

PROCEEDINGS.

I. SPRING MEETING, 1957.

THE spring meeting was held in Penrith Town Hall, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 6 April; the President, Canon C. M. L. Bouch, presided. Council had met during the morning to transact routine business.

After the minutes had been confirmed, the President reported that Council had received and accepted, with regret, the resignations, owing to ill-health, of the editors, Professor Eric Birley and Canon Bouch. On Council's recommendation, the appointment of Mr C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A., as editor was confirmed, and Mr Brian Blake, M.A., was appointed joint editor. The President announced that Council had made grants for excavation in the coming season: to Dr D. Walker £25 from the Research Fund and £60 from the Mary Fair Bequest for work at Barnscar, and £25 from the Research Fund to Miss K. S. Hodgson and Mr Blake for work on Romano-British farm sites. It was decided to issue an appeal for contributions. 15 candidates were elected members of the Society. The following papers were read or reported: "Grey Croft Stone Circle, Seascale" by W. Fletcher (Art. I, above); "Old Brampton: a Romano-British Farmstead" by Brian Blake; "Former Clock- and Watch-Makers of North Lonsdale" by J. L. Hobbs (Art. XII).

II. SUMMER MEETING, 1957.

The summer meeting was held in Mid-West Cumberland on Friday and Saturday, 21 and 22 June 1957. Arrangements for the meeting were made by a committee of the President, Mr R. F. Dickinson, Mr D. Hay, Rev. M. K. Hodges, Mr W. S. Newall, Mr H. J. Chandler and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

Friday, 21 June.

We first visited ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MUNCASTER, which was described by the Rev. M. K. Hodges. Much of the building is late 14th century and the presence of a rood light to the south of the pulpit indicates that the altar once stood there. In 1874 the building was restored by Lord Muncaster. In addition to the present font there is a much smaller one of red sandstone which may be dated about 1661. The shaft of a

small cross, 4 ft. high, has similar carving to the Gosforth Cross, and may also be of Viking origin. The registers begin in 1583. The advowson was given to Conishead Priory temp. Henry II by Gamel de Pennington, and at the Dissolution was granted to the Pennington family who still retain it. The tomb in the sanctuary is that of Sir John Pennington who fought at Flodden.

The party then walked through the shrubberies to MUNCAS-TER CASTLE (by permission of Sir John Ramsden) where a short address of welcome by Mr McWilliam, agent for the estate, served as an introduction to a pamphlet prepared by Sir John on the castle's history. The known history of the castle is the history of the Pennington family. The old tower was built about 1300. Sir John de Pennington, a Lancastrian, fought for Henry VI and in 1461, when Henry was in flight after Towton and Hexham, harboured the king at Muncaster. In recognition of this the King gave Sir John the glass bowl known as "The Luck of Muncaster".

In the grounds of the castle overlooking the sea is the site of the ROMAN FORT OF RAVENGLASS. Close by is WALLS CASTLE which Mr J. P. Gillam described. Walls Castle is the ruins of the Roman bath-house associated with the fort. These ruins are striking and consist of the walls of at least three rooms reaching to a height of some 10 ft. In one place parts of the original plaster can be seen and the remains of a flue and a furnace can still be made out. The position of some hypocausts was found by excavation in 1881 (CW1 vi 216), and Mr Gillam suggested that the time had come for further work to be done. The Roman station protected a harbour and marked the end of the road from Ambleside by Hardknot fort, and was well sited to control the coastal line. No doubt it also provided a trading centre for south-west Scotland and the Isle of Man.

After lunch we visited CALDER ABBEY (by permission of Mrs Rymer) which Canon Bouch described (see Miss Fair's paper, CW2 liii 81-86). The site on which the abbey was built is first mentioned in the Registers of Furness Abbey as a gift from Ranulph le Meschin in 1134. This is confirmed by an entry in the Registers of Byland, Yorkshire, which states that a number of monks (whose names are given) left Furness Abbey to build an abbey at "Kaldra in Coupland". These gifts were confirmed in 1246 by Henry III and in 1362 by Edward III. However, the pioneers had to flee the site in the face of a raid from Scotland only a few years after they had begun to build their home, and in 1138 a second colony was sent out from Furness in an attempt to re-establish the abbey at Calder. This attempt was successful.

The present buildings were probably completed soon after 1216. Calder was never a wealthy abbey, having only four dependent churches at the dissolution, while in 1535 its gross revenues amounted to only £64. 3s. 9d.

Our last visit was to EGREMONT CASTLE now in the possession of the Parish Council where Mr S. J. Hornsby, clerk to the Council, spoke. After the Conquest, Henry I gave much of Cumberland and part of Westmorland to Ranulph le Meschin who in turn gave the part known as the Barony of Copeland to another of his family, William, who built his castle on the bank of the River Ehen in the early years of the 12th century. It passed in subsequent years first to the de Multon family and then to the Percies and Wyndhams. The remains of the castle consist of an outer bailey from which most of the wall has disappeared, and a square gateway tower which led into the inner bailey. On the west are three small gateways which probably led to the outer defences and are later than the main part of the castle. Opposite these gateways is an artificial mound traditionally said to be of Danish origin.

From Egremont we went to WHITEHAVEN where after tea forty members attended the GENERAL MEETING in the Town Hall. A pleasant note was struck by an unexpected visit by the Mayor who welcomed us in the Council Chamber. At the meeting Mr Bellhouse read a paper, "Roman Roads and Mediæval Charters".

Saturday, 22 June.

Mr Daniel Hay spoke on the history of WHITEHAVEN CASTLE (now the Hospital) and its site. He pointed out that little was known about the early history of Whitehaven although there was a Roman station at Moresby. The advent of the Normans at the end of the 11th century and the establishment of the Priory of St. Bees saw the inauguration of an era of record keeping which has enabled us to form a fair idea of what the Whitehaven of the period between the Conquest and the Reformation looked like. It formed part of a fairly scattered rural community which raised horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, grew and ground its own corn and maintained one or two minor industries. There were salt-pans at various points along the coast controlled by the monks of St. Bees, and it is obvious from a charter of Nicholas de Langton, Prior of St. Bees from 1256 to 1282, that there were coalmines and quarries at Arrowthwaite. Whitehaven was designated a port in which the monks had exclusive rights soon after the foundation of the Priory of St. Bees in 1125, but the survey of the creeks and harbours on

the coast of England made as the result of a directive by Queen Elizabeth in 1565 gave a misleading picture. It defined the boundaries of the "vill" or "township" of Whitehaven and its relationship to the Manor of Arrowthwaite and the Township of Hothwaite. The "Flatt" which later became the castle lay just inside the boundary of the Township of Hothwaite and was mentioned in the St. Bees Priory charters as early as A.D. 1200, but the latinized form of the name, "Campus", rather indicates that it might have had a much earlier history as a meeting place. The Flatt seems to have had a continuous history from early Norman times to the 16th century as a farm mansion. In 1599 it was the property of William Fletcher. The Fletcher family had come to the district some fifty years previously and were agents for Sir Thomas Challoner who had purchased the Manor of St. Bees. Michael Johnstone married Dorothy Fletcher and through her acquired the property which was sold to Sir John Lowther in 1675. It was considerably altered by Sir John Lowther about 1694, and rebuilt in 1769 by Sir James Lowther who became first Earl of Lonsdale.

We then went to the harbour where Mr Hay mentioned the outstanding importance of Whitehaven as a port in the 18th century and discussed the reasons for its decline vis-a-vis Liverpool and Glasgow.

After lunch we visited LAMPLUGH HALL (by permission of Mr Horne) and Mr R. F. Dickinson described the buildings (CW2 li 142). The earliest mention of Lamplugh is in documents of the 12th century where it is recorded that William de Lamplugh exchanged certain lands with Gospatric, the son of Orme, who was the overlord of Workington. The present building is on the site of the Elizabethan manor-house erected by Sir John Lamplugh but destroyed by fire in the 19th century. The only remaining visible part of this structure is the present gateway bearing the arms of Lamplugh and the date 1595. It seems likely however that the original walls were used again as much as possible as they would be solid enough to survive. This would seem to be borne out by the present centrally placed chimney-stack and the general appearance of some of the internal walls. At the time of the fire there remained at the right hand side of the present entrance to the farmyard a square tower in very poor state of repair. It was completely dismantled and the material used in erecting farm buildings. It was no doubt the original pele-tower but it has left no trace. Behind the house is a hillock, steep on three sides, and it is not unlikely that the first building on the site was in the nature of a motte-and-bailey.

A short run took us to BRANTHWAITE HALL which we visited by permission of Mr Wilson (CW2 xlvii 194-195). The speaker here was Mr Dickinson.

The last visit was to COCKERMOUTH where a paper was read in the Town Hall by Mr E. R. Denwood on some aspects of old Cockermouth. COCKERMOUTH OLD HALL is three hundred yards from the castle and is in a dilapidated state. Although there is not much to be seen, we took the opportunity of looking at the building as it is to be demolished. There does not seem to be any record of construction, and the presence of a castle so near suggests that it was never meant to be used for any defensive purpose. The original hall was taken down in the 17th century and the present one built in its place, and it seems that part of the quarters in which Mary, Queen of Scots, was entertained was incorporated in the newer building. In the days of its splendour it must have been an attractive place with lawns and gardens running down to the Cocker. It was for many generations the home of the Fletcher family, and when it ceased to be a permanent residence all connection of the family with Cockermouth came to an end. In its final stage it provided a number of tenements.

COCKERMOUTH CASTLE (CW2 xxvi 209-211) was also described by Mr Denwood.

Beyond the bridge leading to Carlisle and Maryport is the suburb known as "THE GOAT", an odd example of the persistence of names. There was here a hospice of the Black Friars with its own water-driven corn mill. The mill-race is just outside the present modern steam mill. Such a mill-stream was known as a "gote" (or goyt) in the Middle Ages, and there need be little doubt that the present name of the district confirms the record of the hospice. Mr Denwood also described the old "House of Correction" in St. Helen's Street with its condemned cell and "common room", the latter having a ceiling of iron plates. The date over the door of this room is 1827.

A successful excursion was ended by the President thanking all speakers and all the owners of the various places we had visited. A Council meeting was held at the conclusion of the meeting.

III. AUTUMN MEETING, 1957.

The autumn meeting was held in the Kendal district on Thursday and Friday, 12 and 13 September 1957. The arrangements for the meeting had been made by a committee consisting of the President, Mrs Bagot, Miss Clare Fell, F.S.A., Mr H. Hornyold-Strickland, F.S.A., Miss Barbara Holt, Mr Roger Fulford and Major R. Scott-Little.

Thursday, 12 September.

The meeting began in Kendal Parish Church Hall (by permission of the Rev. G. Needham). Mr Paul Wilson spoke on the subject of WATER MILLS and described different types of mills. He dealt with the use made of water mills by the Romans both on the continent and in our own area. The first written record of a water mill in this country was in a charter granted by Ethelbert of Kent to the owners of a monastic mill near Dover (perhaps a tidal mill) in 762. By the time of the Domesday Survey over five thousand mills were listed. Mr Wilson continued with descriptions and documented references to mills through the Middle Ages, to the mills of the German miners in Cumberland and to the early industrial mills of the 18th century, and he showed how water power had brought about more than one industrial revolution, particularly in relation to the 13th-century woollen trade. He associated the woollen trade with Kendal and showed how, contrary to popular opinion, the use of water mills was not confined to corn grinding, but applied to many other industries, and he gave local examples such as the textiles already mentioned, a snuff industry on the Kent, paper mills, gunpowder, carpet making and woodworking.

We next visited DODDING GREEN (*RCHM Westmorland* 213) where Father Bamber gave an entertaining talk about the house and the part it played in the days of the persecution of Catholics. The house has two main storeys and attics, and was built with rubble walls and a slate roof in the 17th century. In 1723 it was left by Robert Stephenson to the Catholics as a presbytery and chapel. The present chapel is probably an 18th-century addition. The house is built on a H-shaped plan with the cross wings at north and south, and at the northern end a rain water head bears the initials "R. & A.S." and the date 1682. Interesting points in the building are the chimney stacks which have cylindrical or diagonal shafts, an original staircase set in a semi-circular projection, and, in the porch, two oak seats, one of which is carved "1673 Martha Kirkby". Father Bamber then conducted members over the house and showed not only the various treasures preserved there but also the secret passages and hiding places which had once well served this centre of an oppressed faith.

After lunch we reassembled in KENDAL PARISH CHURCH (by permission of the Rev. G. Needham) (*RCHM Westmorland* 119) where Mr Bulman was the speaker. A fragment of an Anglian cross shaft supports the supposition that a Saxon church stood originally on the site. A church appears to have been built in the 13th century, and to this period belong the chancel arcades

and the eastern part of the nave. The extensive outer north and south aisles were added during the Perpendicular period; the Parr Chapel and southern aisle probably date from the end of the 15th century, and the Bellingham Chapel and outer north aisle are of early 16th-century date. Although the internal vistas across the church are impressive, the architecture itself is rather uninspired and was probably the product of a local building firm or guild working without the supervision of a master mason. Mr Bulman quoted in support of this suggestion a document dated 1456-1460 in which the parishioners of Kendal alleged that their church was much decayed and that a contract had been made with William Thornborough, a parishioner, for the church to be "well and metely made and rebuilt honourably, and refurnished for sixteen score marks". Apparently William had already received fourteen score marks and then downed tools although the chancel was on the point of falling. The parishioners asked that Thornborough should appear before the Bishop "in our lord the king's chancery". The final planning of the church was that of a great rectangle with double aisles, this being an ideal of planning in the later Middle Ages, with the aisles taken the full length of the church, the chancel arch removed and the various divisions being accomplished by means of fine screen work and fittings. The church fell into dilapidation during the 17th and 18th centuries, but the much needed restorations between 1850 and 1868 deprived the church of a great deal of its architectural interest.

Our next visit was to KENDAL TOWN HALL (by permission of the Mayor) where a member of the Town Clerk's office most kindly undertook to show us the possessions of the town and the art treasures held in the Town Hall. From the Town Hall we went to THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE in Stramongate (by permission of the Preparative Committee) where a paper by Miss Isabel Wilson on the Friends' Movement in the Kendal district was read.

After a MEETING OF COUNCIL, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in Kendal Town Hall at 8 p.m. with the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, the Society proceeded to the election of officers and members of Council for the year next ensuing. On the nomination of Council, Professor Eric Birley, M.B.E., M.A., F.S.A., was elected President of the Society in succession to Canon C. M. L. Bouch, M.A., F.S.A. Professor Birley then took the chair and on behalf of the whole Society warmly thanked Canon Bouch for his outstanding services both throughout his Presidency and during his membership of the Society.

The remaining officers and members of Council were re-elected *en bloc*, and the single vacancy which existed on Council was filled by the election of Mr Roger Fulford. After the Treasurer's report for the Society's year, 1956/57, had been discussed, it was resolved that Council should hold a special meeting to consider the financial situation of the Society and to recommend steps to improve that situation. Twelve candidates for membership were then elected, and the following papers were reported: "Middle Bronze Age Urns from Furness" by Clare Fell, F.S.A. (Art. II, above); "Carved Heads in Carlisle Cathedral" by C. G. Bulman (Art. VII); "Some Early Furness Records" by F. Barnes and J. L. Hobbs (Art. IX); "Eskdale Bells" by Bruce L. Thompson (Art. XI). The President read a short paper on William Guy, thrice Mayor of Kendal and proprietor of Watercrock, and other members of his family, and suggested that further investigation of the family might throw interesting light on the history of Kendal in the 17th century, besides illustrating the antiquarian history of the Roman site at Watercrock. Mr Brian Blake gave a short description of the work in progress at Wolsty Hall Romano-British site.

Friday, 13 September.

Our first visit on the second day of the meeting was to WATERCROOK ROMAN FORT (by permission of Mr Dobson), which the President described (Art. III, above). We next visited WITHERSLACK CHURCH (*RCHM Westmorland* 248) by permission of the Rev. T. Young) and Mr C. G. Bulman described the church which was formerly a chapel to Beetham and dates from 1644. Built from funds provided by John Barwick, Dean of St. Paul's and a native of the village, it was consecrated in 1671. The original building was altered in 1768, the walls being raised, the windows heightened and the tower renewed. Mr Bulman showed that the present building is a happy blend of two styles, the late Gothic of the mid-17th century and the later Renaissance work of the 18th century. A colonnade at the east end combine with the coved ceiling and cornice of classical style to give an elegant effect to the whole interior. Mr Bulman mentioned hatchments bearing the Royal arms (1710) and the arms of John Barwick, and some 18th-century glass.

We had been invited to eat our picnic lunch in the grounds of Levens Hall by our members, Mr and Mrs O. R. Bagot, but as the weather had deteriorated they insisted on our lunching in the Hall itself, a gesture for which we were all grateful. After lunch we visited BEETHAM CHURCH (*RCHM Westmorland*

101) where we were welcomed by Canon C. Williams and which was described by Mr Bulman who said that there seems to have been a Norman church on the site from the 12th century, and this was gradually removed and about 1175 a south aisle was added in the late Norman style. A little later the chancel was extended to the east, and at the end of the 14th century the Beetham chapel was added at the eastern end of the south aisle. In the middle of the 15th century the north aisle was added, and a clerestory erected over the nave with a new roof of flat pitch. He showed how by successive additions the church had assumed the final form which, as at Kendal, the late Gothic planners aimed at, an aisled rectangle with no chancel arch and the aisles taken the full length of the chancel.

Our next visit was to HINCASTER HALL (*RCHM Westmorland* 112) by permission of Mr Agers, whose tenants kindly allowed us to go through the house after Canon Bouch had described it. Canon Bouch mentioned the families who were known to be associated with the Hall. He pointed out the main features of the building, a two-storeyed hall with rubble walls under a slate-covered roof based on a late 16th-century T-shaped plan with an 18th-century extension on the east. The south front still has the original stone mullioned windows with moulded lintels and there are similar windows at the back of the house and on the west end. The magnificent front door frame of oak has a door of nail-studded battens, and the chimneys have cylindrical shafts. Canon Bouch described various items of interest in the house. The door opens into the chief room, originally the hall, which had been later divided into two parts by some splendid panelling bearing the initials "A.M." and the date, 1660. The fireplaces are most distinctive, one with a flat lintel with two round arches cut in the face and three carved leaves as a stop in the middle, and another with two square recesses cut on the face of the lintel. Other points examined with interest inside the building were the narrow staircases and the 17th-century doors.

Our last visit was to HEVERSHAM HALL (by permission of Dallam Tower Estates Ltd.) which was described by Canon Bouch (*RCHM Westmorland* 111) and which we were allowed to inspect by courtesy of the tenant. Canon Bouch described the two-storey building built of rubble walls with a slate roof. The main block, however, seems to have been built in the late 14th century. The upper storey was probably rebuilt in the 16th century and modern additions have been made on the south and east. The north front has the original doorway with chamfered jamb and a two-centred head. Flanking it are two

original windows each of two trefoiled and transomed lights. In the upper storey is a range of light square-headed windows of the 16th century and on the south front are two original windows of a similar design. In the east wall is a window of two trefoiled lights. The original windows are rebated internally for shutters. Inside the building our attention was drawn to some 17th-century panelling, some exposed ceiling beams and the 16th-century fireplace on the west with its segmented stone arch, and to a dining-table of the Elizabethan period cut out of a single oak and measuring 13 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 9 in. and having a thickness of 5 in. The staircase is of the late Renaissance period, and the panelled door is dated about 1600. A few feet east of the house is the ruined wall of a destroyed two-storey building.

Before we dispersed the President thanked the owners who had allowed us to visit their properties and the speakers who had described the buildings and sites.