the chancel, on the outside, could be seen the remains of a double low-side window, rebated for shutters and hinged.

In the walls of the chancel were stones showing Roman tooling, perhaps brought from Hadrian's Wall, which passed within half-a-mile of the church.

Dr. Spence then described the remains of five grave-slabs in the churchyard. These were apparently of 13th century origin, except that on the north of the chancel, which might be of the 14th century.

In 1552 the Commissioners of Edward VI reported that the church possessed one chalice of silver . . . and two little bells, which might have been sacring bells. In 1703, Bishop Nicolson recorded that "one of the bells has long been burst." The present bell dated from 1812.

The vicar, the Rev. J. Smith, showed the visitors the church plate—a hammered silver chalice, dated 1616, a pewter tankard and a paten of 1730.

To the east of the church, beyond the churchyard wall, is the Ha' well, or Holy Well. Such wells, Dr. Spence explained, were usually found in the proximity of churches dedicated to St. Kentigern.

After the thanks of the visitors had been accorded to the vicar, for his permission to inspect the church, the party proceeded amid the rain, which was now falling in sheets, to view

#### IRTHINGTON MOTTE,

where Mr. W. T. McIntire described this great earthwork, the former caput of the barony of Gilsland. He traced what is known of its history as the stronghold in turn of the families of de Vaux, Multon and Dacre, until it was superseded in the 14th century by Ranulf Dacre's new tower at Naworth. Though throughout its earlier history Irthington Motte was an earthwork, with a palisaded enclosure and wooden buildings upon its summit,

the speaker quoted several documents to show that there were stone buildings at a later date on or in close proximity to the site. He referred to the fact that vestiges, of what were believed to be the foundations of such buildings, were noticed some years ago during the formation of a neighbouring garden. A description of Irthington Motte, by Mr. T. H. B. Graham, is to be found in *Transactions*, n.s. xii, 181, and another by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen in *Castles*, 23.

From Irthington, amid a continuous downpour of rain, the party proceeded by Lanercost to

#### BANKS TURRET.

Here Mr. F. G. Simpson explained to the party the importance of the evidence supplied by this turret, summarising the information contained in the report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee in *Transactions*, n.s. xxxiv, 148-152. He referred in fitting terms to the generosity of the owners, who had given the site to the nation, and to the kind helpfulness of the county authority, who had made a slight diversion of the road to leave the turret visible to all passers by. He expressed his satisfaction that the turret had been taken over by H.M. Office of Works, who would see to its preservation in the future.

#### ASKERTON CASTLE.

The rain had ceased when the party arrived at its next halting-place, Askerton Castle, where a picnic lunch was consumed in comparative comfort.

Mr. W. T. McIntire then described this outlying castle of the barony of Gilsland, which seemed to have functioned as an outpost of what might be called the civilisation of Gilsland on the verge of the wilds of Spadeadam and Kingswater, over which led the path of the Scottish raider.

The defence of the barony of Gilsland was for many years in the charge of an official called the Land Sergeant of Gilsland, who generally had his headquarters at Askerton, where there was accommodation in the courtyard behind the castle for a troop of mounted men ready to be called out upon an emergency arising. These could harass any body of raiders who managed to slip by the not always reliable custodians of Bewcastle.

Early records of Askerton Castle were lacking, but it appeared to have been built about the end of the 15th century. The older part, the southern block, might be of an origin slightly earlier than this. The towers, which were certainly later, were the work of that remarkable man, Thomas Lord Dacre (1485-1520), the great architect of the Dacre family. A short architectural

description of the castle followed, based upon an article by Captain Edmond L. Warre, in *Transactions*, N.S. xxiv, 149-155. The main block of buildings on the south was possibly of the 15th century; the two curiously placed towers of the early 16th century.

To the later part of the same century belonged the ranges of buildings closing in the central courtyard to west and north, while the wall with its altered gateway which formed the eastern side of the quadrangle appeared to be of rather earlier date than these last-named buildings. Originally a parapet and walk seem to have run round the outer walls of the courtyard. Traces of this parapet can be seen in the northern gable of the west wing, on either side of the window of which are spiral staircases to enable men to pass from one walk to another.

The speaker concluded by stating a few facts which were known concerning the history of the castle, including its occupancy as Sergeant of Gilsland by the notorious Thomas Carleton and the vain efforts of Lord Scrope to dislodge him, a story illustrating the confused state of government in the border country during the later years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. By the kindness of Lady Henley, the visitors were allowed to view the interior of the castle and inspect the remarkable timber-work of its roof.

#### BEWCASTLE CROSS.

From Askerton the route lay across the waste to Bewcastle Church, where the party assembled in the churchyard to listen to an exposition of the present state of our knowledge of the Bewcastle Cross and kindred Anglian crosses by our president, Mr. R. G. Collingwood. His address forms Article I of the present volume of *Transactions*.

#### THE ROMAN FORT AT BEWCASTLE.

The Roman fort was described by Mr. I. A. Richmond, who referred to it as one of the puzzles of the Cumbrian frontier in Roman times. The last account of the fort given to the Society—that of Mr. R. G. Collingwood (see *Transactions*, N.S. xxii, 169-185) did not carry its history beyond the second or, at most, the third century. They could now carry it a little further, because a few years ago a trench was dug outside the churchyard, and among the relics which turned up were pieces of fourth century pottery. Now that they were led to conjecture that the fort was occupied in the fourth century, they could take a rather different view of its irregular shape, because fourth century forts did not have the regular shape given by Roman engineers to forts of an earlier date. Underneath the fort there was probably an earlier

one of regular shape. Very few inscriptions had come down from Roman times belonging to this fort, and it was regrettable that many of these had been lost.

#### BEWCASTLE CASTLE.

Mr. W. T. McIntire, who was here the speaker, gave a brief description of the probable evolution of the castle from the stronghold of Bueth, the ancient lord of Gilsland. He apparently took advantage of the great fosse at the north-eastern angle of the Roman fort, and, at a distance of about 60 yards from that angle on either side, cut two cross-ditches, so as to enclose a squared corner. The earth excavated from the cross-ditches was thrown up within the enclosed area and formed a mound upon which he erected his wooden buildings. For some 200 years this wooden castle would serve its purpose, and then, with the development of the art of war, made way for one of stone. The artificial foundation of Bueth's mound would not support the usual massive keep, so the device was adopted of building a shell keep, the castle thus assumed the form of a hollow square with a gate-house, with pent-house buildings for the accommodation of its garrison resting against the interior of its walls. It is far from improbable that this first stone castle was built by the orders of Edward I, in order to strengthen his flank as he marched against the Scots through hostile territory. As the remains of its windows and curious smoke flue show, the castle was partly re-built in the 16th century.

Mr. McIntire spoke of some of the families who were connected with the earlier history of Bewcastle—those of de Vaux, Multon and Stryvelin, whose arms are to be seen carved upon a stone in one of the adjacent farm buildings. For several generations Bewcastle was held by the Swynburnes, but, in consequence of Sir Adam de Swynburne's sympathy with the cause of John Baliol, and the Franco-Scottish league against England, it was seized by Edward I in 1296, and from that date the manor remained in the hands of the English crown.

In 1470, Edward IV granted the manor and castle to his brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who was then Lord Warden of the Western March, and its new owner sub-let them to four men: Cuthbert and John Routledge, Robert Elwald and Gerard Nixon, who paid no rent but undertook to maintain the king's wars and pertained to the captains of the castle under the king. From this time forward the castle was under the governance of constables, and was maintained as an outpost from Carlisle to guard against the Liddesdale raiders. The speaker quoted a few

documentary allusions to the part played by Bewcastle in border frays and quarrels, especially under the captaincy of the notorious Jack Musgrave.

The last mention of the castle in connection with warfare was in 1639, when it was garrisoned by 100 men who would have had to face some 20,000 troops under General Leslie, if King Charles I had not yielded to the representations of the Scots. The garrison was then withdrawn to Carlisle and the castle dismantled. A fuller account of the castle, by the late Mr. J. F. Curwen, will be found in *Transactions*, n.s. xxii, 186-197.

For reasons to be given below, a projected visit to "Cairn o' Mount," near Bewcastle, was abandoned, and the party returned direct to Carlisle, where, in the evening the usual general meeting was held at Tullie House.

#### GENERAL MEETING.

At the general meeting the chair was occupied by the President of the Society, Mr. R. G. Collingwood, and there was a large attendance of members.

The Cumberland Excavation Committee reported that the work at Castlesteads had been carried out with satisfactory results, and Mr. I. A. Richmond gave an outline of the work that was to be done by the Committee in the near future.

Dr. J. E. Spence, on behalf of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies, reported that work since the last Spring Meeting of the Society had been confined to recording.

Mr. C. S. Jackson reported that the Parish Register Section of the Society were now printing the index of the Newton Reigny registers. He also stated that the balance of the Parish Register Section's account now stood at the satisfactory figure of £77. 13s. 7d.

Mr. W. T. McIntire reported that the printing of "The Barony of Gilsland" was well forward, and that the printing of Vol. xxxiv of the *Transactions* was nearing completion.

The President drew attention to recent publications issued by the Society, including that of Mr. Hornyold-Strickland's index to Nicolson and Burn's History, and asked for further support for this invaluable work.

Mr. R. E. Porter, Hon. Secretary for Excursions, reported that his arrangements were not far enough advanced to enable him to fix the dates for the Autumn Meeting, which was to be held in the Lowlands of Scotland.

The following new members of the Society were duly proposed and elected:—Mrs. E. B. Birley, Bardon Mill; Miss E. Brockbank,

Yealand Conyers; Mrs. Burgess, Carlisle; Mr. G. D. Clayton, Lytham; Miss M. G. Farrow, Carlisle; Mr. Anthony Jabez-Smith, Walton-on-Thames; Mr. F. Johnson, Brampton; Miss E. M. Kenning, Carlisle; Mrs. Lamb, Scotby; Miss E. Lees, Carnforth; Mr. O. S. Macdonell, Cockermouth; Mr. B. Martin, Brampton; Mr. J. Pierce, Carlisle; Mrs. Stead, Dalston; Miss Storey, Wigton.

The following papers were read and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—

“Ancient Pottery in Whinfell Parish,” by Mr. H. Valentine (Art. III). “A Note on the Second Cohort of Tungrians,” by Mr. E. B. Birley (Art. V). “A Stone Axe of the Pointed Butt Type,” by Mr. R. J. Dickinson (Art. IX). “A Rune Inscribed Stone found at Swarthdale, near Ulverston,” by Mr. E. W. Fell. “The Furness Cover,” by Mr. E. W. Fell. “A Note on some Cumberland Stone Axes,” by Miss Mary C. Fair (Art. XVIII). “The Baynes Family of Cockermouth,” by Col. Chippindall (Art. II). “Report on a Round and Long Barrow at Ravenstone-dale,” by Mr. S. B. Bendle. “A Mediaeval Sculptured Stone at Grasmere,” by Miss Gilchrist (Art. X).

A flint arrow-head was exhibited by Miss Hodgson, and a stone axe found at Whicham by Mr. W. T. McIntire.

Miss Hodgson reported as follows upon her recent excavation of Cairn o' Mount, near Bewcastle:—

The mound, known as Cairn of the Mount, has been reputed a long barrow since Mr. Maughan first noted it in his paper on the Maiden Way, although doubt was cast on it. When the Society decided to visit the Bewcastle district, it seemed necessary to put it to the test of excavation and determine by a trial trench whether it really was a long barrow or only a natural mound.

This was done in May. No trace of an old surface line was to be seen, on the contrary, there was a thin layer of soil, of even depth, running the whole way up the mound, with below it clean coarse yellow sand, gravel and round cobbles. There was also a certain amount of stiff yellowish clay, chiefly adhering to the cobbles. At the base of the mound, 6 to 7 feet below the surface, we came to the boulder clay running level under the hill. Being at water level, there were pockets of wet black amongst it. The trench was taken right over the top of the mound without finding any change.

The day after the trench was finished, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford told me that he had seen the site a few weeks earlier, and from inspection was convinced that it was natural. He asked me to examine a similar but smaller mound on Crewe Moor, which I

did last week with the same result. There, the surface soil is peat which has stained the gravel immediately below it. Otherwise the material is even cleaner than that of the large mound, having no admixture of clay.

It may be well to say that on the east side, outside the mound, there is an appearance of disturbance, but it is very shallow, and its direction is away from the line of the mound. There are several artificial ponds in the neighbourhood, and it is probably one of these.

I know very little of geology, but these mounds seem to me like gravel banks in a river.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1934.

Leaving Carlisle Railway Station at 9 a.m., in bright sunshiny weather, which persisted throughout the day, the party, whose number showed hardly any decrease from that of the previous day, set out to visit Highhead Castle, Caldbeck and some of the churches in the Wigton district.

#### HIGHHEAD CASTLE.

At Highhead Castle, the first halting-place on the day's journey, the party were welcomed by the Rt. Hon. J. W. Hills, M.P., who gave an interesting account of the history of the castle, referring his hearers to descriptions given on the occasions of former visits of the Society to Highhead—papers on the history of the Richmonds, by Mr. Jackson, and on the architecture of the castle, by Mr. Cory in 1874, and another by Mr. J. F. Martindale on the present Georgian house in 1910.

He then proceeded to give an account of the various families who had occupied in early days the small fortress, built upon a site surrounded on three of its sides by the little river Ive. Among these tenants who held this place as a fortress and not as a place of residence were the families of de Harcla, l' Englys, Restwold and Richmond. It passed from family to family, but not by sale or descent; it was a fort, a strong place, held by the king's nominee. The tenure was by delivering yearly a red rose to the King's Exchequer at Carlisle, but a more important obligation was the duty of defence from Scottish attacks.

With the Edwardian wars, the little fortress underwent considerable changes and developed into a castle. A second tower was built in the angle overlooking the Ive, and a well constructed round a small quadrangle, inside which would be sheds for the garrison. The actual date of the licence to crenellate was 1342.

The place became a residence at last about 1550, when it was

purchased by the Richmonds, a famous Yorkshire family, whose real name was Musard, but who called themselves Richmond after Richmond Castle, of which they were the hereditary constables. Their arms are to be seen at Highhead Castle in one of the bedrooms and in the drawing room. John Richmond, who purchased Highhead, thanks to the more peaceful state of the borderland after the battle of Flodden, was able to build in safety the Tudor dwellinghouse which now forms the west side of the present building. The old pele tower and part of the wall were left standing; the pele serving as a gateway for the new mansion. The Richmonds held Highhead Castle for nearly 200 years, but, in 1717, the property passed, partly by descent and partly by purchase to Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Brougham, whose son, Henry Richmond Brougham, built the present house. He died in 1749, and the property, after considerable family trouble and legal skirmishing, came to the great Lord Brougham who never lived at Highhead. For another century, until 1854, the place became a farm. Then it was fitted up as a country house but never occupied, and became a farm again until its purchase by the speaker's father in 1902.

After the visitors had inspected the house and gardens, and, upon the motion of the president, accorded a vote of thanks to their host, the party proceeded to

WARNELL HALL,

where Mr. W. T. McIntire described this former dwelling place of the Dacre and Denton families.

The manor of Warnell, according to the Lysons, was given by Edward II to the great border warrior, Andrew de Harcla, and, on his attainder in 1322, to Ralph, Lord Dacre, whose descendant, William, Lord Dacre, exchanged it in 1507 with John Denton for Denton Hall. John Denton's son, Thomas, built at Warnell this house, which continued in the possession of the Dentons for nearly 300 years, till its sale to the Lowthers in 1774.

The speaker pointed out what seemed to be the remains of the old Dacre house, which was evidently of the courtyard type, the gatehouse, indications of a tower at the N.E. angle of the building and the foundations of the enclosing curtain of the courtyard being the only relics of this period.

The Elizabethan house of Thomas Denton was apparently of the T-shaped plan. The original windows remain in the back part, but the front has been rebuilt and extended in the 17th century.

The arms of the Dentons and a date, which appears to be 1683,

are over the door of this added front, the windows of which are two-light and have a label over them. Up to the door lead five semi-circular steps. Part of the oak staircase still remains, and there are some good moulded stone fireplaces in the interior of the principal block of the building.

The foundations of a detached circular building near the house probably represent the remains of a pigeon cote. There are extensive foundations of buildings to the south, but the purpose of these is altogether uncertain. The speaker concluded by complimenting the occupier upon the loving care which he had devoted to this beautiful old house.

#### CALDBECK CHURCH.

From Warnell Hall the journey was continued to Caldbeck, where Mr. Fawcett Martindale, F.R.I.B.A., described the church. After alluding to the traditional foundation of a church at Caldbeck by St. Kentigern in the 6th century, Mr. Martindale referred the origin of the oldest existing portions of the present fabric to Gospatric's work about 1118. Remains of this church were to be seen in the present south aisle wall, and the building evidently consisted of a chancel and nave, with at least one aisle. The early chancel was, he thought, shorter than the present one, but it was extended to its present length with a triplet round-headed east window about the end of the 12th century.

In the early part of the 13th century the church came into possession of the land belonging to a hospital erected at Caldbeck soon after the Conquest for the protection of travellers, and, at that time, considerable additions were made to the building. The north aisle was built; larger windows were inserted in the chancel; and the three western bays of the church were either added to it or rebuilt.

In the 15th century, larger windows were inserted, including the window at the eastern end of the south aisle, and at, or about that period, the three eastern bays of the nave arcade were rebuilt, new arches being inserted in the existing wall.

In the early part of the 16th century, a thorough restoration of the chancel was carried out by John de Whelpdale, whose almost illegible inscription over the east window ran: "Orate pro Aīa Johñis Whelpdale offis Karli Rectoris de Greystock et Caldbecke qui fecit hoc Opus." The chancel was re-roofed and a clerestory inserted in the south wall, the chancel arch rebuilt and the ancient carved vousoirs of the latter used in forming the entrance arch to the new south porch. The vestry on the south side of the chancel was built shortly afterwards, and

the tower added in 1727 by Geoffrey de Wybergh, whose arms were to be seen on the door of the rectory garden. The three bells, described by the late Canon Bower on the occasion of a previous visit of the Society to Caldbeck, dated from the first quarter of the 18th century.

Mr. Martindale proceeded to describe in detail the havoc wrought by would-be "restorers" of the 19th century—the obliteration of many features of architectural and historical interest by white-wash, the stopping up of John de Whelpdale's beautiful clerestory window, the substitution of "factory type" windows for some of the ancient ones, the reduction in height of the roof, and the addition of a plaster ceiling, the cutting off of pier-bases wherever these interfered with the arrangement of the newly constructed pews.

He mentioned the re-discovery by Mr. Thwaites, in 1866, of the base of the old font, which had been employed as a step leading down to St. Mungo's Well. It was restored and placed in the nave.

Finally, an account was given of the recent restoration of the church in 1932-33, and the attempt to preserve, as far as possible, its ancient beauty. During this restoration many interesting finds were made, such as arch-stones with chevron and billet mouldings, a piscina at the end of the south aisle and a Holy Water stoup in the south porch. Mr. Martindale referred in fitting terms to the work of the late Rev. W. F. Simpson in raising funds, with the help of an anonymous donor, to enable this restoration to be carried out.

#### FRIAR ROW.

During the luncheon interval many of the visitors inspected St. Mungo's Well, the graves of John Peel and "Mary of Buttermere," and a sun-dial. They afterwards assembled at Friar Row, where Dr. Mabel Barker spoke about the history of the parish and the hospital founded by Gospatric in the 11th century. The habitation of the Caldbeck valley, she said, dated back a long way, and it was certain there was a good deal of settlement along the face of the fells, particularly in the valley itself. The name Caldbeck was Norse. She thought the hospital was founded about 1170 in connection with the Augustinian Priory of Carlisle, to house travellers passing through Inglewood Forest. Caldbeck was not in Inglewood Forest, but Friar Row was. The early history of Caldbeck was that of a mining and milling village, the mills making blankets, tweeds and woollen fabrics from the Herdwick wool. There had also been bobbin and paper mills.

The mills were nearly all silent now, although a sawmill still operated. There used also to be a lot of hand weaving, and she had in her possession what had been called the last hand loom in Cumberland, a former possession of Woodcock Graves. Of the 23 different mines that used to be worked on Caldbeck fells, one was still working. This was the barytes mine.

#### TORPENHOW CHURCH.

Our next halting-place was Torpenhow, where Mr. Cecil G. Bulman, L.R.I.B.A., described the church of St. Michael. After alluding to the Roman fort, Caermote, the later earthworks and other antiquities of the parish of Torpenhow, Mr. Bulman stated that there were indications of the existence of a pre-Norman church upon the site of the present building. These were recorded by the architect responsible for the restoration of the exterior in 1913-14.

Possibly about 1120, a substantial stone building was erected here, consisting of a nave and chancel separated by a chancel arch. Some of the walling of this early church was done with stones taken from the adjacent Roman fort, and in the jamb of the north-west chancel window was to be seen a stone with Roman carving. This early Norman church was set out with the peculiarity of a very wide nave and a much shorter chancel than usual, and it was doubtful if there was an apse.

This building, having probably proved inadequate, an enlargement, took place about 1160, when the chancel was lengthened and a north aisle built, the reasons governing these extensions being the probable growth of the congregation and the increasing demands of the ritual which required more chancel room and more priests. The speaker pointed out in the chancel the break in the masonry where the above-mentioned extension joined the earlier work of 1120.

In 1260, still further accommodation was required, and the north transept was built in the style of the "Geometrical" period. The masonry in this portion of the building was inferior to that of the earlier work. It was said that this transept was used in later times as a chantry chapel; in more recent years it served as a robing room for the incumbent. In mediaeval times this extension was known as the "Lady Porch" and probably held the Lady Chapel.

Rather later in the same century, c. 1273, the south aisle was built, and the old Norman south door, instead of being removed, was re-erected on its present site, while the present east window was inserted in the place of the Norman ones, the remains of which might be seen on the external wall.

Mr. Bulman then described the remarkable nave ceiling, erected about 1689 at the cost of Mr. Thomas Addison, of Low Wood Nook, and quoted Bishop Nicolson's description in 1703 of this addition to the church.

The church was in the patronage of the Bishop of Carlisle. It was previously in the hands of the convent of Rosedale in Yorkshire, the advowson being given to the priory in the 14th century by Sibella de Valonois, an heiress of the family which was then in possession of the local lands. This gift was confirmed by Edward III. Of the various incumbents of the parish, the most noteworthy was Bishop William Nicolson, who held the living from 1681 to 1698.

The day's pilgrimage concluded with a visit to

#### BOLTON CHURCH.

Here Dr. Spence was the speaker, who gave a summary of the history of the manor of Bolton, originally Bothilton, which was given by Alan, lord of Allerdale, to his brother, Gospatric, whose family took the name of de Bassenthwaite. From this family it passed by marriage to the Lascells, and later to the Mowbrays and Nevills, from whom it descended through the Percys to the Earl of Egremont.

The most interesting, and in this country, the unique feature of the church was its vaulted roof; to find a roof of similar type it would be necessary to go to Scotland or to the south of France. It was a type of vaulting entirely foreign to English Gothic architecture, and the connection of this example with those abroad was not easily explained.

There was ample evidence of the existence of a Norman church in stone upon the spot, but probably after the destruction wrought by the Scottish invasions of 1322 and 1387, the church required to be rebuilt. The Cistercian abbey of Holm Cultram had a holding in the parish, and the connection with the Scottish development of Gothic architecture might have originated in the contact between the Cistercian houses of Holm Cultram and Melrose, where part of a similar vault on a larger scale existed in the remains of the choir. Similar vaults also existed at Rosslyn, Crichton and formerly at Holyrood.

In the southern part of France, in Provence, such vaults were more common—at Fontfroide, for instance, where the nave was covered with a continuous pointed vault and the aisles roofed with half-vaults, as were the transepts of Bolton Church, to form buttresses to resist the thrust of the heavy vault of the nave.

Mr. Ferguson, in his article on Bolton Church in *Transactions*,

o.s. iii, had traced an interesting connection of the parish with the south of France, through Ralph Nevill, 1st earl of Westmorland, who in the reign of Richard II, was with the earl of Northumberland and others in custody of the Western March. He had been at one time governor of Provence, and he or his family were patrons of Bolton, so that it was quite feasible to assume that the employment of this French or Scottish style of roof was directly due to his influence and desire to reproduce a style of work he had seen in Provence.

The long narrow chancel with its plinth plainer than that of the nave, and the vestry might have been erected upon the original Norman foundations but the nave, which was wider, must have been reconstructed from new foundations, as the plinth was more ornate and characteristic of the 15th century. The walls were of solid construction, about three feet thick, to carry the weight of the vault which was also buttressed by the transepts. The vaulting had been constructed to carry the outer covering of stone slabs without a timber roof. Another interesting feature was the parapet walk round the nave. In order to provide for its continuance round the west end, the gable had been corbelled in towards the east and supported on six corbels, the lowermost stones on the north and south being the capitals of Norman shafts, probably relics of the original building. Access to the roof was obtained by a newel staircase in the hexagonal turret between the chancel and the north transept. The existence in this staircase of a blocked doorway and corbel seemed to indicate its employment in connection with the former rood screen of the church.

The transepts once possessed altars and in both were piscinae. In the chancel, on the south side, the speaker pointed out a low-side window showing rebates for the shutters and traces of the hinges upon which they hung. In the vestry a blocked squint now served as a cupboard. The font was old but had been severely re-chiselled. The chalice of 1570-71 was the oldest in the diocese.

After the visitors had examined the church a highly successful meeting closed with a vote of thanks, proposed by the president, to all who had been concerned in the arrangements for the two days.

#### AUTUMN MEETING.

The Autumn excursion of the Society was held in the upper valley of the Tweed on September 11th and 12th, 1934, with Melrose as a centre.

The arrangements for the meeting were in the hands of a committee composed of:—Miss M. I. Hope, Mr. R. C. Reid, Dr. James Curle, LL.D., F.S.A., and Mr. R. E. Porter, M.C. (Excursions Secretary), while Mr. George Aitchison, M.B.E., acted as Transport Officer.

The programme provided proved an attractive one, and the excursion was largely attended by members and friends who thoroughly enjoyed the two days excursion through some of the most attractive scenery of the Scottish lowlands amid ideal weather conditions.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1934.

Starting at 9-30 a.m., from Melrose Market Place, the party made its way by motor coaches and private cars to

#### CAPPUCK ROMAN FORT,

where the party had as their guide Dr. James Curle, whose work on the Roman fort at Newstead marks an epoch in the history of the exploration of Roman sites in Scotland. After giving a brief general description of a Roman fort, Dr. Curle explained that Cappuck was smaller than the forts generally met with along Hadrian's Wall. Its area was only some  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres. It lay upon Dere Street, the Roman road leading past Corbridge and Bremenium, or High Rochester, into Scotland. The course of the road was clearly shown in the neighbourhood of the fort. The fort at Cappuck was an oblong enclosure with a triple ditch upon its most exposed side and two ditches on the others. There were still visible the foundations of a store-house or granary, and outside the ramparts were traces of a bath-house. It was not known what troops had formed its garrison, but the discovery of a piece of earthenware with the figure of a wild boar, the emblem of the 20th legion, was significant.

Dr. Curle then gave a summary of what was known of the occupation of Scotland by the Romans from the times of Agricola's invasion down to the campaign of Lollius Urbicus, about 140 A.D. He mentioned the discovery of two stones built into Jedburgh Abbey, one of which had an inscription recording the name of a cohort of Rheatians, and said that this evidence was suggestive.

Dr. Curle was thanked for his interesting address by the president of the Society (Mr. R. G. Collingwood), and the party then proceeded to

#### FERNIEHIRST CASTLE.

Here the speaker was Mr. W. T. McIntire, who prefaced his description of the castle with an account of the tragic circum-

stances of the death of Alexander III, and the end of what has sometimes been called the "Golden Age" of Scottish history. Amid the strife and confusion which followed Alexander's death, and the interference of the English king, Edward I, in Scottish politics, the chief families of the district, to guard themselves against foreign aggression or to pursue private feuds, built those formidable strongholds with which the borderland is so thickly beset. Among these families none was more conspicuous than that of Kerr or Carr. When the family first settled in the Jed valley was uncertain, but, as early as 1296, four of its members were signatories of that disgraceful document of submission to Edward I—the Ragman Roll. Among the followers of the Earl of Douglas, who, in 1330, was owner of all Jed forest, were two brothers of the family of Kerr. The elder of these, Ralph, was rewarded for his services with lands in the valley of the Jed, and from him descended the Kerrs of Ferniehirst. From the younger brother, John, whose posterity held the castle of Cessford on Cale Water sprang the Kerrs of Cessford, who were usually distinguished from their Ferniehirst relatives by the different spelling of their name.

The two families, rivals and often at bitter feud the one with the other, were nevertheless united in their antipathy to the English, and holding important offices on the Eastern and Middle Marches, were amongst the most formidable foes of their neighbours on the south.

There was a fortress, probably on the site of the present castle, to protect the important route from England over Carter Bar as early as 1445, in which year Thomas Kerr is mentioned in a charter as possessed of Smailholme and Ferniehirst.

The present castle, or rather the building which is the core of the present castle, was built probably by another Thomas Kerr in 1472. Mr. McIntire went on to describe the part Ferniehirst had played in border history, its capture after a terrible siege by the Earl of Surrey in 1523, its occupation by an English garrison till 1549, and the horrible vengeance taken by their Scottish neighbours upon their oppressors, when the castle was re-taken by Sir John Kerr in that year, an exploit graphically described by the Frenchman, M. de Beaugué, who fought at the siege.

The Kerrs suffered for their loyalty to Mary, Queen of Scots, and for the support they gave to the countess of the unfortunate Earl of Northumberland, when she took refuge with them after the betrayal of her husband by Hector of Harelaw.

An expedition, under the Earl of Sussex, was sent to punish

them, and practically destroyed Ferniehirst. Two years afterwards, however, the castle was again tenable, for it was held in 1572 by Lord Ruthven against Buccleuch and the Kerrs. Once more, in 1593, it was almost entirely destroyed to punish Sir Andrew Kerr for aiding that "firebrand of the border," the 5th Earl of Bothwell, and to render him homeless. Sir Andrew Kerr, however, as the coats-of-arms over the door show, rebuilt the castle, practically in its present form in 1598. These shields bear his initials and those of his wife, Dame Ann Stuart, with the motto: "Forward in ye name of God."

Mr. McIntire then gave a brief account of the subsequent fortunes of the family, from whom are sprung the lords of Lowthian. He described the house with its great hall, staircases and dungeons, and mentioned "the Capon Tree" and the avenue of lime trees which Scott and Wordsworth came to visit in 1804.

#### JEDBURGH ABBEY.

Returning to Jedburgh, the party first visited Jedburgh Abbey, where Mr. G. P. H. Watson, F.R.I.B.A., gave a very interesting description of this ancient ruin. It was founded, he said, by David I, King of Scotland. Though the date of its foundation was generally stated to be 1118, he pointed out that the style of architecture indicated a somewhat later date. The abbey was built for monks who were brought over from St. Quentin. The choir, in the transitional style of architecture, was the first portion of the church to be built. Next, the western façade was constructed about the year 1200. Then the nave between the west end and the choir was completed in a somewhat later style, and the apsidal transepts were built.

Mr. Watson then described the alterations of the 15th century, mentioning the work of Abbot John Hall about 1523. He showed the traces of the employment of part of the building as a church after the dissolution of the religious houses.

Leaving the church, the party then examined the cloister-garth; where Mr. Watson pointed out the foundation of the original apsidal termination of the south transept and a few traces of the adjoining monastic buildings. The only sites which had been ascertained with certainty were those of the fraternity to the south and the abbot's house to the south-west. In the little museum attached to the abbey, which is now in charge of H.M. Office of Works, were several interesting exhibits, including some pre-Norman cross fragments and one of the Roman inscribed stones to which Dr. Curle had referred in his description

of the fort at Cappuck. The other stone was in the lintel of the doorway of a staircase in the west end of the abbey church.

“QUEEN MARY'S HOUSE.”

During the time allowed for luncheon many of the party took advantage of Mr. George Veitch's kind offer and accompanied him to “Queen Mary's House,” the residence of that ill-fated queen during her residence at Jedburgh in 1566. It was from this house that she paid her visit to Hermitage Castle, where Bothwell was lying desperately wounded by the dirk of “Little Jöck Elliot,” and it was here too that she had the illness which nearly cost her her life.

DRYBURGH ABBEY.

After lunch the party proceeded to Dryburgh Abbey, where Mr. Watson was again the speaker, and gave a description of this religious house for premonstratensian canons in the 12th century by Hugh de Morville. He stated what was known of the history of the abbey up to its final destruction during the terrible invasion of the English in the 16th century. He then described in detail the chief architectural features of the church, and members of the party had the opportunity of inspecting the graves of Sir Walter Scott, Lockhart and Field Marshal Haig. The party were then shown the interesting buildings around the cloister-garth and admired the admirable work of restoration recently carried out by H.M. Office of Works. The sites of the dormitory with its day and night stairs, the chapter house, the parlour, the fraternity with its kitchens and other monastic buildings were pointed out, and the eccentric additions by the Earl of Buchan were noticed.

The president conveyed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Watson for his admirable description of this beautiful ruin.

SCOTT'S VIEW.

On their way from Dryburgh Abbey to Melrose the visitors made a halt on Bemersyde Hill to enjoy the well-known view of the Eildon Hills and Tweed valley. Here Mr. McIntire gave a brief address upon the historic and literary associations of the spot, which was Scott's favourite view-point. He said that it was not only the charming landscape which endeared it to our memories, but the human associations with which it was connected. And what landscape could be richer in historic and romantic interest than the one spread beneath them? The triple summit of the Eildons—a Roman station on one of their peaks—was associated with the legend of Michael Scot.

Beneath the hill was Huntly Burn, with its memories of Thomas

the Rhymer. Below them in the crook of the Tweed was the site of old Melrose, the abbey to which came St. Cuthbert from his work in the sheep runs of the Leader valley to become a disciple of Boisil. The Leader valley itself reminded them of the Maitlands, of the ballad of "Auld Maitland" and of Lethington, that strangest and most complex of Scottish characters.

Away on the horizon were the hills of Etrick and Yarrow, that land of poesy and song; and the hills above Peebles, beloved of the poet king, James I, of Scotland. Uniting all these beads of history and poetry into one garland of romance flowed the silver Tweed, from its home amid the mists of Tweedmuir to the rich meadow lands of the Merse.

Standing there it was impossible not to think of the great genius who had made known to the world all that wealth of knowledge, who had opened for all of us "a fairy casement," who had revealed Scotland of all ages to the rest of the world. The speaker then dealt briefly with Scott's connection with the neighbourhood from his early days near Smailholme Tower, and on through his happy days of vigorous work at Clovenford and Ashestiel to his declining years at Abbotsford. He paid a warm tribute to Sir Walter's character. Who, after all, could blame him for his one weakness—his desire to play the laird among the folk he loved so well and in a land he had made his own realm in a sense in which no crowned monarch could speak of his kingdom as his own? The descendant of the Buccleuchs, he felt the ambition to add acre to acre and pile stone on stone, on a spot where they had rallied when pursued by Angus and the Kerrs, and where—

"Gallant Cessford's life-blood dear  
Reeked on Black Elliot's border spear."

And right nobly did he atone for his weakness and extravagance when the blow fell. With failing health and declining powers, he devoted all his remaining energies to satisfying the demands of his creditors. The pity of it was that this benefactor of the human race had been allowed to do so. It is now just more than a hundred years ago that on a beautiful September day, with the murmur of the Tweed upon its pebbly bed—a music more delicious to him than any other—reaching his dying ears through the open window, that the great "Wizard of the North" breathed his last. It was here—as Lockhart had related—that the horses which drew his body from Abbotsford to his last home at Dryburgh Abbey halted as they had been wont to halt, while the vast assemblage of mourners waited in silence.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the George and Abbotsford Hotel in the evening, and was attended by a large number of members. The President (Mr. R. G. Collingwood) occupied the chair, and congratulated the members upon the success of the first day's excursion.

Mr. W. T. McIntire reported that Volume XXXIV of the *Transactions* was nearly ready, and that "The Barony of Gilsland," Mr. T. H. B. Graham, would be published shortly. Lady Henley explained that it had been hoped to publish some extremely interesting ancient maps of the various divisions of Gilsland. These, however, had been so damaged by water that it was impossible to reproduce them in a legible form on a small scale. She had, therefore, had photographic reproductions of the maps deposited at Tullie House and which might be consulted by members who required to do so.

Mr. McIntire reported upon a proposal to publish an Armory of Cumberland, by Mr. F. J. Field, in the Society's extra series, and it was resolved to send out a circular in order to ascertain if the project was likely to gain sufficient support.

In the absence of Mr. F. G. Simpson, Director of the Cumberland Excavation Committee, the president summarised the report of the committee. He explained the remarkable results which had been achieved on Hadrian's Wall during the past year. Firstly, it had been proved that the Vallum extended the whole way along Westwards to the Solway; secondly, that the wall had been originally planned and constructed as a stone wall from Newcastle to the Irthing, but as a turf wall from the Irthing to the Solway; thirdly, a mile castle belonging to the turf wall had been discovered, and this contained a fragment of a wooden tablet with a few letters of an inscription which the speaker ingeniously reconstructed, showing that it contained the names of Hadrian and A. Platorius Nepos. This showed that the construction of this turf wall must have been contemporaneous with that of the stone wall elsewhere.

Dr. Spence reported upon the work of the Committee for Pre-Historic Studies, and Commander Jackson upon that of the Parish Register Section of the Society.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the President reported the following balances in the various funds of the Society:—General Fund, £427. 19s. 1d.; Capital Account, £55. 13s. 1d.; Research Fund (No. 1 Account), £69. 19s. 9d.; Roman Wall (Special Account), £11. 1s. 1d.; Record Publication Fund, £61. 13s. 2d.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. R. G. Collingwood was re-elected President for the ensuing year, and the name of Mr. Stanley le Fleming was added to the list of Patrons. Mr. T. H. B. Graham was elected an Honorary Member. Two vacancies in the list of Vice-Presidents were filled by the election of Dr. Hutchinson and Mr. Hornyold-Strickland. Mr. W. T. McIntire was appointed Sole Editor of the Transactions and re-elected Hon. Secretary for antiquarian correspondence. Other officials elected were:—Mr. R. E. Porter, Hon. Secretary for Excursions; Dr. Spence, Hon. Secretary to the Committee of Pre-Historic Studies; Miss Ainsley, General Secretary; and Mr. T. Gray, Hon. Curator and Librarian. The twelve existing members of the Council were re-elected "en bloc."

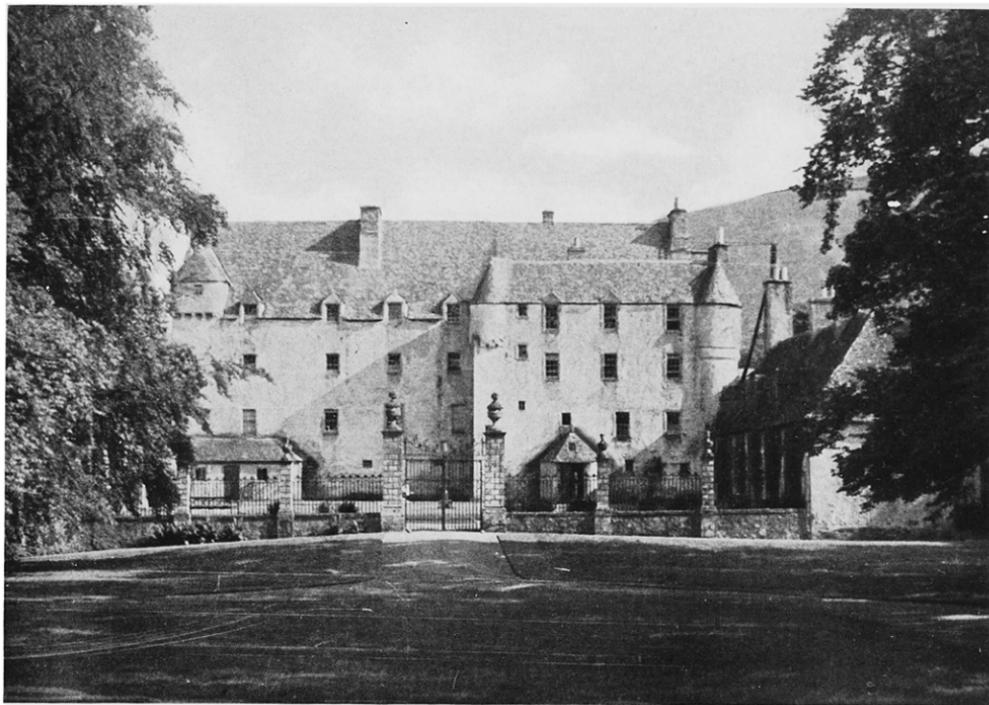
The following new members of the Society were duly proposed and elected:—Mr. M. Burnyeat, Whitehaven; Mrs. Cadogan-Rawlinson, Broughton-in-Furness; Miss R. A. Cardwell, Carlisle; Mr. J. B. Dixon, Windermere; Mr. W. G. C. Donald Dalston; The Rev. H. D. Ford, Thursby; Mr. T. Shirley Hele, Cambridge; Miss Joan Howard, Greystoke; Mr. C. James, Preston; Mr. J. S. Nicoll, Natland; Mrs. Murray-Thriepland, Dryburgh; Captain E. T. T. North, Bentham; Mr. W. E. S. Patrickson, Dore; Miss G. Radcliffe, Witherslack; Mr. E. T. Roberts, Carlisle; Lady Walker, Greystoke; Col. Watson, Wetheral; Mrs. Watson, Wetheral; Dr. Thomas Baty, Japan.

The following papers were read or submitted and directed to be published in an early volume of the *Transactions*:—"An Early Settlement near Askham," by Dr. J. E. Spence (Art. VI). "A Stone Circle in Shap Rural Parish," by Dr. J. E. Spence" (Art. VIII). "Thomas of Kendal," by Mr. T. E. Casson (Art. XIII). "Notes on a Stone Circle at Broomrigg," by Miss K. S. Hodgson (Art. XI).

Mr. Valentine reported an interesting find of the foundations of a stone wall near Mawbray. This might possibly be Roman, and perhaps provided a confirmation of the president's theory as to the existence of one of the Roman systems of watch towers in that neighbourhood.

Mr. Harold Duff showed a photograph of part of a Roman sepulchral stone discovered near Old Carlisle. Roman coins and a bronze fibula from Mawbray. Col. Oliver North exhibited a stone axe from Bowness.

The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. R. E. Porter for the successful organisation of the excursion.



TO FACE P. 283.

TRAQUAIR.

R.G.C., 1934.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1934.

Before leaving Melrose for the day's excursion a visit was paid to

MELROSE ABBEY.

Here Dr. Curle gave a fascinating account of the history of this beautiful religious house from the middle of the 12th century, when, after the suppression of the former abbey at Old Melrose, King David I founded it and brought Cistercian monks to live there. Dr. Curle showed what remained of the original building and traced its subsequent development. The abbey suffered grievously from the onslaughts of the English, being almost entirely rebuilt by Robert Bruce in the 14th century, and finally ruined during the disastrous raid of 1544, a raid which was avenged in the next year by the defeat of the invaders at Ancrum Moor.

The party were then shown round the buildings, the supposed sites of the burial places of the heart of King Robert Bruce and of the Douglases being pointed out. The foundations, which, owing to the need for water, were placed in an unusual position to the north of the church, were then visited and described.

Dr. Curle was thanked for his address by the president.

TRAQUAIR CASTLE.

The next halt was at Traquair Castle, where the party were privileged to enter the grounds and view this historic building.

Mr. McIntire, in the course of an address, reminded the excursionists of the romantic beauties of the Traquair neighbourhood and described the building, which he said might well lay claim to be the oldest inhabited house in Scotland. The portion of the building to their left was the original tower, a former residence of the old Scottish kings, whence between 1174 and 1178 William the Lion granted a charter to the little village known as Glasgow. This case was granted by Robert Bruce to Lord James Douglas, and after passing from his family to the Murrays and Boyds was resumed by the Crown in 1469. It was afterwards granted by James III to his chief physician, but the new owner was compelled to part with it to James, Earl of Buchan, who gave it to his illegitimate son, James Stuart, who founded the house of Traquair.

Mr. McIntire described the visit of Mary, Queen of Scots, with Darnley and the infant James VI, and narrated the story of the coming of Montrose over Minchmoor after the defeat at Philiphaugh. The Stuart of his day was the first Earl of Traquair. He mentioned the depredations of the reforming party who

descended upon the place from Edinburgh in 1688. The direct line of Earls of Traquair ended with the eighth earl.

The president thanked Mr. Maxwell Stuart for having given the excursionists permission to view the house, and the party then proceeded to Peebles, where an interval was allowed for lunch.

#### NEIDPATH CASTLE.

After lunch Neidpath Castle was visited. In the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Henry Paton, Mr. J. W. Buchan, the brother of the well-known writer, described the development of Neidpath Castle. In the 13th century it was in the hands of the Frasers, the most remarkable of whom was Sir Simon Fraser, a supporter in turn of Edward I and the Bruce, and who assisted the latter to win the battle of Methven, but was captured and barbarously put to death in London.

The castle passed to the Hays, whose history Mr. Buchan traced. The representative of the family who became the first Lord Tweeddale played a prominent part in the civil war, and added much to the amenities of the castle. The property eventually passed into the ownership of the notorious Marquis of Queensberry.

The subsequent history of the castle was summarised. The castle is now held by the Corporation of Peebles upon a yearly lease.

#### ROMAN FORT AT LYNE.

The Roman fort at Lyne was next visited, and here the president (Mr. Collingwood) drew attention to the excellent strategic position of the fort, situated as it was upon the flat top of a hill at the confluence of two streams with the Tweed, and defended by steep slopes on three of its sides.

To explain its construction in this remote spot, he called attention to the fact that the two great Roman roads from the fortresses of York and Chester into Scotland were connected at almost regular intervals by cross roads, and that Lyne Fort would conveniently occupy a commanding position on one of these side roads. From the few data ascertained when the fort was excavated at the beginning of the present century, and comparing these data with what was to be observed on the spot, he suggested that there would be two forts. The first fort, probably constructed at the time of Agricola's invasion in the first century, was a large enclosure of some 8½ acres. Subsequently, in the second century, the fort was reconstructed on a smaller scale.

After a cordial vote of thanks had been passed to all who had in any way helped to make the excursion a success, the party separated.