

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR.

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“History of Heversham with Milnthorpe,” by John F. Curwen, F.S.A. (Kendal, Titus Wilson and Son, 1930; cloth, pp. i, 89, with 7 illustrations, 5s. net.).

For writing this little book Mr. Curwen deserves the gratitude not only of his fellow-villagers but of all students of local parish history. Within a small compass, thanks to the excellent arrangement of his matter and to the lucidity of his style, he has succeeded in conveying an immense amount of information. It is to be regretted that we have not more parish histories of a similar type—concise, accurate and yet eminently readable.

A brief summary is given of the history of the ancient parish of Heversham and of its sub-division, about 1160, into two moieties, the one known as the Rectory manor with its caput or chief house of Heversham Hall, and the other and larger moiety with its Court or Manor House in Milnthorpe. The author then gives an interesting and fully documented list of records of earlier inhabitants between the years 1247 and 1636, and supplements his information with some illuminating Returns of the Hearth Tax of 1689. From these Returns we learn the names of the principal inhabitants of Heversham at that period and are helped to gain some idea of the relative importance of their establishments. We are then conducted systematically through the two villages with their hamlets of Leasgill, Ackenthwaite and Rowell, and, where traceable, the history of every house and of its successive inhabitants is given. The task must have demanded an enormous amount of labour and research, but its importance it would be hard to exaggerate, since, by performing it, the author has permanently registered a mass of interesting facts, which, but for his energy, would inevitably have been consigned to oblivion.

It seems hardly necessary to state that Mr. Curwen has dealt adequately with the history of Heversham Church, the Hall and other antiquities of the parish, but one would like to add a word in praise of the manner in which he has dealt with such important subjects as local customs and traditions, old roads, industries, inns and field-names. The book is an addition of permanent value to the history of our district.

"The Literary Associations of Lancaster and the surrounding Districts," by T. Cann Hughes, M.A., F.S.A., Town Clerk of Lancaster, 1896-1922. ("The Lancaster Guardian," 1930; cloth, 6s. net.).

This handy little volume, the work of our member, contains biographical particulars of over 400 persons, connected with Lancaster by birth, education or residence, who have won distinction in one path or another of life. Mr. Cann Hughes has indeed cast his net wide, and the connection with Lancaster in the cases of some of the celebrities of whom he writes is perhaps remote. This fact, however, may be said to enhance the value of the book in some ways, and it is a tribute to the unflagging industry and enthusiasm of the compiler.

The biographies are arranged in alphabetical order, and the book will prove a most useful and convenient work of reference.

The proceeds of the sale of copies are to be devoted to the laudable object of forming a fund for suitably marking with tablets the birthplaces, in Lancaster, of Lancastrians who have attained distinction in later life. Professors Sir Richard Owen, Sir William Turner and Dr. William Whewell have already been commemorated in this way, and it is now suggested that similar tablets should be erected on the birthplaces of such men as Thomas Edmondson, Professor Seward, Sir J. A. Fleming, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Sir Lancelot Sanderson and others.

"Water-Power Mills of South Westmorland on the Kent, Bela and Gilpin and their Tributaries," by John Somervell. (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1930; Demy 8vo., pp. xvi, 138, with illustrations, 7s. cloth, 5s. paper).

By his two previous publications, "Isaac and Rachel Wilson, Quakers of Kendal, 1714-1785" and "Some Westmorland Wills, 1686-1738," Mr. Somervell has already secured a claim upon our gratitude, and this last book is in every way worthy of its predecessors. The author has chosen a fascinating subject, and devoted to its setting forth a considerable amount of careful research.

Owing to the unsettled state of the district for many years after the Norman Conquest, there are but few mentions of local mills in Domesday Book, but in manorial records of the 12th and 13th centuries, allusions are frequent. Mr. Somervell explains that these mills, on manorial estates were built by the Lord of the Manor for his own use and that of his tenants. The miller was repaid for his service by taking a small portion of the corn sent in to grind. This was termed "mootering" it.

Manorial "fullen" or fulling mills are found in many districts at almost as early a date as corn mills.

The author then goes on to give the records of these early water-power mills, and of their successors. He takes us systematically through his district, bringing the history of the old mills which are still in use, even though the method of obtaining power may have been changed, down to the present day.

There is an interesting account, for instance, of the comb-making mills on the Bela.

In connection with his subject, Mr. Somervell, gives some interesting details with regard to the old port of Milnthorpe and the question of water supply for motive power introduces the subject of the work of the Kendal Reservoir Commissioners.

"Genealogical Memoirs of the family of Strickland of Sizergh," by Henry Hornyold. (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1930; cloth, crown 4to, pp. 300, and 24 plates. £2 2s.

This handsome volume is a notable addition to the works written upon the subject of this ancient family.

It embodies the work of many previous investigators who have worked upon the Strickland pedigree, among others Nicolson and Burn, the Rev. Thomas West, S.J., Mr. Edward Bellasis (see vol. x, o.s. of these *Transactions*), Lady Edeline Strickland and Mr. Daniel Scott, whose labours Mr. Hornyold has now supplemented with his own.

The book refers to many other families, local and distant, also to place-names and devolutions of property in Westmorland and the neighbouring counties.

An interesting series of views and portraits add to the value of this valuable record of a family whose fortunes have been closely intertwined with those of Westmorland through so many centuries of its history.

"Furness Folk and Facts," by William White. (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1930; cloth, pp. viii, 121, with 7 illustrations 6s. net.)

In this book, apparently based upon the author's articles in local newspapers, Mr. White discourses pleasantly and diffusely upon the old seaports and shipping places of Furness. Though historical sequence is not always definitely followed in his description, the reader will find much interesting information about the ports, their trade, their achievements in ship-building and their old ship-wrights.

The story of the old oversands route is, also, once more told, and many interesting facts are narrated about the early days of Ulverston and Barrow-in-Furness. Local customs, folk-lore and tradition are not neglected, and the attractiveness of the book enhanced by the inclusion of several reproductions of old prints.

“Furness before the coming of the Monks,” by Paul V. Kelly. (Barrow Naturalists' Field Club and Literary and Scientific Association's Annual Report, 1929).

In an interesting article, our member traces the early history of Furness down to 1127, the date of the foundation of Furness Abbey.

He mentions in turn the successive irruptions into the district of Goidel, Brython, Angle, Norseman and Norman, and describes the relics which each of these races has left of its occupation, referring also to the evidence of the place-names.

“Annals of Kirkby Lonsdale and Lunesdale in Bygone Days,” by Alexander Pearson. (Kendal: Titus Wilson and Son, 1930; cloth, crown 4to., pp. xvi, 272, with numerous illustrations, 2rs., or bound in leather, signed copies, 42s.).

All who have enjoyed Mr. Pearson's lectures and papers upon the subject of Kirkby Lonsdale and its neighbourhood will be rejoiced that he has been persuaded to embody the results of his researches in the present substantial volume. He has produced a book which will prove an indispensable adjunct to all students of the history and antiquities of his district.

After an account of the British, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Norse occupations of the Lune Valley, Mr. Pearson describes the town of Kirkby Lonsdale with its old houses and inns, and other objects of interest.

He then deals with the ancient Parish Church and the Elizabethan Grammar School.

Many readers will turn with interest to Chapter VII, in which the author discusses the vexed question of the probable date of the “Devil's Bridge,” of Kirkby Lonsdale. After a minute examination of all the evidence available—from grants of pontage, ascertained facts about other bridges in the neighbourhood and inspection of the actual fabric of the bridge with its stones and mason's marks, it is interesting to note that Mr. Pearson is inclined to attribute its construction to a date not far removed from 1356.

A chapter is devoted to the fisheries of the Lune, and other sections of the book deal in an interesting manner with the

etymology of the place-names, the folk-lore and the old customs of the Lune valley.

Among the numerous illustrations, which add to the value of this most welcome contribution to local history, special praise should be accorded to the drawings by Mr. Wilfrid M. Harris.

“ Round Carlisle Cross, Old stories retold,” by James Walter Brown, Ninth Series. (Carlisle: Charles Thurnam and Sons 1929; cloth, pp. 158, with frontispiece, 2s. 6d. net.).

Allusion is made in another part of these *Transactions* to the death of our late lamented member Mr. James Walter Brown. This volume of selections from articles contributed by the author to the “ Cumberland News ” brings to a premature conclusion a work which will always be highly esteemed by all who are interested in Carlisle and its history. Mr. Brown’s long residence in the city and his keen interest in all which concerned it, render his work of special value when he deals with the affairs of the early years of the last century, for his retentive memory enabled him to recall the evidence of men who actually took part in the events of which he narrated the history.

Among the interesting articles in this volume are “ Carlisle Sanitation in its Beginnings,” “ Carlisle Cathedral: Its Organs and Organists,” “ A Voyage in The Arrow in 1835 ” (this last article, an account of a trip along the Carlisle Ship Canal to Port Carlisle), “ Cumberland Proverbs and Similes,” and “ William Metcalfe, composer of the tune to ‘ John Peel ’.”

“ Knights of Edward I,” vol. ii, F—K, compiled by our member the Rev. Charles Moor, D.D., forms vol. lxxxii of the Harleian Society’s Publications.

The mass of evidence and references to authority which it contains are the result of very great labour.

The interesting and instructive Preface gives an insight into the daily life of the knight of the period in times of war and peace, for he played an active part in civil and political affairs. The king could call on all his tenants *in capite*, and through them on their sub-tenants, to render knight-service, either in person or, in the case of females, clergy or religious bodies, by proxy. In 1278, the sheriffs were ordered to distrain for knighthood all persons in receipt of £20 a year from land, who ought to be knights but were not. In his impetuous youth, the knight sometimes committed homicide, perhaps in a duel and therefore in self defence, perhaps in a *melée* and therefore accidental, so his

imprisonment was of short duration, especially if kind friends and relatives bailed him out. In later life, he would attack a neighbouring manor-house, fell the timber, drive off the cattle, assault the servants of its owner, all for love of excitement, though such trespasses might result in his imprisonment, or the temporary confiscation of his land. Vol. iii, L—O, has also been published. T.H.B.G.

“Rogue Herries,” by Hugh Walpole. (London, Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1930; cloth, pp. 736, 10s. 6d. net).

Our distinguished member has already used Lake District scenery with effect as a source of local colour in his novels; but he has now gone further, and written, in the form of a novel, a study of life and manners in Borrowdale in the middle of the eighteenth century. It would be impertinent to praise the work of so eminent a writer, as regards its literary quality, in this place; but we have a right to congratulate him on the care and success with which he has constructed his picture of the past.

“Der obergermanisch-rätische Limes,” Lieferung 46. By Ernst Fabricius.

In this part our Honorary Member describes three Roman forts on the German frontier—Miltenberg-Ost, on the Main; Westernbach, on the Odenwald line; and Munningen, behind the Raetian Wall.

“The Philosophy of History,” by R. G. Collingwood: a pamphlet published for the Historical Association by Messrs. G. Bell & Sons, Ltd.

“The Secret Valley,” by Nicholas Size. (Kendal, Titus Wilson and Son, 1929; paper, pp. 49, 2s.).

An imaginative account by our member of the struggles between Earl Boethar and the Norman invaders of Lakeland.

The scenes of the chief episodes of the story are Buttermere and Eskdale.

“The Genealogists’ Atlas of Lancashire,” by J. P. Smith. (Liverpool: Henry Young and Sons, Ltd., 1930; cloth, 4to., 25s.).

In the preparation of this welcome addition to the apparatus of the genealogist, our member, Mr. J. P. Smith, of Barrow, has had the advantage of the assistance of Mr. John Brownbill, joint-editor of the *Victoria County History* and a valued contributor to these *Transactions*.

Local topography plays a most important part in the researches of the genealogist, and the number of changes made in local boundaries, during the last 50 years, in order to simplify administration, add to the perplexities of the genealogist by concealing the ancient parish boundaries, which he must know, if he is to find the particular register he desires to search.

This atlas has been compiled with a view to satisfying this demand. It is based largely on the sketch maps of the *Victoria County History of Lancashire*; all the various classes of maps are on a uniform scale, and the large scale of one inch to the mile for the parish maps will make the townships quite clear and enable a large amount of detail to be given.

Lists of the parish churches and chapelries having registers commencing not later than 1812 have been prepared for each of the seven "hundreds" separately, and are printed opposite their several maps, with a statement of the earliest entry in each register, and the extent to which the registers have been printed.

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