

## In Memoriam

Our Past-President JOSEPH EDWARD SPENCE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.S.A., who died at Weymouth on 27 February 1962, will be remembered with gratitude and deep affection by very many of our members; he took the leading part in reviving the Society's outdoor meetings after the war, and in ten active years as secretary for excursions he showed exceptional skill in the selection of monuments to visit and uncanny accuracy in timing the visits; imperturbable, always cheerful and companionable, and with a fund of knowledge far beyond the range of his special interest in prehistory, he was a tower of strength to the Society, and an inspiration and an exemplar to his younger colleagues. He was elected in September 1916 and retained his membership and his active interest in the Society when he moved from Stanwix to Eccles, as Medical Officer of Health, six years later; he was elected to Council in 1931, became honorary secretary of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies (at first jointly with the late R. E. Porter) on its foundation (in 1932) and its chairman in 1948, excursions secretary in 1945, Vice-President in 1947 and finally President 1951-1954, serving also as Chairman of Council from 1951 to 1955. After retiring from his medical post he settled at Cross-crake, Stainton, devoting much of his unbounding energy to the creation of the beautiful garden at Eccles Lodge; but in 1955 it was found necessary for him to seek a milder climate, and he moved to Weymouth — too far away for him to come our meetings any more, though he was still able on occasion to attend those of the Society of Antiquaries, of which he had become a Fellow in 1939.

His contributions to our *Transactions* include the author and subject index to the first 45 volumes of the New Series (CW2 xlv 1-66), reports of the Committee for Prehistoric Studies covering the years 1933-1939 (CW2 xxxv 170-181, xxxvii 98-103 and xl 99-117), and the following papers:

CW2 xxxiii: "Preliminary report on the Petteril Green camp".

xxxiv: "An early settlement on Moor Divock".

xxxv: "An early settlement near Askham", "A note on tumuli on Threepow Raise, Moor Divock" and "A stone circle in Shap Rural parish".

- xxxvi: With O. H. North, "Stone circle, Summerhouse Hill, Yealand Conyers".
- xxxvii: "Bolton Wood enclosure" and "A tumulus in Mecklin Park, Santon Bridge".
- xxxviii: "Ancient enclosures on Town Bank, Kinniside".
- xxxix: "Ancient remains in Ennerdale and Kinniside parish".

Our deepest sympathy is offered to Mrs Spence, whom we remember as his active partner and support, not least in the public relations which go to make a successful excursion.

E.B.

Our vice-president and former honorary librarian, Mr THOMAS GRAY, archivist for Cumberland, Westmorland and the City of Carlisle, died at his desk in The Courts, Carlisle, on 27 December 1961 at the age of 78. Behind those facts lies the story of a life well lived, of a man who worked until the very end, of a man who took greater pleasure in helping people to write papers than in writing them himself. His sudden death removes one who had served Carlisle — his birthplace — and our two counties well, one whose knowledge of their history and people was encyclopaedic. To that knowledge was added a memory that never failed, a wonderful sense of humour, and a never ending desire to help his fellow men. His education was an elementary one: his working life began when he was 14 — but happily in the right place, in Tullie House, where for more than half a century he exercised a deep and lasting influence on library and museum. In many fields himself self-taught, every movement that aimed at providing educational facilities had his fervent support and encouragement. At 19 he became deputy librarian at Tullie House, and in 1929 he was appointed director, curator and librarian, posts he held until his retirement in 1949. Retirement is the wrong word, for almost at once Cumberland County Council appointed him as part-time archivist — again a misnomer, for part-time work did not exist as far as Tom Gray was concerned, and he worked as hard and long to the very last minutes of his life as he had always done.

Withal, he was the most modest and unassuming of men, a loyal and understanding friend, the lover of a good story, from whose eyes a twinkle was rarely absent. To *Transactions* he contributed:

CW2 xlvi: "Bishop Nicolson's Diary, 1703-4," pt. i.

1: "Bishop Nicolson's Diary, 1703-4," pt. ii.

He was elected a member of the Society in 1924, became honorary librarian the same year, honorary curator in 1930, honorary secretary of Cumberland Excavation Committee in 1931, and a vice-president in 1948. To the great pleasure of his many friends the honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the University of Durham in 1960.

These facts, however, give no real indication of all that Tom Gray did for our Society. Many papers in *Transactions* acknowledge the help he so readily gave to all who sought it. It was always worth asking Tom for information, for even if he did not know the answer, he almost invariably knew where it was to be found. Many of us have lost a true and loyal friend, a stimulating and delightful companion, who retained to the very end his interests and enthusiasms.

C.R.H.

By the death in Lancaster on 12 November 1961 of Major RICHARD EWHURST PORTER, M.C., F.S.A., the Society has suffered another heavy loss. Major Porter joined the Society in 1926, became excursions secretary the same year, honorary treasurer in 1932, a vice-president in 1937, and an honorary member in 1958. In all these capacities he rendered yeoman service, but it is chiefly as excursions secretary from 1926 until 1945 that he will be remembered by members. To this difficult task he brought gifts of organisation and precision and a knowledge of the district that made the meetings he arranged most memorable. Many will remember with admiration and gratitude the work he did to ensure the success of the Sixth Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall in 1930.

As treasurer, too, for 26 years Major Porter was a tower of strength, watching over the Society's finances with a shrewd and watchful eye. In addition, he found time to contribute to *Transactions* the following papers:

- CW2 xxix: "The town-fields of Coniston."  
 xxx: "Hartside Cross."  
 xxxiv: "Two charters at Rydal Hall."

Major Porter also transcribed the memoirs of Sir Daniel Fleming, which were edited by Mr W. G. Collingwood, and published in the Society's tract series, no. xi, in 1928.

Of Cumbrian descent (his ancestors lived at Caldbeck), Major Porter, who was 74, came from Sussex in 1921 to become resident agent for the late Mr. Stanley Hughes le Fleming of Rydal Hall. He soon became immersed in the public life of

Westmorland, serving as a member of South Westmorland R.D.C., the Lakes U.D.C., Westmorland County Council, and the Lake District (South) Joint Planning Committee. He had been a magistrate for Westmorland since 1937. Major Porter was also prominent in freemasonry.

The Rt. Rev. HERBERT HENRY WILLIAMS, D.D., Bishop of Carlisle 1920-1946, who died at Chester on 28 September 1961, at the age of 88, was elected a member of our Society in 1913 — the year in which he became Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford — and became a patron in 1920, when he was appointed Bishop of Carlisle. Mrs Williams, who predeceased him, was a descendant of the Wybergh family, her grandfather having been the Rev. Christopher Hilton Wybergh (1799-1876), who was vicar of Isell.

The 800th anniversary of the foundation of the see of Carlisle was celebrated during the episcopate of Bishop Williams.

Miss MABEL BARKER, Litt.D., B.Sc., of Friar Row, Caldbeck, a member since 1924, who died on 31 August 1961, had gained distinction in the fields of geology, literature, education and rock-climbing. For some years she taught at a school in Hertfordshire, and later assisted Sir Patrick Geddes at Montpellier University in France. Subsequently she had her own school at Friar Row, Caldbeck. By the time World War II had broken out she had retired, but she then did nursing and later teaching. She was in much demand as a lecturer. One of the earliest members of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, she was the first woman to climb the Girdle Traverse on Gable.

The Society also regrets the deaths of Mrs ISABEL BOAZMAN (1930); Mrs OLIVER NORTH (1947), widow of our former President; Lt-Col. G. R. B. SPAIN, C.M.G., F.S.A. (1922); Mr JAMES STUDHOLME (1945); Miss M. E. WILLS, M.Litt., M.A. (1949).