

## In Memoriam.

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WALTER TRAVERS McINTIRE, fifth son and seventh child of the Rev. Travers and Sarah Ann McIntire, was born at Lancliffe, Yorkshire, on April 23rd, 1870. After education at Giggleswick and Bedford Grammar School he studied medicine at Edinburgh University, but following a break down in health on the eve of his finals turned to the arts, taking an external degree of London University. Thereafter he held teaching posts at Market Bosworth and Kendal. In 1904 he went to Carlisle as Principal of Tullie House and Director of Technical Education. Here his vigour, enthusiasm and kindness "infused new life into the work of the Library, Museum and Art Gallery" and quickly made him something of a local institution. Some unfortunate handling of the city's postwar economies placed him in a position which he felt demanded his resignation, but it was typical of the man that he showed no bitterness over the affair. On retirement he moved to Milnthorpe which was to be his home until his final illness. The years here were largely devoted to reading, lecturing and archaeological work, for our Society, and he counted them the happiest of his life. The outbreak of war did not terminate his indefatigable journeyings round the north of England to lecture to audiences of every type on a truly remarkable range of subjects. He had been elected a member of our Society in 1904, was appointed Editor in 1926 and Secretary for Antiquarian Correspondence in 1932. When in 1938 the late Professor R. G. Collingwood was unable to continue as our President, it was clear that none but McIntire could succeed him; many must have regretted that war conditions should have blighted the promise of singularly successful years which the Society was entitled to expect under his genial and inspiring guidance. For some time before his death he had been in failing health but carried on as usual with a vigour reminiscent of the athletic days of his youth. To the end he remained his calm, kindly, intelligent self.

McIntire's publications represent but a small fraction of his immense learning and activities, for he infinitely preferred reading and lecturing to writing. His numerous topographical sketches published in the *Cumberland News* amply illustrate his enormous

knowledge of Lakeland history and lively, humane style. His contributions to our *Transactions* (apart from all too brief digests of his addresses during Excursions) were comparatively few.

They include:

"Shank Castle" (N.S. xxii).

"Triermain Castle" (N.S. xxvi).

"Drumburgh Castle" (N.S. xxix).

"The Port of Milnthorpe" (N.S. xxxvi).

"Arnside" (N.S. xxxvii).

"The fords of the Solway" (N.S. xxxix).

"Solway Moss," and "Pearl-gathering in the Lake District" and "A note on Grey Abbey and other religious foundations on Strangford Lough affiliated to the abbeys of Cumberland" (N.S. xli).

"The Salt pans of the Solway" (N.S. xlii).

"A note on the connections of Furness Abbey with the Isle of Man" and "The old port of Sandsfield" (N.S. xliii), and

"Old Cumberland Wells," which at the time of his death was in print for N.S. xliv.

It may be doubted whether Lakeland has ever lost a better loved antiquarian or a more gifted lecturer. McIntire had that deep and kindly interest in his fellows which is the mark of all great teachers. Though he never lectured on anything in which he was not deeply versed and profoundly interested, his success as a lecturer was due less to these factors than to his real passion for instructing those wishful to learn. The smallness of the audience or any inconveniences involved in addressing it weighed with him not at all, even when his health was failing and travel difficult. It was this humanity which lay behind his extraordinary gift for vivid historical narrative. Though he had an uncanny memory for facts and figures—he invariably lectured *extempore*—his audience were never left with the feeling that history was to him a mere collection of extracts from dry as dust documents. It was no accident that he should have written such admirable librettos for a number of important northern pageants, for the whole of history was in his eyes one vast pageant. No one who has had the fortune to listen to his entralling addresses at our Society's excursions can have failed to note how the mere presence of an ancient building automatically brought before his eyes the story of the men and women who had belonged to it, and this story he would unfold to his hearers with that serene flow of accurate, picturesque detail which he alone possessed.

Equally remarkable was the great breadth of his intellectual interests, though his innate modesty kept their true extent veiled from all but his closest acquaintances. He once admitted to his wife that he could speak seventeen languages. His bookshelves contained volumes in languages ranging from Persian to Old Norse and the subjects in which he coached students extended even to navigation. His vast lecture list, if predominantly historical, ranged widely over other subjects especially English and foreign literatures. This unique combination of interests undoubtedly gave to McIntire's work a depth and understanding which is only too often lacking from the scholastic specialist. His reputation spread far beyond the bounds of the Lake Counties he loved so well. At the time of his death he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London as well as of Scotland, and of the Royal Historical Society. The Historical Association, with its aim of increasing popular interest in the study of history, he found a particularly congenial organisation. The Carlisle and Lancaster branches owe much to his work. He was a member of the National Council from 1929 onwards, a Vice-President from 1938, and did valuable work in conducting historical tours arranged by the Association and as Chairman of its Local History Committee.

Whilst McIntire's death deprived northern England of one of its greatest antiquaries, to many the loss will be primarily that of a great Christian gentleman and a most kindly friend. His shrewdness made him a good judge of character whilst his complete freedom from rancour or self-seeking freed him from mean or unfriendly thoughts. Imperturbably courteous, unfailingly kind he put his services unreservedly at the disposal of the very large number who solicited them and the exceptionally friendly atmosphere which has so long pervaded the proceedings of our Society was due in no small degree to his influence.

In 1901 he married Wilhelmina Cicely Iliffe, elder daughter of the late Dr. Walter Iliffe, F.R.G.S., of Kendal. To her and her two daughters the Society would wish to offer most profound sympathy, and the hope that their senses of loss may be lightened by the knowledge that it is shared by so many.

MR. GEORGE AITCHISON, M.B.E. died at White Craggs, Brathay, at the age of 60 after a life of conspicuous public service. He was elected to the Westmorland County Council thirty years ago and for eighteen years had been an alderman. He was the first

chairman of Lakes Urban District Council, and a prominent Freemason. Our Society is specially indebted to him for his services as an Honorary Auditor since 1933.

WILBERT GOODCHILD, M.B., Ch.B.(Edin.) was Medical Superintendent of Blencathra Sanatorium, Threlkeld, Keswick. He was born at Milburn, Westmorland, in 1877, the son of the late John George Goodchild of H.M. Geological Survey. From his father he inherited a taste for geological study which he was able subsequently to apply to his work in Archaeology. He was educated at Heriot School, Edinburgh and had his medical training at the Heriot-Watt College and Edinburgh University. He became a member of our Society in 1925 and was elected a member of its Council in 1928. His knowledge of our district and his enthusiasm in the cause of Archaeology made him a very valuable member, and he was frequently of assistance in planning our excursions which he made a point of attending and at which his personal charm and kindly sympathy ever ensured him a welcome. Members of our Society will recollect his deeply interesting descriptions of Milburn and its church upon the occasion of our last visit to that place. It was a village for which he cherished a deep affection, and of the antiquities of which he has given us an interesting description in *Transactions* (N.S. xxxi). His loss will be deeply regretted by his numerous friends in our district, in which he had many varied interests. He married in 1905, Sarah Georgina Graham, daughter of the late Thomas Gordon and is survived by his widow.

MR. LINNAEUS E. HOPE, who died at Nottingham, at the age of 80, was for many years associated with the work of the Museum, at first as curator and later, from 1923 till his retirement from office, as director. Mr. Hope was well known throughout the north of England as a skilful taxidermist and the Natural History exhibits at Tullie House are in themselves a tribute to the excellence of his work. He was, moreover, an active supporter of the Carlisle Natural History Society and an authority upon ornithology. As an antiquary, his wide and practical knowledge of his subject led to his being frequently consulted when objects of archaeological interest were discovered and his rich store of information was always generously at the disposal of all who sought his advice. He was honorary curator to our Society and a frequent contributor of notes and articles to our volumes of

*Transactions.* Among these articles were "The Bow Stone" (N.S. vi), "Elizabethan Weights at Carlisle" (N.S. xix), "Roman Pottery at Tullie House" (with Mr. T. May) (N.S. xvii), "Roman Remains at Carlisle" (N.S. xxii), "A Seventeenth Century Spoon" (N.S. xiii), and "A Tile of the Ninth Legion" (N.S. xxii).

The death of MRS. H. B. HEELIS ("Beatrix Potter") deprives Lakeland of one of its most famous and best loved figures. The only daughter of the late Mr. Rupert Potter, she married Mr. William Heelis of Hawkshead. Her connection with Sawrey covered half a century, Hilltop Farm being the first of her afterwards considerable possessions in the neighbourhood. Her story books made Peter Rabbit, his friends, relations and enemies perhaps the best known figures in children's literature, and have been translated into six languages. Mrs. Heelis' acute artistic sense and profound good humour were intimately bound up with her love of the land, for, unlike some other literary celebrities who have been found in these parts, she sought and found in the Lake Counties a home not a background. She was a well known breeder of Herdwicks which interested her very much more than the literary publicity which might have been hers had she so desired. Her gifts to charity were considerable and her aid to the National Trust would alone assure her of the gratitude of posterity. She leaves behind the most fragrant memories and works which continue to gladden the hearts of thousands. She had been a member of our Society since 1933.

REAR-ADMIRAL RALPH HUDLESTON, R.N. (retired) died at the age of 80 at the house of his elder brother, Mr. Ferdinand Hudleston. After a distinguished and interesting naval career he finally retired from the Service in 1916 to live at Hutton John. He was keenly interested in Cumbrian history and had been a member of our Society since 1925. He was unmarried.

MR. S. A. MOOR died at Kendal in his 81st year. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Cambridge University and after varied teaching experiences came to Kendal in 1908 as Headmaster of Kendal Grammar School. In his later years he took an active part in public affairs serving on the Westmorland County Council, Kendal Town Council and various other local bodies. From 1927 to 1932 he was one of the Society's Honorary Auditors.

MR. JOSEPH SKELTON, F.S.A. Scot., who died at Maryport, aged 70, was for many years secretary of the Lonsdale Clothing Company. After his retirement from business he was able to follow his bent for the study of our local history and genealogy, of which he possessed a wide knowledge and upon which he was often consulted by correspondents. He became a member of our Society in 1910, and among articles contributed by him to our *Transactions* were "The de Asmunderlaws of Furness and Cumberland" (N.S. xxxix), "Anglo-Norman Territorial Claims in South Westmorland and North Lancashire" (N.S. xlii) and

He also published two small books of poems upon local subjects.

MR. JOHN SOMERVELL, who died at his residence, Broom Close, Kendal, on October 28th, 1943, aged 86, was for over fifty years a partner and later director of the well-known firm of Messrs. Somervell Brothers, Ltd. As a generous supporter of every good cause and an indefatigable worker in the service of his fellow citizens, he was respected and beloved throughout the length and breadth of Westmorland. For many years he took a keen interest in local government, and the inhabitants of Kendal owe a debt of gratitude to one who devoted himself so unselfishly to the interests of his native town. He was a Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Kendal in 1898-99 and in 1905-06. He was one of the original promoters of the Westmorland Consumptive Sanatorium at Meathop and held many honorary offices in connection with the work of the church and numerous benevolent institutions. He was made a Freeman of the Borough of Kendal in 1937.

A man of refined literary tastes, he took an active interest in the history and archaeology of our district; he joined our Society in 1904 and frequently attended our meetings. He was the author of several books of local interest, among these being one dealing with the lives of Isaac and Rachel Wilson and others a "History of the Water Power Mills in South Westmorland," and "Some Westmorland Wills."

He married in 1882, Sarah Emily, daughter of the late Edward Crosfield, who survives him.