

In Memoriam.

By the death of Mr. Henry Swainson Cowper, F.S.A., of High House, Hawkshead, which took place after a long illness at a nursing home in Windermere, on Monday, April 7th, 1941, the Lake District has lost one of its best known and deservedly respected residents and our Society an old and highly valued member. It might indeed be said of him that he was one of the distinguished band of pioneers whose work, like that of the late Mr. W. G. Collingwood and other "giants of the past", contributed more than any other cause to the prominent position which that Society occupies to-day. Born in 1865, the son of the late Mr. Thomas Christopher Cowper-Essex, of Harrow and Acton, who came to live at High House, the original seat of the Sawreys of Sawrey Ground, Mr. Henry Swainson Cowper was educated at Harrow and subsequently after residing for some time at Loddenden Manor, Staplehurst, Kent, finally came to live at Hawkshead. He was a man of remarkably varied attainments and of inexhaustible energy. He travelled extensively in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Tripoli and Asia Minor, and among his many publications were "Through Turkish Arabia, 1894, and "The Hills of the Graces," 1897, dealing with travels in Tripoli. It is as an archaeologist, however, rather than as a traveller and writer on miscellaneous subjects that he will be remembered in our district. His many contributions to *Archaeologia* and other journals of learned societies show the width of the field covered by his interest, but naturally more stress must here be laid upon his contribution to the study of the archaeology of the Lake District. He became a member of our Society as long ago as 1886, and from that time forward he for many years contributed to our *Transactions* a brilliant succession of articles upon a remarkable variety of subjects. Pre-history, Roman antiquities, medieval buildings, old customs and folk lore—all these subjects appealed to him and upon all of them he wrote articles of permanent value. He was a frequent speaker at our excursions upon sites of archaeological interest, and continued to take an active interest in the affairs of the Society even after the state of his health compelled him

to give up his attendances at our meetings. Many of us will have a pleasant memory of his last appearance at our meeting at Kendal Castle in September, 1937 and of the kindly words of encouragement and appreciation of our work he spoke upon that occasion.

His articles in our *Transactions*, however, by no means represent the sum of the services he rendered to local archaeological studies. Among his many other publications were his valuable "*Archaeological Survey of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands*," compiled in association with the late Chancellor Ferguson, his monumental "*Hawkshead, its History, Archaeology, etc.*"; *The Early Registers of Aldingham* and *The Register of Hawkshead*. He was elected a vice-president of our Society in 1904, and later, an honorary member.

Besides his zeal for archaeology and history he did not forget public duties. Some years ago he presented the old Manor Court House at Hawkshead Hall to the National Trust. He was for some time chairman of the Hawkshead magistrates and actively supported many institutions in our district.

He married, in 1902, Amy Mary, daughter of the late Major-General C. S. Dundas, R.A., and is survived by his widow with one son, Mr. C. S. Cowper-Essex. His loss is deeply deplored by his fellow-members of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society, but it is to be hoped that the magnitude of the work he accomplished and the memory of the manner in which his results were achieved will be a never failing stimulus to further endeavour along the path of archaeological research.

Mr. ROBERT WILKINSON DENT, of Flass House, Maulds Meaburn, who died on Monday, November 7th, 1940, aged 78, was for over half a century prominently associated with the public affairs of North Westmorland. He was one of the earliest members of the Westmorland County Council and served on many important committees, notably as chairman of the Standing Joint Committee. He became a county magistrate in 1905 and about 30 years ago served as High Sheriff of Westmorland. He was closely associated with church affairs and served on several Diocesan Committees. He was for many years churchwarden of Crosby Ravensworth church. A considerable landowner in the Crosby Ravensworth district, Mr. Dent was considered a model landlord, who took a keen interest in agriculture and did much to aid the various local societies interested in that industry. A strong Conservative, he took a prominent share in the political life of the

County, frequently presiding at meetings and proving himself an able and eloquent speaker. Among his other interests were the work of the Red Cross Society, the Westmorland Society in London and its former school. He joined our Society in 1907, and until a few years ago frequently attended our meetings. Members will remember him as a fluent speaker, whose wide range of knowledge of the history and antiquities of Westmorland lent an interest to his conversation. Many of our older members will have a very grateful recollection of the charming hospitality extended to them by Mr. and Mrs. Dent upon the occasion of their visit to Maulds Meaburn in 1907. Mr. Dent is survived by his widow a son and two daughters. He was a man imbued with a high sense of public duty, who despite advancing age never spared himself in its performance.

Mr. WILLIAM POTTER, who died at his residence, Kengrith, Sedbergh, in March, 1941, aged 63, was the son of the late Mr. Thomas Potter of Ravenstonedale and a member of a family which for over a hundred years had been prominently associated with the building trade of the district. He was an energetic supporter of many local institutions such as Toc H and the Kirkby Stephen Masonic Lodge. He was the founder of the Band of Hope and of the reading room at Ravenstonedale. He was deeply interested in local archaeology and assisted our member, Dr. Frankland, in his work of excavating the churchyard of Ravenstonedale in 1928-29. He was until recently a member of our Society which he joined in 1930. He is survived by his widow and nine children. Three of his sons and three of his sons-in-law are serving with His Majesty's Forces.