

II.—THE ORIGINAL SURVEY FOR THE NEW-CASTLE-CARLISLE MILITARY ROAD—c. 1746.

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[Read on 29th April 1936.]

On 27th April 1932 Sir George Macdonald read to this society a paper entitled *John Horsley, Scholar and Gentleman*.¹ The last four pages of this paper are devoted to a rare map 21½ inches by 16¼ inches, engraved by N. Hill, of the projected road between Newcastle and Carlisle after the 1745 rebellion, and a second somewhat degenerate copy of this engraving, being the frontispiece to John Warburton's *Vallum Romanum*, 1753.

Sir George Macdonald gives interesting details about the two engraved maps, and deduces that Hill's map was a copy of a survey which must have been made of the country between Newcastle and Carlisle shortly after 1745 at the suggestion of General George Wade, the commander of the English forces concentrated at Newcastle before and during the invasion by the young Pretender. In a final note Sir George Macdonald suggests that the original survey may be in the War Office archives.

In March 1936 Mr. Guy H. Allgood of Nunwick, Northumberland, in turning out a cupboard at Nunwick found an oak box containing a parchment map on five sheets joined together so as to make a roll 10 feet 6 inches long by 2 feet wide of the projected road. The map is beautifully drawn in ink in several colours, it is in an

¹ *Arch. Ael.*⁴ x.

admirable state of preservation, and it proves to be the missing survey referred to by Sir George Macdonald, as can be seen by the roughly drawn contours in brown chalk for the guidance of the engraver, Nathaniel Hill. These contours have been carefully copied by hachuring on the engraving by Hill even when they are not accurate. The oak box containing the map has a nearly illegible inscription in pencil on the lid. With the approval of Mr. Allgood, Mr. T. Wake, by treating it with liquid celluloid deciphered the lettering as follows:

FOR|LANCELOT ALLGOOD ESQRE|AT HEXHAM NEAR
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE|TO THE CARE OF MR. GREEN-
WOOD|AN EXCISEMAN AT|NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Mr. B. R. Leftwich, the librarian of the Custom House Library, London, has kindly looked up the records relating to exciseman Greenwood. Matthew Greenwood entered the Excise as supernumerary in 1718. He was appointed to Bishop Auckland and later to Newcastle 6th Station in 1731. In 1738 he was transferred to Newcastle 7th Station, and in 1744 he was appointed to North Shields 2nd Station. On 28th August 1745 he was once more appointed to Newcastle, this time to the 5th Station, and there he seems to have remained for the rest of his service in the Excise.

Sir Lancelot Allgood is an ancestor of the present owner of the map. He was knighted in 1760; sheriff of Northumberland in 1745 and M.P. for the county, after a disputed election, 1747-1749.² His name appears in the Act of Parliament as one of the trustees for the construction of the new road "for as much of the said road as lies in the County of Northumberland." This Act was printed in London in 1751 and has the title "An Act for laying out making and keeping in repair a road proper for the passage of troops and carriages from the City of Carlisle to the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne." As sheriff of Northumberland Lancelot Allgood must have met General

² *Men of Mark*, I, pp. 40 ff., by Richard Welford.

Wade, and the want of good lateral communication east and west must have been discussed. It seems probable that as sheriff of Northumberland Lancelot Allgood must have been partly responsible for the survey and the construction of the projected military road in Northumberland after 1745. Hill's engraving was probably prepared for the use of the road commissioners in Cumberland and Northumberland. The *Newcastle Courant* for the week 15th-22nd June 1751 records the first meeting of the Northumberland commissioners on 24th June of that year, and an advertisement in the same paper, dated 29th June-6th July 1751, asks for tenders "for making the road by the mile." In the same paper for the week 6th-13th July is recorded "on Monday last (8 July 1751) the Carlisle Turnpike Road was begun near the Westgate of this Town" (i.e. Newcastle upon Tyne).

In November 1752 the work of road construction had reached Heddon-on-the-Wall, and a further note in the *Newcastle Courant* under "Newcastle 11th November 1752" sets out the discovery by the workmen making the road "of a great number of Curious Roman Coins and Medals in the ruins of the Old Wall near Heddon. They have been deposited in Wood Boxes which were almost decayed; yet several of the Medals were as fresh and fair as if but newly struck. Some of these are made of Silver but most that of Copper and a Mixture of coarser Metal. They are thought to be as valuable a Collection as has been discovered for some Centuries past."

In 1753 the road was being made in Cumberland, and a tablet was affixed to the new bridge over the Irthing at Rule Holm (Rill Holme on the road survey) on the parapet on the south side recording the fact that the bridge was built "at the charge of the government in 1753."³

Turning to the details of the survey. The title reads: *A Survey of the Country between Newcastle and Carlisle* |

³ Cumb. and West. Antiq. & Arch. Soc., N.S., II, pp. 274 ff., map, 1902.

Representing the Several present Roads and the Tract which is proposed for the New intended Road of Communication between these Towns. As also all the course of the Roman Wall with all the Military Stations Castella and Military Ways that lye upon this Survey. A scale below this title shows 13 inches to be approximately 6 miles.

Unfortunately the survey is unsigned and undated, though "General Wade encamp'd here anno 1745" on the "Newcastle Towns Common" (Town Moor), and "General Wade encamped here anno 1745" on the south side of the junction of the two Tynes near Hexham, fixes the date as later than the '45. As the Act for the road is dated 1751 the survey cannot be later than 1750 nor earlier than 1746.

The proposed road is shown as a dotted line and coloured in faded red (now light yellow). This line was afterwards modified at many places. Newcastle, Hexham and Carlisle are beautifully drawn in red, but they are on too small a scale to be of much value for details.

The Roman Wall forts and milecastles are shown in considerable detail though not very accurately planned. The Wall is described as Severus's Wall and the Vallum as Hadrian's Vallum.

There are a large number of interesting place names, and most of these seem to be spelt according to pronunciation, as if the map maker had asked the local inhabitants the names and done his best to record the result. Perhaps the most curious is "Leonard Cross Abbey" for Lanercost. The most valuable portions of the map appear to be details relating to fields and enclosures. These are shown as enclosed tillage or grass or open spaces, though it must be admitted there is little way of actually checking the facts of *c.* 1746.

It has not been found possible, on account of its size, to reproduce the map as a plate in this volume. The council has therefore arranged for it to be published separ-

ately in collotype, suitable for framing, at about one-third of its full size. This plate can be purchased at the Castle by members of the society.

The society is much indebted to Mr. Guy H. Allgood for allowing the map to be reproduced.