

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

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1. *Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith.* By John Jackson, B.A. 212 pp. (Published for the Quater-centenary Committee by Reed's Limited, Penrith. 15s.)

In 1340 John de Eskeheved was licensed to teach the art of grammar in Penrith, and, according to Hutchinson, in 1361, Robert de Burgham was licensed to teach the psalter, Priscianus's grammar and singing. These facts are mentioned by Mr John Jackson in *The History of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith*, which he has written to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the school.

In 1564, when Queen Elizabeth by her letters patent founded the school, it may well be that this was in effect a re-foundation. The Royal charter is explicit in stating that the chantry priest in Penrith, apart from celebrating divine service in the church, was required "freely, gratuitously and diligently to teach the knowledge of grammar in a certain house within the aforesaid town [Penrith] to each and all who went thither for instruction and teaching in grammar (as we have heard)."

As Dr R. L. Storey has shown in CW2 lx 78-79, Bishop Strickland left £66. 13s. 4d., the interest from which was to be paid to chaplains to pray for his soul. Sir Robert Lowther invested the money in the buying of land, which was held by the Lowthers, who, in return paid £6 to the chantry priest. The land came into the hands of the Crown when the chantry was dissolved, and was used as an endowment for the school.

While, therefore, it has not been possible to establish that Bishop Strickland, who founded the chantry, also founded with it a school, at least there is a link between Strickland and the present school, as Mr Jackson shows in his opening chapter.

From the days of the first Elizabeth to the present the story of the school is told, and it is manifest that the work of compilation and writing has been a labour of love from first to last.

Mr Jackson's own association with the school now covers more than half a century, for he was appointed an assistant master as long ago as 1909. These last years, so eventful in so many directions, are fully recorded, and the story could not have been better told.

From the purely antiquarian point of view, an interesting feature of the book deals with headmasters and ushers. Here

there is evidence of much careful research, as a result of which many interesting new facts have emerged. Much light, too, is cast upon the local families — Lowthers, Musgraves, Whelpdales, and others.

Mr Jackson shows that the governors were not always free from troubles. Following the departure of Thomas Ebdell, the master who left to become curate of Greystoke, the governors unanimously appointed an Oxford graduate to succeed him. In spite of this, Mr Hutton, a governor, was persuaded to sign a nomination recommended by the vicar of Addingham and Andrew Whelpdale on behalf of Joseph Ion, who though a graduate of St John's College, Cambridge, was said to be "A Person altogether unfitt to teach this or any Publick School." The nomination was sent secretly to Sir Christopher Musgrave in London for his signature, and although he is said to have been "surprised", he signed. Ion therefore became headmaster, in order to prevent dissension among the governors, "tho' the School suffer'd extremely in the mean t̄ime."

It was unfortunate that this experience affected the appointment of the next master. The governors were clearly rattled after three years of Ion, and appointed Joseph Wilson on a probationary basis. One sees the reason for this caution, but the period of probation was extended far too long, and as a result Wilson moved on to Barton School, where he reigned very successfully for 36 profitable years.

This is a valuable contribution to the history of education in our territory, and text and illustrations are excellent — a fine example of local printing.

Mr Jackson has carried out his work with skill and care, and the school he served so long and so faithfully will be grateful to him.

2. *Antiquary on horseback*. The first publication of the Collections of the Rev. Thomas Machell, Chaplain to King Charles II, towards a history of the Barony of Kendal; transcribed and edited by Jane M. Ewbank: CW (Extra Series) xix 163. 25s.

Members of the Society, as well as the general public, will undoubtedly find much to delight them in this transcript by our member Miss Jane Ewbank. The Society is greatly to be congratulated on the decision to print this volume and it is to be hoped that in due course the remainder of Machell's *Collectanea* will also appear.

Though the industry and perseverance of Miss Ewbank are

worthy of the highest praise, it is nevertheless a pity that the editing leaves so much to be desired. This is the more evident owing to the fact that it is precisely this part of Machell's collections which can be checked against that truly magnificent collection of authentic data published by our Society in 1923-4, i.e. *Records of Kendale* by Farrer and John F. Curwen. Viewed against this authentic background of fact, as well as the rich resources of the P.R.O., and the local collections of deeds now readily accessible, Machell's laboriously acquired pedigrees and descents of lands appear, owing to the lack of adequate editing and research pathetically inadequate and fragmentary. An extensive scholarly discussion and supplementation would at relatively slight increase in the costs of publication have resulted in a book which, while retaining its considerable charm, would have been an accurate guide to the non-expert reader.

In this connection it will be as well to correct here some of the more glaring errors made by Machell: on p. 123 we are told that Miles Philipson sold a moiety of Conishead to his sister the Countess of Arundell, but neither Miles nor his sister ever owned a moiety of Conishead for it descended to their brother Christopher Philipson (died 8 March 1599/1600) who is omitted from the pedigree altogether. The pedigree of the Leyburnes (p. 79) records that Mary, daughter of George Leyburne by his wife Anne Stanley, had *inter alia* a daughter "Mary=Marmaduke . . . of Baringham." Though we are referred in general to CW2 i 190-191 for further details, we shall fail to find there that she married Marmaduke Tunstal Esq. (she died without issue and was buried at Spotford 25 June 1705). The "R.B." whom Mrs William Leyburne married secondly was, of course, Roger Bradley. The worst uncorrected error is, however, the fact that James Leyburne of Cunswick Esq. who heads the pedigree is stated to be the father of William Leyburne who married Jane, daughter of (John) Bradley of Beetham. Yet does not all the evidence go to show that William's father in point of fact was Nicholas Leyburne (born 1516) who married Elizabeth daughter of John Warcop of Smardale Hall? (vide *The Leyburnes of Cunswick* (CW1 x 124-157) and *The Story of Skelsmergh* by Sister Agnes).

The following errors in transcription should also be noted: Goosegreen yeat (p. 109) did not belong to "Robert Chanton", there was never any family of that name in the Barony, it should be Robert Chamber; Ployards (p. 33) should be Plumgarths (Plumgarths), Strickland Kettle. The text on p. 18, "I informed myself from (Mrs) Tempest's husband being an eye witness", is a mistake natural to make when one is not acquainted with

the names of those who were at this period living in the Barony of Kendal, though the roundabout description of a man should arouse some suspicion. The person in fact consulted was a prominent gentleman of Kirkby Lonsdale; in 1695 he and his family are included among the notables, "Tempest Husband & Margaret his wife, his son Stephen, two daughters Ann and Margaret, his mother Ann Battersby."

Surely "state merchants" on page 61 should be staple merchants? The statement on p. 119 that the then Philipson of Calgarth paid for his lands in Undermilbeck to the auditors for the use of the Crown £26 yearly as a free rent for his estate seems quite incredible. This is, for the period, a huge sum, surpassing the entire rent-roll for Undermilbeck which in 1574 was £14. 3s. 10½d. (RK ii 82), and it must be remembered that these were fixed rents. As an illustration of what the rents really were, I quote all the Philipsons occurring in the 1650 list of free rents in the Marquis lands: Mr Phillipson 6/9; Mr Philipson 1/6; Mr Philipson of Crook 3/2; Mr Philipson of Helsfel 6/8: for the Richmond lands of the same date we find among the freeholders Christopher Phillipson Esq. 4/2.

It is somewhat surprising that useful material relating to the Barony has been omitted, for example the pedigrees of Carus of Asthwaite and Bindloss of Helsington (Machell MSS., vol. V, p. 53).

However, in spite of all its imperfections, this account of the Barony is a valuable *document humaine*, providing as it does an intriguing glimpse into the mental world of an ecclesiastic of the period, and regaling us with a wealth of interesting contemporary detail which one could not find elsewhere. This is truly a volume which ought to be in the library of everyone interested in the history of South Westmorland. T.G.F.

3. *The diaries and correspondence of James Losh*, vol. ii, 1824-33. Edited by Edward Hughes. 254 pp. (*Surtees Society*, Vol. 174).

The first volume of James Losh's diaries was reviewed in CW2 lxii 354 f., and we now welcome the appearance of the second volume, which carries with it an index (by no means perfect) to both volumes.

Here we see Losh riding with legal friends to Ullswater, and walking with Henry Brougham, with whom he stayed noting "it was pleasing to see him so amiable and unaffected in private life. His mother is obviously both a sensible and an amiable old woman. She is the daughter of the historian Robertson and

seems to be worthy of such a father and such a son." It was on this trip (the year was 1824) that Losh went on to Woodside, Wreay, by way of Hutton-in-the-Forest, where his old friend Sir F. Vane, or rather his son, was "building great additions to the old house." Losh went on by Raughton Head and Broadfield, finding "the country is greatly improved not only by the enclosure of Englewood Forest, etc., but also by the formation of new roads, growth of trees and improved cultivation of the country in general. The change is so great that I actually lost my way in a district with which I was familiar when a boy." One looks forward to the publication of more of Losh's diaries: they are full of interest.

4. *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, Vol. 10, 1962.

In an article under the title "The clay houses of Cumberland" which appeared in this volume, our member R. W. Brunskill extends on the subject introduced by C. M. L. Bouch, K. Hodgson and C. G. Bulman in CW2 liii 149 ff.

Examination of records, particularly of the dialect verse of the end of the 18th century and 18th and 19th century directories, has shown that the practice of clay construction both of houses and farm buildings was formerly common throughout Northern Cumberland. Although there was a concentration in the vicinity of Holm Cultram, Burgh-by-Sands, and Great Orton the practice extended as far as the foothills of the Pennines and into the Bewcastle area. The farmhouses were apparently spacious and solidly built, and construction in clay was only superseded by brick quite late in the 18th century.

A superficial survey revealed more than one hundred examples of clay houses surviving to the present day, most of them still inhabited. Closer examination of several of them proved that their construction was just as sound as that of the stone buildings erected in other parts of the county at the same time, and that, although dependent on variations of cruck trusses for the support of the roof, the clay houses were quite different in construction from the timber frame dwellings clad in light wattle and daub panels so common in other counties.

Although no positive examples were identified, it is clear from the contemporary descriptions that some, at least, of the clay houses were erected by communal effort of neighbours, and that the practice took advantage of the persistent tradition of establishing "squatters rights" to waste land through the erection of a house in a day.

5. *Proceedings of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club* (New Series) ix (1963).

Edited by Mr W. K. Calvert, with an introduction by Mr G. E. Williams, this volume contains ten articles on antiquarian and natural history subjects: Mr W. Grieve's "Geological Notes" includes an account of investigations of peats in the Barrow area in conjunction with Dr Walker and Dr Oldfield; Mr F. Barnes writes on "Archaeology in Furness since 1946", while Mr W. Rollinson contributes a paper on "The Historical Geography of Settlement in Monastic Low Furness". Contributions on Packhorse Bridges by Mr F. W. Cotton; Market and other Crosses and a History of Sandscale by Mr J. Melville, and "Antiquarian Miscellany" by Mr W. K. Calvert should all be of interest to our members. (For history and earlier publications of the Club see CW2 xlix 203-212).

6. *The Story of archaeology in Britain*. By Ronald Jessup. 214 pp., 43 half-tone plates. (Michael Joseph. 1964. 25s.)

This book is comprised of a foreword, eleven chapters, short selective reading list, table of approximate chronology and an index. It is intended for the general reader, not the specialist, and largely describes past study of archaeology, both by excavation and by published work. Most of the illustrations are relevant and interesting.

Mr Jessup is happiest in his second chapter, with its attractive selections from antiquarian writings ranging from Leland in the 16th century to W. J. Wedlake nearly three centuries later, and in his delight in the false antiquities described in Chapter VIII.

In my view, the book's main defect lies in its lack of a consecutive theme, the story of archaeology here represented being a tangled skein of haphazard information. The work of four pioneers is not discussed until Chapter IX, while descriptions of the recent techniques of air-photography and of scientific aids are included in Chapters III and IV. Forgeries are given more coverage than recent discoveries, and Fossil Man alone is singled out for a whole chapter. The final chapter, with its selective list of monuments and museums, contains many inaccuracies.

C.F.