

## PROCEEDINGS.

### I. SPRING MEETING, 1960.

THE Spring meeting was held in Kendal Town Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, 21 April 1960. Council met earlier in the day.

The President, Professor Eric Birley, F.S.A., was in the chair, and after the minutes had been confirmed, he paid tributes to our vice-president, Dr J. R. K. Thomson (Obituary, p. 211 f.), to Mr J. B. Macalpine, a former member of Council (Obituary, p. 212 f.) and Mr W. Bretton, whose death had occurred since the last meeting. Nine new members were elected. The President drew the attention of members to the somewhat disappointing demand for some of the Society's recent publications, and in particular to Mr Washington's *Early Westmorland M.P.s*, which was, he said, worthy of much greater support than it had received.

Details of proposed excavations during the summer were announced. These included Broomrigg (Miss Hodgson), Burrow Bridge (Mr Edward Hildyard), the Roman defences of Carlisle (Mr R. Hogg), the Roman bath-house, Walls Castle (Mr C. M. Daniels), and investigations to locate milecastles in Cumberland.

Miss Hodgson reported on the position with regard to the preservation of Wetheral Priory gatehouse.

The following papers were communicated : "Excavations in Eskdale, the Muncaster Roman kilns" by Mr R. L. Bellhouse (Art. I, above); "Excavations at Bowness on Solway, 1955" by Mr C. M. Daniels (Art. II, above); "An inscription relating to Roman Kirkby Thore" by Dr M. G. Jarrett (Art. VI, above); "The Anglo-Scottish lords of Leithholme and Great Strickland" by Mr G. S. H. L. Washington (Art. IX, above); "An ancient doorway at Nunnery" by Mr C. G. Bulman (Art. X, above); "Two Provosts of Oriel College, Oxford" by Mr C. R. Hudleston (Art. XI, above); "The Chantries of Cumberland and Westmorland, part i," by Dr R. L. Storey (Art. XII, above); "The Enclosure of Aspatria" by Mr G. Elliott (Art. XIII, above); "The Leathes family of Dalehead" by Mr B. L. Thompson (Art. XIV, above); "John Robinson's Book of Precedents," part ii, by Mr F. Barnes and Mr J. L. Hobbs (Art. XV, above); "Tithing customs in West Cumberland in the 18th century" by Mr R. F. Dickinson (Art. XVI, above); "Ann Crackanthorpe :

Wordsworth's great-aunt'' by Mr C. R. Hudleston (Art. XVII, above).

Mr R. Hogg exhibited a bronze implement from Maryport, a portion of a glass bracelet from English Street, Carlisle, presumed to be native work, and some 2nd century Samian ware from Scotch Street, Carlisle.

The President reported that he had almost completed his Roman Wall pilgrimage guide, which would be much more comprehensive than originally envisaged. He hoped it would be available towards the end of the year.

## II. SUMMER MEETING, 1960.

The Summer meeting was held in the Carlisle district on 8 and 9 July 1960, the headquarters being Tullie House. Arrangements for the meeting were made by a committee consisting of the President, the Chairman of Council, Mr R. Hogg, Mr C. R. Hudleston, Mr K. Smith, and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

A meeting of Council was held at Tullie House on the evening of 7 July, Miss K. S. Hodgson presiding.

### *Friday, 8 July.*

A small party left Lowther Street, Carlisle, in uncertain weather, the first visit being to IRTHINGTON CHURCH, where the vicar, the Rev. J. E. Davies received us, and gave a brief account of the history of the church. We went next to IRTHINGTON MOUND, which Miss Hodgson described, and she was also the speaker at KIRKCAMBECK CHURCH.

At LIDDLE STRENGTH (where lunch was taken), the President was the speaker and he also described the Roman Station at NETHERBY. The last visit of the day was to ARTHURET CHURCH, which was described by the rector, the Rev. R. E. Frith.

The General Meeting was held in Tullie House at 8 p.m., with the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President spoke of the death of our senior vice-president, Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., to whom he paid a tribute and members stood in silence (Obituary, p. 211).

The President congratulated Mr T. Gray on the conferment upon him of the honorary degree of Master of Arts by the University of Durham, and Mr Hudleston, upon whom the University had conferred the service degree of Master of Arts.

Six new members were elected.

Miss Hodgson reported that the Ministry of Works might be willing to help in the preservation of Wetheral Priory gatehouse.

The following papers were communicated: "Two medieval Westmorland speakers" by Prof. J. S. Roskell; "The decline of the woollen trade in Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumberland in the late 16th century" by Mr G. Elliott; "The Chantries of Cumberland and Westmorland," part ii, by Dr R. L. Storey, Ph.D.; "The ancestry of Archbishop Lamplugh" by Mr A. R. Jabez-Smith; "Errors in the Brougham pedigree" by Mr C. R. Hudleston; "Cumberland recusants of 1717" by Mr C. R. Hudleston.

*Saturday, 9 July.*

The second day's excursion began with a visit to ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CARLISLE, which was described by the vicar, the Rev. G. T. Berwick. The coach then left Castle Street, in indifferent weather, for HERMITAGE CASTLE, where our guide was Mr Iain MacIvor. The weather worsened, and lunch had to be taken under cover. Afterwards we crossed the Border and re-entered Cumberland in order to visit STONEGARTH-SIDE HALL, the property of Mrs Gatheral, who was not able to be present to welcome us, owing to an accident. Mrs Telfer, wife of the tenant, was, however, there to greet us. A paper was read by Mr Hudleston on the Forsters of Stonegarthside, and it is hoped that this will eventually be printed in *Transactions*.

SCALEBY CASTLE was next visited, the owner, the Hon. Michael Eden welcoming us, and giving an extremely interesting account of the castle's architecture and history. This was followed by a paper by Mr Hudleston on the Gilpin family, who owned the castle in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The last visit of the day was to SCALEBY CHURCH, where we were received by the rector, Canon J. T. Donaldson, who gave a brief account of the history of the church.

### III. AUTUMN MEETING, 1960.

The Autumn meeting was held in the Aspatria district on Thursday and Friday, 1 and 2 September 1960. The arrangements for the meeting were made by a committee consisting of the President (Professor Birley), Miss K. S. Hodgson, Mr R. L. Bellhouse, Mr K. Smith, and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

*Thursday, 1 September.*

The meeting began with a visit to BURGH-BY-SANDS

CHURCH, where we were received by the vicar, the Rev. W. L. Beckles Godwin, who gave an interesting account of the building, built, he said, chiefly with stones from the Roman fort. In thanking Mr Godwin for his address, the President reminded us that an earlier vicar of Burgh, the Rev. Edward Henry Fitch (1840-1892), had been responsible for preserving the remarkable Roman face-jug found there shortly before the 1886 Pilgrimage, and that for other records of Roman finds there we are indebted to the Rev. John Wilkin (1797-1823) — who sent a detailed account to the *Carlisle Patriot* of finds made during the digging of the canal — the Rev. Henry Gough (1812-1862) and the Rev. John Burton Norman (1828-1906). The active interest of local clergymen had long been one of the best insurances against chance finds going unrecorded; it was a great delight to know that the present incumbent of Burgh took so informed an interest in the history of his church. As to the Roman fort, our knowledge of its position and relationship to the Wall depended mainly on the results of small-scale digging in 1922, reported on by R. G. Collingwood (CW2 xxiii 2-12), which showed that, like other Hadrianic cavalry forts, it projected north of the Wall; but Collingwood's excavation did little more than establish that fact, and a good deal more work would be needed, if the opportunity for it should arise, before the dimensions of the fort and its precise relationship to the Wall and the Vallum could be established.

At BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY CHURCH we were welcomed by Mr G. I. Brown, who gave an interesting account of the building. In the churchyard Professor Birley pointed out the tombstone of Captain Thomas Asbridge (1801-1887) of Drumburgh House, whose careful observations of Roman finds made during its construction in 1859 were noted by the Rev. John Maughan (CW1 i 209-212) and by Canon J. T. Fowler in 1877; there was also a memorial to Richard Lawson (1771-1853) of Drumburgh, one of the local guides to the Pilgrims of 1849 and Bruce's main source for that site, and another to Joseph Askew (1765-1854) of Bowness, Hodgson's informant about the course of the Wall west of the fort. For the fort itself, Camden seems to have depended on the Rev. Oswald Dykes ( -1618) for his note of traces of streets and ruined walls, a tradition of an ancient harbour now silted up, and a paved road leading southwards; the first detailed record of discoveries was due to the Rev. Leonard Lowther (1553-1609), some time rector of the parish, from whom in 1601 Reginald Bainbrigg was able to take notes: Lowther deserves credit for the earliest observation

of a stratified deposit anywhere in the north of England. Later discoveries were recorded by Sir John Clerk of Penycuik, who spent a night at Bowness in 1739 and sent an account of his visit to Roger Gale, and by various local observers, including the Rev. Samuel Medlicott (1833-1889), rector of the parish from 1877 until his death. The most remarkable single find was the metrical inscription set up by a merchant, promising to gild every letter of it if his venture should prove successful — which helps to stress the place's economic importance as a port in Roman times. The Hadrianic fort was presumably of turf and timber, like the others west of Birdoswald; the small-scale excavations of 1930 (CW2 xxxi 140-144) had served to show the size of the stone fort which succeeded it, but much more digging would be needed before we could hope to have adequate knowledge of the lay-out of that fort: it was larger than seemed necessary for its 3rd century garrison, a milliary cohort, and perhaps the extra space was required for extra granaries, as in the eastern coastal fort at South Shields. The other problems calling urgently for further investigation were the course of the Wall beyond the fort and down to the Solway (on which Bishop Nicolson's diary and a letter of his to Ralph Thoresby in 1707 suggest that he could have given useful details if he had chosen), and the course of the Vallum past the south front of the fort and then to the shore. Judging by surface indications, there should still be a good chance of locating a stone-revetted causeway across the ditch, on the line of Camden's southward road, a hundred yards or so west of the modern road to Kirkbride.

Lunch was taken at Bowness, and we then went on to BECK-FOOT, where Mr R. L. Bellhouse was waiting to guide us. After a brief account of the Roman fort, excavated by Joseph Robinson of Maryport in 1879 and studied by R. G. Collingwood in 1935 (CW2 xxxvi 76-84), Mr Bellhouse led us to the beach and southwards along the low cliff, where coastal erosion had recently revealed yet another burial, this time in a rectangular cist. Further still, he was able to point out, in the exposed section of the cliff, traces suggestive of the ditch of milefortlet 15, itself evidently entirely eroded.

The last visit of the day was to HOLM CULTRAM CHURCH, where our member, the Rev. F. B. Swift was waiting to talk to us.

Council met before dinner at Tullie House, Miss Hodgson presiding, and later in the evening the Annual General Meeting was held, with the President, Professor Birley in the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been con-

firmed, the Society proceeded to the election of officers and members of Council.

On the nomination of Council, Mr C. Roy Hudleston, M.A., F.S.A., was elected President of the Society in succession to Professor Birley. The remaining officers and members of Council were re-elected *en bloc*, The names of the Hon. Michael Eden and Mr R. Cunliffe Shaw, M.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A., being added to the list of vice-presidents, and Mrs A. Bromley-Boorne being elected a member of Council. It was agreed to invite the Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, Sir Fergus Graham, Bart., to become a patron of the Society.

Six new members were elected.

Mr Hogg exhibited a remarkable cult object found in a Bronze Age cairn at a height of 800 ft. on Mecklin Park, Eskdale, during excavations by the South-Western Regional Group in the earlier part of the year and which had recently arrived in the Museum for study. The object consisted of a water-worn ovoid-shaped boulder composed of a coarse-grained rock probably of the Borrowdale Volcanic Series, 8 in. in length, 3 in. thick. A crude attempt had been made to carve on the boulder a representation of the human face. The eyes were indicated by the pecking away of the outer weathered zone and the exposure of the fresh rock substance as a pair of rhomboidal patches; the mouth was similarly indicated, and what was presumably the beard was shown as a series of very finely-etched lines covering the lower part of the face. A full account of this remarkable discovery will be included in the report on the excavation.

The weather was disappointing for the second day's excursion, and a good deal of rain fell. The first visit was to ASPATRIA CHURCH, where our member, the Rev. V. D. Clarke, vicar of Aspatria, welcomed us, and our vice-president, Mr H. Duff, described the building, and also spoke of the site and the pre-Norman monuments.

From Aspatria we went to ARKLEBY HALL, by permission of Mr and Mrs W. Miller. Mrs Miller received us and kindly allowed us to shelter in the house. Since the weather had worsened, members thankfully availed themselves of her invitation. The President was the speaker and, after thanking Mr and Mrs Miller, he gave a talk on the Thompson family, one of whom, Gustavus, was the builder of the house.

From Arkleby we went to IREBY OLD CHURCH, where the vicar, our member, the Rev. F. B. Swift was waiting to receive us. He gave an account of the church and its vicissitudes, and we then drove off to Ireby village. Mr Swift invited members

to eat their picnic lunches in the shelter of his vicarage, a kindness which was much appreciated.

Because of the weather the visit to Caermote, at which Professor Birley was to have spoken, was abandoned, and the whole party went to IREBY CHURCH, where Mr Swift gave an account of the building.

A visit to AUGHERTREES FELL ENCLOSURES had been planned to follow, but this, too, was given up because of the weather, and instead the coach and cars halted at the roadside, and we looked across to the enclosures, which Miss Hodgson described. At the close of her talk the President thanked her, and recalling that it was Miss Hodgson's birthday, made a presentation to her on behalf of those present.