

In Memoriam

Emeritus Professor GWILYM PEREDUR JONES, who died on 12 February 1975 at his home in Kents Bank, was one of the most distinguished historians to have found a home in the Lake Counties and one of the most talented scholars to have been a member of our Society. Born of a Welsh-speaking family in Birkenhead in 1892, he became Lord Howard de Walden Fellow in Welsh History at Liverpool University, 1920-23, and thus laid the first series of foundation stones for a career of diverse and remarkable attainments. He combined this fellowship with a tutorship in History, Economic History and Political Theory for the Liverpool Extramural Board, and thereby found an outlet for his infectiously lively teaching and his sense of communion with others.

His long association with our region was given permanency when he married Winifred Agnes Riley of Ulverston in 1920, and, during his years of service on the Economics staff at Sheffield University, where he obtained a Lectureship in Economic History in 1926, he never ceased to seek relaxation in his successive homes in southern Lakeland. Many friends and colleagues cherish memories of him at his retreats in Broughton-in-Furness and Witherslack (and, earlier, at Blawith in the Crake Valley), where they could enjoy a store of wit, wisdom and an erudition as far-ranging in its scope as it was astonishing; he was a philologist of no mean order, a linguist of talent, a classical scholar and a mediaeval historian who could yet encompass social and political problems of modern society. Hence, his study *The Mediaeval Mason*, written in partnership with Professor Douglas Knoop and published in 1933, is a standard work; yet he is known to thousands of university students for a splendidly readable study of economic history, *A Hundred Years of Economic Development* (1940), written in collaboration with A. G. Pool and dealing lucidly with recent times. He was a contributor to the *Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, Vol. II, 1952, and, throughout all this time, deeply involved in Welsh studies and examining. During the 50s he inclined more and more to the study of his beloved Lakeland, but in fields which had scarcely been trodden before, and which led him to the immensely laborious work of adding up thousands of parish register entries, in an effort to find how many Cumbrian and other local people stayed and multiplied in their native hamlets, and how the older ways of life persisted or waned.

The results of his work, often freely communicated to fellow students in small but superbly graceful handwriting, have in several instances been published by this Society, and include:

“The poverty of Cumberland and Westmorland”, CW2, Vol. LV, 1955.

“Some population problems relating to Cumberland and Westmorland in the 18th century”, CW2, Vol. LVIII, 1958.

“The decline of the yeomanry in the Lake Counties”, CW2, LXII, 1962.

These papers, valuable as they remain, were in fact by-products of his leisure moments, and after his retirement in 1957 (he had occupied the Chair of Economics at Sheffield from 1948), he devoted himself almost entirely to local study, and, almost immediately, to a joint enterprise with our distinguished member, the late Canon C. M. L. Bouch, which was nothing less than a major social and economic history, published in 1961 as *The Lake Counties, 1500-1830*. At this time, Canon Bouch was failing in health, and he passed his own voluminous notes to Professor Jones, who gave the ensuing volume the stamp of his own style and personality without surrendering any of the devoted scholarship which Bouch had made his own. Indeed, it was typical of G.P.J.’s modesty that he set his own name second in the authors’ by-line, for the book was essentially his as a work of professional economic history.

It is indicative of much in his personality that G. P. Jones could work so well and easily with fellow-authors, and that he never permitted himself to indulge in that most salient of academic vices, sniping at colleagues in company or footnote. He was at home with villagers and local farmers as well as with fellow-spirits in the field of scholarship. He remained, above all, a dedicated local historian, and his *Short History of Wither-slack* (1971), also published by this Society, was by no means the last piece to come from his beautifully guided pen. He was working steadily at the poor law accounts of Allithwaite and district only a few days before his death.

He is survived by his wife and by his daughter Elizabeth. He was a Vice-President of our Society in 1962-5.

J.D.M.

Miss G. AINSLEY died in hospital at Lancaster 20 January 1975. She was born in 1888 and succeeded Edward W. Wilson as Honorary General and Financial Secretary in 1927. She gave the Society thirty-two years of devoted service and was elected an Honorary Member on her retirement in 1959.

The Society has also lost by death the following members:
A. Behrend (1971), R. N. Birley, Hon. Auditor since 1947 (1931),
N. H. Buckley (1945), T. Bland (1955), R. E. Bourne (1950),
Dr J. X. W. P. Corcoran (1967), Mrs K. E. Formby (1964),
H. Hornyold-Strickland (1924), G. C. Ingall, Joint Hon. Auditor
since 1953 (1952), Mrs H. A. Inglis (1925), Mrs G. M. Johnson
(1947), C. J. B. Pollitt (1935), the Rev. H. A. L. Rice (1970),
J. C. Robinson (1958), M. Rowling (1971).

