

## In Memoriam.

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It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Mr. CHARLES JAMES CROPPER, at Ellergreen, Burneside, on October 6th, 1924, as the result of an accident with the Oxenholme staghounds four days earlier. The son of our late vice-president, James Cropper of Ellergreen, he was born in 1852, and after education at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, he entered the family paper-mills at Burneside. J.P. in 1877; High Sheriff of Westmorland in 1905; an original member of the County Council; Alderman in 1910; a director of the L.&N.W. and the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith railways, among many other interests, he took a great share in local public business. He was an unusually accomplished man; sketcher and woodcarver, teller of dialect stories and singer of folk-songs, 'cello-player in the early years of the Kendal Musical Festival and always a chief supporter of that important movement; churchwarden and Sunday school teacher and active in Church and School organisations. A member of our Society from 1901 and often a welcome visitor at our meetings, he was one of our most prominent figures and a friend whose loss is sincerely deplored.

Mr. EDWIN ALEXANDER FULTON of Sedgwick Cottage, B.Sc. Edinburgh and Fellow of the Institute of Surveyors, died on Oct. 7th, 1924, aged 52 years. He was very well known in Westmorland as a sportsman, artist, craftsman and musician, and as the agent to many important estates. He had been a member of our Society from 1918.

Mr. FRANCIS GRAINGER of Southerfield, Holm Cultram, who died on Jan. 21st, 1925, joined the Society in 1900, and in 1923 was elected member of Council. He contributed to these *Transactions* papers on "The Chambers family of Raby Cote" (N.S. i); "The Holm Cultram chapels" (N.S. ii); "The Sixteen men of Holm Cultram" (N.S. iii); a note on the Hellywell at St. Cuthbert's Stone, Waverbridge (N.S. xii); "The Cumberland Yeoman in Past Times" (N.S. xiv); "Poor Relief in Cumberland in the 17th and 18th centuries" (N.S. xv); "James Jackson's Diary, 1650 to 1683" (N.S. xxi); and he took the initiative in the

explorations made at the Abbey in 1906, as well as assisting in meetings held at Holm Cultram on various occasions down to last year. He was the representative of a very ancient local family still flourishing; J.P. for Cumberland from 1894; a County Alderman and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the County Council. The manuscript of his work on Holm Cultram on which he was so great an authority was left complete at his death, in the hands of the editor; and the Council of the Society has agreed to print it as one of the volumes of the Record Series, to which it will make a valuable addition.

Miss MARY ELIZABETH NOBLE, who died after a long illness on Feb. 6th, 1925, at her residence, Beckfoot, Bampton, was the descendant of a long line of yeomen. Well worthy of her ancestry, she became both the benefactor and the historian of the parish in which she was so deeply interested. She was the first woman member of the Westmorland County Council and served on the Education Committee; active and generous in support and management of local schools. Joining our Society in 1889 she was well known at our meetings and in 1918 was elected a member of Council. Her publications in book form were three volumes of parish registers—Bampton (1897), Askham (1904) and Shap (1912), and a useful little History of Bampton (1901). To these *Transactions* she contributed papers on "Towtop Kirk" (N.S. iii); "Askham Church and its registers" (N.S. iv); "The Parentage of Bishop Law" and "the Stone Circle on Knipe Scar" (N.S. vii); and "Shap Registers" (N.S. xi).

Mr. FRANCIS NICHOLSON, F.Z.S., died at his residence "Ravenscroft," Windermere, on Feb. 10th, 1925, aged 82, as the result of an accident at the Turkish baths in Manchester a few days earlier. He was a member of our Society from 1903, and often seen at our meetings. To these *Transactions* he contributed a note on the origin of bottled beer (N.S. iv, 215); "Kendal (Unitarian) chapel and its registers" (N.S. v); notes on cock-fighting (N.S. v, 308); "The Kaber Rigg Plot, 1663" (N.S. xi). He also published in collaboration with Mr. Ernest Axon "The Older Nonconformity in Kendal" (T. Wilson, 1915) dealing with the history of local Unitarianism. To the public he was better known as an expert and an enthusiast in the old-fashioned sports of the district. As vice-chairman of the Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling Association, formed in 1906, he took a great part in the movement for maintaining a high and sportsmanlike standard in wrestling-matches and athletic meetings.

The Rev. BERNARD GEORGE RICHARD HALE, M.A., Oxford, of Beacon Hill, Penrith, formerly vicar of Edenhall and Langwathby and previously rector of Patterdale, was elected a member in 1912. He collaborated with Colonel Haswell in a paper on Edenhall church (N.S. xiii).

Mrs. METCALFE-GIBSON, who died at Coldbeck, Ravenstonedale, on May 16th, 1925, at the age of 78, had been a member of our Society since 1902 after the death of her husband, our late member Mr. Anthony Metcalfe-Gidson. His biography is given in a volume by John Butt (T. Wilson, Kendal, 1903), in which it is said that he married on Sept. 18th, 1879, the eldest daughter of Mr. Isaac Raine of Park End, Middleton-in-Teesdale, and that they came to live at Ravenstonedale in 1885. From that time Mrs. Metcalfe-Gibson identified herself with the district of her adoption, and not only became its "lady bountiful" but took great interest in its history and antiquities, as she showed on the occasions of our Society's visits to her neighbourhood (see these *Transactions* ii, 404, for an illustration of part of her exhibit of local antiquities). We understand that her collection of documents and records, intended for publication, is still preserved; and we could wish that it might become available to students of Westmorland history.

Dr. JOHN KENDALL, J.P., of Oaklands, Coniston, died on May 22nd, 1925, having been a member of our Society since 1898. A local man, he spent a long and useful life in the service of the district, as doctor, churchwarden, school-manager and president of the village Institute and Museum, to which he gave great support ever since its inception nearly thirty years ago.

Alderman EDWARD ALEXANDER HEELIS, who died at Appleby on July 24th, 1925, aged 67, was the son of a rector of Dufton and of Kirkbythore and grandson of a rector of Longmarton. He was a solicitor holding an important position in his district, clerk to the Westmorland Lieutenancy, coroner for the manor of Oglebird, Deputy Lieutenant, and ten times mayor of Appleby. In 1921 he and Mrs. Heelis received the freedom of the town. A volunteer of long standing, he retired in 1898 as Hon. Major. To our Society, of which he was a member since 1908, he contributed a paper on St. Anne's Hospital at Appleby (these *Transactions*, N.S. ix, 192).

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