

In Memoriam

Canon CHARLES MURRAY LOWTHER BOUCH, President of our Society from 1954 to 1957, who died on 22 July 1959, will be remembered with gratitude and affection far beyond our confines. He was descended from an old Cumbrian family, and it was his interest in its history which first led him to join our ranks and to contribute to our *Transactions*; but he gradually widened his interests in many directions, and his *Prelates & People of the Lake Counties* (Titus Wilson, 1948) has been acclaimed as a model diocesan history: while the amateur will find it an agreeable and trustworthy guide to the recreation of the past (as a very distinguished medieval historian has written), "to the professional his work bears the mark of a good book, because it suggests as many problems as it answers" — see the review reprinted in CW2 xlix 224-226. In the event, his studies came to cover a very wide field of social and economic history, and they will long serve as a stimulus and an example, not only to active members of this Society. In addition, he was the most generous of friends to all who shared his concern for elucidating every aspect of Cumbrian history, quick to detect and to encourage latent talent, ever ready to help others to find the evidence required to solve their problems, and with a general's eye for the problems still calling for attention. His writings will be a lasting memorial to his scholarship, and to his services to our Society; but there are many of us to whom an even more cherished memory will be of a wise and witty and ever stimulating friend, completely selfless, from whom one could not but draw strength as well as inspiration. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, from whom he himself drew such strength and inspiration.

He was born in London on 29 May 1890, educated at Radley College and then entered the Civil Service as a clerk in the Supreme Court. He joined the Army in the first World War, serving successively in the Royal Sussex and then in the Worcestershire Regiment, and was seriously wounded. After the war he went up to Christ Church, Oxford, graduating B.A. in 1921 (M.A., 1925); thence he went to Cuddesdon Theological College, and in 1922 he was ordained to the curacy of St. John's, Workington. After further curacies at Maryport, Walworth and Barrow he became vicar of St. Barnabas, Carlisle, in 1932; in 1946 he was preferred to the rectory of Clifton and Brougham, later devoting exemplary studies to the history of those two parishes,

and in 1955 he was made an honorary canon of Carlisle. He joined our Society as long ago as 1913; his first contribution to our *Transactions* was communicated in 1924, soon after he had come to live in our territory, and from 1936 onwards he was one of our most prolific contributors, as will be seen by the list of his papers given below. He was elected to Council in 1946 and became editor of the Parish Register Section in the same year; he served as Joint Editor of *Transactions* from 1951 to 1957, and as President for the three-year term 1954-1957: reference to the Proceedings of that period will show how well he performed the duties of his office, though they cannot do full justice to the stimulus which he gave to our members; one of the youngest of them writes: "When I first became a member of the Society he took great trouble to introduce me to many members, and to show me how the Society worked", and acknowledges the very helpful letters which he wrote to her in connection with some researches on which she was engaged. He was elected F.S.A. in 1952.

Canon Bouch contributed the following articles to our *Transactions*: "Jonathan Boucher" (xxvii 117-151); "A twelfth-century Cumberland surname" [*Bouch*] (xxxvi 24-33); "Calendar of the original deeds at Tullie House ii" (xxxviii 245-266, in continuation of Canon James Wilson's article in CW2 xiv 63-82); "The descendants of William Lowther of the Rose i: The Lowthers of Rose Causey" (xxxix 109-135); "Calendar of the original deeds at Tullie House iii" (*ibid.*, 136-151); "The manor and advowson of Great Orton from 1369" (xl 46-55); "Leonard Lowther" (*ibid.*, 56-59); "The descendants of William Lowther of the Rose ii: The Lowthers of Great Orton" (*ibid.*, 60-98); "Lowther of Ackworth" (xli 153-160, jointly with the Rev. J. Lowther Bouch, rector of Ackworth); "The Jeffersons of Westward i" (*ibid.*, 181-196); "Lowther of Swillington from its origin till 1788" (xlii 67-102); "The Jeffersons of Westward ii" (*ibid.*, 103-111); "Lowther of Colby Leathes" (xliii 117-135); "An account of some litigation about Askham Hall begun in 1775" (*ibid.*, 136-146); "Lowther of Marske (Cleveland) and Holker" (xliv 100-118); "The pedigree of Thomlinson of Blencogo" (*ibid.*, 119-125); "A deed of 1740, about the Bromfield Grammar School" (*ibid.*, 147-150); "Notes on Carlisle cathedral" (xlv 122-128); "The muniments of the diocese of Carlisle" (xlvi 174-190); "The origin and early pedigree of the Lowther family" (xlviii 114-124); "The Cumberland & Westmorland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science" (*ibid.*, 205-209); "Bibliography of the writings of Canon James Wilson" (*ibid.*, 209-213); "The churchwardens' accounts of the parish of Great Salkeld" (xlix



Charles Bouch helping a New Zealand lady to trace her ancestors in the parish registers of Brougham.

134-141); "Poor Law documents of the parish of Great Salkeld" (*ibid.*, 142-147); "The visitation articles of Bishop Robinson, 1612" (*ibid.*, 148-155); "The church and churchwardens' accounts of Clifton, Westmorland" (*ibid.*, 156-165); "Ninekirks, Brougham" (l 80-90); "The book of the overseers of the poor in the township of Great Strickland" (*ibid.*, 164-170); "Local government in Appleby in the 17th and 18th centuries" (li 147-169); "Sir Daniel Fleming's courtship and marriage" (liii 110-115); "Lamonby farm: a clay house at Burgh-by-Sands" (*ibid.*, 149-159, jointly with Miss K. S. Hodgson and C. G. Bulman); "Newbiggin Hall, Westmorland" (liv 140-143); "A Dark Age coin-hoard from Ninekirks" (lv 108-111, jointly with J. P. C. Kent); "New light on the skirmish at Clifton on 18 December 1745" (*ibid.*, 191-197); "William Sewell of Radley" (*ibid.*, 293-300, jointly with C. Roy Hudleston); "Rose Castle" (lvi 132-141); and "The Salkeld screen in Carlisle cathedral" (lvii 39-43). In addition, he contributed notes on Barton church (xlviii 197 f.), St. Lawrence's church, Appleby (xlix 182 ff.), Cliburn church and its setting (*ibid.*, 187 ff.), a stone coffin at Kirkby Stephen church (l 208 f.), an early Mosser charter (li 187), medieval pottery at Ninekirks, Brougham (lii 193), Kirkby Lonsdale church (liii 235 f.), Spilmanholme (liv 273), Howgill castle (*ibid.*, 293), and the dedication of Brougham chapel (lv 329 f.).

For many years past he had been engaged on a major study of the social and economic history of the Lake counties, and though his death has prevented him from completing it, it is hoped that other hands will be able to develop his materials into something like the shape that he visualised. The tidiness of his mind was not exactly matched by his outward appearance, or by the rough notes from which his addresses were given to our meetings; his war wound (a bullet through his mouth) made it difficult for him to speak eloquently, and in any case his modesty always made it easier for him to make free of his learning in conversation rather than on public occasions. Casual observers, therefore, were likely not to realise his intellectual stature; but distinguished living historians learnt to respect him as their equal in stature, and those of us who had the privilege of working with him know how much we owed to his acute mind and to his full and varied store of learning. E.B.

Mrs ELEANOR FOSTER RAWNSLEY, who had lived at Grasmere for over seventy years, died on 29 April 1959 aged 85. She was the second of the three daughters of Mr W. F. Simpson of The Wray, Grasmere. Greatly helped by her sister, Miss

Gertrude Simpson, she wrote and produced the remarkable series of Grasmere dialect plays which appeared, some of them more than once, nearly every year from 1901 to 1937. Altogether there were a dozen or more, and nobody who saw them will ever forget them. Great pains were taken to make them accurate in every detail and they have become a valuable record of the Westmorland dialect and the Westmorland way of life which survived until two generations ago.

In 1918 Miss Eleanor Simpson married as his second wife the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley, Canon of Carlisle, an old friend who had lately retired from being Vicar of Crosthwaite, Keswick, in order to live at Allan Bank, Grasmere. There he died two years later. Mrs Rawnsley shared most of the many interests of her versatile husband, especially in the Church, the Diocese, the National Trust, the Lake District Safeguarding Society, the literary associations of the Lakes, and the Keswick School of Industrial Arts. Mrs Rawnsley had an unique knowledge of the village history of Grasmere, and published booklets on the Rushbearing and on Grasmere in Wordsworth's time, but her principal publication was the biography of Canon Rawnsley, written in 1923.

Her enthusiasm for Wordsworth was unending, whether she was acting as chairman of the management committee for his old home, Dove Cottage, or investigating some local reference in his poems. Mrs Rawnsley had been a magistrate for Westmorland since 1925, was the oldest member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, and was formerly very much concerned in educational matters at Keswick and Ambleside. Her forthrightness, her hospitality at Allan Bank, and her lively interest in people and places were well known throughout the Lake Country. She was elected to the Society in 1921, frequently attended our excursions, and contributed a short paper to CW₂ lvi.

B.L.T.

Lieutenant-General Sir MATTHEW HENRY GREGSON FELL of Flan How, Ulverston, who died 28 January 1958 aged 86, was elected a member of our Society in 1926 and a Vice-President in 1931. He was the sixth son of Mr John Fell of Flan How and was educated at Sedbergh School and St Bartholomew's Hospital. Most of his life was devoted to medicine and the Army, and he had a distinguished career at home and abroad, full appreciations of which have been printed elsewhere. He served in the South African War from 1899 to 1902, and in the First World War he went to France in 1914 and then to Mesopotamia. For his services there he was appointed C.M.G. in 1917 and C.B.

in 1919, and he was promoted K.C.B. in 1922. He had the unique experience of being the first Director of Medical Services of the Royal Air Force 1918-21 and later Director-General Army Medical Services 1926-29 and Honorary Physician to the King. In both the two Services he was regarded as an outstanding administrator.

He retired to his family home in 1929 and for the last thirty years he managed his estate, served as a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of his native county, and took an active part in the Scout Movement in Lancashire. He was much respected in his own countryside as a frank and friendly neighbour. His leisure he spent shooting and fishing, his zest for fishing persisting to a perilously advanced age. For many years he attended our summer and autumn excursions and took an acute interest in our Society's welfare even after he was no longer able to attend meetings. Latterly Sir Matthew and Miss Clare Fell, his second daughter, were both Vice-Presidents of our Society, an unusual distinction in which he took pride.

B.L.T.

Mr CHARLES HENRY ROBERTS, who died in June 1959, was elected a member in 1949. He was born in 1865 and for many years played a leading part in the public life of Cumberland, principally as Chairman of the County Council. Educated at Marlborough, he was Scholar of Balliol College, Oxford, and subsequently Fellow and Tutor of Exeter College. From 1906 until 1918, and from 1922 until 1923 he sat in the House of Commons, and for a brief spell was Under Secretary of State for India and Comptroller of H.M. Household. He married Lady Cecilia Howard, daughter of the ninth Earl of Carlisle.

Mrs M. F. BEAZLEY (1956) on 9 January 1959.

F. EDMONDSON (1937).

The Rev. RONALD LEES (1945) on 28 August 1956

JOHN MITCHINSON (1931) on 29 July 1959.