

## PROCEEDINGS.

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**T**HOUGH lack of transport facilities and other obstacles inseparable from war conditions restricted the activities of the Society during the course of the past year, some measure of success rewarded the effort made to keep our members in touch with our work. At a meeting of the Council, held at Carlisle, on May 18th, 1940, arrangements were made for a general meeting of the Society in the autumn, and it was resolved that the President should send a circular letter to members, calling attention to the fact that the work of the Society would continue and asking for their support. At this meeting the following new members were duly proposed and elected:—The Rev. W. W. Farrer, Addingham; Mr. L. A. Fogg, Barrow-in-Furness; Miss Mary Hardy, Heversham; Dr. J. C. Hardy, Upper Tooting Park, London; Hon. Mrs. Hornyold-Strickland, Sizergh Lodge, Kendal; Mr. J. E. Scott, Oxford; Miss E. M. Storey, Carnforth; Mrs. Mary Williams, Mansergh.

### AUTUMN MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH, 1940.

At this, the only general meeting of the Society held during the year 1940-41, there was a very satisfactory attendance of members. In view of the interest created by the recent discoveries upon the site of the Roman fort at Stanwix, this meeting was held at Carlisle, and its opening was attended by the Chairman and members of the Carlisle Library and Museum Committee, who have taken an active interest in the work.

In presiding over the large assembly of members and visitors, which, through the kindness of the Rev. Walter Bancroft, was able to meet in the Miles MacInnes Hall at Stanwix, Mr. W. T. McIntire welcomed the chairman and members of the Library and Museum Committee, expressing the gratitude of the Society for the kind financial help afforded by the Carlisle Corporation and for the encouragement given to the work of the Cumberland Excavation Committee. He thought that the results achieved by that Committee justified the enlightened policy of the Corporation. He also accorded a tribute of thanks to the Public Library and Museum Committee for the service they had so long rendered to

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the Society in affording it a home and a repository for its archives at Tullie House. He reminded his audience that many distinguished members of the Society in the past, including the late Chancellor Ferguson, had been members also of the Tullie House Committee, and he added a word of praise of the help given to the Society by the Director of Tullie House, Mr. T. Gray, and his staff. He finally made a brief reference to the historical and archaeological interest of Carlisle and said that the manner in which the inhabitants of that city had time after time triumphed over dangers and difficulties, was an encouragement to all of us to face the present crisis of the war.

In replying, Mr. J. C. Studholme, Chairman of the Public Library Committee, after apologising for the unavoidable absence of the Mayor and Mayoress, spoke warmly of the cordial relations existing between the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society and the Tullie House Committee, and expressed his admiration for the work which was being done by Mr. Simpson, Mr. Richmond and the Cumberland Excavation Committee in caring for and adding to the historical records of the city.

#### STANWIX ROMAN FORT.

The results of the recent excavations at the Roman Fort, Stanwix were then explained by Mr. F. G. Simpson, Director of the Cumberland Excavation Committee and Mr. Ian A. Richmond, co-Director of the Durham University Excavation Committee.

Introducing the subject, Mr. Simpson remarked that at the present time the pursuit of Roman studies might seem to require some justification. There was no need for him to make one, for a remarkable statement of their value had been forthcoming since the outbreak of war from a foreign guest of this country, Dr. José Castillejo, formerly Professor of Law in the University of Madrid. It might, of course, be suspected that a guest would have flattering things to say of his hosts, but this statement delivered in February, 1940, as the Earl Grey Memorial Lecture at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, had struck his colleague, Mr. Richmond, so forcibly that he did not hesitate to give it wider publicity. The title of Dr. Castillejo's lecture was "Britain as the Centre of European Reconstruction." Briefly, his thesis was that two peoples, the old Romans and modern British, had disclosed their remarkable gift for law. They had built up not merely public law, the compulsory order of State authority, now magnified to the point of folly by authoritarian States, but also the much more remarkable creation of private law, the award of justice between

sovereign individuals, which was quite unknown to the old Germans, and is imperfectly understood by their modern successors. The systems of political life which could produce this essential foundation of stable society and individual freedom were worth study, and no further reason need be offered for desiring to understand them, especially when the maintenance of the principles on which they were founded was our fundamental aim in the present conflict.

The account given by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Richmond of the results of their work may be summarised as follows. In the week immediately preceding the meeting, through the kindness of the vicar, the Rev. Walter Bancroft, the south-west angle of the fort wall, with part of the angle-tower was discovered close to the Brampton road in the footpath at the west side of Stanwix churchyard, and in the following week the south wall of the fort was traced through the grounds of Stanwix House, the residence of Mr. F. N. Hepworth, while the east wall was found in the garden of Mrs. Baines, north-east of Kells Place.

The fort then formed a very large rectangle, with rounded angles like a playing card, the north wall being formed by Hadrian's Wall, which passes through Stanwix elementary schools.

The size of the newly-discovered fort is no less than 580 feet by 700 feet, that is, some 300 feet broader than any other fort on the line of the Wall. Its area, of more than nine acres, is over twice as large as Carlisle Castle.

This indisputable evidence for the presence of an especially large and important Roman garrison on the Wall at Stanwix leads to some interesting and new conclusions.

The normal large-sized fort on Hadrian's Wall measured about 580 by 400 feet, and held either a cavalry regiment, the Roman ala, of 500 men, or an infantry cohort, nominally 1,000 strong. Stanwix fort was much larger than this, and the only unit to which its size corresponds is the miliary ala, a cavalry regiment nominally 1,000 strong. These regiments, however, were very few in number, and it has long been known that one of the most famous, the Ala Petriana, was quartered on or near the west end of Hadrian's Wall, where it is mentioned by the Roman official list known as the *Notitia Dignitatum*.

Many attempts have been made in the past to locate the post of this regiment, which was called Petriana, taking the regiment's own name. To support an otherwise groundless theory that it lay at Lanercost, an inscription was actually forged in the 19th

century. Others placed it at Old Carlisle where another Roman cavalry regiment of half the size is, in fact, known to have lain in garrison, or at Castlesteads, now known to have been far too small. It has also been suggested, with much more probability, but no more proof, that it was stationed at Carlisle.

It is now clear, however, that a fort of the exceptional size required to contain the regiment exists at Stanwix, and when this is clear many facts hitherto without meaning assume a new significance.

The strategical position of Stanwix in Roman times was one of great importance. Here the western great north road to Scotland crossed the Eden on a bridge and passed out through Hadrian's Wall. From the point of view of the attacker this was one of the points where many lines of approach to the Wall united. The local Britons of Liddesdale, Eskdale and Annandale, or marauders from still further afield, would find Stanwix the natural point at which to try to force the passage of the Eden; and while the Romans placed outpost forts to check small forays at Bewcastle, Netherby and Birrens, Stanwix formed the natural hub of the system.

Small wonder, then, that one of the crack regiments of the Roman army was placed there by Hadrian, being transferred by him for this special task from Corbridge, where it had been doing similar duty at the crossing of the Tyne on the eastern road into Scotland from the end of the first century A.D. The fame and reputation of the Ala Petriana are recorded in its official titles. The regiment was composed of Gallic cavalry men. It was twice decorated with torques for gallantry, and on one occasion the Roman citizenship was conferred upon all its men for behaviour of exceptional valour. It also won the proud title of Augusta, the Emperor's Own.

It now turns out that we can recognise some of the memorials which the troopers left behind them in Stanwix and district. A commanding officer of the regiment set up an elaborate dedication to an unknown deity, of which a fragment was used for post-Roman building in Carlisle and is now at Tullie House. A cavalry tombstone, now at Netherhall, Maryport, bearing the familiar relief of a trooper riding down his fallen foe, like St. George and the Dragon, comes from Stanwix itself. More intimate still are the little bronze back-plates for ornaments on uniforms or harness that were found in 1930 on the King's Meadow, just above Eden Bridge, on which are pricked the name

and squadron of the troopers to whom they belonged. These are now at Tullie House.

In Rickerby Park itself, excavations in 1933 produced the fragment of a torque which may well have been one of the decorations worn either for valour by a trooper, or as an indication of rank by a Roman N.C.O. Carlisle, too, has yielded a perfect example of such a torque—also at Tullie House. Thus, although little is yet known of the buildings inside the fort, these scattered relics tell us something of its garrison and confirm the identification as cavalry.

One impressive building belonging to the fort has, however, been discovered. This is the large buttressed granary, about 120 feet long, recently found during demolition north of Church Street. It is not so situated that it can have been one of the pair of granaries which formed part of the range of the main buildings of the fort. It seems, in fact, to have lain north of the principal cross-street. In this it resembles a very large extra granary at Birrens, in Dumfriesshire, where a large mounted cohort lay in garrison. But too little is as yet known of the disposition of buildings in large Roman cavalry forts to say whether this one is exceptional.

Before leaving Stanwix, the visitors were afforded an opportunity of inspecting the corner of the fort uncovered in Stanwix churchyard and the site of the excavations at the school.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

In the evening the annual general meeting of the Society was held at Tullie House, when the chair was taken by the president (Mr. W. T. McIntire). There was a very satisfactory attendance of members. The Editor of *Transactions* (Mr. W. T. McIntire) reported that all the material for Vol. xl of *Transactions* was now in print, with the exception of the terminal matter and that this was now ready for the printers. He explained that owing to the necessity for economy in the present state of affairs, the size of volumes of *Transactions* must be reduced.

For the Committee of Prehistoric Studies, the secretary, Dr. J. E. Spence wrote stating that work was at present at a standstill and there was nothing to report to the meeting.

For the Parish Register Section, Mr. Charles S. Jackson reported that Vol. 3 of the Penrith registers was almost completed and would be despatched to subscribers shortly. Discussion as to the continuation of publishing Parish Registers during the war was deferred until the next meeting.

For the Cumberland Excavation Committee, the Director, Mr. F. G. Simpson, reported that despite the war, the members had been at work through the activities of Carlisle Corporation and the Office of Works, and that they felt justified in assisting the latter in their desire to continue work on national monuments at the present time.

Just at the outbreak of war, the Office of Works decided to take over part of Hadrian's Wall at Willowford Roman bridge. During the past twelve months the work of preservation had been steadily continued, and it was now evident that the bridge would be a national monument of outstanding interest.

On September 3rd, water-piers of the bridge, sought for in vain in 1924, were at last discovered. The remains of two piers, consisting of masses of fallen stones, surrounding masonry still in position, were located nearly ten feet below the present surface. The stonework was exceptionally massive—comparable to the largest blocks re-used in the later reconstructions of the eastern abutment.

Before the height of the standing masonry, or the shape of the piers could be ascertained, bad weather caused the Irthing to rise above the bottom of the trenches, making further work impossible until the river returned to summer level.

During the course of the repair-work, another important discovery had been made. It was now clear that the original bridge was an arched masonry structure. The arches had apparently been segmental, instead of semicircular as in the gateways of forts and milecastles, and carried not simply a footpath, but the Wall itself across the river.

This bridge was given to the nation by Lord and Lady Henley, who had since offered the whole remaining length of the Wall on their property to the nation. They had already given several hundred yards of the Wall west of Birdoswald, and the new portion they had presented to the nation extended eastwards for over a mile as far as Gilsland School, and in places stood for long distances at a height of five to six feet, being a splendid example of the Wall.\*

If this work was continued after the war, they would have in Cumberland a length of the Wall that would more than rival the Housesteads sector, which had so far always taken foremost place. Birdoswald fort would excel in preservation even that of Housesteads, and would be an unrivalled example of a Wall-fort.

\* In November, Lord and Lady Henley added to their gift the ramparts and gates of Birdoswald fort.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. R. E. Porter, F.S.A.), the President reported the following balances in the various funds of the Society for the year ending June 30th, 1940.

Capital Account	..	..	..	..	£29	1	9
General Fund	..	..	..	..	612	11	5
Research Fund	..	..	..	..	41	11	6
Record Publication Fund	..	..	..	..	43	19	4
Roman Wall Special Account	..	..	..	..	106	12	1

It was resolved that a grant of £30 should be made to Mr. F. G. Simpson from the Roman Wall Fund for work at Willowford.

A resolution that reprints of the newspaper report of the meeting should be sent out to members with Vol. xl of *Transactions*, was passed, and the matter was left in Mr. Simpson's hands.

All the retiring officers of the Society were re-elected for the ensuing year and the following new members of the Society were duly proposed and declared elected:—

Miss F. E. Cook, Carlisle; the Rev. M. Hodges, Loweswater Vicarage; Miss C. S. Barrow, Lancaster; the Rev. Walter Bancroft, Stanwix Vicarage; Dr. Gerald Sheehan, Carlisle; Mr. F. N. Hepworth, Stanwix; the City Librarian, Birmingham.

An interesting account was given by Miss K. S. Hodgson of the excavations she carried out in the summer of 1939 at Woodhead, Bewcastle, where she discovered a Bronze Age hut circle and Bronze Age burials on the Shield Knowe. She exhibited three food vessels and the remains of a cremation, found upon this site, and these relics as well as her account of their discovery, described by Miss Hodgson in *Transactions*, n.s. xl, 154-166, proved the source of an interesting discussion among members present at the meeting.

The following papers were then read and the same directed to be printed in an early volume of *Transactions*:—"Solway Moss," by Mr. W. T. McIntire, F.S.A. (Art. I); "Robert Baynes of Littledale in Caton, co. Lancaster, Standard Bearer to Sir Edward Stanley at Flodden Field," by Col. W. H. Chippindall (Art. V); "The Holm Cultram Rental, 29 Hen. VIII," by Mr. Harold Duff; "A Note on the Foundation of Lanercost Priory," by Mr. J. C. Dickinson, M.A., B.Litt; "The de Boyvils of Millum and Kirksanton," by the Rev. W. S. Sykes, M.A. (Art. II).

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1940.

The first visit paid on Wednesday morning was to Carlisle Castle, where Mr. W. T. McIntire gave a detailed description of

the fortress which he described as "the bastion of the western border, renowned in history, romance and literature." In his account of the outer works of the castle, he traced the history of its site back to 1092, when William Rufus set up a fortress there, although it probably consisted only of a mound with a wooden tower, a palisaded enclosure and an outer court. This castle was captured in 1135 by King David of Scotland, who resided there till his death in 1153. Though the building of the keep is by many writers attributed to David, it is probable that this massive tower and the first stone castle on the site was not erected until Henry II took the place over from David's grandson, Malcolm. Mr. McIntire described the changes which took place in the fortifications of the inner and outer wards during the centuries which followed, and showed that the gatehouses of the Castle had at different times occupied three different positions. Dealing with the keep or "Great Tower," he showed how its original entrance was protected by a fore-building and was approached by a staircase leading to the first floor, the present entry in the basement being a later development. He explained the changes which at different periods had been made in the interior arrangements of the keep, and pointed out facts to prove that the dividing wall, which separated each storey of the building into two separate chambers was of a construction later than that of the original building. He then alluded to the later Edwardian and Elizabethan buildings of the inner ward, and pointed out the few surviving relics of these later additions. In dealing with the history of the castle he alluded to such events as the siege of Carlisle by Robert Bruce in 1315; the escape of Kinmont Willie, in his account of which he referred to several apparent inaccuracies in the traditional descriptions of this exploit; the sojourn in the Castle of Mary Queen of Scots in 1568; the occupation of Carlisle by Leslie and the Parliamentary army in 1645, and the events of 1745.

#### ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH.

From the Castle the party proceeded to St. Cuthbert's Church, where the vicar, the Rev. H. B. Wilson, gave an interesting account of the history of that building. His paper is printed as Article XIII of the present volume. After thanking Mr. Wilson for his address, the President congratulated the members of the Society present upon what he could not help regarding as a successful meeting. Though, naturally, in the existing circumstances it was impossible to arrange an extensive programme, the

number of those taking part in the meeting proved that despite war-time difficulties and distractions there were still many members who retained sufficient interest in the Society and its work to attend a meeting possibly at considerable personal inconvenience. He considered that the Society was justified in holding such a meeting in war-time, as it was to be deplored if the pursuit of such studies as those in which it was interested should be neglected or forgotten. The meeting concluded at 1 p.m., thus enabling members to return home by the early afternoon trains.