

ART. XIV.—*An attempt at a Survey of Roman Cumberland and Westmorland, continued, Part V.*

Risehow, near Flimby. The parish of Bowness-on-Solway. Also some recent Roman finds.

*Communicated at Maryport, June 16th, 1880. By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A., with letters from MR. JOSEPH ROBINSON, of Maryport.**

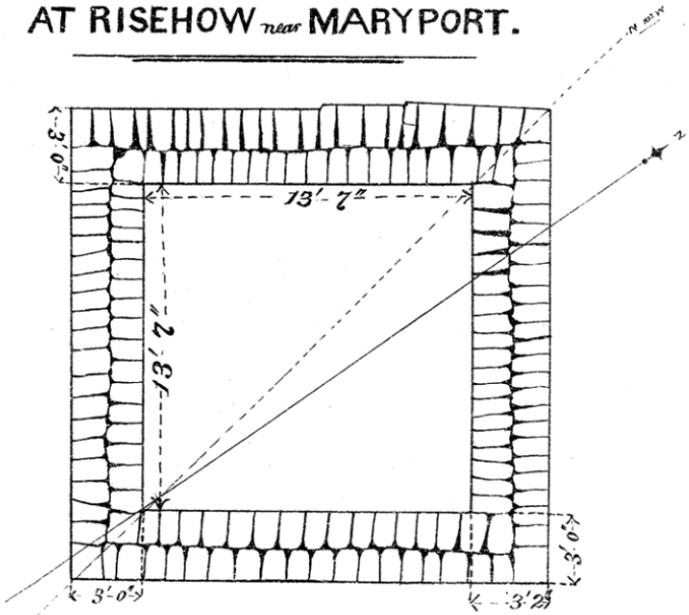
RISEHOW, NEAR FLIMBY.

THE Editor of the Transactions of this Society has frequent cause to congratulate himself and the Society on the quality of the recruits, who, from time to time, are added to its ranks. Over none has he more reason to rejoice than over the accession of Mr. Joseph Robinson of Maryport. Many of the Society's members can write, but few can dig, and Mr. Robinson can do both! as the following communication from him shows, dated September 10th, 1880:—

“As briefly reported on the 25th ult. there has been a very interesting discovery of Roman remains at Risehow, near Flimby. Mr. Robert Wilson, proprietor of the Flimby Colliery, is making some extensions for coke ovens at Risehow, about one and a half miles from Maryport. In cutting a road the workmen came upon some stones, which unfortunately they pulled up. A water bottle with a handle on one side was taken out, and having received a message to this effect, I went over, and at first took the remains to be a section of the Roman Road, which must run near here, and for which I have made many tries at Flimby, my last being within 100 yards of this place. A second visit, however, showed that the freestone blocks taken out must have belonged to a building, and a cutting having been made in another place a fine wall came to light. With the assistance of Messrs. Carey, Dawson, and a man kindly lent by Mr. Wilson, I dug out the wall all round, and find the foundations are three feet thick varying in one or two places to three feet two inches, of fine blocks of grey freestone, and well set. The interior diameter is thirteen feet

* A brief account of the facts noted in this paper was communicated to the Society by Mr. Robinson, at Maryport, June 16th, 1880, but further discoveries in September of that year necessitated the re-modelling of the paper, and it has accordingly been recast into its present form.

PLAN OF ROMAN REMAINS FOUND
 AT RISEHOW near MARYPORT.



Scale $\frac{1}{4} = 1 \text{ ft.}$
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Drawn by
 Lloyd Wilson



FIGURE FOUND IN CHURCHYARD OF BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY,
AND NOW IN CARLISLE MUSEUM.

See Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, Vol. IV. p. 324; and Collectanea Antiqua, Vol. VII. The Society is indebted to Mr. C. Roach-Smith, F.S.A., for the loan of this block.

seven inches each way. The second course is still there on two sides. The floor is of cobbles covered with clay. The site is on clay naturally, but other clay has been brought, in which the cobbles for the foundation have been set. About two feet of the north-east side of the wall has been taken away and the whole of the south-east, except one stone which fortunately remains to give the measurement, and great care has been taken to preserve it *in situ*. The south-west wall was, by cutting a trench across it, uncovered in the first attempt to see what the remains were. The turf on the north-west and north-east walls is intact, and the breadth has been obtained by excavating inside and outside the walls, so as to preserve them. A burial was observed near the water bottle, and we have found several since, inside the enclosure, the charcoal in one place being nine inches deep, and mixed with small pieces of bone. In another place the burial has apparently been covered with a layer of small gravel. Many specimens of pottery have been found in the interior, all broken. The whole of the interior has not been dug out, only a trench cut round three sides and across the middle. I am glad to say that Mr. Wilson and his two sons, Messrs. Robert Wilson, jun., and Lloyd Wilson, have taken the greatest interest in the remains, and given every facility and help for their examination. The latter are now engaged drawing a plan, for which, I hope, room can be found in the *Transactions*. The site has been staked out for a railway in connection with their works, and although they have little room, they are arranging to deviate the line so as to have the foundations preserved, and it is a great pleasure to see that they are taking every care of them. I have made several cuttings near the site, but have come across nothing else. The Maryport camp is visible, and the foundations may probably be the remains of a tower. The place has evidently been used for burials probably after the withdrawal of the Romans, as it has not apparently been built for such a purpose. The building has stood at an angle, one corner being ten degrees west of due north. The little hill on which it has stood is not at its highest here, but one hundred and fifty yards nearer Maryport the crown is reached, and some years ago a reservoir was made upon it, and is still used, but no traces of any remains were found."

BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY.

For one so energetic as Mr. Robinson, I have no difficulty in finding tasks, and one of the earliest I imposed upon him was to explore Campfield and the peninsular district

district west of the village of Bowness-on-Solway in Cumberland, for I have ever held a strong opinion that Roman remains, military or otherwise, must exist in that peninsula west of what is usually deemed the end of Hadrian's great rampart. My curiosity was further sharpened by a paragraph which appeared in the *Carlisle Patriot* in 1877, headed "The Roman Occupation of Cumberland," which called attention to traces of those great people along the sea shore above Bowness-on-Solway, and instanced Campfield and an ancient mound in the large field past Pasture House.

These have since had my serious attention. Campfield I have been to often, alone, in company with Mr. Lees, and in company with Mr. Robinson.

Campfield is situate two and a quarter miles west from the well-known Roman Camp at Bowness. In a large field at that place the Ordnance Surveyors have on the six-inch map indicated by a single line, the outlines of a rectangular camp 140 yards long by 90 yards broad, very reasonable and usual dimensions for a Roman Camp.

With the kind permission of the proprietor, Lord Lonsdale, and of the tenant Mr. Lawson, Mr. Robinson has at various times thoroughly searched the site by digging a series of test holes right across it, with the results now to be detailed. The eye can make out, after consulting the Ordnance Map, two ridges parallel the general direction of the sea shore, about ninety yards apart, but no cross ridges to connect them can be made out. The two parallel ridges are not 140 yards long, but continue westward to a great distance, though nowhere very strongly marked. On the ridge nearest the shore we [for I accompanied Mr. Robinson on his second visit] found a top spit of eight to nine inches blackish, sandy soil; below that a layer of hard sand, while shingle occurred at four feet six inches. On the other ridge the shingle came so near the surface as one foot. Between the ridges, but near the further one, it was
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at a depth of eighteen inches; while at one part of the same ridge it came to the surface. In fact, the shingle rises gradually from the shore, towards the south-west corner.

Test holes showed the same features to exist in the neighbouring fields.

We found nothing to indicate the Romans—nothing to indicate a camp, but the name. That name was in use when Anthorn Common was enclosed in 1835, for it is on the enclosure map of that date, and old men recollect the name until into last century. Campfield itself would appear to have been enclosed about 1812, since which time the plough has, except the two ridges, obliterated any ramparts that may have existed. One old inhabitant, Joshua Ward (born in 1793), recollected, when a boy, Joseph Little, an older boy than himself, finding a gold ring in the vicinity, and selling it for £3. Neither he, nor anyone else, could recollect any mounds or ramparts; though the tradition is current that a great army once lay there. No writer that I can find makes any mention of a camp, Roman or other, at Campfield.

The name "Campfield" is the only piece of evidence that we have. It is possible Campfield may have been a mere temporary camp used by the Romans for but a night or two. The traces of such (see General Roy's great work) last for centuries on unenclosed land, but vanish like smoke before the plough, and if the plough went always the one way of the field, its levelling effect would vary, according as it crossed or went along the ramparts; thus two parallel ramparts might be left traceable, while those at right angles to them might wholly disappear.

But my own solution of the difficulty is that the name records a moated mound and base court of the tenth or eleventh century, of which I fancy I can see traces, not in the field where the Ordnance Surveyors have marked "camp," but nearer the farm-house of Campfield. The
Ordnance

Ordnance Surveyors, aware that the name must have some meaning, but probably ignorant of the nature of English homesteads, hastily concluded it must mean a Roman Camp, and located it on the natural shingle ridges.

We next tried the mound in the stubble past Pasture House, a place about three-quarters of a mile to the west of Campfield, and a mound in the field beyond that, a quarter of a mile further west. A third mound is beyond again, called Herd's Hill. This was the station or look-out of the herd when the common was un-enclosed, and the inhabitants kept a herd by common contribution. The pricker revealed no trace of building here, and time did not suffice to dig. But Mr. Robinson bared the other two places: at both were found quantities of dressed freestone and of the Roman pottery known as "Upchurch ware," a little Samian ware, and at the second site the handle of an amphora with the maker's name thereon, clear enough evidence that the places are Roman. The second site proved to contain the foundation of a square building about nineteen feet external measurement, thirteen feet internal, exactly similar to the one discovered by Mr. Robinson at Risehow, near Flimby. The first site seemed similar, but was much destroyed by the plough.

I give Mr. Robinson's written report:—

At the first, (that nearest Bowness), we could make out nothing satisfactory, but read by the light of the second it seems clear enough.

At the second we had found part of a wall on Wednesday. This I followed in the usual way, and eventually found three sides of a building. Where perfect the walls are all three feet thick, set on cobbles. The cobbles rest on sand, but are set in cement, not in clay. There is, proportionately, more mortar and cement about this small place than I have seen elsewhere. The building has nearly faced the cardinal points, the wall facing east being set only eleven degrees west of due north. The east wall is perfect, and measures nineteen feet outside; the south seventeen feet outside and fourteen inside; the north thirteen feet five inches inside and thirteen feet eleven inches outside. The whole of the west wall has been removed, and the

the destruction, as you will have already judged, has extended to portions of the north and south walls. This is quite evident from the fact that in the north wall one foot, *i.e.*, the outside stone, has been taken away for a distance of nine feet six inches, whilst the rest has been left. The south wall shows the same by three feet. The inside measurement, north to south, is thirteen feet, being seven inches less than the Risehow Tower.

The walls have apparently fallen *outwards* on all their faces. The blocks are found sticking with the small point upwards on all the sides for a distance of nine feet or so. I devoted a good deal of attention to this point, and by comparing where they began on the east we fixed where the west wall had stood, and I conclude that the building has been exactly square. The site of the west wall is also indicated by the rubble left and the cement. In the south wall four courses remain in one place, three in three other places, two in others, and the last yard has been stripped so as to leave one course only. The scarcity of stone is shown by the building in of a number of cobbles of fair size, with their edges dressed when facing outside. I observed these at both places. The floor has consisted of a thin freestone flagging, and has apparently extended over the whole of the interior. Quantities of mussel shells were found above it. The interior was very rich in pottery. I found many pieces of mortaria and amphoræ, a good deal of Up-church ware, one specimen of Samian with pattern, a beautifully fresh neck and handle of an ampula, and the occipital portion of a human skull. From its position I would take it to be of the same period. There were a number of other bones which I have not yet had identified, but I take them to be those of animals, some partly burnt. Several horses' teeth were amongst the pottery. One section of an amphora, measuring fourteen inches by ten inches, has the potter's name very distinctly upon it (ROMANI. RR.) This fragment is rather interesting for another reason. The handle is broken off, but close beside it a hole has been drilled. This has probably been used to lift the vessel with by passing a cord through it, so as to replace the handle as far as possible. A piece of iron measuring thirteen inches was also found, which, from its shape, may have been a knife or spear head. Turning to the other site, *i.e.*, the first or more easterly, the only wall we could meet with was a patch about two feet square. West of this we found a large number of blocks face downwards as if they had fallen. From the presence of mortar, the stripped patch of wall, and these blocks, I conclude that this has been a similar building to the other, but that it has been so far destroyed as to almost obliterate it. From both places for years quantities of stone blocks have been taken after ploughing. I collected

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all the loose blocks and had them taken to Pasture House, where new farm buildings for the Glebe Land are being built. Mr. Nicholson, the contractor, kindly undertook to wall them carefully into a gable end, where I hope they will be permanently preserved. Mr. Brown, of Whitrigg, who farms the Glebe, and to whose kindness and interest we are very much indebted, very considerately agreed to leave the stones composing the building untouched. Where building materials are scarce there is a strong temptation to destroy these remains for the sake of the stones, and we know that this has ruined most of our camps and the great wall itself. Mr. Brown's example, therefore, is one which, if followed by proprietors and farmers, would do much towards preserving what is still left, and would do a great deal towards spreading a knowledge of archæology amongst those who, if inclined, could give it the practical help he himself has done.

I picked up a good deal of pottery at the first site, including one piece of Samian ware. I am glad that my original idea as to the nature of these mounds has been confirmed, and taking into account the striking resemblance to the remains at Risehow, I think we must look for others along the coast, as they are no doubt part of a system.

We have thus three of these small square buildings on the coast. I dare say more will be found. Watch Hill, near Dykesfield, would be a likely place.

What these small buildings are, I cannot as yet say.

It has been suggested that they are watch towers, but in no case are they on the highest ground in the neighbourhood. May they not be *cauponæ*, cook shops, or taverns for the benefit of travellers.

Camden talks of a "paved causey" running from Bowness to Ellenborough. A paved causey can still be seen between Bowness and Campfield. There it is lost—but its direction would take it by these two little buildings, and then by Castlesteads to the sea, pointing direct to the Grune Point on the opposite shore, where the "paved causey" re-appears between Skinburness and Silloth. Warburton talks of riding from Bowness to the foundation of one of the small forts which guarded the Firth. Query. Did he mean one of these sites?

Between Cardurnock and Solway House we found a
field



MONUMENTAL STONE FOUND NEAR MURRILL HILL,
CARLISLE, AND NOW IN CARLISLE MUSEUM.

See Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and
Archæological Society Vol. IV. p. 327; and Collectanea Antiqua, Vol. VII.
The Society is indebted to Mr. C. Roach-Smith, F.S.A. for the loan of this
block.

field called "Castlesteads," a name which generally denotes a Roman camp or station. Nothing, however, could be seen or found.

RECENT ROMAN FINDS.

By the kindness of Mr. C. Roach-Smith, F.S.A., we are able to reproduce from the *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. vii., woodcuts of the carved slabs described at pp. 324, 325, of the last volume of this Society's *Transactions*. Of the larger one Mr. Roach-Smith writes as follows:—

"Like the Shields sculpture,* it is of the highest interest in presenting a picture of Roman social life in the north of Britain; but, unfortunately, it is dissociated from its inscription, which, it is feared, cannot be recovered

Also, like that of Shields, it is a monument erected by a widow to his departed wife, who, with her child beside her, is seated in a capacious chair with a high semicircular back, and apparently cushioned. Her left hand rests upon the child, who is playing with a pigeon or dove in her lap; while her right hand holds a large expanded fan. This is a most remarkable object, as it resembles perfectly the modern fan, considered to have been introduced so late as the seventeenth century, and to this period is the folding fan ascribed by all writers on costume. It is one of many instances in which supposed modern inventions have been proved to be ancient. Totally unlike the classical fan, it is probably of provincial origin, and may never have been entirely out of use in the north of Europe. Yet it would be hazardous to assert this without further research. In a paper on "Excavations in the City of Cumæ," printed in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvii, Mr. Ashpitel states (page 322), speaking of a sepulchral interment: 'A most careful search was immediately instituted into the other contents of the tomb. There were found, first, a number of very thin plates of bone, about five or six inches long, and an inch wide. These were supposed, with great reason, to have been the sticks, as we call them, of a lady's fan.' The interment denoted a lady of wealth; and it was remarkable in other respects, especially for a head of wax with eyes of paste or glass. A coin of Diocletian gave an approximate date."—*Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. vii, p. 232.

* Described in the *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. vii, p. 105-19, 230-1. *Archæological Journal*, vol. 36, p. 157.