

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2007

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Cover picture – Main Street Staveley from Jubilee Bridge about 1900

The next issue of the Journal (the summer issue) will be published about the 12th August 2007. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the 30th June.

Chairman's Report

I take great pleasure in reporting one of the most successful years in the Society's history. Our membership is at its highest level for many years thanks to the combined efforts of our Committee and of the members who made the Exhibition last Easter such a success. In addition to gaining new members, we were also given a number of photo collections for our archives. The Exhibition actually generated a small profit rather than turn in the expected loss. This has been carefully invested by our Treasurer, David Hooson towards our long term aim of creating a Heritage Centre, as has been done by a number of other Local History Societies. The interest generated at the Exhibition has convinced the Committee at least, that there is sufficient local interest to warrant such a venture. No doubt we will be hearing more of this in the future.



Higher membership has also been reflected in higher attendances at our meetings; so much so that the Committee have had to check the fire regulations for the School Hall to ensure that we do not exceed the maximum audience size. The success of these meetings is a tribute to the careful selection of speakers and organisation of the meetings by our Secretary, Pat Ball. Sadly, Pat will not be standing for re-election to the post of Secretary at the AGM, and he will be greatly missed. Fortunately he has agreed to remain on the Committee to help the new incumbent and continue to act as our principal contact with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. I am sure that there will be many at the AGM who will wish to join me in adding their personal thanks to Pat for his efforts over many years.

It is pleasing to note that a number of our new members not residing in Staveley have come via our web site. Through this we have made contact with not only UK residents but also descendants of Staveley families and former residents living on the other side of the world. Whilst many of the enquiries are about family history, this has proved to be a two way process, with many anecdotal references to occupations and activities in the villages many years ago adding to our knowledge bank.

My own contribution this year, apart from the *Journal* and the web site, has been to complete the transcription of the seven years of census records for the four parishes. This has already proved of interest to a number of members, and gives us a useful tool for dealing with enquiries, and assisting in research for future Occasional Papers and lectures. Copies of the Census CD have been donated to Cumbria Record Office in Kendal, to Kendal Library Local Studies Section and to Staveley School.

A further project now started, is to transcribe the records from the 1836 Corn Rent books, which together with the accompanying maps, give an insight into the ownership of land and property which cannot be obtained from Census or Business Directory sources. The Over Staveley book is now complete, and we hope to

transcribe the other Parishes during winter 2007/8. We are working closely with the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal on this as the original maps are in a poor condition and the registers are losing some of the pencil entries made 150 years ago.

Mention should also be made of our connections with the Cumbria Family History Society via our member Kath Hayhurst. As you may have seen from Zoë Atkinson's notes in the *Journal*, some of our members have been helping with the transcribing of Memorial Inscriptions from St James' for Cumbria FHS records.

I have already commented on the excellent attendance at our evening lectures, and it is good that once again we have had lectures from our own members. It was always one of Joe Scott's objectives, that we should be an active society and encourage members to do their own research and present it to us in the form of a lecture or talk. This season both Susan Stuart and Alison Shaw have given excellent talks to the Society. However I am sure that Susan and Alison will forgive me if I say that the highlight of this season was surely David Ellwood's talk on the Kendal Rope Walk and of rope making in general.

Earlier *Journals* referred to the setting up of a Buildings Group. I am pleased to report that this has now been done; and with a team of six comprising three retired architects, two retired surveyors and a lawyer we have a formidable force. Their first task will be to make a list of all the early properties in our area, not just those which have some form of listing. They will also be able to respond quickly to any interesting discoveries made by house owners during re-decoration or extension works.

In *Journal* 8 I referred to the Joe Scott (Staveley) School History Prize – once again some excellent entries and ensuring that History remains of interest to youngsters. A disappointment this year though was that the Cumbria-wide competition for adults had only one entry and had to be held over. Let us hope that 2007 attracts more support. Perhaps one of you reading this might be inspired to enter. If you haven't seen the flyer with information, any committee member will be able to find one for you.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to include my thanks to our Committee and particularly to David & Marjorie Hooson who valiantly bring our sales and library stock to each meeting and deal equally efficiently with purchases and library loans. David of course is also our treasurer keeping immaculate records of our finances and his report for the year is included in this issue on page 12.

Although this is my first report as Chairman, it is also my last, as I will be taking over from Pat as Secretary in April. Iain Johnston is proposed as your new Chairman, and I hope that you will all give him your support in the coming year.

John Berry

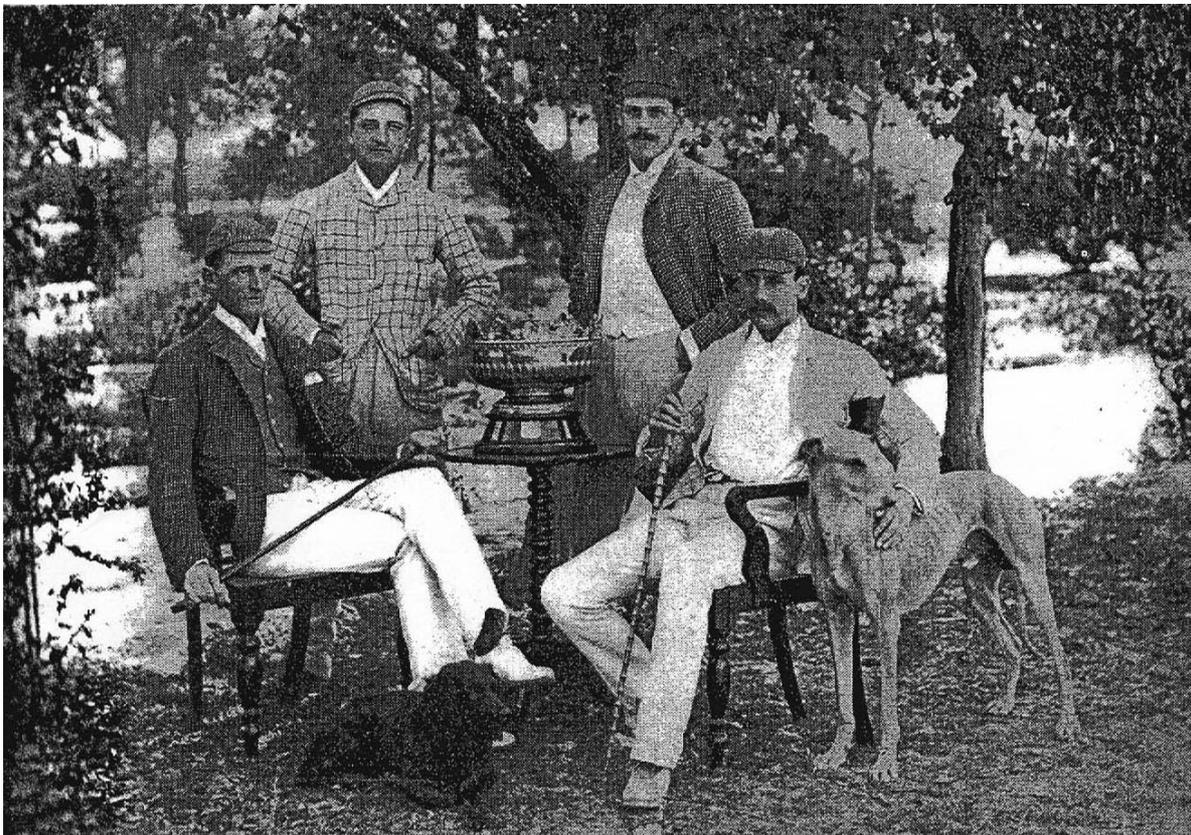
Colonel E G Harrison C.B. D.S.O.

In the last Journal under the heading Monumental Inscriptions we asked for help regarding Col. Harrison, who died June 22nd 1947 Aged 84

Many thanks to those members who have been researching Colonel Harrison. I should have realised that the name was familiar as Colonel Harrison features in the History of Staveley School 250th Anniversary Book. He and his wife invited 100 school children on 22nd September 1905 to view his trophies from Africa. An accompanying photograph of the outing to Hund Howe (near Bowston) shows a zebra skin draped over the wall – the trophies!

Our member, Clara Black just happens to be friends with the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Archivist and we are much obliged to him for the information he has passed onto us.

Colonel Harrison was born May 11th 1863 and was educated at Haileybury College. He joined the Dorset Militia in 1881 but as he failed to pass the final examination into the Regular Army he went to America with his brother where he spent two years ranching in Wyoming and had his first taste of big game shooting. In 1885 he was given a commission in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and after serving with the 2nd Battalion in Ireland, he went out to the 1st Battalion in India, where his horsemanship gained him a place in the Regimental polo team which won the Infantry Polo Cup in 1887. (see photo below)



1887 Polo team L to R – C.D. Bruce, A.I.S. Godfrey, E.G. Harrison, W.J. Anderson

In 1895 he was appointed 2nd in command of the Sultan of Zanzibar's troops and commanded those sent to the mainland for operations against the Mazrui Rebels, for which he received the 1895/6 medal and clasp and the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar. In 1896 he was sent to Khartoum to recruit Sudanese and in 1897 was appointed second in command of the newly formed East African Rifles, into which the Sudanese were incorporated. During the Mutiny of Uganda of 1897/98 he again saw active service when he was in command at the capture at Kabagambi; and after taking part in other engagements, led the final counter-attack at Kijembo. After further engagements in Unyoro for which he was mentioned in despatches, he received the campaign medal with two clasps and in 1899 was promoted to brevet-major and awarded the D.S.O.

His next active service was in the Somaliland operation of 1902 and in 1905 he commanded the Nandi field force in the Nandi Expedition with the local rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For this service he was mentioned in despatches and received the medal and clasp, and in 1907 was created C.B. He had retired from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1905 and after being on reserve of officers he retired in 1910 interesting himself in coffee planting in Kenya.

However during the 1st World War he served in the Manchester Regiment.

The result of Colonel Harrison's game shooting in Africa can be seen in Kendal Museum where there is a special annexe devoted to his exhibits downstairs.

Zoë Atkinson

More information on Colonel Harrison's family can be obtained at The Local Studies Collection in Kendal Library. Ask for the Armorial of Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Thomas Taylor

In *Journals 7* and *8* we included some facts about this little known individual who was one of the first, Bobbin Manufacturers in Staveley and a forerunner to Benjamin Turton and to Chadwicks.

As a result of further research, including letters from Australia, e-mails from New Zealand, and sight of the deeds to the Old Vicarage on Main Street we now know almost everything from his birth in Kendal in 1786 to his death in Staveley in 1832. His wife, who was the daughter of the John Hirst who built Rawes Mill, re-married and lived on until 1872. The final disposal of the estate which featured in *Journal 8* followed her death.

We had intended to complete the story in this issue, but the information we have received is such that the committee have decided that the history of Thomas Taylor and Low Mill warrants an Occasional Paper. This will be published in late summer. If you have any information on the Taylor estates, we would like to hear from you.

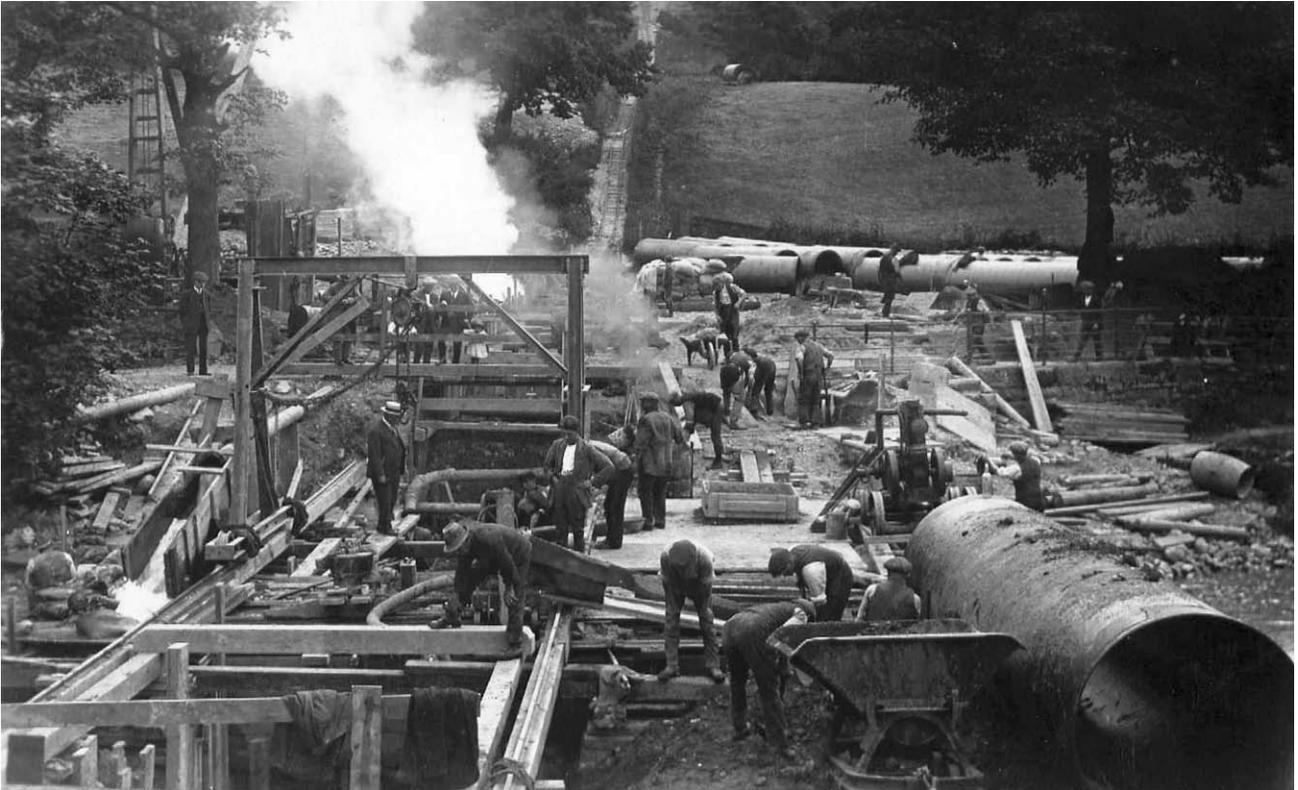
A Craggy mystery solved

Our member Peter Noble drew my attention to two large metal hoops in Craggy wood above the siphon well (see *Journal 1* for a plan). Were these used for an aerial ropeway or something similar during the construction of the Thirlmere Aqueduct? On the photograph on the left the hoop can be seen in the ground at the base of the walking pole in the foreground marked by the white arrow.



In our photo library we have many pictures of the construction of the Aqueduct as it crossed the river Kent. We can imagine that this was a talking point within the village as many local people would have wondered as to exactly how the river was to be crossed. Most of the photos of the crossing are taken from the back lane to Bowston looking west over the river. A typical one is that on page 54 of *A Lakeland Valley Through Time*. However from Noel Mackreth's

collection we were able to find one looking towards Craggy and this is shown below.



On this you can see a kind of plateway or basic railway on which the wires attached to the hoops were used to haul material trucks up the hill from the river crossing.

John Berry

Dialect Words

In Issue 3 of the *Journal* (Spring 2005) Mary Atkin wrote a fascinating piece on dialect words relating to the often-prevailing wet weather. Many of Mary's words and expressions do not appear in Bill Rollinson's *Cumbrian Dictionary* which is more than can be said about one that I had always thought to be original. It concerned, in my particular instance, a native of the Eden Valley who, when asked what weather prevailed in his neck of the woods, replied "Weel 'er dots an 'er dozzles an whiles 'ers siffterin but 'er nivver cums nae girt pell."

Still on the subject of the weather, I have a tape recording by Tom Lowthian from Warcop talking about the effects of the helm wind in the Eden valley. He related how an old chap from Kirby Stephen claimed that he "minded tha cudent git up Mawson fer gay snebs an Gallerway shoes." (*remembered you couldn't get up Mallerstang for goose beaks and shoes off the ponies*) The implication was that the helm wind had blown them all off.

It can take many years to become accustomed to the spoken word in a broad Cumbrian dialect. I remember a conversation with Jim Clark from Backbarrow on the subject of changes in bird population. Jim kept referring to 'knee tarks' and it was towards the end of our conversation before I realised that he was talking about nighthawks – the local word for nightjars.

Coming nearer to home, a Staveley resident who can remain nameless, set me a real puzzle some thirty years or so ago. I was trying to arrange an evening when we could get together in his home to listen to some bird songs which had been recorded. We settled upon a mutually convenient evening which brought the rejoinder as I was leaving: "Rita's out". We had to re-arrange the meeting however, and as I left for the second time the farewell greeting was "Granda's out". Having mused for some time as to why it was necessary for Rita or Granda to be out when we were listening to the recordings, I eventually tumbled to the meaning of the expressions – *Right as anything* or *grand as anything* used when sealing a deal of any kind.

Mike Houston

(Do you know of any interesting dialect words that we could include in future Journals? After all, they are part of our history. I well remember from my youth the expression "Is't gooin' whom" (are you going home). There must be many more out there – let us have your thoughts – Ed)

100 years ago

Work at the Staveley Wood Turning Company's mill was stopped on Monday through an accident to the main shaft of the water wheel. The repairs were completed in time for the employees to resume work on Thursday morning, but there was another breakdown a few hours later, and this will mean that the workpeople will have to take another short 'holiday'.

Westmorland Gazette 5 Jan 1907

Our Staveley

In issue 1 of the Journal we published a Staveley song from 1928. At our recent exhibition, another song or poem from 1934 was passed to us by a member.

On the road to Windermere, just outside Kendal town,
There's a little spot called Staveley - it's a proper 'home from home'.
Nestling in the valley, amid its pastures green,
Watered by the River Kent, with the Gowan in between.

It's quite a hive of industry, with its shops, and factories - three,
Garages, a Post Office, and a Chippy Shop you'll see.
A Junior School and Play Group, where our kids are taught the best,
And the Abbey Home, where old folk can take a well earned rest.

We've a Village Hall, where young folk can dance the night away,
And we can have a coffee, and pass the time of day;
Hold our little meetings, and sing our little songs,
And have our 'get togethers', to thrash out rights from wrongs.

And yet it is the people, that really make the place,
Tom and Dick and Harry, Jean and Joan and Grace:
I couldn't speak of half of them - 'twould take too long to do;
But if you'll bear with me awhile, I'll mention just a few.

The Parson and the Minister, who lead us on life's way,
And somewhere there's a Policeman, just in case we go astray.
A Doctor and a Chemist, to ward away our ills,
And Publicans - we've three no less, with better stuff than pills!

We've a Cricket and a Football team, we cheer with all our might
No matter if they win or lose, we know that they play straight.
And we can't forget our Fire Brigade, those steady lads and true;
Without their constant vigilance, whatever would we do?

And we love a bit of gossip, just a spicy little crack -
"Have you heard about old so-and-so?" and "What do you think of that?"
But if you're in deep trouble, and need a helping hand,
You won't have very far to go, them Staveley folk are grand!

So, if you're leaving Kendal, on the road to Windermere,
And you'd like to stop and meet with us, and have a bit of cheer,
You'll all be made **most** welcome, I'm very sure of that,
For it's Staveley hospitality, that puts Staveley on the Map.

G. M. Banton

Major Ronald Macdonald: an episode of the Forty-Five

Although the Society makes no claim for the historical accuracy of this article, it is an interesting curio of times past and comes from the pen of Andrew Little M.B. of Kentmere, written in the 1930s.

The road from Penrith to Mardale to-day is far from being a good one, and, at the beginning of the nineteenth century was almost impassable to any vehicle; so in 1821 a certain pedestrian who called at the Dun Bull Hotel was surprised to see a carriage with two horses standing there. The gentleman who owned the carriage was an officer in the French army and wore the badge of the Legion of Honour. He was an old man travelling with his middle-aged daughter. Further enquiry elicited from his Highland servant, through the influence of a little lubrication, that he was a Field-Marshal and a Duke. He fought all through the Napoleonic campaigns, and now, at the end of his life, he came to visit Clifton and Mardale because he had heard in his youth so many romantic tales of those places. He was the only son of Major Ronald Macdonald and Bertha Radcliffe. She was the daughter of the youngest son of the Earl of Derwentwater - a noted Jacobite.

To explain this I must go back to Kendal during the passage of Prince Charlie's army to Derby. The Prince's army entered Kendal on the afternoon of 22nd November, 1745. It was composed of two divisions. The first division contained, among other units, the Glengarry clansmen. Quarters were found for the men and officers. Major Ronald Macdonald, nephew of the chief happened to be quartered in a venerable-looking house in Northgate. Ronald possessed all the patriarchal nobility of soul which distinguished the true Highland gentleman. He got a Major's commission in the army, and was beloved by his men. He had served two years in France, thus acquiring a knowledge of the rules of war and of the refined habits of polite society. He was welcomed at the door by his host, a Mr Radcliffe, a gentleman of military bearing with an amputated arm and empty coat sleeve which told their tale. With this gentleman Ronald soon became very much at home. His feelings were no less pleasurably excited when his host's daughter, and the only child of a beloved and departed wife, descended into the parlour and presided at an ample tea-table, a meal which the young major did full justice to after his march from Penrith. Ronald left the house to attend to military details and arrangements for an early start next morning, and when these duties were all satisfactorily discharged he returned to his quarters, where he was treated to a sumptuous supper. When supper was finished the party of three proceeded to a toast list. The first toast given by the old gentleman was "The King". All drank heartily to this while each, of course, gave the toast his own interpretation. Next, Ronald proposed to fill his glass to his fair hostess. "No, no, my dear sir", said her father, "she and I had resolved not to disclose our opinions to you, but your conversation has overcome prejudices and I cannot longer refrain from claiming my right to give another pledge in which Bertha will be more glad to join than receive your compliments." He then gave "Prosperity to the Prince on his pathway to Royal Westminster." Ronald was terribly astonished.

Many explanations followed this pledge of fealty to a common liege lord. Ronald's spirit was kindled within him as his host related the history of the 1715 rebellion in which, as a boy, he took part. His emotions were still more increased by the presence of Bertha, one of Nature's fairest forms. She was very beautiful. Every feature was marked and refined. An aristocratic air and dignity reigned in her every movement. In fact, Ronald fell head over heels in love with her, but could not but feel amazed that such talent and beauty should be found in such a humble dwelling. This happy party did not break up till three o'clock, when the bugle sounded and Ronald had to sally forth. The cold November air had a very cooling influence on his heat-oppressed brain. The troops marched off on their ill-fated expedition to Derby, and Ronald looked back on his visit to Kendal as a dream.

During the absence of the army from Kendal, suspicion was aroused against Mr. Radcliffe. It was asserted that a gentleman without an arm was seen coming out of the Prince's headquarters. Arrest and prosecution were being arranged, but on receiving a hint from a friend of what was brewing he and Bertha fled up Long Sleddale and over the Gatesgarth Pass to Mardale and Chapel Hill Farm, where they took shelter and remained in hiding. Mr Mounsey, the farmer, was a tried friend of his. The army reached Derby. The retreat was ordered. The troops became depressed and disappointed, but Ronald was buoyed up by the prospect before him of once more quartering with his friends in Kendal and seeing again his dear Bertha. When he arrived there he lost no time in returning to the house in Northgate, but to his distress it was empty. He could get no information as to them or their whereabouts. All he learned was that they were suspects and fled. No one could tell him anything about them.

The army resumed its northward march as far as Shap where it made a halt for rest and refreshment, and to gather up any remnants of the army left by the way. The Highland clans formed part of the rearguard of the Prince's army. Ronald was now overpowered by depression, and his men were also dispirited. They had not even the excitement of the enemy behind them. Sad and thoughtful, Ronald strolled out of the village to rest apart from his companions. He sat down on a stone when he saw a figure advancing towards him. "Glengarry, do you know me?" He knew the voice in an instant. It was his Kendal host. Ronald grasped his hand, and eagerly enquired for Bertha and where they lived, but all he got was that they lived somewhere in the neighbourhood, adding that he only ventured out to get information of their retreat. Ronald asked after Bertha's health, and was anxious to send a message to her, but in his state of mind he could find no language for it. At that moment the bugle sounded that the march was about to begin, so, with a melancholy handshake and God bless you, Ronald and his late host parted, and, as Ronald felt, for ever. His look of care and abstraction had already diffused feelings of gloomy discouragement among his followers. He would gladly have renounced all ambitions for the future and joined the fugitives in their hiding place, but honour, king, and clan required his devotion, so he banished all remembrance of the vision which for a while had entranced him.

An officer at that moment rode into camp with the news that Cumberland's advance cavalry were already in Kendal and might be on them any moment. A rearguard action was continued all that afternoon, and, when they reached Clifton, Lord George Murray, with a force of about 1,000 strong, decided to make a stand, and so successfully placed his men that the Duke's advance guard of splendid English cavalry, 4,000 strong, were cut to pieces. Ronald was in the forefront of his clan and was cut down in a fierce fight with three dragoons whom he attacked in order to save the chief, who would undoubtedly have been slain had he not done so. His followers were called off the field, and Ronald was left as dead.

Mr. Radcliffe, his Kendal host, whose Jacobitic sentiments got the better of him, disappointed at the misfortune of the Prince's army, was determined to join and help as much as he could. His age precluded him from ordinary military service, so he decided to help in rescuing the wounded. He appeared on the field of Clifton after the fight was over. He found no one attending to the Scottish wounded. He walked over the field of battle. At one spot he found three or four dead lying together, testifying by their wounds to a very fierce conflict. The three troopers who attacked Ronald were all there dead. At that moment he noticed the Glengarry tartan, and there lay Ronald apparently dead. Mr Radcliffe had an impression that he might be alive, so he extemporised a litter by stretching an overcoat between his own and his servants' horses. On this they placed Ronald and started off for Mardale, reaching Chapel Hill Farm in the early morning. His daughter speedily prepared a bed on which they placed him, and with careful watching and nursing Ronald came back to life, and in due time got quite well.

The period of his convalescence lasted three months. During this period Ronald and Bertha enjoyed each other's company, making many excursions and walks among the various mountains. Ronald enjoyed Mardale because the mountains and the lake reminded him of the Highlands. They plighted their troth and made many vows of eternal love and faithfulness. When Ronald quite recovered his usual strength he decided to once more return to his duties, but after a trip among the mountains he was overtaken by a terrible thunderstorm and rain. He was drenched to the skin, and, as the result of that drenching, contracted a severe attack of pneumonia, and thus he was once more laid up for another period of three months. When he recovered again his usual strength he once more decided to return to duty. Information was obtained in Mardale with great difficulty, so a special messenger was despatched to Penrith to get information. He returned with the information that Culloden had been fought and the Prince's cause quite lost.

Mr. Radcliffe, his daughter, and Ronald decided to try and get a passage abroad. They escaped to France disguised as Westmorland peasants. They got on board a sloop sailing to France from London. They reached France in safety. Ronald joined the French Army and married Miss Radcliffe. They had one son, who ultimately became the Duke and Field-Marshal who proceeded in his old age to visit Mardale and to see all the places of which he had been told in his youth so many stories.

The old gentleman, Bertha's father, was the youngest son of the Earl of Derwentwater, who lost his estates for his Jacobite adherence. These estates, which were very large, were handed over to build and support Greenwich Hospital.

In conclusion, let me state that this beautiful and historic Mardale with its Church, its Dun Bull Hotel, and its Chapel Hill Farm are to be blotted out of existence by being submerged by water to form a water-supply for Manchester, never to be seen again.

*Transcribed by Nancy Houston from
the original manuscript by Andrew Little*

Financial Accounts 2006

The following paragraphs are intended for members unable to be present at our AGM. They highlight the main aspects of the Society's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006 which will be presented at the meeting on 10th April.

Income in the 12 months considerably exceeded Expenditure. Costs associated with staging the very successful Easter week Exhibition in the Roundhouse were offset by donations of the many visitors. This event generated a significant increase in sales of our Lakeland Valley book/DVD and other sundry items. Increased membership - several visitors to the exhibition joined the Society - resulted in a near 20% rise in annual subscription income.

The Expenditure side of our accounts shows a marked increase in fees/expenses paid to the speakers at our meetings. Postage costs are higher due to the need to use the postal delivery service for copies of the Journal to members living beyond the boundary of the Staveley hand-delivery area; also there was an increase in mail order sales of books/DVDs. During the year the Society purchased a radio microphone and some books for the library.

At the AGM your Committee's proposal to increase annual subscriptions will be put to the membership. The proposed increase will offset the cost of producing the Journal three times a year.

During the year the Deposit Account has shown a marked increase, due to transfers from the Current Account. At the AGM our Chairman's report will outline plans for future development of the Society's aims which will require funding from our reserves.

Copies of the accounts are available to members on request to the Treasurer. In the Summary section the balances show the Society's finances are in a healthy state.

Mr Arthur Lloyd has checked the recorded entries and found the Society's books to be in order. Our thanks are due to him.

David Hooson, Hon Treasurer