

from the foundations. On the site of the camp we may still find fragments of flints, granites, red freestone, bricks, ancient mortar, and red ironstone. The ground on the south side of the station is much heavier, darker, and wetter than on the station itself, so that its site is still traceable, and appears to be correctly laid down on the map of the survey of the Roman wall. "Hutchinson's irregular lines and breastworks," on the south side of the hill were probably only the suburbs of the fortress.

This camp had a very commanding prospect. It was about three miles from Cambec-fort, and two-and-a-half from the Brampton camp, and about a-mile-and-half south of the wall and vallum. It is a remarkable coincidence that at Bleatarn, which is on the wall, and nearly opposite to Watchcross, we find traces of a large entrenchment, so that in this respect it bears an analogy with the positions of Vindolana and Lanercost. It is possible that this may have been one of the stations of Agricola, for it is very near the old military road from Carlisle to Newcastle, which is still easily traceable, as it passes on the north side of this station. On these data we may infer that Watchcross was at least one of the stations mentioned in the Notitia, and very probably the site of Axelodunum, the sixteenth camp "*per lineam Valli.*"

ART. XXI.—*On the Stations Olenacum and Virosidum along the Roman Wall, in Cumberland.* By the Rev. John Maughan, A.B., Rector of Bewcastle.

Read at Kirkby Lonsdale, August 10, 1870.

IN this, my last paper on the stations *per lineam Valli*, I would suggest that Olenacum may have been the station now called Drumburgh. It is a very small station, apparently not more than three-quarters of an acre, but it is placed in a strong and commanding position.

In speaking of the station at Ellenborough, Dr. Bruce says that "Camden pronounced it to have been Olenacum." This, however, appears to have been a mistake, for we find Ellenborough suggested as Olenacum only in Holland's Insertions

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in Camden, but Camden himself supposed that Linstock might have been a contraction of the word Olenacum, and he placed it there. Horsley and Warburton fancied that Olenacum must have been the site of Old Carlisle, but in the latter part of his work, Horsley seems in some measure to have retracted this opinion by observing that Old Carlisle might have been Virosidum, and Ellenborough might have been Olenacum.

This name has also been assigned to Ilkley, in Yorkshire, on the supposition that Olenacum is identical with Olicand, of Ptolemy. Ilkley, however, is unquestionably too far from the lineam Valli. In the absence, therefore, of more reliable records, I would suggest that Drumburgh may probably have been the Olenacum of the Notitia.

The old British word Olenacum will admit of several formations; 1. "ol-y-nac"; "upon the hill." This derivation appears to solve the problem of allocation off-hand — "the station on the hill." 2. It may also appear to have a reference to its position on the marsh, for "ol" may be merely a corruption of "ulle," "a marsh," the Romans not being over particularly nice in imitating the harsh guttural sounds of the British: the "nac," or "cnoc," a "low hill" — and "um" the Roman affix. Hence "Olenacum" would simply mean "the low hill on the marsh." This derivation agrees with the position of Drumburgh, which lies at the termination of a low ridge of ground, running up to the west end of Burgh and Easton marshes. It also appears to correspond with the present name of Drumburgh, which was anciently written Drumbogh. The old British word "Drum," or "trum," meant "a ridge," and "bogh" meant "small," and hence "Drumbogh" a small or low ridge, a word evidently of similar import with *nac* or *noc*, in the Celtic language *cnoc*, in the Erse, *knok*, and in the Welsh *cnwech* — each meaning "a low hill." On the opposite side of the Solway we find a place now called Dornoch; from *dor* or *dur*, "water," and *cnoc*, *i.e.*, "the hill on the water." Again, on the English side of the Solway, a little way to the west of Drumburgh, is a small mound like a barrow, called "Knocks-cross:" and a few miles further down the coast, we find a village and district called Cardrunk — "the city on the water-hill" — which is now generally pronounced by the people in this district, Cardronac. From these records we may at least assume the prevalence of the etymon, *nac* or *noc*, in this district. 3. The old word "ol" also means the rear of any place, and hence *ole nac* would mean the "station
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at the rear of the hill," which agrees also with the site of this camp, at the east end of the ridge, where the ground begins to fall gently to the east and south. 4. "Oleneag," also meant an island, and it is possible that the creeks may have formed a small island at this end of the marsh. 5. The letter A would be pronounced long, like O—The letters "lli," Welsh, or "li," Irish would also be sounded soft, like "le," (water), and "nac," "a hill," hence "olenac," "the hill on the water." It is evident therefore that each of these derivations points to the probability that Drumburgh was the Olenacum of the Romans.

The Notitia places a prefect of the first ala, styled *Herculanea*, at Olenacum. No stone has been found at Drumburgh, recording this ala. Inscribed stones have been recorded at Drumburgh, with the words *Ala Augusta* upon them. Horsley entertained an opinion that the *Ala Augusta* assumed the name of *Gordiana*, in the year 242, and that about 40 years afterwards it took the name of *Herculea* from the emperor Maximianus Herculius. If Horsley's conjecture was correct, then we have probably the authority of inscribed stones to support the fragmental evidence of etymology, and this would not only confirm my suggestions as to the correct allocation of this station at Drumburgh, but also of all the other stations *per lineam Valli*, in Cumberland. We find from inscriptions, that the *Ala Augusta*, the *Ala Gordiana*, and the *Ala Herculea*, were each in garrison at Old Carlisle, and it is possible that this body of soldiers, under its different names, may have protected both Old Carlisle and Drumburgh.

While Mr. Ashbridge was excavating for a cellar in his new house (July 1859) at Drumburgh, he found a fragment of an inscribed stone close to the east side of the station, seven feet below the surface; and besides a wall six feet thick, a square pit or hole was also found in the same cellar, seven feet below the surface, six feet square, but the depth of it could not be ascertained with an iron rod nine feet long. The contents of this cellar appeared to be decomposed leather, old rags, pieces of wood, and bones, all of them quite black, and embedded in a thick liquid. This pit had a dry wall about five feet thick, with no mortar in it, but faced on both sides with Roman stones. Some of the arch stones of the door were lying close to it. About twenty yards from the south side of the station a well was found, which is now used as a pump. The
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inscription on the stone is somewhat imperfect and leads to the supposition that the stone is only a fragment. It may be read thus :—

PED AVR A
VINDO
MORVCI

On visiting Drumburgh station, in October, 1859, a small thin inscribed stone was pointed out to me, which had been built into the outer wall of a small building on the north side of the road, opposite to the kitchen door of Drumburgh Castle. In its present position the inscription appeared to be—IIA · IIIO, which had been a puzzler. In building the wall, the workmen had merely reversed it, for in its right position it would be read COH · VII. This stone appears to be a fragment, and I suppose it to be the upper part of the stone found by Mr. Ashbridge, in 1859. Both are yellow sand-stone, of the same fineness of the grain, and show small scales of mica sparkling like gold; and on both stones the letters are similar in size and form. The inscription thus rendered more perfect, may now be, "Cohors septima perditum Aurelianorum a Vindomora votum curavit faciendum." "The seventh cohort of infantry, styled Aurelian, from Vindomora, took care that their vow should be performed." This reading suggests that the Ala Herculea were not the only troops that garrisoned Drumburgh, and that the Roman cohorts were not always stationed at the same place from their arrival in Britain to their departure from it.

VIROSIDUM—BOWNESS.

Virosidum is the last link in the chain of the Notitia stations, and is probably the last station on the wall. Camden conceives that Bowness was the old town Blatum Bulgium and placed Virosidum at Warwick, about five miles east of Carlisle, and about the same distance from the Wall, where no traces of the Romans have been found. Horsley supposes Virosidum to have been the name of Old Carlisle, from the river Wiza, which runs near it, and from the modern name Wigton, only a mile from it. Each of these sites appear to be too remote from the lineam Valli. I would therefore hazard a conjecture that Bowness was the ancient Virosidum.

The etymons of this word may have been "vir," a bend or curve; "os," anything projecting or tending outward, "it;"
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(in composition "id,") a confluence, *i.e.* "the projecting bend covering the confluence." This word "Virosidum," would be very applicable to Bowness, which is placed near the extreme point of the curve of the headland, and at a short distance from the confluence of the rivers Esk and Eden, which then form the Solway Firth. The modern name Bowness means the "nose," or extreme point of the bow. The Solway was fordable at Bowness, when the tide ebbed, and as this is the last place which permitted a passage from Scotland, it would be a proper place for the termination of the wall, and for the last of the stations required to guard it.

The Notitia places the sixth cohort of the Nervii in garrison at Virosidum, but no inscribed stone has yet recorded the presence of this cohort at Bowness, or any other place near it. We may, therefore, take the liberty of allocating this station by its local nomenclature, which harmonises so well in every respect with the position, and the general aspect of Bowness. The appellation in fact is so suitable, that it all but guarantees the correctness of the allocation, not only of this, but of all the other stations *per lineam Valli*.

Having thus shown how the ancient name of each of the stations on the western portion of the wall may be etymologically derived from the fragments of the language of the former inhabitants, which would probably be continued by the Romans; having also shown that each of these derivations corresponds with the nature and the appearance of the place assigned to each of these stations; having found a site for each station in a place where, from its proximity to the wall, it may not improperly be called a station *per lineam Valli*, as the Notitia expresses it; and having allocated each of these stations, so as to fill up the long distances which occurred between some of the stations, as previously supposed, by intervening stations at shorter and more regular intervals, so as to suit the exigencies of the country,—I must now leave the subject for the present in the hands of more intelligent and painstaking antiquarians. My chief object in these papers has been to find the proper place for each station, by the aid of etymology, in the absence of more direct testimony. How far I may have succeeded in my task, must be left to be decided by future discoveries, and further researches. If I have done nothing more than awaken a spirit of investigation, I shall have done good to the cause of antiquarian research, and perhaps

perhaps encouraged some local residents in their efforts to preserve and utilize any fossils of bygone times, which may be found in any of the domiciles of the Romans.*

ART. XXII.—*Report on the Remains of a Roman Mile Castle.*

Read at Keswick, July 12th, 1871.

MR. C. J. FERGUSON presented a report of the result of the efforts made by the Committee appointed by the Society in 1870, to take steps to preserve the remains of a Mile Castle, then just found in lowering Pike Hill, on the road from Lanercost to Birdoswald. Mr. Ferguson having been appointed by the Committee to make arrangements, met the road trustees at Pike Hill. Their terms were that the Society should pay all the loss to the contractor for delay; should hand over £30 to the trustees for their use, should divert the road, build new wing walls, enclose the remains of the Mile Castle, and take down and rebuild a house which would otherwise cause a bend in the road. As this would have involved an outlay of £250, whereas the Committee had only authority to go to the extent of £30, nothing could be done. Photographs and accurate drawings of the Mile Castle had been made, at a cost of £8 10s.

* *Note by the Editor.*—This completes Mr. Maughan's valuable series of papers on the supposed Roman Stations, per lineam Valli, in Cumberland, placing all the twelve stations per lineam Valli, as given us, close to the wall, and not going to such improbable distances as Plumpton, Maryport, &c. For convenience, we recapitulate the names of the stations, and their allocations, by Mr. Maughan.

Amboglanna	allocated at	Burdoswald.
Petriana	"	Lanercost.
Aballaba	"	Castlesteads.
Congavata	"	Brampton.
Axelodunum	"	Watchcross.
Gabrosentum	"	Linstock.
Tunscellum	"	Stanwix.
Glannibania	"	Kirksteads.
Alona	"	Burgh.
Bremeturacum	"	Boustead Hill.
Olenacum	"	Brumburgh.
Virosidium	"	Bowness.

Mr. Maughan's Papers are Articles V., (Lanercost as a Roman Station); X., (Supposed Roman Stations at Linstock and Stanwix); XV., (Supposed Roman Stations at Kirksteads, Burgh-upon-Sands, and Boustead Hill); and the two articles immediately preceding this note.—R. S. F.

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