

Lorton & Derwent fells

Local history Society

CARY'S
NEW ITINERARY:
 OR AN
ACCURATE DELINEATION
 OF THE
GREAT ROADS,
 Both DIRECT and CROSS throughout
ENGLAND AND WALES;
With many of the Principal Roads in
SCOTLAND.

From an ACTUAL ADMEASUREMENT by
JOHN CARY;

Made by COMMAND of his
Majesty's Postmaster General,
 FOR
OFFICIAL PURPOSES

Under the Direction and Inspection of
THOMAS HASKER Esq.;

Late Surveyor and Superintendant of the Mail Coaches.

This WORK shows the IMMEDIATE ROUTE from the
METROPOLIS to all parts of ENGLAND and WALES:

AND
 From Town to Town in every direction distinguishing also,
 THE

CITIES, MARKET, BOROUGH AND CORPORATE TOWNS:

And those at which the ASSIZES are held and gives the time of
the MAILS ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE from each Describes the
Line of the Navigable Canals and the Course of the Rivers passed over;
 The Number of Houses and Inhabitants contained in each Town,
And the INNS which supply Post Horses and Carriages.

ALSO
 The INNS throughout the METROPOLIS from which the MAIL
 And STAGE COACHES go their time of departure & the ROUTE they severally take.
 A LIST OF THE CROSS COUNTRY STAGES

The NOBLEMEN and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS situate near the Roads
Maps of the Low Water Environs of London, Bath, Brighton, the Lakes and Cheltenham.
 And a Large Map of ENGLAND and WALES, adapted to the Work.

NINTH EDITION with IMPROVEMENTS.

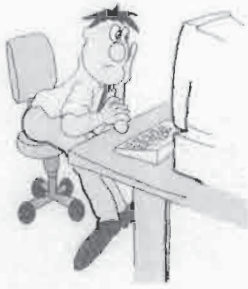
LONDON: Published by G&J. CARY, 86, St. James's Street, Aug^r 1821.

419] ROADS measured from HICKS'S HALL. [420	
To COCKERMOUTH and WORKINGTON.	
	M F M F
To KENDAL, as p. 332	262 4
Near 2 M. beyond, on l. to Winander Mere, 7.	
Staveley	5 267 4
Lowood Inn	7 274 4
AMBLESIDE	1 4 276 -
134 H. 684 I.	
Rydall	2 278 -
Wythburn Chapel	1 4 279 4
Dunmel Wrays Stones, Cumberland	4 4 284 -
Thirlspot	3 287 -
Smalwhaite Bridge	2 2 289 2
Cross the Greta R. which on r. joins the Bassen-thwaite Water.	
Castlerigg	1 6 291 -
KESWICK	1 2 292 2
356 H. 1683 I.—Ma. ar. 10 Aft.; dep. 3 Mo. On r. to Penrith, 17 M.; and Ireby, 12.	
Again cross the Greta R.	
Crossthaite	1 293 2
Portingscale	5 293 7
Braithwaite	1 1 295 -
Lorton	5 300 -
COCKERMOUTH	4 304 -
632 H. 2964 I.—Ma. ar. 4-20 Aft.; dep. 12 Aft. On r. to Carlisle, 26½ M. Cross the Cocker R. which here joins the Derwent.	
Little Clifton	4 4 308 4
On l. to Whitehaven, 9½ M.	
Great Clifton	1 309 4
Stainburn	1 310 4
Near Workington, on l. to Whitehaven, 8 M.	
WORKINGTON	1 311 4
1073 H. 5807 I.—Ma. ar. 6-20 Aft.; dep. 10 Mo.	
INNS. Lowood Inn. Ambleside, Salutation. Keswick, O.'s Head, Royal Oak. Cockermouth, Globe, Sun. Workington, Green Dragon, King's Arms. Staveley and Lowood Inn, between, on l. Rayrigg, Rev. J. Fleming.	
Ambleside, near, Calgarth Park, Mrs. Watson: on l. of Ambleside, at the Head of Winander Mere, Croft Lodge, Miss Pritchard; Bratheeg Hall, John Harding, Esq.; and Graythwaite Hall, M. Sandys, Esq. Opposite to Bowness, on Winander Mere, Belle Isle, Henry Curwen, Esq.; Belle Field, Mrs. Taylor; Fenny Green, Mrs. Greaves; and Storr's Hall, J. Bolton, Esq. Rydall, at Rydall Hall, Lady Diana Fleming; and Rydall Mount, Wm. Wordsworth, Esq. Smalwhaite Bridge, on l. Armbath, Edw. Jackson, Esq.; on r. Leathies Park, or Dalehead, J.S. Leathe, Esq. Keswick, on r. Greta Hall, Wm. Calvert, Esq.; and Hill, Robt. Southey, Esq. Poet Laureat: on l. Pigny Hall, Sir P. Moreshead, Bt.; Derwent Hill, Wm. Slack, Esq.; Barrow, Roger Pocklington, Esq.; Rosthwaite Beakstones, Miss Barker; and at Scathwaite the celebrated Black Lead Mine. Braithwaite, on l. Braithwaite Lodge, Daniel Gibson, Esq. Cockermouth, the Castle, the Earl of Egremont; on l. is Hasnes, Capt. Dover; 2 M. on r. Wood Hall, J. Sanderson, Esq. Cocker R. on r. at Papcastle, T. Knight, Esq.; beyond is Broughton Hall, J. Whittaker, Esq. Workington, Workington Hall, John Christian Curwen, Esq.	
To WHITEHAVEN.	
To Little Clifton, as p. 419	M F M F
On r. to Workington, 3 M.	3 08 4
Dislington	4 4 313 -
Moresby	2 315 -
WHITEHAVEN	2 6 317 6
1990 H. 10,106 I.	
INNS. Whitehaven, George, Globe, King's Arms.	
Another Road, across the Lancaster Sands.	
These Sands, and the Leven Sands in the following Route, are only fordable at low Water; it will therefore	

Two actual-size pages from Cary's New Itinerary, 9th Ed, August 1821
 Page 419 shows part of the route from London (Hicks's Hall) to Workington

SECRETARY'S LETTER

Another January, which means that the Society is now into its fourth, and I hope successful, year. Last year our membership was 51 plus 10 country members plus our President Angus Winchester, all of which is looking fine. I know that Ron George has something new up his sleeve for later in the year and, for my own part, it would be nice to have one of our own members give a presentation on a favourite history or history-related subject. So why not think about it?



Last September, our speaker was Mike Davies-Shiel who gave us a long, interesting and comprehensive talk about the various historical points of interest in the valley. To back up his talk, he had prepared an A3 map which covered Cockermouth across to Bassenthwaite village down to Bowness Knott in Ennerdale across to Gatesgarth, on which he had marked all the historical points he had investigated himself. It is an impressive piece of work and I had A4 copies for those who came to the talk; but it is of such interest that I am reproducing it at full size in the centre of this Newsletter. It will, incidentally, help to make up for the lack of, how shall I put it, too much material for the Newsletter (hint, hint)!

On the front cover I have reproduced two pages from "Cary's New Itinerary" which was one of the two famous "road maps" of 200 years ago, the other being "Paterson's Roads" and I have a copy of each. The Cary is the 9th Edition of 1821 and the Paterson is the 16th Edition of 1822 and they both describe the "Direct Roads" from London and the "Cross Roads". Cary, however, does include information such as the timing of the Mail Coaches and Inns which supplied Post Horses. I find it interesting that the route from London to Workington came over Whinlatter and

through Lorton. Page 419/420 contains some interesting names too.

Before I forget, I have an apology to make about the membership cards. After the 1996 card was issued just over a year ago, I got some comments about its size - it was bigger than a credit card and so could be awkward to store away. I promised to make it smaller and a few months ago, in my usual super-efficient way, completely forgot about it! It has been pointed out to me and I'll try and do better next time! And I'm sorry that the competition, promised last time, has had to be postponed until the next issue - I hope that Walter Head's prize will still be on offer!



Cheques. I've just had a battle with the Cumberland Building Society who refused to accept a cheque made out to "The Lorton Local History Society". After bringing in the Manager, I won, but to avoid a similar problem in the future, please would you make cheques out with our full title or LDFLHS. Many thanks!

Finally, coming back to January, may I wish everyone a really happy and contented New Year (including the Cumberland Building Society!).

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A new year is upon us, another year has passed and has become history. Not a little of it has occurred here in Lorton valley and has, as befits it, been documented and archived. I suspect that there may be a bit more that has escaped!!

I do not know how many of you get hold of the Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletins and Diaries, to which we, the Society, subscribe for your benefit. I have been reading the January 1997 issue (there are three per year) and found several items that have sparked a personal interest and some, I think, may interest other members. The CLHF will have a book stall

at the Lake District National Park visitor centre at Brockhole next year on 15 September and invite local history societies to offer their own published material for it. We at Lorton have not yet published any work, but members have produced the survey of the Loweswater Churchyard, with Lorton in progress. Are there any other works in the offing for which authors would like to get a wider readership?

Through its active recording of farmsteads, the Cartmel society has made its presence known far and wide and, as a result, has been loaned a marvellous archive of documents relating to that area going back to the 17th century, which were found quite by chance in an old farmhouse that they had not yet visited. Can we learn from this experience? We have many farmsteads in our area that go back, not very much changed, for centuries. Their separate histories are crying out to be recorded and correlated.

The Appleby society ran a "History Shop" with sponsorship from various bodies (including Jennings). Manned on Fridays and Saturdays by volunteers, they had a stream of people coming in and offering all manner of interesting items regarding the town's past, including the discovery of a very rare book. Is this an idea worth following up?

The Bulletin also carried a reminder about the "School Local History Prize". Schools or 6th-formers taking a 1997 "A" level, including an individual local history study, may be eligible for entry for the prize. If any Lorton members know of such a person, or school, ask our Secretary for the address to which they should apply. If, as individuals, we are approached by prize contestants, we are allowed to offer advice and guidance, but not help with the actual study work.

Please let me hear from you if you think that any of the above ideas are worth following up or trigger you to new ideas. Several meetings planned by other

societies reasonably close at hand that may interest some of you are listed in the Diary; I am leaving Michael to give details of these.

Meanwhile, Stella and I wish all our members a very peaceful and healthy year throughout 1997 and hope to see all of you at our meetings.

RG

To respond to Ron, there will be some copies of the Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletins and Diaries on the side at our 9 January meeting but, in the meantime, here are a couple of nearby interesting-looking meetings from the Diary:

21 January - "Farming in the Lakeland Valleys 1945-70" by J Howson. Friends of the Helena Thompson Museum, Workington (Mr McCleary 01900 603312).

19 March - "Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria" by D Perriam. Keswick Historical Society (Mrs Armstrong 017687 74555).

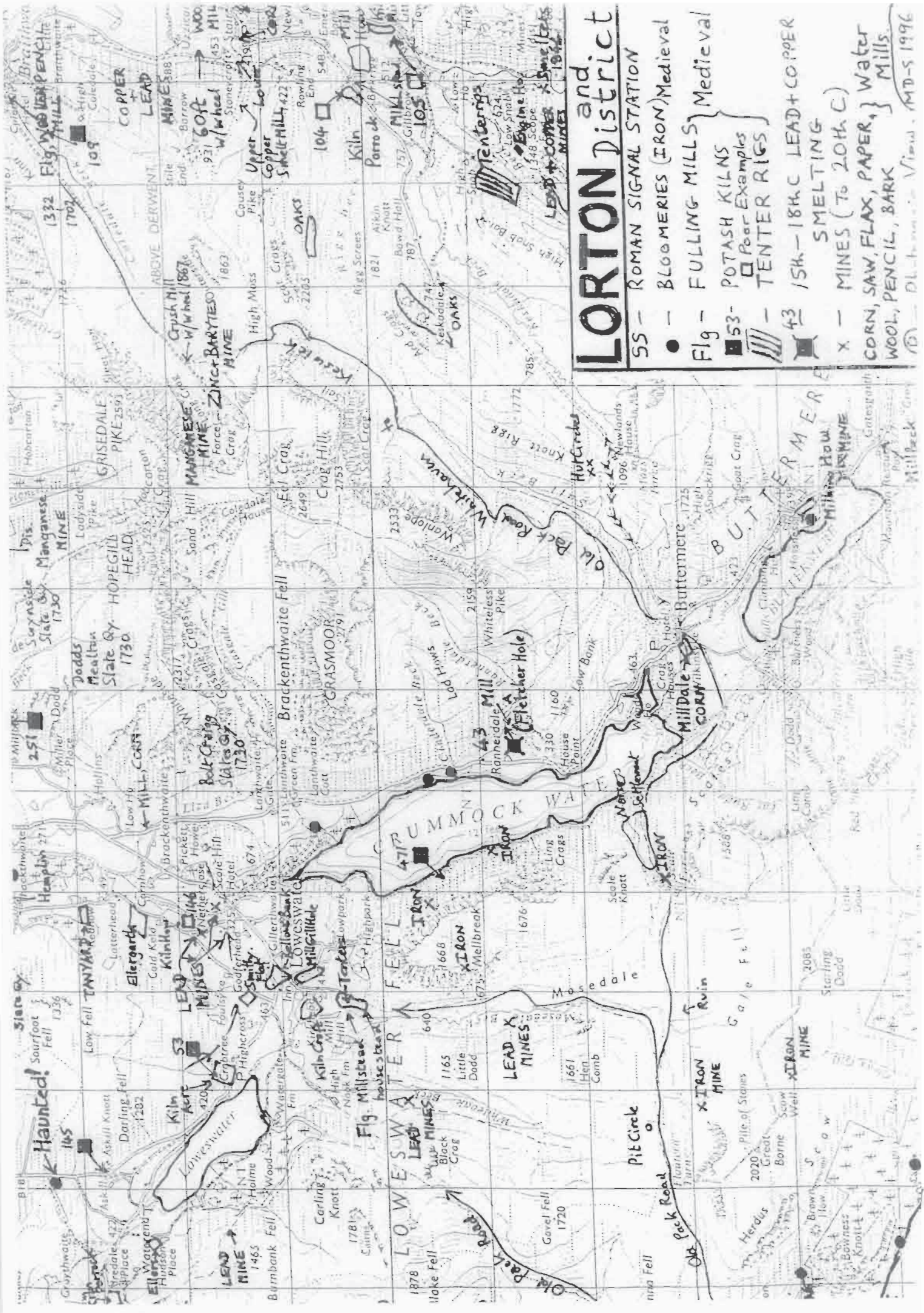
ROADS 1795

by Walter Head

The upkeep of roads throughout the country was the responsibility of each parish, who appointed their own Surveyor of Highways. He was given powers under the Highways Act 1553 to demand six days a year free labour and the use of horses and carts from the Parishioners.



Turnpike roads were managed by a Turnpike Trust with control in the hands of the Commissioner of the Peace. Parishes were still responsible for the supply of statute labour to augment work paid for by the Trust.



LORTON and District

- SS - ROMAN SIGNAL STATION
- - BLOOMERIES (IRON) Medieval
- Flag - FULLING MILLS Medieval
- 53 - POTASH KILNS }
 □ Pear Examples }
 ▨ TENTER RIGS }
 43 }
 15K-18K C LEAD+COOPER
 SMELTING
 X - MINES (To 20K C)
 CORN, SAW, FLAX, PAPER, }
 WOOL, PENCIL, BARK }
 ① DL - Views - View - MD-5 1976

Haunted!

145

Slate Quarry

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Low Fall

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LEAD MINE

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FOR KING AND COUNTRY

by Walter Head

Thomas and Jane Head farmed at Low Hollins Farm, Brackenthwaite, at the outbreak of the first World War and had raised a family of thirteen - seven sons and six daughters.

When the call to arms came, this family responded like numerous others in the area and saw five sons and three sons-in-law join up to fight for their country. The two sons who did not join up were the third son who had already served in the army and emigrated to Canada and the youngest, aged thirteen.

Those young men joined a variety of regiments and with eight involved in the conflict, it was perhaps inevitable that not all would return home. With the high number of casualties - 723,000 killed and 1,500,000 wounded - they could be considered fortunate that only one, Thomas, died.

Thomas, born in 1887, was 27 years old when he enlisted during Christmas 1914 at Keswick and joined the First Battalion, The Border Regiment (number 18737).

He spent time in training at Billericay, Ireland, and Southend before sailing from Portsmouth on 1 August 1915 aboard the troopship SS Royal Edward, a Canadian Northern Steamships Liner built in 1908 with a length of 526 ft, gross tonnage of 11,117 and a speed of 19 knots. They reached Alexandria without incident and then sailed for the Dardanelles.

He died just after 9.00 am on Friday, 13 August 1915 when the SS Royal Edward was in the Aegean Sea and became the first troopship to be sunk in the conflict. It

was torpedoed without warning by the German submarine UB-14 when six miles west from Kandeliuss. A total of 935 men lost their lives in the sinking, 59 from The Border Regiment. Like many others, Thomas has no known grave, but he is remembered on the family gravestone in Lorton Churchyard and on the Role of Honour in the Church.

The Rev Basil K Bond, Chaplain to the Forces and attached to the hospital ship Devanha, described the memorial service held at the spot where the SS Royal Edward went down as "The most impressive funeral service of the war." The service began with the hymn "Let Saints On Earth In Concert Dwell". During the singing of the 46th psalm, the Devanha slowed right down until it stopped over the place where the SS Royal Edward lay and the burial service continued then the vessel proceeded on her way.

Thomas' war medals and letter from the king arrived at Low Hollins at a later date and were put unopened into a drawer. They were only opened eighty years later in 1995 after the death of the last member of the family of thirteen. The family still have the last postcard Thomas sent to his mother from aboard the SS Royal Edward.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW, AGM 1996

This is Ron George's review that he gave at the AGM last June; it had to be left out of the last Newsletter due to lack of space.

"Another year has passed since I last found myself here talking to you about the Society's activities during the previous twelve months. I am happy to give my opinion on this, but I would be even happier to hear from you, the members. You have been strangely silent. No, don't tell me now - let me finish first. Your committee will be very happy to consider all constructive comments and it would be

progressive if we were to have at least some of your comments as letters in the Newsletter.

So what have we achieved in the last year? We have again had an interesting range of talks and illustrations to accompany them. Coal mines and ports for coal export, visual history to be found around Derwent Water, a crack from "downstairs" in the "big house" and the beginning of the sport of true fell climbing, led by our own John Robinson. We have had some interesting and thought-provoking articles in the Newsletter; to the authors of those we all owe a big "Thank You".

In particular, we mounted an excellent three day exhibition on 25 - 27 May. Both during the exhibition and subsequently I received from visitors many expressions of congratulations and thanks to all those who participated with interesting material. I noticed that interest was divided broadly into two groups - the visitor to the area who, by and large, had a general interest in all the exhibits and the older residents of the valley who crowded round the Lorton School exhibit seeking to point out themselves fifty years ago, or their "little Johnny or Mary" back in the fifties and sixties. Oh, happy memories!!! And how many could remember travelling in the first Lorton bus called "Happy Days". Congratulations to all contributors and an enormously big "thank you" to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it so successful. I suggest that we not only brought interest to our visitors but gave ourselves a new insight on what we are about as a Society. We can not claim any given sum towards the Church Appeal - for which the exhibition was mounted - because we shared the hall with the Art Exhibition, but between us we did attract just over 1,000 visitors into the hall at £1 each.

One of the visitors, a local person, said to me "Pity it is nearly all based on Lorton". Well, I'm not sure I agree with that wholeheartedly. However, it was certainly true

to some extent. And that is due to the fact that we have so few members from the top end of the valley. Why? Loweswater, Buttermere, Mosser - not to mention Wythop and Embleton, Brigham and Braithwaite - were all part of the ancient Manor of Derwent Fells. Dare I put it to you that we should all go out and try to remedy this one-sidedness?

So, I consider this has been a successful year - let us all go on to build on it in the coming twelve months. Could we - should we - plan anything for the Millennium? I leave you to think on it."

A PLEA FOR HELP

I (the Secretary) have had a letter from someone living near Kendal and who is working on a PhD thesis which she hopes to publish as a work of social history. She writes:

"I am wondering if you or any of your society members would be able to help me in a history project I am currently pursuing. I am researching customs relating to death and burial in Cumbria from the seventeenth century up until the present day. I am particularly interested in the ways in which entire communities attended funerals in rural areas in the past, and am trying to find out if people took food or made monetary contributions to defray the expenses. If any of your members have come across old books or archival material which refer to this, or if members have interviewed elderly people who have mentioned funerals, I would appreciate it if you could let me know."



Right, thinking caps on and if you have any information along these lines - even the name of a person who might be able to help - please let me know and I'll pass any information on. Thanks.

BATTLE OF NEWLANDS

by Walter Head

The Normans made one of their attempts to conquer the Norse at Buttermere by way of Newlands. They marched to Stair from their Headquarters in Keswick and fought their way to Little Town. Finding all four diverging valleys defended and not knowing which one to take, they encamped on the site of Newlands Church, then protected by boggy lands on three sides.

During the night, most of them were massacred in a surprise Norse assault. The few who escaped back to Stair joined the Keswick Rearguard and escaped via Bassenthwaite to Aspatria.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

On 12 September, we had a long talk by Mike Davies-Shiel entitled "So you know your area?". He covered many aspects of our industrial history, all of which he had researched, and he prepared a map covering the whole of the Derwent Fells area for us showing the sites of the iron bloomeries, mills (of many types), mines, kilns and so on. He also included the recently traced route of the Roman road over Whinlatter and Whin Fell. I found lots of interest in his talk and subsequently bought the book about the Roman road ("The Roman Route Across The Northern Lake District - Brougham to Moresby" by Martin Allan, 1994, £5.95). I know others enjoyed it too.

On 14 November (thanks to Ron George for this) the well know Keswickian local historian George Bott gave a spirited talk about "Lakeland Curiosities". The word 'curiosity' he defined and treated in the same manner as Revd Dr Gilpin did back in the late 1770s - the unusual and picturesque. We heard about houses and obelisks; stone circles and topiary and armchair(?)-travelled many miles back and forth across the length and breadth of

Cumbria. A very informative, entertaining and pleasant evening.

WEST'S GUIDE TO THE LAKES

In Newsletter No 6 I quoted a bit out of Father West's 1778 guide and, recently, I read one of the Addenda included in the 11th Edition of 1821; this was an account of a ride from Keswick to Ennerdale by an unknown author and it includes the following typical "over the top" description:

"If a transient storm disturb or intercept the view, which frequently happens in the serenest days of summer, the appearance is not only awful, but pleasing; and the traveller will frequently *behold* a tempest, without *feeling* it. The commotion is far above him; and where he treads, all is calm, solemn and silent."

Well, although I know the situation he describes, I think the weather must have changed somewhat because it seems that whenever I see conditions like those described above, I usually finish up ten minutes later in the tempest as well! But I do find that some of these old descriptions do make me think and look again at familiar views and appreciate them all the more.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On Thursdays at 7.30pm
in the Yew Tree Hall:

9 January 1997 "The history of dry stone walls" by Donald Angus

13 March "Vikings to Victoria" by Ruth Stirrup

8 May

12 June AGM

10 July

11 September "Manor Courts and the Manors' use of the fells" by Angus Winchester

13 November

