

MAP OF MARDALE DISTRICT.

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To face p. 13.

ART. II.—*Mardale and Haweswater*. By BRUCE LOGAN THOMPSON, M.A.

IN 1919 the Manchester Corporation obtained Parliamentary sanction to convert Haweswater into a reservoir. Having been authorized to acquire the necessary lands and to construct the Haweswater Dam and other works, the Corporation bought out all the landowners and in 1925 took possession of the valley.* In 1927 it seemed likely that the work on the reservoir would shortly begin and our Society decided to make a survey of all the antiquities that might be affected by the raising of the level of the lake. A Committee was formed, consisting of Messrs. Legh Tolson, C. S. Jackson and the writer, and the survey was made in 1928. Most of the historical and archaeological data for a study of Mardale had already been collected by the Rev. Joseph Whiteside and recorded in one of the chapters of *Shap in Bygone Days* (1904), but it was thought that other things might remain to be discovered, especially by field-work. All the houses and farm buildings were searched for date-stones; the bridges were examined and measured; the "Fort" at Measand was surveyed and planned; and the earthworks in the Chapel Field at Mardale were first discovered. The names of the fields were ascertained from the Tithe Award Maps of Shap and Bampton, and some of them proved to be not uninteresting. Very fortunately the Registers of Mardale Church

* The Manchester Corporation Act, 1919, Parts II and III. The principal landowners in Mardale in 1919 were the Earl of Lonsdale and other representatives of the Lowther family; Thomas Holme Little; Mrs. Jane Stacey (Colby); Bernard O. Bland (Measand Hall); and the Vicars of Shap and Mardale.

and of the Parish Churches of Shap and Bampton had all been published, and by collating the information thus available it was possible to form a picture of the families who had lived at the various farms from the sixteenth century onwards.* A popular description of Haweswater and its traditions had been published by the late Mr. Isaac Hinchliffe with the title *A Backwater in Lakeland* (3rd edition, 1925) but the historical parts of it are not entirely accurate. More recently, and since the survey was made, two other volumes have added considerably to our knowledge of Mardale: the *Later Records of North Westmorland* by the late Mr. John F. Curwen (1932) and *Westmorland* by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (1936). The new facts they have brought to light have therefore been incorporated in the following pages.†

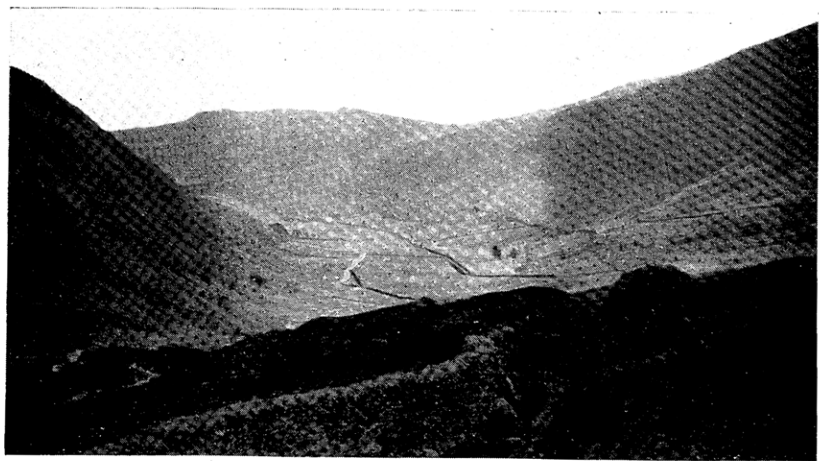
As the Waterworks Scheme became more and more advanced Mardale became more and more desolate: the inhabitants were moved elsewhere, the houses and buildings were razed, and the trees below the prospective new water line were cut down. Mardale Church was closed in 1935 and the Dun Bull in 1937; the waters of the lake now cover the places where they stood. We have lost the natural beauty of a particularly unspoiled lake and dale, and the homes of many generations of Westmorland men who had cherished their scanty acres.

NAME AND BOUNDARIES.

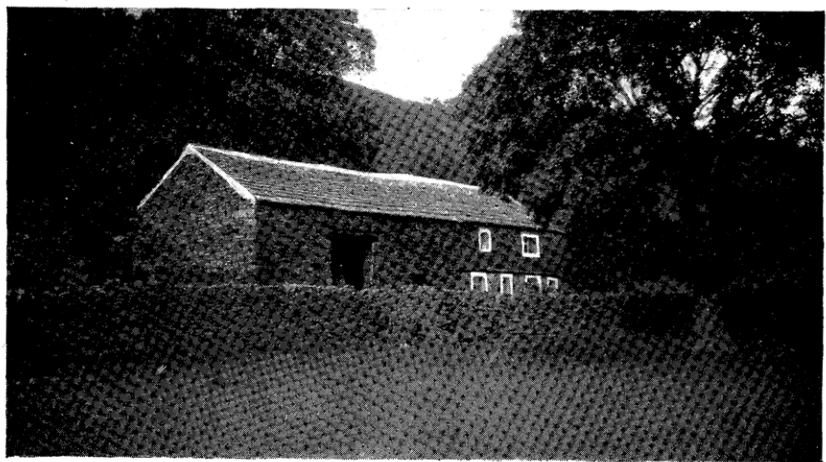
The term "Mardale" (Mere-dale or Mart-dale?) was conveniently used for the whole area draining into Haweswater, but its particular meaning was that part of the valley from the head of the lake to the foot of Harter

* M. E. Noble, *Bampton Registers*, 1897; Francis Haswell, *The Register Book of Mardale Chappel*, 1898; M. E. Noble, *Shap Registers*, 1912.

† It may be expected that an account of the Haweswater Scheme will eventually be published, similar to the *History and Description of the Thirlmere Water Scheme*, by Sir J. J. Harwood, 1895.



MARDALE GREEN, FROM NAN BIELD.



BRACKENHOWE.

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Fell. Mardale was partly in the Parish of Shap—this was also in the Forest and Manor of Thornthwaite—and partly in the Parish of Bampton. There was no parish of Mardale, either civil or ecclesiastical, it was a chapelry with boundaries only vaguely defined, but Miss Noble records that towards Bampton the boundary came down to the road near Annette Cross.

The ancient boundary between Shap and Bampton started from a point on High Street near Riggindale Head, descended by Riggindale Beck to a point slightly below the Mardale road, and then followed the old course of Mardale Beck (which had been artificially straightened both here and above Chapel Bridge). From the Waterhead the boundary went along the middle of the lake to the Waterfoot and then down Haweswater Beck. The Thornthwaite Forest boundary, 1620, is quoted in the *History of Bampton* by Miss Noble as being from High Street at “Stephen’s Cross” down the “middle stream of Riggindale Beck” and the middle of “a lough called Allswater” to “the stepping stones of Ewes.” The name Haweswater may be a corruption of Hall’s Water—referring to Thornthwaite Hall—or may be derived from O.N. *hawes* a neck—referring to the “narrows” between High Water and Low Water, the two parts of the lake into which it was divided by the great delta at Measand. The river out of the lake is now usually called Haweswater Beck but its old name was Halfa.

Haweswater has always been the most remote and least visited of the Lakes. The lake is omitted altogether from Speed’s map of Westmorland (1676), nor is it included in the plans of the Lakes published by Crosthwaite (1783) and Clarke (1787).

ANTIQUARIAN SITES.

On the high ground round Haweswater there are various archaeological remains, the most important being Castle

Crag Fort, the cairns and foundations near Whelter and the cairn at Low Raise. None of these has been disturbed by the Corporation's works and it is unnecessary to do more than mention them here. Descriptions will be found in the Royal Commission's volume on *Westmorland*, which it may be noted seems to discredit Mr. W. G. Collingwood's picturesque suggestion that the remains near Whelter might have been shielings. Castle Crag, traditionally a Roman Fort somehow connected with High Street, is now scheduled as an ancient monument and officially designated a British Fort.

The following antiquarian sites are either submerged by the upraised lake or are so near to the reservoir that they have been impinged upon by the Waterworks.

1. In the Parish of Shap.

- (a) Village Settlement near Naddle Bridge. This is still visible between the new road and the Haweswater Beck but is rather difficult to see clearly owing to trees and thick vegetation and comparatively modern walls.*
- (b) Village Settlement in Guerness Wood. This is a short distance to the north of the Haweswater Hotel and has been almost obliterated by the new road.*
- (c) Lynchets in Chapel Field, Mardale. These were noticed by the writer in 1928 and described by Mr. T. Hay in *Transactions* (N.S. xl, 133-4). There were three banks on the north side of the hill and two on the south side. The site is now submerged.
- (d) Lamley's Folly on the east side of Wood Howe. Slight foundations of this building were still visible in 1928 about 100 years after it was built.† Mr. Hay suggests that Chapel Hill was named from Wood Howe but I think this is unlikely.

* Royal Commission, op. cit. 211.

† Whiteside, op. cit. 91-2. Illustrated by T. Allom, 1832.

2. In the Parish of Bampton.
 - (a) Earthwork at Measand.* When the writer visited this site on his first Excursion with the Society in 1922 Mr. W. G. Collingwood asked the Members present to explain what it was, but no suggestion was forthcoming. The Ordnance Survey called it a Fort. According to tradition—so Miss Kitching of Sandhill used to say—a battle had been fought there, and it was the Measand boys' favourite wrestling place. The Royal Commission merely described the remains and did not attempt to date them. It remained to Miss Hodgson to excavate the site in 1939. The diggings (which are described in *Transactions* N.S. xli, Article XIV), produced no spectacular discoveries and no ancient finds, but Miss Hodgson was able to decide that the earthworks were "a settlement of the familiar Westmorland type, even worse treated than usual."
 - (b) Cross sites near Measand, now submerged. Annette's or Annas Cross was a medieval boundary cross, it is marked on the Ordnance Sheet in italics. The other cross site marked in Gothic lettering on the road near Measandbeck Hall was called Big Cross and the next hill on the road towards Bampton was called Little Cross. Miss Kitching told me that her father used to speak of markets at all three "crosses." Butter and eggs were brought to them and there were hirings at Whitsuntide and Martinmas.
 - (c) Giants' Graves at Burnbanks. Although these are close to the Haweswater Dam they have not been touched by the Waterworks but the site is now planted with trees. When the place was excavated it is believed that nothing was found except charred turf. Apparently the Giant's Graves

Trans. o.s. iii, 252.

were first recorded by Clifton Ward* but later opinion was inclined to think they were possibly bracken stack bottoms.† The Royal Commission does not mention them at all. Mr. Jameson, who has most kindly provided the plan and section, describes the remains thus:—"The approximate lengths and breadths of the mounds from east to west are as follows: A 83 ft. long by 20 ft. broad; B 40 ft. long by 16 ft. broad; C 42 ft. long by 13 ft. broad; D 54 ft. long by 14 ft. broad; E 44 ft. long by 15 ft. broad. The height of the tops of the mounds above the natural level of the surrounding ground is approximately 2 ft. and each mound appears to be surrounded by a slight depression of about 6 ins. in depth. Mounds C, D and E are not in as good condition as mounds A and B—apparently attempts have been made to open them up at one time or another."‡

- (d) Settlement 400-500 yards west of the Giants' Graves. This has been discovered recently by Mr. Hay.§

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

In former times Mardale was on the line of a through route from Kendal towards Penrith by way of Longsledale and Gatescarth. There may have been a subsidiary route by way of Kentmere and Nan Bield but Nan Bield, unlike Gatescarth, can never have been suitable for wheels. These two routes from the south came together under Harter Fell at the head of Mardale Green, almost at the point where the Haweswater road now ends.

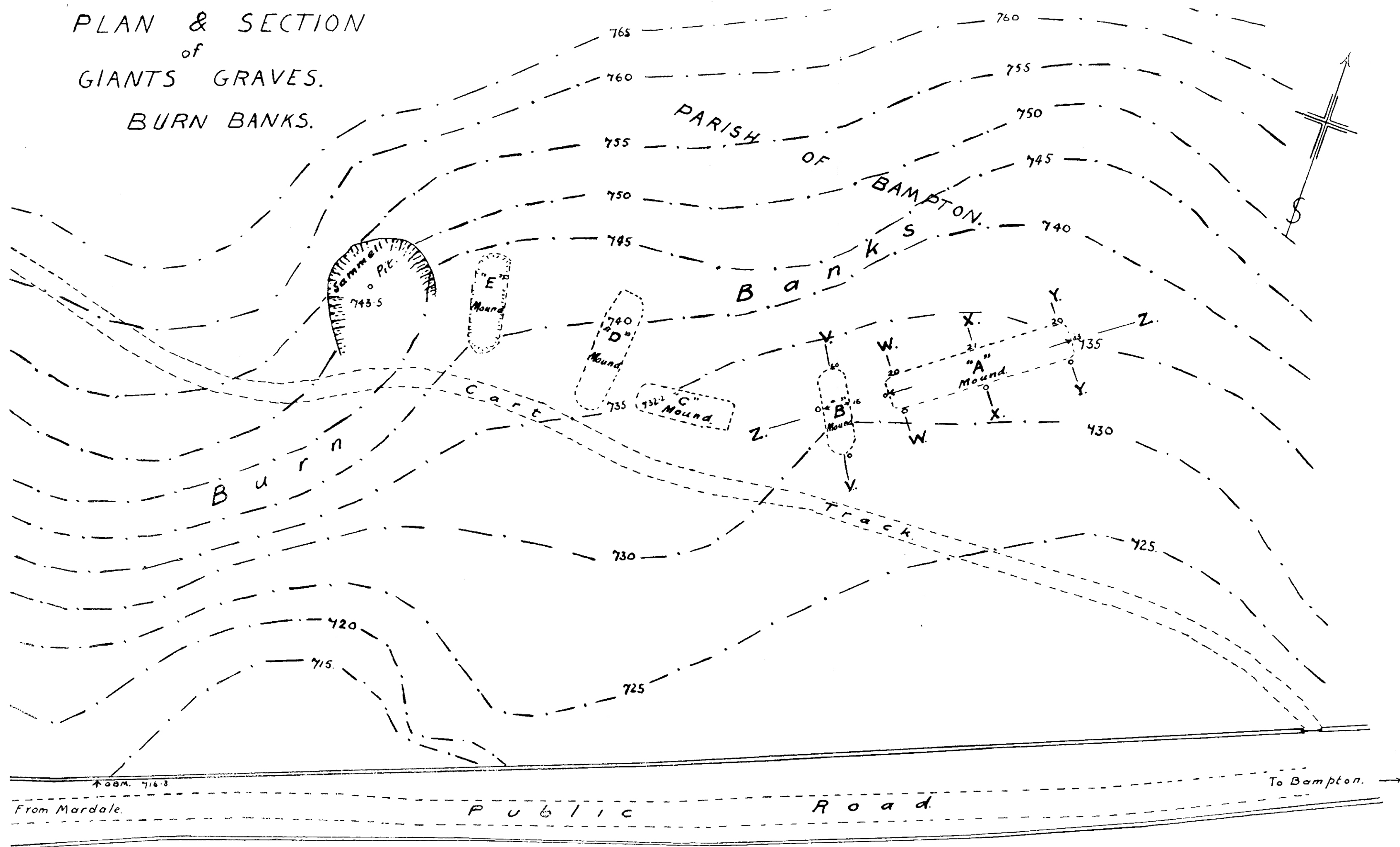
* *Ibid.*

† Ferguson and Cowper, 1893, and *Trans.* n.s. xxvi.

‡ Perhaps this was the fruitless exploration mentioned by Miss Noble as having taken place about 30 years before she wrote her *History of Bampton*, 1912.

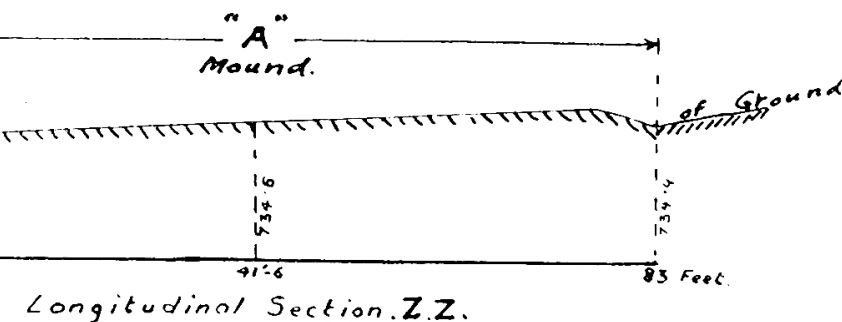
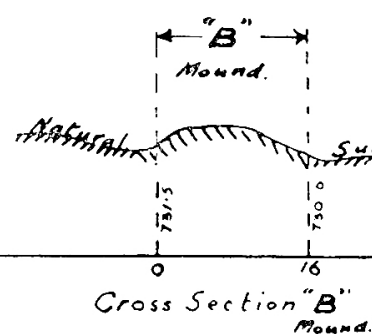
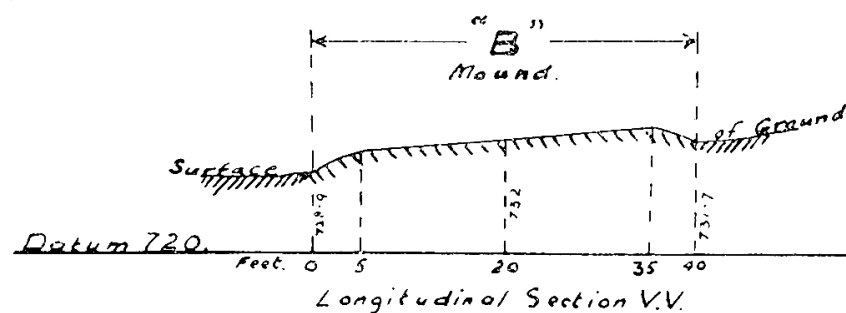
§ *Trans.* n.s. xl, 135.

PLAN & SECTION
of
GIANTS GRAVES.
BURN BANKS.

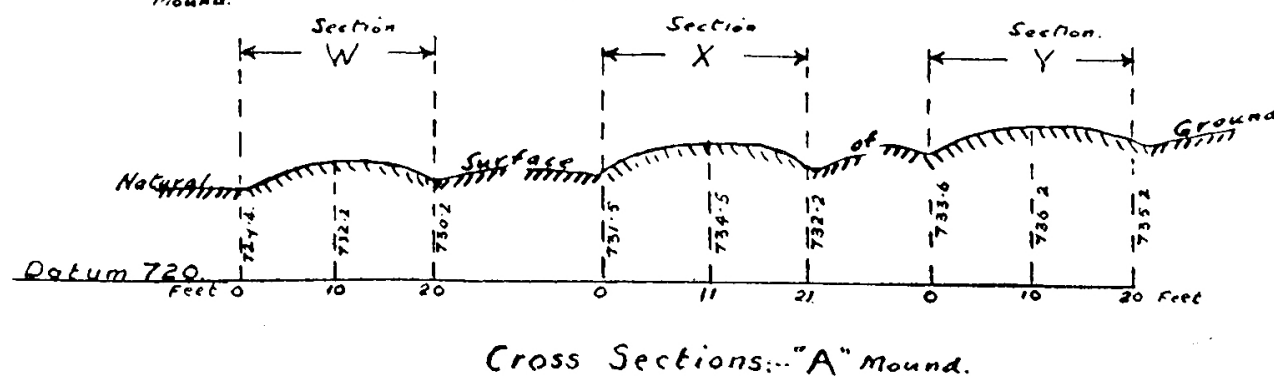


Scale: 40 ft. to inch

PLAN.



Scales: 20 ft. to inch. Natural.



From Mardale Green northwards there probably used to be a choice of ways, for there were ancient roads on both sides of the lake. On the west side there was also a more modern road. This "modern" road may well have been at least two hundred years old, because it had two good bridges which, in the opinion of the Royal Commission, were possibly of the 17th century, though this seems an early date for them. One of these bridges was near the Church and was called Chapel Bridge. It was over the Mardale Beck and was 12 ft. 6 ins. wide.* The other bridge was at Measand, over the Measand Beck where it came down into the main valley from Fordingdale. Measand Bridge had been 8 ft. wide originally with three additions of 4 ft., 3 ft. 6 ins. and 3 ft. 6 ins. making a final width of 19 ft.

There was a good deal of evidence to suggest there had been an earlier pack-horse road on the west side of the lake but higher up the slope of the fell. Three sections of this earlier road could be traced. The first left the modern road at Chapel Hill and went round to Flake How by Field Head, Bowderthwaite and Riggindale. There were two rather primitive bridges over Riggindale Beck, one opposite Field Head and one at Bowderthwaite, but the latter is the more likely to have been the road bridge. At Flake How the old road and the modern road had joined in the farm-yard until the modern road was straightened by making a new piece direct from the Parsonage to Speaking Crag.† The second section went up at the Parsonage, embraced the two Whelters and came down again behind the Schoolhouse. The third and longest section was from Graven Gate to Burnbanks and was easily traced: much of it has since been incorporated in

* Chapel Bridge and Riggindale Bridge are both mentioned in 1757 (Curwen, op. cit. 368) also Elinfoll Bridge which I cannot identify.

† Information from Mr. Edmondson of Flake How, 1928. The alteration had been made about 1886. Speaking Crag was so called because of a fine echo from Flake How Crag.

the fellside track or "Ramblers' Footpath" which the Manchester Corporation opened to the public on August 23rd, 1930. The ascent from Graven Gate was steep; then from High House the road skirted the high-climbing fields and crossed Measand Beck by a packhorse bridge made of a single great flagstone, 7 ft. by 2 ft. 9 ins., laid flat from pier to pier. Originally there may have been a second flagstone by its side.* The interesting point about this old road or track is that it linked up several high-lying farms which were untouched by the "modern" road: Field Head, Bowderthwaite, Riggindale, High House, Sandhill and Colby. Like similar old roads in other valleys of the Lake District it kept above the flood level and for most of its way ran between field and fell.

No doubt there was always a road of sorts along the east side of the lake also.† By 1928 it was very little used even as a footpath—and then only because it was one of the most charming walks in Westmorland—but it had a tradition of usage "from time immemorial." Both ends of it were still good cart roads. At the Mardale end was Arnold Bridge, "probably 17th century" according to the Royal Commission.‡ At the Rampton end was Naddle Bridge which still exists but is hidden by a larger bridge carrying the new road.§ In Naddle Forest near the north end of the lake extensive ruins could be traced under the trees (and as recently as 1867 the Lowther Boathouse was under Walla Crag); there had been ancient buildings of some kind at Boulderstone Nib; and it is known that Guerness was once "a colony of importance." One road must have connected all these sites even if it was not the through route which traversed the

* Illustrated in *Trans. N.S.* xxviii, 125.

† It would be more correct to speak of the *south-east* and *north-west* sides of Haweswater as the old lake was bow-shaped.

‡ Also Curwen, *op. cit.* 367.

§ Royal Commission, 208.

valley. The northern part of it will have been used in former times by the tenants of Thornthwaite who had a right of way over Naddle Bridge into Naddle Forest for greenhew, but when the lake was frozen they hauled their wood across the ice.*

The corpse-road or Kirk-gate which went from Mardale to Shap by Swindale and Tailbert had not been used as a corpse-road for nearly two hundred years but it was still the shortest way between the two places. The first half-mile or so out of Mardale was an excessively steep ascent by the side of Hop Gill, in the pools of which the Mardale farmers had had many a great sheep-washing long years ago.

It should perhaps be recorded that there was a traditional public landing-place and watering-place at the foot of the lake near Burnbanks, with a short lane down to it from the "modern" road. That road on the west side of the lake is now submerged, having been closed when the new road on the east side of the lake was opened on November 1st, 1937.

FARMHOUSES.

The Mardale farms, like other farms of the Lake District, were built to withstand hard weather. That they were simple and rough seems to suggest considerable age, but it would be rash to suppose that any of them were much older than the 17th century. A survey of the sites emphasised one fact—that both farmhouses and farm-buildings had been very numerous a century or two ago. Within living memory there had been several small farms independently worked which more recently were worked together as one holding. It is impossible not to wonder how the greater population of the past managed to make a living.

All the buildings were examined for date-stones but

* Miss Noble, *History of Bampton*.

with very few results. The old oak has been described by Mr. Whiteside in *Shappe in Bygone Days*.

i. In the Parish of Shap.

Five houses were occupied in 1928: Brackenhowe, the Dun Bull, Grove Brae, Goosemire and Chapel Hill. Formerly there were houses at Guerness. The farms enjoyed common rights on the fell and on the level ground called Mardale Green which was enclosed in or about 1865. On the other hand "Mardale Field," perhaps the common field, had already been divided up at the time of the Shap Tithe Award in 1842. The three owners then were John Marshall, Esq., Ann Wharton and the Earl of Lonsdale. It was down the beck-side towards the lake.*

The Shap Tithe Award gives the following (among other) field names.

Dublin Acre (adjoining the beck)

Cockmire.

Langlands and Pollock.

Branckinhow.

Skelly Flat.

Castle Dub Dale (adjoining the beck).

White Acre.

Jordan Holme and Mardale Waters.

Through the kindness of the late Mr. R. S. Woof the following additional names are given from an Inclosure Map at Lowther but it is impossible to assign them all to their respective farms.

Thackmire (at the waterhead).

Borren Crag.

Lords land.

Red Leys or Long Close.

Falshaw

Falshaw End

Scarvy Garth and Long Garth

Willsons or Well Garth

} (near
Goosemire)

* *Trans. N.S. xxix*, 269 and 271.

Nelson Garth (under Wood Howe).

Bracken Acre, Cockmire and Chapel Field.

Falgarth or Dinah (between Grove Brae and Dun Bull).

Broom Close.

Blake Howe (2 intakes—a farm site?—opposite Brackenhowe).

Hollow Close.

Over Close.

Rough Field or Stoney Close } (above Brackenhowe).
Rough Close or Grubbing }

The more ordinary names have been omitted from these lists.

From the Registers of Shap, Bampton and Mardale we get an idea of the number of families formerly living in the dale. The same sources also supply the first recorded place-names, but there are no really early forms. The list below is compiled from the Registers and usually gives only the *earliest* and *latest* dates when the personal names occur.

- (a) Bowderthwaite, 17th century. In Riggindale, the oldest house, a ruin, the farm land having been absorbed in Chapel Hill.

Holme 1706 S. Reg. 1737 M. Reg.

Thomson 1740 M. Reg.

Apparently the initials and dates cut on the plaster from 1814 onwards and recorded by Mr. Whiteside were the work of visitors since the place became unoccupied. "Traditionally the first stone-built house in Mardale" (Hinchliffe).

- (b) Brackenhowe, 17th century. The highest house in Mardale.

Holme, 1613, 1736 S. Reg.

Hodgson, 1725 B. Reg.

Johnson 1744 M. Reg.

Brackenhow, though previously uninhabited, was used as a cottage in 1928.

- (c) Chapel Hill, opposite the church.

Holme 1612, 1739 S. Reg. 1804 M. Reg.

Jackson 1731, 1762 M. Reg.

Hayton 1756.

Remains of an old house were to be seen behind the farm buildings. The new house was built by R(ichard) and A(nn) H(olme) 1814. A note on the Holme family will be found on page 40 of this paper.

- (d) Duddrigg or Duddriggbank, site unknown, but "Dodderwick Force" was above Mardale Green, towards the foot of Gatescarth.

Holme 1679, 1698 S. Reg.

- (e) Field Head, a ruin near Bowderthwaite, land absorbed in Chapel Hill. Not mentioned in the Registers.

- (f) th'Fold, near Grove Brae.

Robinson 1591, 1676, 1754 S. Reg.

Holme 1714, 1717 S. Reg.

Turner 1728 S. Reg.

Wharton 1771 M. Reg.

Clark 1800 M. Reg.

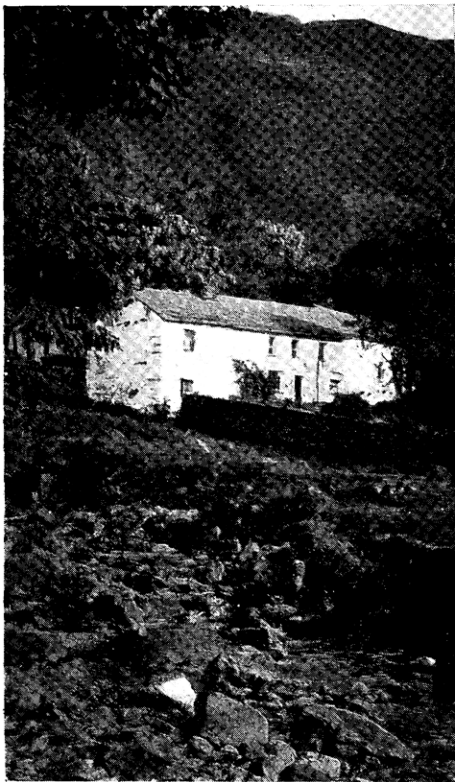
- (g) th'Garth Beck, site unknown.

Holme 1734, 1735 M. Reg.

Haiton 1761 M. Reg.

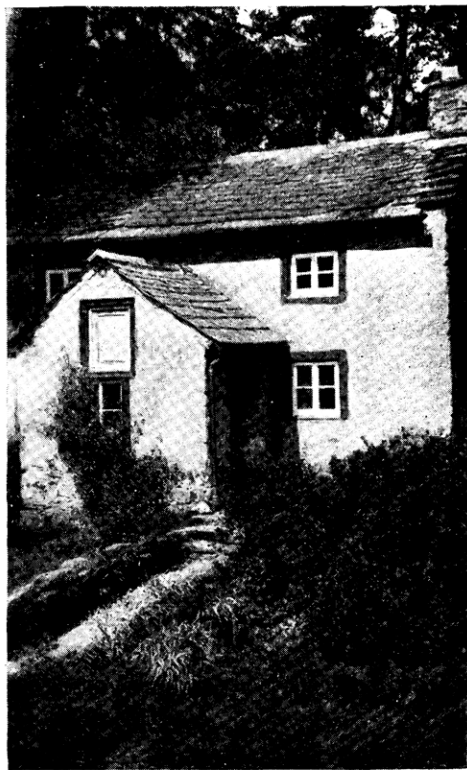
- (h) Goosemire, 17th century house, next to Grove Brae. Goosemire is not mentioned in the Registers by this name.

- (i) Greenhead and the Dun Bull Inn. Greenhead was originally a farm and became an Inn some time before 1829. There was an Inn at Mardale—presumably on this same site—as early as 1772 but it had lapsed again by the time Otley published his Guide to the Lakes in 1823.



GROVE BRAE.

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MEASAND SCHOOL.

Jackson 1687, 1714 M. Reg.

Cookson 1734, 1737 M. Reg.

The oldest part of the house was low and old-fashioned. A newer portion with a datestone T.L. 1827 was built by Thomas Lamley who also began to build a tower on Wood Howe. A Victorian wing was added later by Mrs. Holme, widow of the Rev. T. Holme and aunt of Hugh Parker Holme. The Dun Bull—which for many years was famous as the scene of the Mardale Shepherds' meets—was closed on May 24th, 1937 and the new Haweswater Hotel, built by Manchester Corporation, was opened the following day.

- (j) Grove Brae (Grove Brake, 1706), 17th century with spice cupboard dated 1682, near the Dun Bull.

Holme 1706 B. Reg. 1771 M. Reg.

- (k) Guerness, at the south end of Naddle Forest.

Jackson 1593, 1619 S. Reg.

Bowman 1697 B. Reg. 1727 S. Reg.

Mill 1718 S. Reg.

This was originally a charcoal burners' settlement, high up the fellside; later it boasted a beer-house and a mill. Copper was worked at Guerness for some years between 1836 and 1852, but only spasmodically, judging by the smallness of the spoil banks.

- (l) Naddle House. Naddle is just outside the Haweswater basin, at the north end of Naddle Forest. Probably some of the entries in the Registers refer to other sites than Naddle House, because there were ruins of buildings near the foot of the lake as well as opposite Measand. "Naddall" occurs as a personal name in Shap Registers from 1582, and in Bampton Registers from 1651. In the

latter there is a baptismal entry in 1714 "Robert à Naddall (i.e. à loco Naddall) of Broomby End, nonagenarius." The Naddalls are now an extinct family.

Craston 1590 S. Reg.

Jackson 1580, 1605 S. Reg.

Atkinson 1594 S. Reg.

Wilson 1586, 1760 S. Reg. 1777, 1808 B. Reg.

Chappelhow 1589 S. Reg.

Dennison 1596 S. Reg.

Lowes 1609 S. Reg.

Bowman 1682 B. Reg.

Stewardson 1708, 1719 S. Reg.

Varty 1725 B. Reg.

Shaw 1827, 1830 S. Reg.

The house is apparently somewhat older than other houses in the neighbourhood (see Royal Commission, p. 210). The large open fireplace is no longer used. A hundred years ago, according to Hinchliffe, the children of the house "were wont to sit round the fire in the ingle-nook and through the wide open top of the chimney count the stars as they appeared one by one in the wintry sky."

- (m) Thornthwaite Forest, site unknown.

Miles 1754 M. Reg.

- (n) Wood Nook, near Naddle House, now an out-building.

Dennison 1727 S. Reg.

Lowis 1733 B. Reg.

Hayton 1736, 1737 S. Reg.

Holme 1738, 1749 M. Reg.

Bland 1754 B. Reg.

Powley (died at Wood Nook) 1737 B. Reg.

Numerous surnames are ascribed simply to "Mardale." Shap Registers give the following in the 16th century:

Baxter, Bodye, Dennison, Haton, Hobson, Holme, Jackson, Measand, Richardson, Robinson, Watson. Later names are legion. In the Bampton Registers is the interesting item that "a traveller" was buried from Mardale in 1668. John Turner, who had the honour of being "the first corps that was buried at Mardale" (M. Reg. 1731) was evidently of th'Fold.

Field Head was certainly the site of a house, and Blake Howe probably was, but neither name occurs in the Registers. Nor does Goosemire. On the other hand we do not know the sites of the houses named in the Registers Duddrigg, Garth Beck and Wood Nook.

2. In the Parish of Bampton.

Nine houses were occupied in 1928: Riggindale, Flake How, the Parsonage (modern), Low Whelter, Schoolhouse (modern), Sandhill, Measandbeck, Measandbeck Hall and Colby. The Mardale houses and the Measand houses conveniently fall into two separate groups. We get an admirable idea of the extent of the population in the Haweswater part of the parish of Bampton two hundred years ago from the names of the seat-holders in Bampton new church, 1726 (B. Reg.).

There had been a common field between the house at Riggindale and the modern road. The Tithe Award Map suggests that it had no fences in 1839 but that the boundaries of the then two owners, Thomas Holme and Maria Kennedy, were marked by mere-stones. There seems also to have been a common field at Whelter. In the following lists the field-names are arranged farm by farm. The spelling is that of the Award and the more ordinary field-names have been omitted. The personal names are from the Registers.

Mardale.

- (a) Flakehow, 17th century house with two contemporary cupboards.

Bowman 1658 B. Reg.

Holme 1659 (?), 1754 B. Reg.

Dennison 1716 B. Reg.

Dawes 1722 B. Reg.

Fleming 1726 S. Reg.

Ion 1732, 1742 B. Reg.

Jackson 1736 B. Reg.

Rogers 1737 B. Reg.

Atkinson 1756 S. Reg.

Field-names:

Red Leys (between road and beck).

Gate Cragg.

Carr.

Knowey (at the old beck mouth).

Goody land.

Illdale (between road and lake).

Kiln Brot (near the old turf kiln).

Pot Fold (by the "shielings").

Pingle.

Alders.

Wood Garth (at the turf kiln).

(b) Riggindale, 17th century with later extension.

Brown 1677 B. Reg.

Hayton 1694 B. Reg.

Holme 1699, 1760 B. Reg.*

Greenhow 1779 M. Reg.

Field-names: (apparently two distinct farms in 1839).

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| I. { | White How. | } (common field). |
| | Pursey Piece. | |
| | Tom Garth. | |
| | Riggindale field (dale) | |
| | Riggindale field (dale) | |
| | Standing stone (dale) | |
| | Satterah (next to Riggindale Bridge). | |

* Whiteside, op. cit., gives the will of John Holme of Riggindale, dated 1735, proved 1738.

2. { Thrush Gill
 Gate Crag.
 Hawsteads.
 Lime Kiln Close
 Door Piece
 High Cragg
 Meadow
 Great Piece
 Standing stone
 Longland Great Bottom and Goat Head. } (common field).

- (c) Rowan or Rowland Park, 17th century, unoccupied, absorbed in Whelter.

Long 1748 B. Reg.

Halton 1750, 1752 B. Reg.

The chimney and the outside turret staircase are described by Hinchliffe.

- (d) Slape Stone, site, absorbed in Whelter.

Dennison 1654, 1746 B. Reg.

Holme 1704, 1739 B. Reg.

Winder 1750 B. Reg.

Jackson 1752 B. Reg.

Duty 1754 B. Reg.

Raven 1799 M. Reg.

In the last remaining building was a sandstone slab: G F

H

1801

- (e) Whelter. In 1928 Old Whelter was ruined and Whelter or "Low Whelter" was in use as a cottage. At the time of the Hearth Tax 1669-72 there were evidently no less than 12 houses or cottages at or near Whelter; 8 householders paid the Tax and 4 were exempted.*

Holme 1644, 1739 B. Reg.

Baxter 1674 B. Reg.

* Curwen, op. cit.

Duty 1726 B. Reg.

Dennyson 1753 M. Reg. 1769 B. Reg.

Greenhow 1799 M. Reg.

Field-names:

Old Whelter.

Hill Dale.

Knowey.

High and Low Ieys.

Railton Garth.

Peas Garth.

Welter.

Mardale field Close.

Mole Parrock.

Round about.

Guards End.

Five shillings piece (close to the house).

A rough carving of a man's head with the date 1785 on a top-stone of the wall at Whelter was stated by Hinchliffe to be the handiwork of Parson Hebson: another theory has it that the carving was done in quite modern times by some Penrith schoolboys. Hebson, however, does seem to have lived at Whelter and there is a charming description of his home and of Haweswater in Mrs. Radcliffe's *Journey*.*

Measand.

At the point where the Fordingdale Beck came down into the main valley and had formed a huge delta jutting almost across the lake and dividing it into two portions, High Water and Low Water. According to the Hearth Tax Roll 1669-72 seven householders paid the Tax and nine others were exempted, making a total of 16 inhabited houses or cottages.

(a) Colby or Colby Fold, 17th century.

Hogart 1694, 1696 B. Reg.

Wright 1730, 1763 B. Reg.

* First edition, 1795, pp. 399-402.

Field-names:

Undergates (below the road).

Baisbour Garth.

Gaitey.

Longwathby (above the road).

Water End (Waterfoot and fields farther downstream belonged to Thornthwaite Mill).

There was a datestone on a building behind the house at Colby: S

17 M W 33.

Between Colby and Measand Force there were two groups of ruined buildings, once farms or cottages. In the other direction there were three old copper mines. According to Whellan "in 1856 a company was formed for the working of a mine of copper ore in the south part of the parish (of Bampton)," On some old maps Colby is marked as "Abbey" which is probably an error, but may be evidence of some connection with Shap Abbey.

- (b) High House, 17th century, a ruin, absorbed in Measandbeck.

Ion 1734 B. Reg.

Brown 1757 B. Reg.

- (c) Laithald or Laithwaite ("Laythalt vel Lathhead" 1716), absorbed partly in Whelter, partly in Measandbeck. In 1928 only a barn remained.

Lewis 1651, 1762 B. Reg.

Ion 1725 B. Reg.

Hoggart 1740, 1752 B. Reg.

Thompson 1745 B. Reg.

Hayton 1758 B. Reg.

Wharton 1760 B. Reg.

Moffat 1774, 1775 B. Reg.

- (d) Mellbecks or Measandbecks.

Blamire 1714 (the marriage of Mary Blamire "of

Measand or Mellbecks (i.e. amidst or amell ye rivulets)" to George Wharton). B. Reg.

Wharton 1721, 1741 B. Reg.

Airey 1729 B. Reg.

Hayton 1742 B. Reg.

Allenson 1743 B. Reg.

Field-names:

High Broom.

Gaitcay (above Annas Cross).

Undergates.

Pults (against Pultsgill Sike).

Broad Ings.

Brows.

Birk Fold.

Longlands.

Gull Acre } (between house and lake).

Mill Beck }

Cross lands (at the Cross site).

(e) Measandbeck Hall.

In 1839 this property belonged to the Rev. Thomas Stanley Bowstead and was occupied by Christopher Bowstead. At that time Chapel Hill and Measandbeck Hall were new, and the only "bettermer" houses in the valley.

(f) Sandhill, 17th or early 18th century.

Holme 1712, 1758 B. Reg.

Wright 1713 (Richard Wright, founder of Measand School).

Field-names:

Gaitcay.

Great and Little Scale.

Alice Close.

Pults.

Coat Garth.

Kiln Land (the great field on the promontory).

Birks Scale.

High and Low Wait Bank (the site of the
"Fort").

Cross Yats (at the Cross site).

Well-Rigging.

Jerry field (above the road).

1st Jerry garth.

2nd Jerry garth.

High and Low Willow field.

Undergates.

(g) Seal-Green, site absorbed in Colby.

Wright 1729 B. Reg.

As a personal name "Measand" occurs frequently in the Shap Registers from 1563, and "Meason" in the Bampton Registers from 1641. Shap Registers mention an "Araye" of Measand in 1591. Numerous surnames ascribed to Measand are found throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, Holme and Wharton being very common in the 18th.

William "son of the Rev. Mr. Wm. & Dame Mary Langhorn of Measand" was baptised, 1721, B. Reg. John Moor "a tailor aged 18" was buried, 1777, B. Reg.

In 1660 the following Customary Tenants are recorded: *
Mardall Mr. Robert Strickland, 5 Holmes, a Jackson and a Bowman.

Meason 3 Wrights, 3 Hodgsons, a Noble and an Aray.

Flackhow a Holme and a Dennison.

Riggendale 2 Hatons and a Browne.

According to Miss Noble lands at Measand and the Bampton portion of Mardale paid to the Vicar of Bampton a certain modus instead of a tithe of hay, corn and grain.

MEASAND SCHOOL.†

Measand School is fully described in Miss Noble's *History of Bampton* where a list of schoolmasters is

* Noble, *History of Bampton*.

† See Curwen, *op. cit.*

provided and the inscription on the gable of the old building is well illustrated. It was founded by Richard Wright in 1711 as a free school for both sexes and was endowed by him with property in the parish of Orton. A Holme of Riggindale and two Holmes of Measand were original Trustees or Governors. The site of the school—a piece of ground at Measand called Old Garth—was given by Richard Law, Wright's nephew. In the Bampton Registers the burials of both these benefactors are recorded: Richard Wright of Sandhill was buried November 11th 1713 "Cervicem elisit, vide. He founded ye school at Measand" and Richard Law of Cawdale "bachellor, a benefactor to Measand School" was buried June 15th 1723. Three years later there is an entry "Charles Hugh's, of London, a scholar of Measand School, drowned in Hall's Water on Saturday, Dec. 17, and buried on Tuesday following" December 20th 1726.

The inscription on the school building is dated 1713, the year of Richard Wright's death, and appears to have been set up by Richard Law to commemorate his uncle as Founder and Benefactor. The actual year of the erection of the school must have been not later than 1713 in spite of the fact that the site was not conveyed to the Trustees until just before Law's death in 1723. The Conveyance—dated 22nd May, 1723—describes the Old Garth as being that "in which the Free School of Measand is erected."

A new Schoolhouse was built in 1883 on a site about a mile and a half farther up the valley, near Whelter, and was known as Mardale School. Measand School became a cottage. When the Haweswater Scheme was well advanced the building was taken down and rebuilt on a larger scale by Mr. Lewis Orford at Walmgate Head on the site of a house burned down in the winter of 1894-5: In its present form its elevation is considerably higher than it was before, but the cottage still retains something of its former atmosphere and the original inscription may still be seen.

MARDALE CHURCH.

The ancient designation Mardale Chapel clung to Mardale Church because for many years it enjoyed none of the privileges of a parish church and was simply the place of worship for a scattered community living far from the parish churches of Shap and Bampton. Even when, in 1728, a licence was granted for burials, baptisms and marriages to take place at Mardale the inhabitants expressly undertook to respect the rights of the Vicars of Shap and Bampton. No ecclesiastical boundaries were ever defined, and so Mardale Church remained a "Chapel" standing in the parish of Shap and serving a remote part of that parish and part of the parish of Bampton.

There has always been considerable doubt about the age of Mardale Church. The fact that one of the Holmes of Mardale, Rudolphus Holme, was stated in a comparatively modern MS to have "founded an oratory near his habitation" as far back as the fourteenth century was looked upon somewhat sceptically by the Rev. J. Whiteside. He wrote "All we know for certain is that there was a chapel before 1700."* To our late President, Mr. W. G. Collingwood, the chapel seemed to date "only from the 17th century."† Mr. Hinchliffe thought "The present church was built towards the end of the 17th century, and probably replaced a more primitive building."‡

The publication by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of their volume *Westmorland* (1936) appears to settle the matter finally. They decided that the roof of the building was late medieval and that therefore the main structure was "probably of medieval date" with a West Tower added in 1737. The Royal Commission succeeded in having the last word, as the church was

* *Shap in Bygone Days.*

† *Lake District History.*

‡ *A Backwater in Lakeland.*

demolished in 1936-37 and the site is now under water.*

Turning to historical evidence, Curwen quotes the Commonwealth Survey of 1657 which says "there is one chapel of the said parish of Shap called Mardale Chapel" with no maintenance. This is the earliest known mention of Mardale Chapel. But we may presume there was one at least as early as 1594 from the following entries in the Shap Registers:

Buried Maie xxx 1594 Sir Thomas Watson curat of m'dall.

(Thomas Watson and Elizabeth Holme of Mardall had been married August xxix 1583).

Buried Julye xviii 1597 Agnes Holme dr. to Robert layt Reder of M'dall.

Buried August vi 1600† Randall Brockbank Reder at Mardall and sonne to Sr John Brockbank vicar of this pish of Shapp.

On November 24th 1663, according to Curwen, a licence to teach school and read prayers was granted to Edward Stephenson "liberatus in Capella de Mardale."

Thus we have four names to prefix to Whiteside's list of Ministers, as follows:—

- | | | |
|--------|------|---|
| | 1594 | Thomas Watson, curate. |
| before | 1597 | Robert Holme, reader. |
| | 1600 | Randall Brockbank, reader. |
| | 1663 | Edward Stephenson, reader and school-master. |
| | 1703 | Michael Sommers, curate and schoolmaster. |
| | 1708 | ? William Langhorn, also master of Measand. |
| | 1722 | Jonathan Tinclar, also master of Measand. |
| | 1725 | William Robinson, reader and master of Measand. |

* The Royal Commission persisted in ascribing the church to the Holy Trinity but both Whiteside and Curwen thought the dedication was uncertain.

† Curwen gives this date as 1596.



MARDALE OLD CHURCH.

Photo. by permission of Messrs. Valentine & Sons, Ltd., Dundee.
tcwaas_002_1942_vol42_0005

To face p. 36.

- 1726 Thomas Baxter, licensed to read prayers and teach school in Mardale Chapel.*
- 1731 Richard Holme.
- 1734 William Collinson, also master of Measand.
- 1739 John Watson, also master of Measand.
- 1741 Bartholomew Hayes, reader and master of Measand.†
- 1749 Richard Hebson, also master of Measand for 53 years.‡
- 1800 John Bowstead, also master of Bampton.§
- 1842 John Rowlandson, vicar of Shap.||
- 1858 Thomas Holme.¶
- 1880 H. W. Scaife.
- 1882 C. H. Hatfield.
- 1882 A. A. Williams.
- 1885 C. N. Greenwood.
- 1891 H. C. Baldwin.
- 1894 William Terry.
- 1911 to 1935 Frederick Henry John Barham, St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

The graveyard, containing only ten perches, was consecrated in 1728, the fence being "made by the inhabitants of the chapelry."** From the consecration deed we learn that before this date neither baptism, marriage nor burial had ever taken place here and that the holy communion

* Baxter was ordained deacon and licensed as curate when things were reconstituted at Mardale, 1728. (*Trans.* N.S. v, 94). He married Mary Jackson of Chapel Hill and had a son baptised in 1731; she died the same year. He was "brought from the Parish of Greystock" and buried, 1770.

† Hayes was ordained deacon, 1742 (*Trans.* N.S. v, 94).

‡ Hebson married Ann Wright of Measand August 22nd, 1765. B. Reg. Hebson's was the only memorial William Pearson saw in the chapelry in 1821.

§ John Greenhow was his officiating curate at Mardale and master of Measand, 1829 (Parson and White).

|| J. B. Wightwick, curate, 1842.

¶ Holme was the son of Richard Holme whose initials were over the door at Chapel Hill. He built the Parsonage and restored the chancel of the church in 1860.

** An addition of 450 square yards was consecrated in 1886.

was only administered at the parish churches of Shap and Bampton. The defect was now remedied, as the Registers shew:—

- 1731 John Turner, the first buried at Mardale (S. Reg. and M. Reg).
- 1742 Thomas Holme of Riggindale and Mary Holme of Flake How married at Mardale (B. Reg.).
- 1759 two baptisms "at Mardale Chapel by Mr. Hebson" (B. Reg.).

In 1730 the communion appears to have been administered only on Maundy Thursday and then by the Vicar of Bampton, the incumbent of Mardale not having been priested. Wearing, the Vicar of Bampton, declared that he had "a joint and equal right with the curate of Shapp to officiate and minister in the chapell of Mardale."* The Vicar of Shap had a superior claim to the patronage but it was occasionally challenged by the Vicar of Bampton. In 1777 the parson's salary was about £26 per annum.†

On January 31st 1935 the benefices and parishes of Mardale and Bampton were united by Order in Council dated May 14th, 1934 and the Vicar of Bampton became Vicar of Bampton with Mardale. The last service was held at Mardale Church on August 18th, 1935, after which the church was closed.‡ The main part of the fabric was demolished in 1936-37 and the Tower was pulled down on April 9th, 1937.§

The bodies in the churchyard were exhumed in November and December, 1935, 2 being re-interred at Bampton, 2 at Thrimby, 1 at Askham and 104 at Shap. A corner of the new cemetery at Shap—called "the Mardale portion"

* *History of Bampton.*

† Nicolson and Burn.

‡ The last burial had been in 1917 and the last marriage in 1930. There had been several baptisms during 1935.

§ In the Haweswater Hotel there is a model of the church on a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 foot, also an oil painting of the north side and tower, painted in 1934. Both are by E. Hartley Mooney.

—was walled off to form an enclosure for these Mardale re-interments and fourteen headstones from Mardale have been re-erected there.

Some of the fittings of the church were destroyed and some distributed elsewhere. The holy table, screen, gallery front, communion rails, panelling, reading desk and pews were all found to be infected with beetle and had to be burned. The font and pavement were modern and were broken up and buried. The weather vane, two memorial tablets, pewter flagon, chalice and paten, and a wooden cross were given to Shap Church.* The bell

R B

(inscribed W) was given to S. Barnabas' Church, Carlisle.

1825

The candlesticks, and the terriers and other documents, were deposited in Bampton Church. The pulpit (which had come to Mardale from Crosby Ravensworth) went to Borrowdale.

The stonework of the windows was re-used for the windows in the upper chamber of the new octagonal Intake Well built by the Manchester Corporation on the east side of the lake on Mardale Banks and is the only part of Mardale Church now to be seen at Haweswater.

No matter of fact catalogue can give a true idea of this small but attractive church. With its semi-circular holy table and communion rails, its screen and gallery, its tower and flagstaff, it was a complete church in miniature. The inside of the building was only thirty feet long by sixteen feet broad but it was well proportioned and, unlike some churches, it had a holy atmosphere. The surrounding yew trees, though they made the church dark, only increased its sancity and the feeling that this was indeed an ancient house of God. In former times it had had no lighting and no heating—and probably, therefore, no winter services—but it had been the place of worship

* The flagon, chalice and paten are dated 1812.

of generations of Mardale folk, and for two hundred years their place of burial. To many people the loss of Mardale Church is the most tragic thing resulting from the raising of Haweswater.

THE HOLMES OF MARDALE.

The history and traditions of the Holme family have always appealed to popular imagination. It is believed that they first settled in Mardale in the reign of King John when a Hugh Holme arrived in the valley. By long ownership of property and by residence at Chapel Hill his descendants became known as the Kings of Mardale. At one time or another most of the houses in the Haweswater region and even farther afield seem to have been occupied by branches of the parent family at Chapel Hill, and it was natural that the Holmes should fill many of the leading positions in local life. The last male Holme of Mardale was Hugh Parker Holme who died in 1885 aged 34 and the last of the name to live in Mardale was his aunt, Mrs. T. Holme, who died in 1915 aged 90. A full account of the family may be found in *Shappe in Bygone Days*, pp. 107-115.

SHEPHERDS' MEET.

For several generations Mardale was famous for its Shepherds' Meet, held in the third week in November. It is fairly common throughout the fell districts to have an annual gathering at which stray sheep are brought together to be claimed by their rightful owners, but the Mardale Meet excelled them all in popularity. This was partly because the Dun Bull was such a romantic setting, partly because the original purpose of the Meet became rather obscured and the gathering was made a sporting occasion with hunting, clay pigeon shooting, singing and drinking. Formerly both the Ullswater Foxhounds and the Windermere Harriers went to the Dun Bull for the

Meet, and the Ullswater still continue the custom although the meeting place has been changed from Mardale to Bampton.

The Mardale Shepherds' Meet and the Kirkstone Shepherds' Meet (now defunct and succeeded by one at Troutbeck) both claimed descent from the extraordinary gatherings held more than a hundred years ago on High Street, over 2,500 feet above sea level.* That Mardale was always addicted to combining business and pleasure is perhaps evident from a record that on June 14th 1824 a sheep fair took place at the top of Haweswater and was followed by sports, and some years later "a pleasure fair" was still being held annually on Whit Monday.†

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

On the west shore of Haweswater not far from Burnbanks there was a stone with the following inscription:—

R. N. Wilkinson

Drowned

July 10 1874

G. Ashworth

Drowned

July 10 1874

The stone still exists but has been moved from its old site so as to be above the new level of the lake.

At the Haweswater Hotel are preserved—amongst other things—several old brands, including one from Measand and another from Goosemire; an old pistol from Chapel Hill; the front door fittings, bell pull and door knob from

* See illustration "Bley-Water Tarn," by T. Allom in *Westmorland, Cumberland, Durham and Northumberland Illustrated*, 1832. The letterpress refers to "the annual festivities which take place on the broad top of High Street. Horse-racing forms the principal feature in the sports, which derive no little additional zest from a copious supply of cakes and ale from the neighbouring villages."

† Garnett, *Westmorland Agriculture*, 1800-1900, 1912. Whellan, *History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland*, 1860.

Measand Hall; the bell pull from the back door of the Dun Bull; and an old revolver also from the Dun Bull.

"Mardale" wrote Mr. Collingwood in 1925 "if we forget the one staring house at the head of the lake, and repopulate in imagination deserted homesteads, too sadly ruined, has almost the aspect of the 18th century." Mr. Whiteside wrote in 1904 "What will Mardale be in the year 1954? In the past it has escaped . . . a railway down the valley . . . and an experience like to Thirlmere's, which would have raised the water for Manchester to the very gate of the chapel." Eighteenth century Mardale is submerged. Haweswater covers the site of the chapel itself.

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