

## NOTES.

1. *An axe-hammer from Solway Moss.* By BRIAN BLAKE.

After lying forgotten in a lumber-room for many years, a perforated axe-hammer was given to me for investigation by Mr H. Montgomery of Gretna. The exact details of its discovery are unknown and the finder is now dead, but from questioning the intermediaries concerned, it seems almost certain that it was found during peat-cutting operations in Solway Moss. The

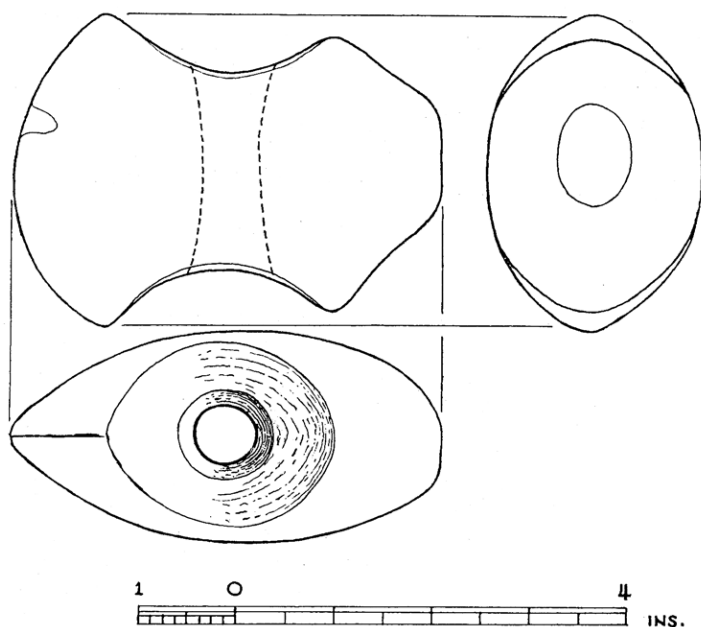


FIG. 1.

shape of the weapon brought to mind the illustration of a Bann-type axe in the National Museum of Ireland at p. 141 of V. Gordon Childe's *Prehistoric Communities of the British Isles*.

It was first sent to the British Museum, and the following is an extract from Mr E. M. M. Alexander's reply: "These plump

axe-hammers are found not only in Ireland but in England (mostly in the North) and Scotland. The following parallels may be noted: Goodmanham, Yorkshire East Riding (*Archæologia* lxxv 91 and fig. 23); Crichtie, Aberdeenshire (*ibid.* 101 and fig. 41); Wick, Caithness (Evans, *Stone Implements*, 2nd ed., 208 and fig. 136a). The central position of the perforation is a British characteristic, and I think there is little doubt that your specimen is indigenous."

On Mr Alexander's advice it was next sent for petrological examination to the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, where Dr F. W. Anderson reported to the Keeper, Mr R. B. K. Stevenson, F.S.A., that the stone was "a quartz porphyry or micro-granite, such as might be found (for example) at Shap; an alternative might perhaps be erratic boulders from Ailsa Craig." Meanwhile, Mr Alexander had sent a drawing and particulars of the axe-hammer to Miss L. F. Chitty, F.S.A., who has been making a survey of these and other implements of the British Isles, and I end with two sentences from Miss Chitty's comments: "The double-expanded perforated stone battle-axe from the peat near Solway Firth is a lovely object and surely related to the Bann River type . . . This is potentially a tremendously important find."

Mr Montgomery has now presented the axe-hammer to Tullie House Museum.

2. *Crop-marks near the Roman fort at Ambleside.* By BRIAN BLAKE.

In his last report on explorations at Ambleside, R. G. Collingwood recorded (CW2 xxi 13 f.) some trial trenching to northward of the fort in a level patch of ground measuring about 150 by 200 ft. surrounded by a group of rocky knolls. Diagonally across the level patch he found a road, and to the east of it floor-levels yielding charcoal and Roman pottery assignable to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. The floor-levels stretched over an area of 200 ft. from N. to S. and about 30 to 60 ft. from W. to E., "becoming broader where the rocks give more room, to northwards". He concluded that "This was evidently part of the *vicus* or suburbs of Galava."

During the dry summer of 1955 I visited Ambleside, and walked over the next field to the north of that in which Collingwood dug. There were obvious crop-marks in it, suggesting to me that it, too, contained Roman buildings. I therefore climbed to the top of Loughrigg, from where I took the photograph here reproduced (fig. 5). The annexed diagram will serve to indicate

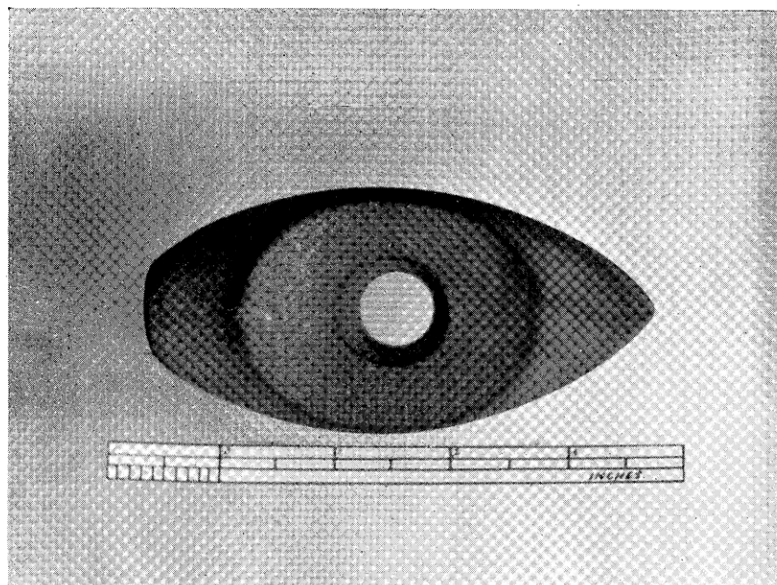


FIG. 2.

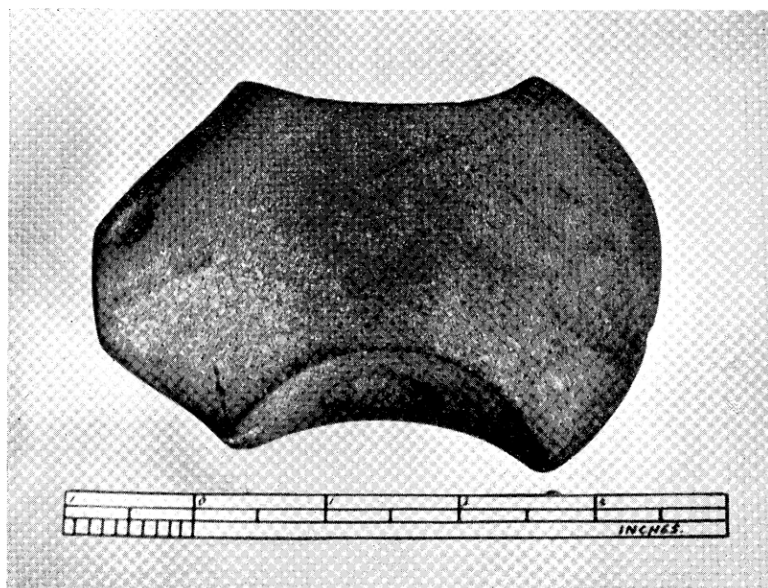
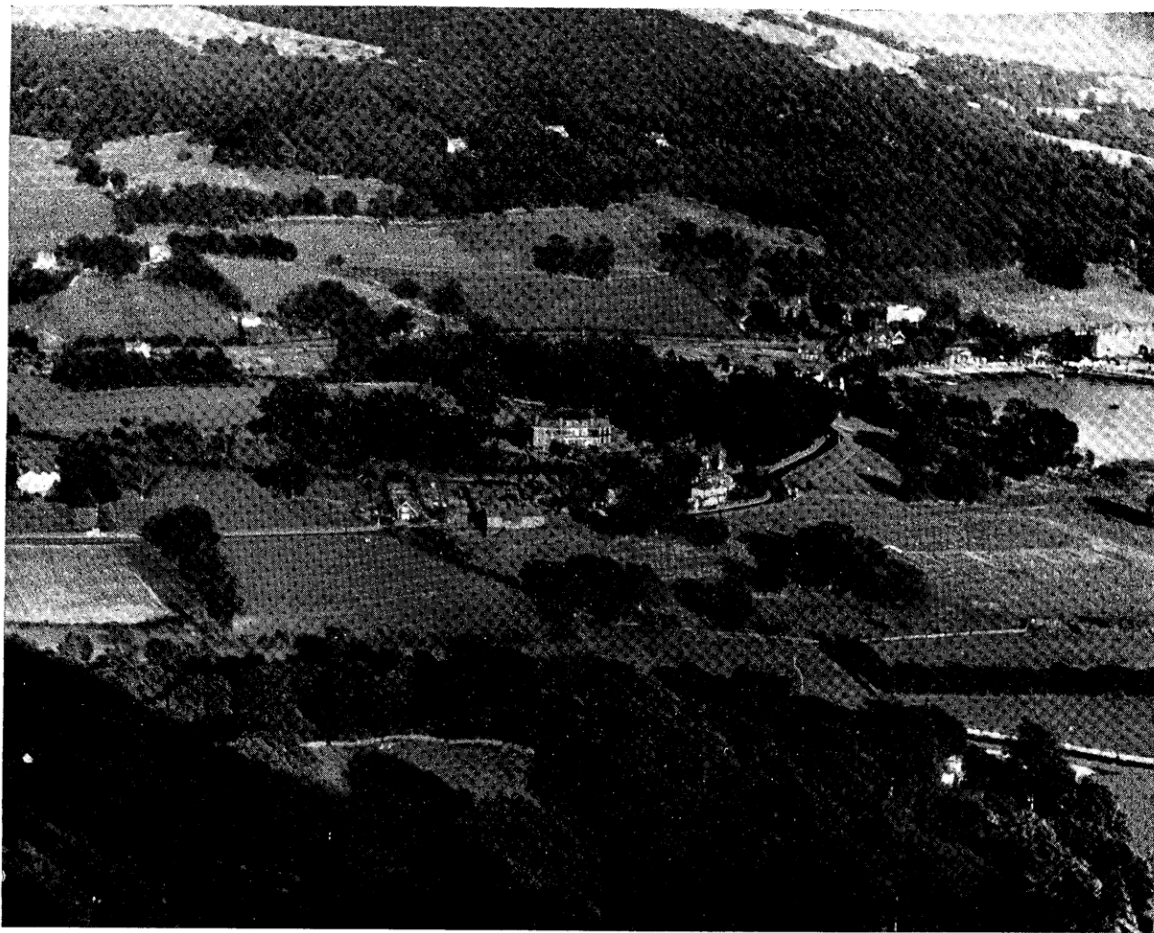


FIG. 3.

facing p. 318

Photos: Brian Blake.



*Photo: Brian Blake.*

FIG. 4.—Ambleside fort (right) and crop-marks (to left), from Loughrigg.

*facing p. 319.*

the marks as they appear in it. If they are in fact Roman, it may be suggested that they represent two sides and one rounded angle of a temporary camp, laid out roughly parallel to the stone fort, and perhaps constructed to accommodate troops employed in building or re-building the fort. Other marks, not showing so clearly in the photograph and therefore not included in the diagram, may perhaps indicate the presence of buildings as well; for example a later northward extension of the *vicus*. It is hoped that there may be an opportunity, in due course, to test these features by excavation.

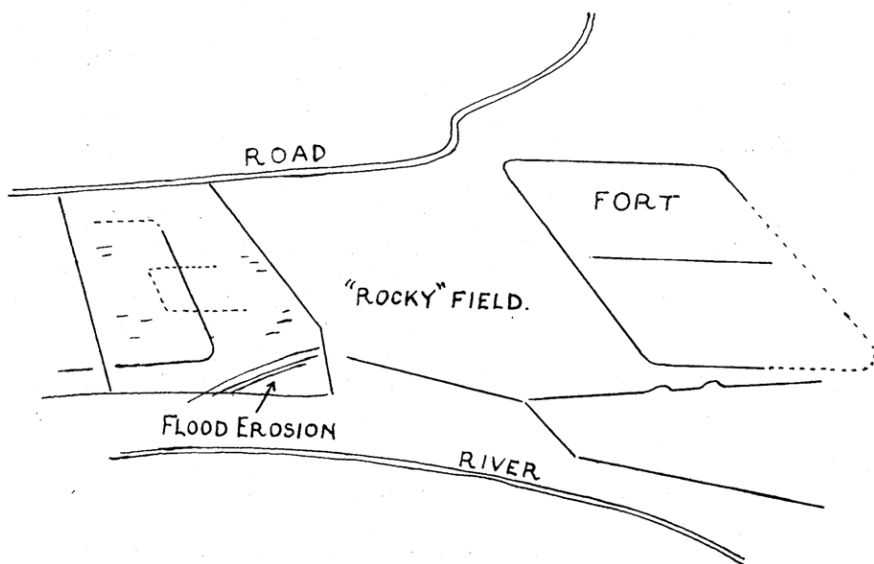


FIG. 5.—Diagram to illustrate the photograph, fig. 4.

3. *Excavations at Brough-under-Stainmore, 1954.* By ERIC BIRLEY.

My paper on the Roman fort at Brough-under-Stainmore, read to this Society in March 1954, and the report on the trial excavations there in the following month (with the aid of grants from the Society and from the Durham University Excavation Committee), have had to be held over until the next volume of *Transactions*, for lack of room in this; it therefore seems desirable to print a short note on the results obtained in 1954, to match that which will have appeared in the *Journal of Roman Studies* under "Roman Britain in 1954".

Trenching across the west rampart of the fort confirmed what surface indications had suggested, namely that the visible ramparts represent early medieval refurbishing, to provide an outer bailey for the Norman castle; a mass of sterile clay now seals the highest Roman rampart-level, and there is a good prospect that deep digging, with a larger labour-force than was at our disposal in 1954, would yield useful results. The fort (*RCHM Westmorland*, plan at p. 48) seems to have faced south, turning its back on the main Stainmore road, as if its main task was to watch the wild country round Wild Boar Fell, and the branch routes to Low Borrow Bridge and, through Mallerstang, to Bainbridge; but until the exact position of the side-gate has been established, this assumption cannot be accepted as certain. A trial trench across the position of the *principia* showed that sufficient of the building remains to repay a fuller examination, though part of it has been removed completely by the digging of the south moat of the castle. East of the fort, on the edge of the escarpment, a considerable pre-Hadrianic deposit was found, and there are some indications that the fort of that period had its main axis running E.-W., parallel to the escarpment, its end therefore lying outside the northern end of the later fort and the castle which was built inside the latter. The most noteworthy single vessel was a samian cup, Dr. 27, with the stamp of the pre-Flavian potter LVPVS of La Graufesenque. It is hoped that it may be possible to do further work on the site in 1956.

4. *Centurial stones from Hadrian's Wall near Gilsland.* By J. P. GILLAM.

The two centurial stones here illustrated (fig. 6) were found in 1951, some distance west of the former vicarage at Gilsland; they were published by Mr R. P. Wright in his contribution to "Roman Britain in 1951" (*J.R.S.* xlii 104, nos. 6 and 7), but they have not hitherto been noted or discussed in these *Transactions*. They were found in the course of clearing fallen debris from the south face of the "narrow Wall", in preparation for its preservation, by the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works; they are important as being the first to be discovered on the actual line of the Wall since the publication of "The building of Hadrian's Wall" by Mr C. E. Stevens in 1948 (*AA4* xxvi 1-46), and because there can be doubt that both stones were found very near to the positions that they had originally occupied in the south face of the Wall: the precise

points of discovery were noted by Mr Charles Anderson, who was in charge of the preservation work.

The first stone reads COH VI | 7 LOVSI | SVAVIS—"Sixth cohort, century of Lousius Suavis"; it was found 195 ft. east of turret 48a (Willowford East). Three or (as Mr Stevens points out, *op. cit.*, 24 f.), more probably four stones of this centurion have previously been found: one in 1927 (CW2 xxviii 387) among material fallen from the face of the Wall, 780 ft. west of turret 48a—that is to say, allowing 20 ft. for the turret, 995 ft. west of the present example—its text being identical (in lettering but not in its lineation). The second stone reads 7 COCCEI | REGVLI—"Century of Cocceius Regulus"; it was found 32 ft. east of turret 48a. Two stones of this centurion have been found previously, neither mentioning his cohort; but it is evident that he belonged to the same cohort as Lousius Suavis and, as Mr Stevens has shown, that it was of the Twentieth Legion. One of the previous discoveries comes from Willowford farm (EE VII 1075), more than a third of a Roman mile west of the new example, measuring along the line of the Wall; the two stones are identical in their lettering. The Willowford stone may of course have been carried some distance from its original position, for use in building the farm, but it is unlikely to have been fetched from very far away, since the farmhouse would presumably be built from the most readily accessible stone, and the Wall passes within a few yards of it.



FIG. 6.—The centurial stones (†).

Both of the newly discovered stones come from the western half of the Wall length 48/48a. On the evidence available to him in 1947, Mr Stevens (*op. cit.*, 10) assigned the eastern half of the length 48a/48b to the sixth cohort of the Twentieth, and the western half of the length 48/48a provisionally to the eighth cohort of the same legion. The new discovery makes it necessary to reconsider the question. Two stones of Lousius Suavis, both mentioning his cohort (and therefore, by implication, marking the end of a length constructed by it), have been

found close to their original positions and almost a thousand feet apart; they cannot be interpreted as marking the ends of an unusually long stretch built by the same century, for the century of Cocceius Regulus occurs between them. A length of 995 ft. is more appropriate for a cohort; indeed, if the figure is divided by six, the number of centuries in a cohort, the resultant figure of 166 ft. is only 3 ft. more than the actual distance apart of the two recently discovered stones. Even so, the two stones of Lousius Suavis cannot well mark a single length built by the same cohort, for the same century could not sign for both ends of such a length; it seems more likely that each stone marks the eastern end of a length, and that this cohort built two successive lengths. In that case, the stone of Cocceius Regulus from Willowford farm was presumably set up as far west of the stone of Lousius Suavis found in 1927, in the western length, as its counterpart in relation to that of Lousius Suavis in the eastern length; we may calculate its original position as some 943 ft. west of turret 48a, which is reasonably close to the farmhouse.

The two stones here discussed have been removed by the Ministry of Works to the Corstopitum museum, for temporary safe-keeping; their ultimate destination remains to be decided.

5. *The Kentmere boat.* By CLARE FELL.

In May 1955 an ancient boat was found by Leslie Ridding during diatomite diggings at the Cape Asbestos Company's works at Kentmere, Westmorland. The find was reported to the British Museum by the plant manager, Mr H. Elliott, and the boat was inspected by Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., on behalf of this Society, and subsequently by Mr G. Naish of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and Mr D. Wilson of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum. By permission of Captain Wilson, the owner, Mr Naish and Mr Wilson, assisted by Dr Werner of the British Museum research laboratory, returned to Kentmere in September 1955 and lifted the boat, covering it with earth so that it might dry out slowly; it may ultimately be housed in the National Maritime Museum.

The boat is of curious construction, the hull being an oaken dug-out canoe, fitted with four cross-ribs, a seat at either end and one in the middle, and five clinker-built planks on either side to raise the hull about 15 in. The dug-out is 14 ft. long. A well worn rowlock was found on the starboard side of the gunwale, also two crudely-shaped baulks, one fixed to either side of the bilge so as to make the dug-out beamier and to give it



more stability. The age of the boat is uncertain, but it may be as early as the period of the Norman Conquest; it is hoped that Carbon-14 tests and pollen analysis may help to fix its date more closely. A well-illustrated account of the find appeared in the *Sphere* of 17 September 1955 (vol. ccxxii, no. 2901, p. 427), and shorter notices in many daily and weekly newspapers. It is hoped that a full report will be given in an early volume of these *Transactions*.

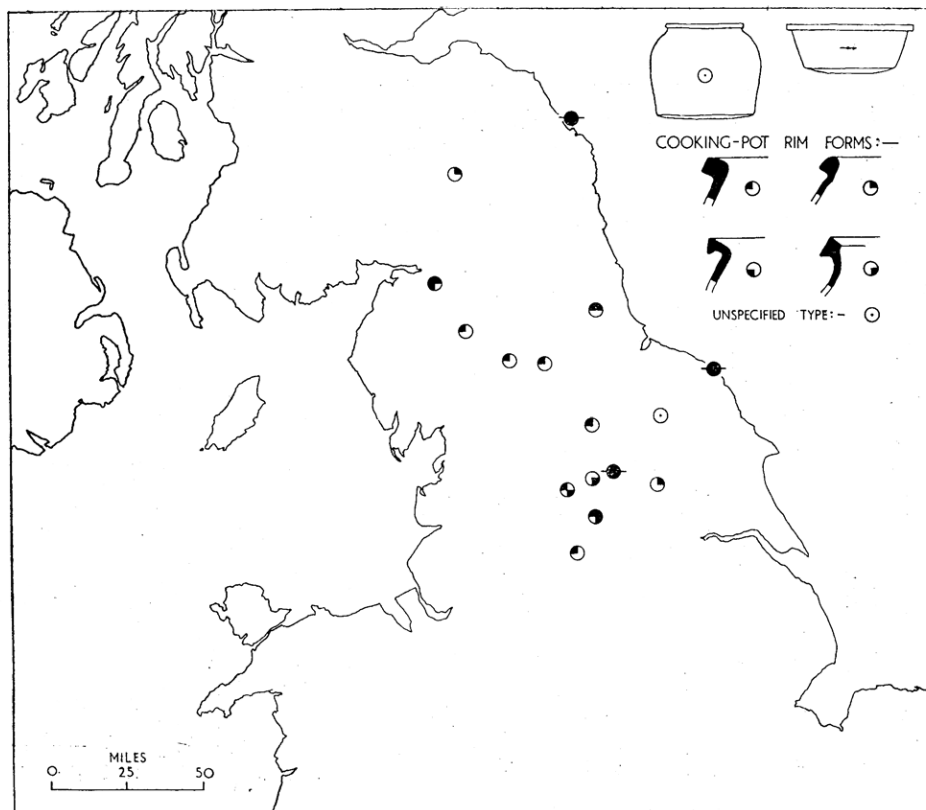
6. *The North English style of cooking-pottery*. By E. M. JOPE.

The accompanying map (fig. 7) has been compiled with the co-operation of Mr. G. C. Dunning, Mr H. W. M. Hodges and Mr D. M. Waterman, to illustrate the distribution of a type of pot—almost vertical-sided and with a variety of rather clubbed rim-forms—which is characteristic of the north of England in the 12th century; the type itself is discussed in more detail in Art. VI above, pp. 82, 87 f. The fabrics are in general clayey but contain a fair amount of moderately coarse gritting, which gives a characteristic pimply surface. We have thought it worth while at this stage to summarise on a map our pooled knowledge of the distribution of this type of cooking-pot, analysed according to its variant rim-forms (as at present known to us), in the hope that it may bring to our notice further records of the type. Bowls of similar wares and with analogous rim-forms are also noted.

The southerly limits of the type are probably now more or less determined, though it must be remembered that a wider version of the vertical-sided cooking-pot with clubbed rim is characteristic of the North Cotswold area (cf. *Oxoniensia* 13, 1948, 70 f.), and that some pots of intermediate shape seem to occur in the Nottingham-Leicester area, so that there may well be an infinite gradation between the extremes. To the north, the type extends into southern Scotland, but much work remains to be done on the 12th century pottery of that area, as well as on that of the most northerly English counties. The later history of these forms and fabrics in the 13th century also needs to be worked out in detail. The study of such pottery distributions reveal an underlying regionalism in English medieval crafts and life, which cannot be appreciated from documentary sources and which warrants a careful study.

The sites mapped in fig. 7 are as follows:—

- (a) *Yorkshire*: Almondbury Castle, near Huddersfield (*Antiq. J.* 33, 1953, 213; *Thoresby Soc.*, 1952, 23, fig. 6, nos. 2 and 6-8).



- Beckwithshaw, near Harrogate (*Antiq. J. cit.*).  
 Bowes (unpublished).  
 Ilkley (*Thoresby Soc. cit.*, fig. 6, nos. 3 and 5).  
 Kirkstall Abbey, near Leeds (*Ibidem*, 20 f.).  
 Knaresborough (*Antiq. J. cit.*, 211-213).  
 Thornborough Rings, near Ripon (excavated by  
 Mr. Nicholas Thomas in 1952, medieval  
 pottery report by H. W. M. Hodges forthcoming  
 in *Yorks Arch. J.*).  
 Whitby (Ministry of Works collection).  
 York (*Antiq. J. cit.*, 212 f.).
- (b) *Durham*: Durham (Bishop Tunstall's chapel, *Antiq. J.* 33,  
 1953, 60, fig. 3, 2-5).  
 (c) *Northumberland*: Lindisfarne (Ministry of Works collection).  
 (d) *Cumberland*: Carlisle (Art. VI, above).  
 (e) *Westmorland*: Brough and Brougham (Art. VI, above).  
 (f) *Southern Scotland*: Hawick, Roxburghshire (PSAScot. 48,  
 1914, 20 f., fig. 4: not really a sealed 12th century deposit,  
 and the rims are drawn at incorrect sitting-angles, cf. p.  
 87, above).

7. *Bierley—Burlaw—Byrlaw*. By R. C. REID.

Reference is made, in Mr B. L. Thompson's paper on the Windermere "Four and Twenty" (CW2 liv r63), to the division of the ancient parish of Dalton-in-Furness into four "Bierleys", and the Editors have asked me to contribute a note on the term, which is perhaps to be connected with the Burlaw or Byrlaw courts, for which see Professor Croft Dickinson's account in Appendix A of the *Court Book of the Barony of Carnwath*, published by the Scottish History Society. The term is derived from the Old Norse *býjar-lög*, law community or district, and it came to mean the law governing small communities or villages. Skene (*De Verb. Sig.*, s. v. Burlaw) writes: "Lawes of Burlaw are maid and determined be consent of nichtbors elected and chosen by common consent in the courts called Byrlaw courts. In the quhilk, cognition is taken of complaints betwixt nichtbour and nichtbour."

Burlaw courts were associated with the barony court, which upheld their decrees and provided the authority for their enforcement. There seem to have been no rules as to the meetings of the Burlaw court, or as to the number of burlawmen; I have never come across any record of such a court (though the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* xv gives the proceedings of the

Burlaw court of Leith 1724-50); but there are numerous references to them in most barony court books. Thus, at Stitchill in 1655 nine burlawmen were appointed, who with the factor of the barony were to decide "all matters questionable and debatable among neyboris". In 1660 in the baron court book of Holmains, "with consent of the regular tenants" four tenants were appointed as *barlamen* for apprising of corn, breaking of marches and shearing of grass, receiving 12d. in the pound of apprising to be paid by the transgressor, together with any damages that might be determined, and with power to poind for the said 12d.; if after appointment any barlaman refused the duty, he had to pay 10 groats. At the next sitting of the barony court the barlamen were ordained "to go throw and take notice of any trespass they sall see and give up accordingly and the cottiers thereof, the which barlamen when escheitt are to pryse any corne eaten or destroyit or meadow cut". At Holmains, as in many other baronies, no regular Burlaw court seems to have met; instead, the complaints investigated by the burlawmen were reported direct to the barony court, which took the appropriate action.

The system has been described as an ideal one for preserving the peace of the neighbourhood, and for ensuring that each tenant paid a proper regard to the welfare of his neighbours. The bulk of the references to the work of the burlawmen relates to "good neighbourhood"—the maintenance of hedges and ditches, to prevent cattle straying; the assessment of damages for corn eaten by such cattle; and disputes relating to pasturage and boundaries. An echo of these burlawmen is preserved in the "Guid Nichtbors week" at Dumfries, during which is held the annual riding of the marches, racing and crowning of queens.

8. *A letter from Lord William Dacre.* By KENNETH SMITH.

By the courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum, and through the good offices of Mr T. C. Skeat, a negative photostat has been obtained for Tullie House of a letter sent by William, Lord Dacre of Gilsland to Sir William Parr, reporting that the city and castle of Carlisle were to be delivered to the bishop of Carlisle. The letter, which is addressed "To my cousin Sir William Parre Knight chambelayn to my Lorde of Richemount grace", reads as follows:—

"Cousin in my mooste hartie wise I recomende me unto youe. Certefeing the same that I am commaunded by my Lorde Cardinnallis grace to delyuer the Citie and castell of Carlisle unto my lorde of Carlisle, who haith auctoritie by commission to receive the same to thuse of my lorde of Cumberlaunde. And further his grace commanded me to aduertise youe thereof to thintent that ye might shew it to all my lorde of Richemounts counsaill. And

forasmiche as I haue sent downe at this tyme to my counsaill for the deluery of the same Citie and castell, I do send to youe this aduertisement, according as I was commaunded to do. And thus mooste hartely fair youe as well as my self. Frome London the laste day of Nouember.

You<sup>r</sup> lowyng cosyng,  
William Dacre"

The body of the letter is in the hand of a clerk, and only the last three words and the signature are Dacre's own. The year was 1525, when the duke of Richmond was only six years old and Henry Clifford, earl of Cumberland, was to hold Carlisle on his behalf; "my lorde of Carlisle" means the bishop, John Kite, as is shown by *Letters & Papers, Henry VIII* iv 1896: on 16 January 1526 he and Sir William Eure reported to Cardinal Wolsey that they had delivered Carlisle castle to the earl of Cumberland. Fuller annotation would be out of place in a brief note.

9. *The Hodgsons of Bascodyke*. By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

A paper with this title was communicated to the Society in 1924 by James Hodgson, and printed in CW2 xxv 244-267. Some additional information on Solomon Hodgson (*ibidem*, 257 f.) and his family is contained in the *Newcastle Diocesan Gazette*, October 1915, p. 110, where copies of inscriptions at St John's church, Newcastle upon Tyne, are given. Of Solomon Hodgson himself his epitaph avers that "as he could not stoop to court the smile of any man, so neither did he fear any man's frown; but, through the medium of an uncorrupted press, delighted in disseminating the principles of rational liberty and eternal truth". The stone adds the name of a child of Solomon and Sarah Hodgson not given in CW2 xxv, namely Sarah, who died on 29 March 1793, aged seven. It also gives the date (16 November 1818) of the younger daughter Hannah's death, and shows that the full name of the fourth son, who died on 2 July 1816, was Solomon Joseph. Solomon Hodgson's widow Sarah, née Slack, died of cholera on 10 September 1822, aged 62.

James Hodgson cited Richard Welford in AA3 iii 46 for Solomon Hodgson; a fuller account of the man is to be found in the same writer's *Men of Mark 'twixt Tyne and Tweed* ii, 1895, 543-547. He is also remembered as the printer of the first two volumes of Hutchinson's *History of Durham*; his sons included Thomas Hodgson, one of the leading members of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne in its early days.

10. *Fetherstonhaugh of Kirkoswald*. By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

The late Francis Haswell, in his paper on the family of Fetherstonhaugh (CW2 xiv 196-237), was unable to give the

exact date of the death of the Rev. Henry Fetherstonhaugh or the name of his wife (*ibidem*, 224). The following announcement from the *Newcastle Journal* of Saturday, 17 April 1779, under DEATHS, supplies the missing date: "Sunday morning last at his house in Westgate-street, aged 85, the Rev. Mr. Featherston, lecturer of All Saints and Master of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Hospitals: On Thursday his remains were interred at All-Saints Church." Hodgson's *History of Northumberland* II ii, 1832, 333, gives the name of his wife: she was Mary, eldest daughter of William Greene of Stannington Bridge, Northumberland. Administration of her estate was granted in Durham Probate Registry on 5 July 1790 to her daughter Bridget Fetherstonhaugh, spinster, her only next of kin; Mrs Fetherstonhaugh is described as of the chapelry of St. John in the town and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

II. *Barwis, Featherstonhaugh and Kirkby*. By the Rev. F. B. SWIFT.

When "Little" Richard Barwis (the last of the main line of the Barwis family of Ilekirk) died in 1699, he left two surviving daughters coheiresses (CW2 li 117-136). They were Anne, who married John Featherstonhaugh on 21 November 1700 and was buried 21 September 1708, and Frances, who married William Kirkby of Ashlack, North Lancashire, on 6 June 1700 and was buried 13 January 1705/6 (the dates come from the Westward parish registers and bishop's transcript). The main object of the present note is to give some account of John Featherstonhaugh, of whom the county histories only say that he married Anne Barwis of Ilekirk, that he was then a major and that he died without issue.

John Featherstonhaugh belonged to the old family of Stanhope Hall in Weardale, Co. Durham, which they had owned since the time of Edward III (Surtees Society, vol. cxi). He was appointed captain of the Independent Troop of Horse, commanded by Colonel Cornelius Wood, on 25 June 1685; it had been raised at Durham, and after the battle of Sedgemoor in the same year it was incorporated into the earl of Arran's regiment of cuirassiers. He was promoted major on 10 February 1694, and on 17 December 1697 he became lieutenant-governor of Carlisle, retaining that post until his appointment as lieutenant-colonel of Wood's Horse on 1 July 1702. In 1704 he was given the brevet rank of colonel of horse in the same regiment. He was killed at the battle of Blenheim, 6 March 1704/5, and in a list of the widows and children of officers who fell in that battle

it is noted that he had no children and that his widow received £117 in bounty money (Charles Dalton, *English Army Lists, &c., 1661-1714*, ii-v). His name is found spelt in a variety of ways.

The other coheirress, Frances, married William Kirkby of Ashlack; they had issue, William who died young, Margaret and Johanna. After the death of Frances in 1706, William Kirkby married secondly Alice, daughter of Dr Thomas Comber, dean of Durham, and widow of Francis Blackburne. On the west wall of the north aisle of Kirkby Ireleth church is a tablet recording, *inter alia*, that he died on 28 December 1747, aged 74, and that "he married Frances, one of the daughters and coheirresses of Richd Barwise of Hyledkirk in the county of Cumberland Esq." (cf. Harleian Society, vol. lxxxviii, for the pedigree of Kirkby of Kirkby and Ashlack, and CW2 vi, pedigree facing p. 97; also West, *Antiquities of Furness*, 1774, 235-247 for the family and 245 f. for our William Kirkby).

12. *The dedication of Brougham chapel.* By C. M. L. BOUCH.

I have already discussed (CW2 1 82 f.) the true dedication and titles of the two Brougham churches, and have shewn that there is no doubt that the dedication of the parish church is to St Wilfrid but its full description (as recorded on the Bird chalice) "the church of St Wilfrid of Brougham, commonly called Ninekirks", while the other church in the parish is never given a titular saint in ancient documents, simply appearing as Brougham chapel: as in Lady Anne Clifford's diary in 1661 while she was staying at Brougham castle: "I received the Sacrament there once at Christmas in the chapel, once at Ninekirks on Easter Day and in July at Brougham chapel, which I have recently rebuilt" (*Lady Anne Clifford*, G. C. Williamson, 307). When I came to the parish in 1946 I found that the parish church was called St Ninian's, the chapel St Wilfrid's; I accepted that nomenclature and used it in my *Prelates and People* (frontispiece and p. 162), but I later found, as noted above, that these are not the ancient descriptions. I have lately come across a clue to the period when the change in name was made: Sir Clement Jones, in his *Walks in North Westmorland* (1955, 91 f.), quotes from the Journal of Lord Arthur Russell, who stayed at Brougham Hall in September 1850, an account of his visit to "Ninekirks, St Ninian's shrine". This date is interesting, because the first occurrence of the title "St Ninian's" in the registers of the parish church is in the marriage register under the date 15 March 1851. The rector at that time was the Hon. Thomas Edwardes, son-in-law of William Brougham—who was responsible for refurbish-

ing the chapel, and who succeeded as second lord in 1868. It seems probable that rector Edwardes—finding two saints associated with the parish, and not realising that old chapels often had no titular saint assigned to them—assumed that one saint belonged to the parish church and the other to the chapel. But it is not until June 1941, in the marriage registers, that the title “St Wilfrid’s” occurs in an official document belonging to the chapel. I have already explained (CW2 186 and Art. VII, above) the historical significance of the twofold title for the parish church.

13. *The dating of houses: a caution.* By the late M. C. FAIR.<sup>1</sup>

Those who study the domestic buildings of West Cumberland must take note of the errant character of the dated lintel-stones and porches found on local houses. Thus, there is one cottage, built about 1870, which has a porch dated 1747, added to it about 1920 when an old farm about four miles away fell into ruin after going out of occupation; and a very fine lintel-stone from a 17th century smithy now adorns an entirely modern cottage. Such details as adze-trimmed planks and beams, and “pegged” work, also need noting and consideration in the older buildings. There are good examples in the Eskdale district, as also of the panelling used instead of party-walls, in some cases both upstairs and down; this panelling is good, and an excellent example of the joinery work of the period, some of it being adze-trimmed. Such details are small, but they are typical of the planning of the yeomen’s houses that have survived.

Another snag in this district is the almost complete disappearance, within my memory, of the yeoman families who once owned the farms; they have died out or moved, and the farms have been sold and come into other ownership — and some of the present occupants invent what they do not know, for handing out to enquirers who visit them! One gentleman, having bought one of the ancient homesteads mentioned in the Humberstone survey of 1578, wanted to have that date carved upon his front-door lintel.

14. *A letter from W. G. Collingwood to Miss Fair.* By ERIC BIRLEY.

Among Miss Fair’s papers I have come across the following letter, written to her by W. G. Collingwood on 12 June 1929, which deserves to be printed for the light that it throws on

<sup>1</sup> Based on a letter written to the President a few weeks before Miss Fair’s death. E.B.



W.G.C., R.G.C. and Miss Fair herself; I am indebted to our member Miss A. M. Armstrong and Miss Harris for permission to reproduce it:—

"It is most kind of you to send me *Roman Eskdale*. Isn't it funny what a romantic person my son Robin is — with his scarlet cloak and his mangled bodies? And he is very kind, too, to mention my book. Your photographs and road, of course, are in the story and he couldn't do without them.

"And the very interesting lamp shall be read at Alston; many thanks for it. The photographs will be a great adornment to our *Transactions*.

"The Mecklin park settlement naturally suggests the flint arrow; but it is particularly interesting to have the chance of exploring a site that has not been pulled about by road-menders and gives a hope of dating it — Stone Age? Bronze Age? Iron Age? — what a wide reach is still open for these felltop settlements, none of which have been determined.

"And so you are de Veteri ponte! What an interesting pedigree — from the old owners of Alston and much besides. So also are the Wilsons of Alston, about whom I expect we shall hear when we go there. Our local committee found that we could hardly manage Nenthead and Garrigill, and there is little for a big party to see there; but I *did* want to get them all up on the moors. Enough is as good as a feast, and you will see that the days are pretty well filled up.

"Spain! Have you seen the last *Antiquity*? There are some marvellous Spanish hill-forts in it. There is also mention of the little article I enclose, and next time there will be more. It isn't archaeology to talk about Arthur, but I confess I am more romantic than Robin himself and I keep recurring to the old puzzle of the Dark Age and trying to peep under the curtain!"

The following notes will help to elucidate the letter. R. G. Collingwood, *Roman Eskdale* [1929] cites W. G. Collingwood's *Lake District History* (1925) as one of its chief sources; for the scarlet cloak and the mangled bodies cf. *Roman Eskdale*, pp. 36 and 51. The Roman lamp from Ravenglass is recorded CW2 xxx 223, with plate facing (photographs, by Miss Fair, of the upper side with a human mask in relief, and lower side with the maker's stamp CAPITO F); Miss Fair's note on the Mecklin park settlement is given *ibid.*, 222 f., and the *Proceedings* of the Alston meeting of 10 and 11 July 1929, *ibid.*, 206-214. Cf. *Antiquity* iii (1929) 188-194 for W. J. Hemp's paper on "Three hill-forts in eastern Spain"; 214 f. for an editorial reference to W. G. Collingwood's paper on "Arthur and Athelstan" (*Saga-Book of the Viking Society* x, 1928) and 292-298 for his stimulating discussion of Arthur's battles.