

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. "The Registers of Wigton, Part I: 1604-1727" transcribed by the Rev. F. B. Swift; 278 pp., 21/- (= Parish Register Section, no. xxxv, obtainable from the General Secretary, 1950).

Parish registers are typical of most historical records in that, though they are generally but dull reading, the student never knows when he may not come across something of value to compensate him for hours of patient study. The Wigton registers (of which the first two volumes are printed here) are no exception to this rule. The baptism in 1619 of a child of John Wilson, "minstrell", reminds us of the travelling groups of players who even in Puritan times helped to vary the monotony of rural life. Presumably Thomas Atkinson, "Posteman", whose daughter was baptised in 1642, was one of those who carried to their destination those early seventeenth-century letters with "Haste, Haste, Haste" inscribed on them. What was Robert Merebis, "a Souldier of the King's Garison at Carleil", whose son was baptised in 1640, doing at Wigton? Probably the explanation is that he had fallen a victim to the charms of some local lass. The burial of several women with *lanifica* (weaver) after them, in 1676-78, affords some evidence for the rise of that industry in Wigton.

Most of the christian names are the old familiar ones; Cumbrians were then a conservative race. Pre-Reformation names such as Anthony, Lancelot and even Guy, survive into the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; but where had William Robinson of Westend met a wife with the name Philadelphia (who died in 1718)? The evidence of the registers shows that Wigton has always been rather a democratic society, and not like Cockermouth, with its Fletchers and Lowthers—a place in which one or two great families held sway; thus there are few people of note in this register, though we have the burial of Colonel Thomas Barwis, whose brass has survived from the old church to find a place in the present one, in 1648; and the baptisms of Richard Smirk (father of Robert Smirk, the artist) in 1727 and of Wilfred Clark of Standingstone (father of a vicar of Wigton and of a local poet) in 1694/95.

A rather unusual feature of these registers is that they include the entries of some marriages, during the Commonwealth, before a magistrate; for example, in February 1656, "Tho: Messenger

& Janet Osmotherly by Mr Jno. Barwise Esq. Justice of the Peace and Mr James Steward Minister of Westward." At the end there is an interesting collection of Briefs, from 1663 to 1702; taking those between 1690 and 1699 as typical, we find that an average of £1 a year was given in response. The best collection was for "ye Vandols in Savoy", £1. 9s. 3d., and "ye Irish Protestants", £1. 2s. 7d.; ordinary appeals for victims of fires generally produced four or five shillings.

2. "Early Railway History in Furness" by J. Melville and J. L. Hobbs; 75 pp. and four maps, 5/6 post free (= this Society's Tract Series, no. xiii, obtainable from the General Secretary, 1951).

This booklet gives a full account of the creation of the railway system that serves, or served, the Furness district, and — perhaps of even greater interest — it also describes the various schemes which never came to fruition; thus it gives us a fascinating glimpse of some "might have beens" of local history. In 1837 George Stephenson proposed a scheme for a line from Lancaster to Poulton-le-Sands, across Morecambe Sands to Humphrey Head, thence to Chapel Island and then, through a tunnel to Kirkby Ireleth, across the Duddon Sands and continuing up the coast, by Ravenglass and Whitehaven, to Carlisle. How different might have been the history of the Lake District and West Cumberland if this scheme had been carried out! Our members tell us how it came to be rejected, and a main line to Scotland by Shap and Penrith built instead; thus it can be seen that their study offers very much more than merely a history of Furness railways.

It must be confessed that the story of the development of our local railways, as the authors tell it, is a very strong argument in favour of a "Government of Planners"—as a result of the rejection of Stephenson's scheme, the whole development of the West Cumberland coastal route was left to chance and private enterprise: a through route from Lancaster to Carlisle was not completed until 1857, and the traveller on this short journey had to pass over the lines of six different companies! The booklet also gives us interesting statistics of wages in the middle of the nineteenth century: a locomotive superintendent was paid 42/- a week, engine-drivers between 35/- and 40/-, guards 20/-, porters 16/-, and the station clerks' wages varied between 16/- and 27/- a week. In a word, it is of value not merely to those concerned with railway history, but to all interested in the history of our district; four good maps and an excellent index add to the value of the booklet and to an understanding of the story which the text has to record.

3. "Handlist of newspapers published in Cumberland, Westmorland, and North Lancashire" by F. Barnes and J. L. Hobbs; 16 pp., 2/- post free (= this Society's Tract Series, no. xiv, obtainable from the General Secretary, 1951).

This will be found a most valuable Tract; it has already been used by one author in this volume of *Transactions* (p. 149). It is a remarkable commentary on the enterprise of our forebears that in this area 152 different newspapers, printed in 26 places, have been produced. Kendal—with its *Kendal Courant*, 1731 and *Weekly Mercury*, 1735—has the honour of having produced the first local newspaper; next comes Whitehaven — *The Cumberland Pacquet* commenced in 1774; and Carlisle—*The Carlisle Journal* began in 1798. But for the historian it is sad reading to note how few copies of these early publications have survived. Of the three listed above, of only one, *The Cumberland Pacquet*, is there a complete series available to the student. An excellent "index to titles" adds to the value of the *Handlist* as a work of reference. All interested in the history of our district should be grateful to the compilers of this useful and indeed indispensable work.

4. *Archæologia Aeliana*, fourth series, xxix (1951) contains the following articles by members of this Society: "The temple of Mithras at Carrawburgh" by I. A. Richmond and J. P. Gillam, with a contribution by Eric Birley (pp. 1-92, 15 plates and 12 figures in the text—overprints of this very important account of an exceptionally interesting structure, with a section on the background of Mithraism, are on sale and may be obtained from the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, The Black Gate, Newcastle, price 5/-); "Second report on Roman buildings at Old Durham" by R. P. Wright and J. P. Gillam (pp. 203-212); "An early Bronze Age cist at Kelloe Law, Co. Durham" by T. Wake and R. P. Wright (pp. 213-220); and "The spacing of the forts on Hadrian's Wall" by Brenda Swinbank and J. E. H. Spaul (pp. 221-238—a stimulating examination of the reasons why the forts occupy their present sites, concluding that local conditions were less important than is generally assumed, and that a symmetrical distribution of garrisons was aimed at). Attention may be directed also to a paper on "Haughton Castle" by W. Douglas Simpson (pp. 118-134).

5. *Dumfriesshire & Galloway Transactions*, third series, xxviii (1951) contains several papers of interest for members of this Society, including the following: "The excavations at Chapel

Finnian, Mochrum" (pp. 28-40—of Irish Christian origin, probably in the sixth century, though the existing remains are mainly of the tenth or eleventh); "Castle Loch, Mochrum" (pp. 41-63, with a note at pp. 53-55 on "The owners of Mochrum Loch" by R. C. Reid); "The bells of Whithorn" (pp. 75-78); "Cruggleton church" (pp. 92-95); and "St. Ninian's Cave" (pp. 96-98)—all these are by C. A. Raleigh Radford; "Who was Ninian?" by A. W. Wade-Evans (pp. 79-91); "Physgill" by R. C. Reid (pp. 99-103); "Wilson of Croglin" by R. C. Reid (pp. 135-149—it is a Dumfriesshire and not a Cumberland family); "A Roman fort at Broomholm" by R. Feachem (pp. 188-189—between Netherby and Langholm, discovered by air photography); "Dating second-century pottery in Northern Britain" by J. P. Gillam (pp. 190-198); and "Excavations at Milton (Tassiesholm) in season 1950" by John Clarke (pp. 199-221—taking stock of the results of several seasons' work on this important Roman site).

6. *Barrow Naturalists Field Club Proceedings*, new series, vii (1951), includes a very interesting paper, "A history of local sailing ships" by H. Peck, which deals with vessels built in South Cumberland as well as in the Furness district. It will be remembered that a bibliography of articles bearing on history and archaeology that have been printed in earlier volumes of the two BNFC series, compiled by our members J. Melville and J. L. Hobbs, is given in CW2 xlix 203-212; it is greatly to be hoped that the present volume will meet with a wide enough demand to justify the publication of further ones at more frequent intervals than the Field Club's editor, in his foreword, feels able to contemplate.

7. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, lxxxiii (1951), contains papers on "The Roman fort at White-moss, Renfrewshire" by K. A. Steer (pp. 28-32) and "The Roman forts at Carriden and Brownhart Law" by J. K. St. Joseph (pp. 167-174), both illustrating the value of air photography, and "Cairnbulg Castle, Aberdeenshire" by W. Douglas Simpson (pp. 32-44). For students of the post-Roman period, there is also an important paper on "The nuclear fort of Dalmahoy, Midlothian, and other Dark Age capitals" by R. B. K. Stevenson (pp. 186-198).

8. *The Journal of Roman Studies*, xli (1951), includes "The Amiens patera" by Jacques Heurgon (pp. 22-24—an enamelled bronze vessel, clearly from the same factory as the Rudge Cup,

for which cf. AA4 xii 310 f., giving the names of forts *per lineam valli* from Maia = Bowness on Solway eastwards as far as Esica = Greatchesters); "Air reconnaissance of North Britain" by J. K. St. Joseph (pp. 52-65, with six plates—in which our member gives first particulars of a whole series of discoveries made by him over a period of years, many of them in our own district: particular interest attaches to the views of Old Carlisle, Beckfoot and a series of previously unknown sites in Dumfrireshire and Galloway); and "Roman Britain in 1950" by M. V. Taylor and R. P. Wright (pp. 120-145).

9. "Aspects of Archæology in Britain and beyond: essays presented to O. G. S. Crawford" edited by W. F. Grimes; xvii + 386 pp., 22 plates and 72 figures in the text, 50/- (H. W. Edwards, London, 1951).

This *Festschrift* offered to our honorary member on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday, in the year of *Antiquity's* hundredth number, may be commended with particular confidence to members of this Society. The following papers in it have been contributed by members, or bear on problems of special interest to the student of our district, or both: "The Romano-British buildings and enclosures in Edlington Wood, near Doncaster" by Philip Corder (pp. 66-92); "The Votadini" by A. H. A. Hogg (pp. 200-220); "The *adventus Saxonum*" by J. N. L. Myres (pp. 221-242); "A Roman arterial signalling system in the Stainmore pass" by I. A. Richmond (pp. 293-302); "A survey of pioneering in air-photography past and future" by J. K. St. Joseph (pp. 303-315); "Glen Urquhart and its castle: a study in environment" by W. Douglas Simpson (pp. 316-331); and "Britain between the invasions (B.C. 54—A.D. 43): a study in ancient diplomacy" by C. E. Stevens.

10. "A guide to the prehistoric and Roman monuments in England and Wales" by Jacquetta Hawkes; xxiii + 312 pp., 12 plates and five maps, 18/- (Chatto & Windus, 1951).

Mrs Hawkes has written a lively and entertaining book, particularly good in its treatment of prehistoric sites in the south of England; on our district she is plainly not well informed, and in the small amount of space which she devotes to it there are too many mistakes in her descriptions, while the selection of sites for inclusion has been arbitrary in the extreme. Thus, Urswick Stone Walls (assigned to Cumberland in the *Gazetteer* at the end of the volume) is called a fort; the character of the Burnmoor circle is completely misunderstood; Hardknot Castle is stated to be on Wrynose Pass (though correctly

assigned to Cumberland); the circles at Annaside, Hall Foss and Egremont have been gone these fifty years and more; the *Gazetteer* entry "Mayburgh, Ullswater . . . Cumberland" implies a description earlier in the text, which readers will fail to find, of the Mayborough circle in Westmorland, close to King Arthur's Round Table, which at least deserves a mention as a place "where the past stirs the imagination"; and the account of the Castlerigg stone circle speaks of "the remains of some stone structure at the centre"—which hardly suggests that the author's study can have been very profound. It is to be regretted that so gifted a writer should have treated even so remote a part of England so cavalierly.

11. "The Roman town and villa at Great Casterton, Rutland" edited by Philip Corder; 42 pp., two plates and 10 text-figures, 6/- (University of Nottingham, 1951).

This is a report on work done by members of the summer school in Romano-British archæology, organised by the University of Nottingham and directed by Dr Corder. The result is wholly admirable, as an example of prompt, full and instructive reporting; special attention may be directed to the important section, contributed by our member Mr J. P. Gillam, on the late fourth-century pottery from a destruction layer in the villa a short distance outside the town (pp. 24-40).

12. *The Archæological News Letter*, May 1951, contains "Dating fourth-century pottery in Northern Britain" by J. P. Gillam (pp. 171-172); August 1951, contains "Rhineland Museums" by Brenda Swinbank (pp. 14-15).

13. *The Classical Review*, new series, i (1951) contains "The will of Q. Veranius" (pp. 4-7) and "Claudius and the Orcades" (pp. 7-9), both by C. E. Stevens.

14. *History Today*, December 1951, includes "The decline and fall of Roman Britain" by C. E. Stevens (pp. 51-58).

15. *Durham University Journal*, June 1951, contains "The origins of equestrian officers, I: prosopographical method" by Eric Birley (pp. 86-95).

16. "Barrow and District", compiled by F. Barnes; 144 pp. and numerous illustrations in line and half-tone, 3/6 (Barrow-in-Furness Library and Museum Committee, 1951).

All concerned are to be congratulated on this excellent illustrated history, which supplies a long-needed short modern study of the Furness district. The book falls into two parts, an account of Furness from the earliest times (pp. 1-92) and the story of the growth of Barrow itself (pp. 93-136). The first section is largely devoted to a full account of the great monastery of St. Mary of Furness, to which some 30 pages are allocated; then, after a brief account of Furness in the post-Dissolution period, we have the story of the district in the Civil War. Next come a short chapter on the later seventeenth century, with an account of George's Fox's activities in Furness, and then we come to the eighteenth century and the rise of industry, as a fitting prelude to the second part of the book, which gives in considerable detail the story of the rise and development of Barrow. At the end there are three and a half pages devoted to an excellent bibliography, under the title "Suggestions for further reading", and an adequate index. The illustrations (of which, unfortunately, no summary list is given) are a particularly attractive feature of the book; they include maps of Dalton in 1825 and Ulverston in 1832 (the former opposite p. 104 and not, as stated in the list of contents, p. 88), a plan of Furness Abbey and a drawing to show the probable appearance of the Iron Age site at Urswick Stone Walls. Text and illustrations alike make the book excellent value, even if it had not been published at such a modest price.

17. "Lancashire Acts of Parliament, 1415-1800" by R. Sharpe France; 49 pp., 2/8 (Lancashire County Council, 1950).

This most useful compilation divides the Acts into fifteen classes; thirteen pages of index make it very easy to consult. Several of the Acts refer to the neighbouring counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, so that the value of Mr Sharpe France's work is by no means confined to the student of Lancashire. A useful feature is that those Acts of which copies are in the Lancashire Record Office are marked with an asterisk. While the social historian will find the Acts referring to bridges, canals, enclosures, harbours and roads of special interest, the genealogist will turn to the eleven pages of "personal" Acts. It is to be hoped that in due course we may be able to see an equally useful conspectus of Acts relating to Cumberland and Westmorland.

18. "Round Carlisle Cross" by James Walter Brown; 300 pp. and 9 plates, 15/-, postage and packing 1/- (Charles Thurnam & Sons Ltd., Carlisle, 1951).

Many will remember the series of nine volumes published under this title many years ago and long out of print. Here we have the pick of them in one book edited by our member T. Gray and M. Denwood, with a foreword by Dr Wadely. The contents are grouped under six headings: Crime, History, Customs, People, Carlisle cathedral and Literary. Mr Brown, who spent almost all his life in Carlisle and died in 1930 in his 80th year, is at his best when he tells us of the cathedral and city he knew, or heard of, in his youth, and of old customs he remembered. He also had access to manuscripts, such as that headed "Farming as observed by a Cumberland Yeoman who lived in the latter end of the 17th century", which are valuable historical sources and now perhaps lost. Under the biographical section, we have accounts of Thomas Pattinson, 'a 1745 scapegoat'; Margery Jackson, the Carlisle miser; John Peel and William Metcalfe. The latter is especially valuable. We are continually reminded of the fame of John Peel, about whom the famous hunting song was written. But little or nothing is done to keep green the memory of John Woodcock Graves, who wrote the words, or William Metcalfe, who composed the tune. Yet the latter is surely the one most deserving of praise for it was his genius, in changing a tune 'monotonously droned' into that to which "John Peel" is sung to-day, that gave the song its enduring fame. Mr. Brown describes how it was first rendered to this tune, by its composer in London in May 1869, and at once obtained a wide popularity. Messrs. Thurnam are to be congratulated on the production of a most readable and entertaining volume, which also contains useful material for the Social Historian.

19. "A short History of Kendal" by M. A. Gordon; 28 pp., four illustrations and map, 1/6 (Titus Wilson, Kendal, 1950).

When the author gives us the memories of Kendal in her childhood, she has much of interest to tell. As for instance in her account of an old man who told her that "one used to be able to walk the whole mile ('of the high street') dry on the wettest day" because of the shelter afforded by the projecting upper stories of the houses. But one's confidence in the book as History is a trifle shattered by the discovery that the author apparently thinks Richard I lived after 1247. Other strange mistakes also occur elsewhere.

20. "The Life of Queen Katherine Parr" by M. A. Gordon; 56 pp. and three illustrations, 5/6 (Titus Wilson, Kendal, 1951).

Our member Mrs Gordon gives us an account of one of Kendal's most famous worthies. The scope of the booklet may be seen from such interesting chapter-headings as "Childhood at Kendal Castle", "Seymour or the King" and "Plots and Dangers"; and though it makes no claim to be a work of original research, it has clearly been compiled with zeal, and the result is eminently readable.

21. "Whitehead's 1851-1951" by J. Whitehead & Son, Appleby; 16 pp. (not for sale, but copies are obtainable by gift from the firm, 1951).

This is a praiseworthy account of the history of the business founded a century ago by John Whitehead, the son of a Westmorland yeoman, as bookseller, stationer and newsagent; for many years the Appleby post office was also housed in the same building, familiar to many today as that of J. Whitehead & Son. Several interesting illustrations are included.

22. "History of Appleby" by Canon Matthews, revised and with a supplementary historical outline by James F. Whitehead; 73 pp., 2/6 paper backed or 5/- cloth (J. Whitehead & Son, Appleby, 1951).

The title of this work, by a member of our Society, explains its contents, but it should be noted that Mr Whitehead has added 46 pages to the 27 of Canon Matthews' original text. It is thus in effect a new work, bringing the history up to date, and containing sections on such matters as the corporation regalia and plate, the grammar school, bull-baiting and the like; there is also an account, contributed by Dr W. Douglas Simpson, of the castle. None the less, as Mr Whitehead will be the first to agree, the county town of Westmorland surely deserves a book of a far more ambitious kind than the present one, the author of which, himself an honorary freeman of the borough, is clearly the man best qualified to write it; meanwhile, he has provided an excellent interim volume.

23. "St. Catherine's, Penrith, 1850-1950"; 12 pp. (a few copies are still available from Father Hill, The Rectory, Penrith).

This is an interesting account, in commemoration of its centenary, of the Roman Catholic church in Penrith. It gives a much longer list than that in *VCH Cumberland* ii, 83-87, of those who suffered in Elizabethan times for their adherence to that faith; a properly documented account of their cases would fill a gap in our local records.