

NOTES.

1. *A brass in Isel Church.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

In February 1951 Mr C. Blair contributed to the Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society (viii 379-80) a note of a brass on the south wall of the chancel of Isel Church, with the following black-letter inscription :

Hic iacet Thomas de Sandes Armiger. qui obiit
Quarto decimo. die mensis Nouembris Anno dnō
Millō. CCCC°. XV°. Cuius anime ppiciet deus Amen.

(i.e. Here lies Thomas de Sandes, Esquire, who died on the fourteenth day of November A.D. 1415, on whose soul may God have mercy. AMEN.)

Mr Blair says that Sandes was a lawyer who was Knight of the Shire for Cumberland in 1391 and 1395. The history of the brass is obscure: it is said locally to have been always in its present position, but Mr Blair says "the fact that the whole of the surface is covered with a hard black patination shows quite clearly that it has at some time been exposed to the open air." He suggests that it originally formed part of a larger monument, and that at some time, perhaps during a restoration, it was ejected from the church, the inscription being subsequently recovered and placed in its present position.

Mr Blair adds that if his theory is correct "it is not unlikely that a search in the graveyard would bring to light the stone in which the brass was originally set, if not the missing figure itself."

Bishop Nicolson does not mention the brass in his *Miscellany Accounts*: it is certain, therefore, that it was not in the church in his day.

Rubbings of the brass, which measures 21 in. by 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in., have been deposited in the Archaeological Museum, Cambridge, and in the Monumental Brass Society's collection in Burlington House.

2. *George Graham, clockmaker.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

An important paper on George Graham, the Cumberland born horologist and astronomer, was read by Mr H. Alan Lloyd, M.B.E., F.S.A., at a joint meeting of the Royal Society of Arts and the British Horological Institute, on 14 November 1951,

exactly 200 years after Graham's death. The paper was published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts* vol. c., 30-49. The ten illustrations include a reproduction of a portrait of Graham, and a picture of Fordlands, a farm at Hethersgill, Irthington, where the clockmaker was born. Graham was apprenticed on 2 July 1688 to Henry Aske of London, and in his indentures he describes himself as son of George Graham, late of Fordlande in the county of Cumberland, husbandman, deceased. This important statement settles beyond all doubt Graham's birthplace, which has been variously given since the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1751, recording his death, said that he was born at Gratwick in Cumberland.

3. *A Seventeenth-century Piltown Man?* By A. I. DOYLE.

In CW2 x 508-509 there was printed from Twyne MS. 23 at Oxford a report (c. 1630) of the finding of the grave of a "giant" at St. Bees in 1601, with notes on another version giving different names of witnesses in Machell MSS. 8 (later 17th century), and a satirical reference by Richard Braithwaite in 1615. I have found another copy of this story, probably earlier, on one of several leaves removed from Cambridge University Library MS. Ll. I. 15 by the binder John Bowtell (the elder, d. 1813) and bequeathed by him to Downing College, which restored them to their source in 1950. (See *Transaction of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society*, i 35-36).

In this version the substance is virtually verbatim the same, except that it starts: "A description of a gyant from Mr Ferns secretary to the counsell at York found at St Bees last Christmas 1601 buried 4 yerds deep in the ground which is corne soyle and belongs to one Mr Weburgh in Cumerland" (my italics for new matter) and ends: "Sondis of Bothrington and Mr Weburgh of St Bees half [sic] the armour to be seene and is very fresh likewise his sword and battle ax". There follow by two other and slightly later hands the comments "All proved false" and "Legendis veteribus profuis" (i.e. you take the prize for old wives' tales).

Despite this, and the scepticism of a former editor of *Transactions*, one may wonder if there was not some ground, however misconstrued or exaggerated, for the report. The persons and places in this version are authentic, save that Bothrington should be Rotington (as Twyne has it), and as John Ferne became a knight before June 1604 (D.N.B.) it may be contemporary. Camden, however, does not mention any such discovery in the 1607 edition of *Britannia*. If it was a hoax the author was obviously a local man.

4. *Rawlinson and Lowther.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

More than twenty-five years ago I contributed to *Notes and Queries* (clxvii 382-383) a note on Sir William Rawlinson, his daughter Elizabeth, and her two husbands — William Lowther and Giles Earle. Sir William, who was christened at Hawkshead on 16 June 1640,¹ was a distinguished lawyer, whose career is recorded in the D.N.B.² His will, dated 19 January 1702/3, and proved in P.C.C. 1 June 1703,³ mentions his daughter Erle and his daughter Aislaby. On 29 December 1687 a marriage licence was granted to William Lowther and Elizabeth Rawlinson, spinster, of the parish of St Andrew, Holborn, London. On 20 May 1702 a marriage licence was granted to Giles Earle and Mrs Elizabeth Lowther of the parish of St Andrew, Holborn, London. Canon Bouch mentioned these two marriage licences in CW2 xli 153, but he drew the conclusion that Elizabeth Lowther, who married Earle in 1702 was not the same person as the Elizabeth Rawlinson who married William Lowther in 1687. His reason was that in 1687 Elizabeth's age was said to be 20, and in 1702 she was 24. The ages, however, of parties applying for licences are often inaccurately given. The important point was whether the parties were minors or of full age. Many middle-aged couples are often said to be 21 and it is not unusual to find in other records that the passage of time does not necessarily add years to a woman's age.⁴

The pedigree of Rawlinson in Joseph Foster's *Lancashire Pedigrees* is therefore accurate as far as Sir William Rawlinson and his daughters are concerned.

5. *Fragment of a polished stone-axe from Chapel Moss, New Couper.* By C. I. FELL.

Mr R. L. Bellhouse recently asked me to describe a fragment of a polished stone-axe found during drainage work in February 1956 in the northern part of Chapel Moss, 1¼ miles S.E. of Holme St Cuthbert and in that parish. The findspot is 1,750 feet due west from the most westerly building in New Couper (National Grid reference 82/118454. 6 in. O.S. sheet Cumberland XXVII. SE). The axe was found ten inches down in the peat at the foot of a fairly steep slope of glacial sand. The fragment is of greenish-grey, fine grained volcanic ash which appears to be identical with the material classified as Group VI by the S.W.

¹ H. S. Cowper: Hawkshead (1899) 392.

² Vol. xvi 778-779.

³ 80 Degg.

⁴ Cf. Census returns of 1841 and 1851, where it is amusing to note that the passing of ten years has sometimes added only five years to the age of a woman.

Group of Museums and Art Galleries, originating from the stone axe factory in Great Langdale, Westmorland (CW2 1 1-10). Apart from four small modern chips, the piece is covered with a pale grey patina. A small portion of one finely polished face and of one lateral facet remains, the rest is broken down into rough flake scars. The maximum remaining width is $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. and the fragment is $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. The axe in its original form must have been very big — up to a foot in length — and probably of Cumbrian Club, or related form (CW2 liv 4 and fig. 2). It is interesting to note that the grinding marks on the lateral facet run at right angles to, and not parallel with its length. Mr F. Barnes, Librarian and Curator, Barrow-in-Furness, and I examined a number of similar axes in the collection there and found that the majority of lateral facets were ground in this way.

The north-western part of Cumberland in which this find was made is fairly rich in discoveries of stone-axes and it seems likely that in Neolithic times, similar settlements to that found at Ehenside Tarn, Beckermest, were established along these shores (*Archaeologia* xliv 273 ff.). The axe-fragment has been deposited at Tullie House, Carlisle.

6. *DENTON in Cumberland and DENTON in Northumberland.*
By W. P. HEDLEY.

T. H. B. Graham, in his *Analysis of the Denton Pedigree* (CW2 xxxiv 3) states "The history of Over Denton is so exceedingly meagre and vague, that it is idle to pursue it." Nicolson and Burn merely state that "Over Denton in 7 Edward I (1278-9) was in the possession of Richard Stouland, who in that year, together with Helena his wife, granted the same to John Witherington, in whose family it long continued and from them it came to the Tweedales." In a later article *Brampton and Denton* (CW2 xxvi 290), T. H. B. Graham again refers to the grant of 1278-9, but this time it is quoted as a statement by John Denton, the historian, thus "Over Denton was given in 7 Edward I (1278-9) by Richard Stowland and Helena his wife, to John de Widdrington." From this it appears certain that Nicolson and Burn's information was taken from Denton's *Accompt*, 140.

Here is an error first made in the early 17th century (by Denton), repeated in the 18th century (by Nicolson and Burn) and accepted as fact in the 20th century (by Graham). Actually the estate of Denton acquired by John de Widdrington in the 13th century was Denton, in the parish of Newburn, Northumberland, and not Over Denton in Cumberland.

Denton in Northumberland was held of the barony of Whalton, by a family who took their name from the township of Newham in the parish of Whalton, Northumberland. In 1227 Denton was in the possession of Robert de Newham, and in 1242 of Robert's daughter Hawise. Hawise's son John de Rydale is described as lord of Denton in 1256. He died before 1261, survived by his mother Hawise. The heiress of the family was Ellen who married Richard de Scouerland — the Richard Stowland and Helena his wife mentioned by John Denton (*N. County History Northumberland* xiii 188). Richard and Ellen de Scouerland sold Denton in 1293 to John de Widdrington (*F. of F. Northumberland*, Ascension 21 Edward I). Richard de Scouerland was probably a member of the Durham baronial family of Escotland or Escolland. Jordan Escolland was a considerable landowner in county Durham towards the close of the 12th century; he was lord of Dalden near Dalton-le-Dale.

John de Widdrington was a nephew of that Sir John de Widdrington who by his marriage with Christina, daughter and coheiress of Sir Adam de Swinburne of East Swinburn, par. Chollerton, Northumberland acquired Lanerton in Cumberland. Graham's pedigree of the Swinburne family (CW2 xxvi 291) should have this correction. The pedigree is also wrong about the descendants of Roger de Widdrington. By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard de Acton, Roger had one son and three daughters. The son John married in 1367 Catherine, daughter of Sir William de Aton (not Acton) and died without children before 1371 when his two surviving sisters became coheiresses to their mother's estate. The three sisters were Barnaba wife of John de Vaux of Beaufront, Christiana wife of Sir Bertram Monboucher, and Eleanor who married firstly Sir Robert Umfraville and secondly Conan d'Aske. Barnaba had died s.p. before 1362. Roger de Widdrington married secondly a lady called Agnes, whose family is unknown, and had another son, born 2 February 1371 and named John like his recently deceased half brother (AA4 xxxv 5).

On the marriage of his elder son John, Roger de Widdrington on 27 May 1367 settled on him the manors of Denton and Lanerton in Gilsland in county Cumberland and the manor of Bingfield in the liberty of Hexham (*North'd & Dur. Deeds, Newcastle upon Tyne Records Series*, VII, 43, no. 43; *Hodgson's History of Northumberland* II, ii, 252, no. 22). We thus have the remarkable coincidence that the Widdringtons of Widdrington in Northumberland held Over Denton in Cumberland at the same time as a cadet line of the family held Denton in Northumberland.

7. *The marriage of John Irton, c. 1595.* By C. ROY HUDESTON.

In his account of the Irton family (CW2 xli 99) the late Canon Taylor wrote that the maiden name of the wife of John Irton V (1578-1642) was not known, though a portrait in the possession of the family labelled Mary Swinburn might be a portrait of John Irton's wife. This surmise was correct, as a suit in Chancery (P.R.O. Cz. James I J9/22) proves. The plaintiff, John Irton, stated in his bill, dated 8 February 1618, that 23 years earlier he had married Mary (now his wife), daughter of John Swinborne late of Hewthwaite in the. . . county of Cumberland Esq., now deceased, "at which time your orator and his wife were both of them very young and under age".

8. *Axe hammer from Branthwaite.* By J. FOX, Superintendent Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey, Chessington.

The stone axe hammer, described in CW2 xlvi 238 as found by Mr Isaac Gate about half a mile south of Branthwaite, was retrieved from a rubbish heap and presented to our field investigators during routine survey. It is at present in our possession here.

9. *The Lawson baronetcy.*

By the death in Edinburgh on 6 November 1959 of Sir Hilton Lawson, fourth baronet, of Isel Hall, the baronetcy conferred in 1831 upon his great-grandfather, Wilfrid Wybergh Lawson (*vere* Wybergh) becomes extinct. The former Lawson baronetcy, created in 1688, became extinct in 1806. Though the Lawson family men failed, there are many descendants, through the female line, of the holders of the earlier baronetcy.

10. *Murray, Cumberland.* By ERIC BIRLEY.

Murray gets an entry as a lost place-name in the civil parish of Waterhead, in Eskdale Ward, in *The Place-Names of Cumberland* i (1950), p. 116; the earliest form of the name is *Murres* (Gaul Delivery Rolls, 1346), other recorded spellings being *Morowe* (Exchequer King's Remembrancer, 1589), *Morowes* (*Barony of Gilsland* = E.S. xvi, 1603), *Morrowes* (Boothby documents, 1626), *ye Murray* and *Murrah* (Lanercost parish register, 1694 and 1704) and *Murray* (Hutchinson, 1794). This last reference is presumably to Hutchinson's *Cumberland* i 70, in a passage taken direct from Horsley's *Britannia Romana* (1732), p. 257, and therefore cannot be taken as evidence for continued occupation of the place much after 1726, when Horsley probably completed his field-work on the Wall in Cumberland (cf. my

observations in AA4 xxxvi 13 f.); Horsley's text gives us a general location for Murray, for he notes that the centurial inscription, Cumb. xviii (7 *Cassi Prisci coh. VI*),

"is on the side of the door of the principal dwelling-house in a small village, called *Murray*, which is about a quarter of a mile east from *Burdoswald*."

His map of the Wall, no. 8, shows it north of the Wall and a little east of M/c 49 (Harrow's Scar) — to use the modern notation — so that the centurial stone comes either from just east of the milecastle or between it and Birdoswald fort.

The entry in E.S. xvi, p. 16, implies no more than a single house:

"*Morowes*. Leonard Twedell a tenem̄t adjoyninge more easte called Morowes by Irldinge and the Kilhilclugh south: the saide clugh weste: and ye com̄on moare on the north." Annual value is given as 8s., area 47 acres.

But next to it comes a smaller tenement:

"*Harrowes*. William Twedell a tenem̄t adjoyninge more south called Harrowes by the Pight Wall and a little parcell of com̄on on the south and weste, and the Clugh on the north." Annual value 5s. together with "a close at the weste ende of the former: by the saide Wall south: and the com̄on moare weste and north", the two amounting to 31 acres 3 roods.

It seems possible that Horsley has taken the two small farms, with their various buildings, as a single small village, named after the larger of them; *Harrowes* is evidently Harrow's Scar, where Professor Richmond, in 1953, found the remains of a cottage and its garth inside M/c 49 (CW2 lvi 21 and plan): it is not accorded an entry in *PN Cumb.*, and I have not had an opportunity of checking whether it receives a later entry than Murray in the Lanercost register. But both sites will deserve investigation one day, for they should yield a useful series of dateable medieval and post-medieval pottery.