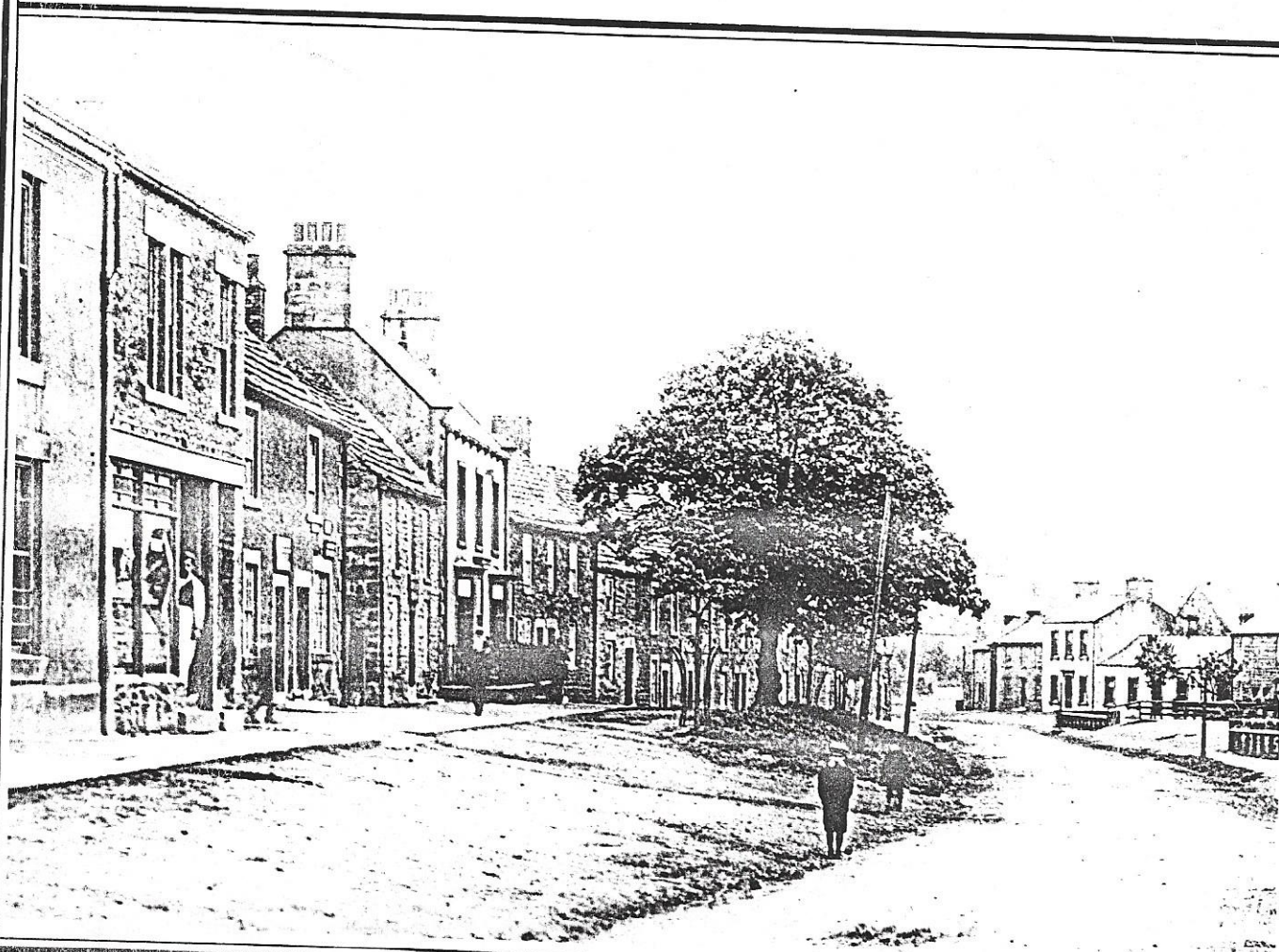


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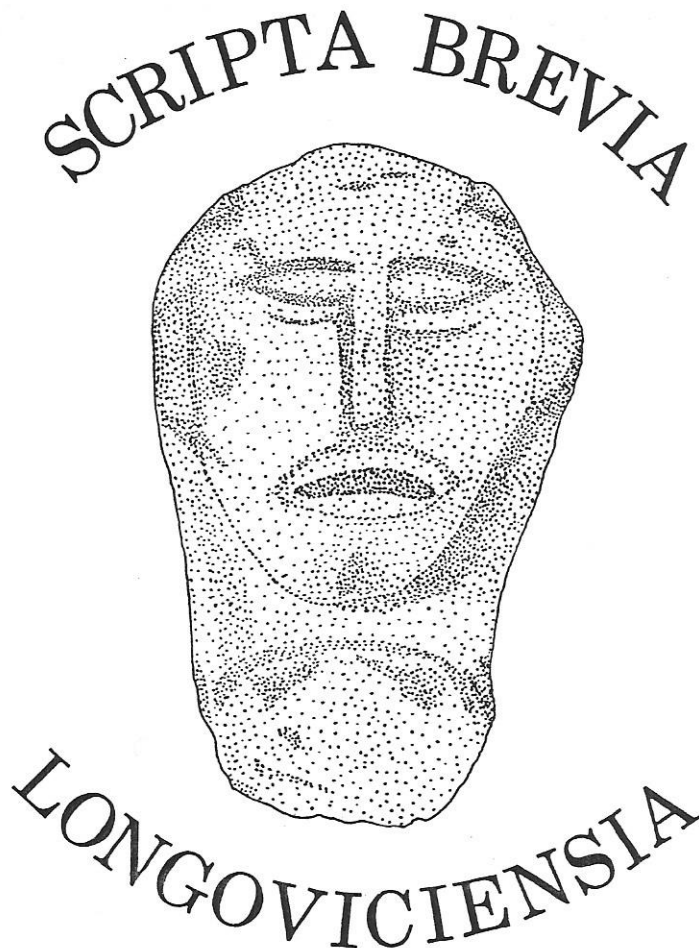
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INTRODUCTION

Concern for the environment is fashionable - obsessively so. For some people concern for the environment is subsequent to an understanding of it. For others concern becomes the stimulus for the understanding. In 1989 we are all familiar with the scientific concepts of OzoneLayers, Greenhouse Effect and Chemical Pollution. However, other disciplines have also a contribution to make to the perception of our habitat. For example, in trying to define his field of study, the Geographer takes a People-Places-Activities approach to which the Historian would add the time dimension. In the second issue of this journal the series of articles amply illustrates this approach and may help to place us not only in a spacial environment but also in a temporal one, for what has happened in the past is of as much importance as what is happening now and what may happen in the future.

Thank you for receiving our first issue so well. We trust this also pleases.

John Clifford

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RECOLLECTIONS ABOUT A COUNTRY VILLAGE

When I was invited to write this article it was suggested that I limit myself to personal reminiscences about life in Lanchester over the last half century. I am not a professional historian, and wish only to deal with a few chosen plain facts, to be taken by the reader with no more than half a grain of salt.

History is the daughter of time and enquires into events that have happened to happen. Happenings take time to flower, and time is needed to narrate and explain events that quickly lapse into the 'forgotten past' and lie in the deep reservoir of a host of memories.

In a book about Dora Greenwell, the Lanchester minor poet and prophetess (published 1926) the author Miss Constance Maynard says that Dora "was born at Greenwell Ford, a country house just outside the little market town of Lanchester". It is no longer small and is now a fairly large village. Until the middle of this century it was well known for its mart, but has no town cross, and only a stanger might call it a town.

Lanchester was indeed a fairly small village when I first visited it, one June afternoon in 1933 selling Rag Mags in aid of the Durham students' contribution to the upkeep of local hospitals before the N.H.S.

I remember doing the houses along Durham Road and the welcome tinkle of coppers and threepenny tiddlers rattling in my cocoa tin. Little did I realise that I was destined to make a house in Durham Road our first home (1938), a year before World War II broke out.

In 1940 I made new comrades. The following five years although packed with excitement, seemed to be moving relentlessly towards an uncertain future. For three of those five, many of us shared the experience of bedding down in the malevolent wilds of East Bengal and the inimical terrain of Arakan on the southern front of two campaigns in Burma. Vera Lynn managed to fly out forward to make our day, but frequent letters from home were the most important item of morale. All this involved loss and gain. Eventually most of us returned to our native shores. Many were left however, pegged out to perish under 'The Rising Sun'. The gain was the prospect and the reality of finally returning with all parts more or less intact. I came from Durham station in the Black Bull taxi, Mr Puckering at the wheel, and kept in my wallet the Witbank bus return ticket used for the outward journey way back in 1942.

During repatriation leave 'The Bomb' was dropped. "Is you is, or is you ain't ma baby" Dr Bronowski asks himself, when he heard this popular tune echoing over the waters from a riverside gramophone in the Far East.

At any rate the victory of the Allies guaranteed some hopes for our future. It is a commonplace assumption to say that wars will never cease. Most historians nowadays say that history seldom repeats itself. Happenings recur with a new twist. Lovers of Freedom all over the world are beginning to feel the need to gain an education based on human, spiritual values and beliefs cherished detachedly for their own sake.

The war changed the character of town and village life. People accepted the ethics of waiting in queues. Before the war, scrambling to get a seat on a bus was common. Polite behaviour very often left you waiting for the next bus. Clothes' coupons, food rationing, the disappearance of some goods under the counter, were accepted during the emergency and after. Black marketeers abounded. Fortunately we had a fair-minded Minister of Food and seldom went short; and our Creator, ever mindful of our needs, provided the human race with the opportunity of cultivating tea, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and the vine, knowing our weakness for enjoying, particularly in times of stress and toil, the compensating aroma and taste of the fruits of the earth. A cup of tea and a smoke were recommended as first aid for gas attack victims.

The main streets were safe to walk in the blackout. Hooded torches enabled you to recognise a friend. We were warned against divulging any information to strangers and all signposts were removed. One afternoon we met a man on the hump-backed bridge. He asked the way to Tow Law. Did we tell him? No we didn't. Poor chap.

When war seemed inevitable I joined the Special Constables. We reported for duty in Front Street Police Station (site of the present supermarket) and were briefed by Inspector Wray to investigate the effectiveness of the householders' blackout, and to inform the occupants if chinks were noticeable. Being two of the youngest on the strength, Mr Francis Greenwell and I were sometimes sent up Peth Bank to spot any lights advertising signs of human habitation to enemy bombers.

During the occasional night raid alert, indicated by the unforgettable siren wail, the Specials were expected to get out of bed, dress, don helmet and gas mask and report for duty. Shell splinters used to rattle down on roof tops when the guns at Square House and Esp Green let off.

One afternoon Mr Oliver the Vet, Acting Major of the Home Guard, took me in his Armstrong Siddeley (topped up with 'emergency' petrol) to search for one of our planes reported crashed near Burnhope. Our particular stint was to comb the woods as far west as Ragpath. This we did carrying a whistle. Later we were told it was at Burnhope reservoir in Wardale where the incident took place.

Just before the war started the children and staff of a school at Dunston were evacuated to Lanchester and Malton. The teachers at the E.P. School helped, with Council officials, to allocate individual children, single or in families, to villagers who were expected to act as foster parents. Chits for maintenance, cashable at the Post Office, were issued.

On September 3rd 1939 all the Special Constables were summoned to report and await Mr Chamberlain's announcement. "Well lads", said the Inspector, "I don't think there'll be a war". We waited till it was time to cross over and listen to the dire news. Hitler had not responded before the deadline-time. "We will be fighting evil things. A state of war now exists with Germany", the Prime Minister announced.

Within an hour of this news Lanchester like every other place in Britain, had its first air raid warning. The streets were cleared. I went home to find our neighbour, an old Scots lady sitting, wrapped in a blanket on the settee. It was eventually disclosed that the nation-wide warning was due to the sighting of a flock of seagulls crossing the Channel. One never knew what to expect.

The evacuees did not stay very long and eventually went back to Tyneside. Before they did we took them down to church for a service. Back in the classroom one of them looking truly puzzled came to me, "Sor, he began, whe's this fella God he's been gannen on about?"

His Majesty's Inspectors called from time to time: about a third of the children were 'Cottage Homes'. One H.M.I. flattered the staff by his parting remark, "This is missionary work".

But the H.M.I. who really had the staff, as it were, hopping, was the one who borrowed what was cryptically known as 'the silver key', available by application to the Infants' Teacher for opening the Teachers' toilet, an outhouse next to the coalhouse, between the boys' yard and the girls' yard. He left for Durham taking the key with him.

I am indebted to my wife who sampled many a cup of the war-time brew mentioned in the following story. During the emergency there was a shortage of new teapots. A broken spout could be replaced with a rubber one. The two girls who helped to make the tea for the teachers at playtime, came in one morning in tears, "P-please miss the teapot spout's gone down the toilet and we can't get it". "Never mind", said the teacher, "we'll get a new spout". More tears. "Please miss every other time we lost it down the toilet, we always managed to get it back".

Soldiers were billeted in the school hall, their officers in the Queens Head. L.D.V.s armed with staves guarded the front entrance of the school. At night time sentries were posted at the school corner and occasionally challenged passers by "Halt, who goes there". "Friend". "Advance to be recognised". I once asked the sentry what he would do if the order were ignored. "Fire" he said.

Old Mr Robson was one of the few untroubled by the blackout. He was blind but would often guide home the W.V.S. volunteers who happened to live in Durham Road, where he did. I once asked him how he knew where he was. He said he could sense the presence of people and objects in his vicinity by detecting a change in the air moving across his cheeks and through the gaps between trees and buildings.

Towards the end of 1940, I had a good view of the Fire of London whilst fire-watching, with stirrup pump at the ready, on the roof top of Air Ministry Unit, just off the Tottenham Court Road. The City area was aflame. I shall never forget the hysterical twitterings of sparrows and starlings chiding humanity from their roost on the dome and colonnades of St Paul's. Many familiar landmarks in the Strand, including our Signals School in Pudding Lane, were reduced to rubble.

Of all the Roman villages north of York on Dere Street that led to the Wall, Lanchester is probably the one that has changed most after the war. One is tempted to think in general and particular terms of Before and After and the consequences of: the closing of the railway station; the conversion of the railway track to Langley Park into a ramblers' walk; pit closures; new drifts; the many opencast sites giving cheaper coal and what the farmers termed 'black farming'; the building and subsequent closure of the Siris factory, at the Warrior Bridge end of Durham Road, with its plaque over its entrance with the legend - NEW YORK, TORONTO AND LANCHESTER. (In its heyday Durham Road was alive with the footsteps and chatter of the Siris girls as they walked to and from work). Ransome & Marles before and after closure; Consett as a flourishing Iron Works, its decline and final obliteration from our northern landscape; the building of County Hall and the Headquarters of the Post Office Savings Bank; the diversion of the Smallhope Burn when the by-pass was built through the Haughs; the building of three post-war schools; the closing of the Senior School on the Green built in the late thirties; the building of new housing estates; and increase in population.

Visitors to Lanchester enjoy finding out what its older buildings and houses have to tell about its past. The stocks, once used on Lanchester Common have disappeared. The approach from the north, through the spacious green Haughs, prepares one for a glimpse of the handsome houses that grace the site of the medieval Deanery glebe. Deanery Farm is now renovated and inhabited. The Norman Church over 840 years old still flourishes, untouched. Viewed from the southeast its exterior looks stalwart and dignified. On windy days its tower, battlemented nave and long chancel take on the appearance of a dreadnought about to sail into battle.

From the northeast angle the view is cluttered with the foliage and branches of trees planted many many years ago.

The interior with its splendid arch cannot be faulted. The chancel architecture, particularly on a sunny morning, when the airy spaces between its three walls come alive, shines with a rare light. Here it is peaceful and cool on a hot day. Old buildings seem to listen in to what genuine visitors and intruders are thinking. If the headless carving on the tympanum could speak it might tell us why it was mutilated.

All the seven approaches to Lanchester are interesting. There are no dreary suburbs to traverse. The estates are self-contained, not thoroughfares to a neighbouring town. Before I came here the Durham road from Kaysburn to Lanchester was a winding country lane, until it was straightened out and shored up. Formerly our village was reached via Kaysburn, Burnhope and Peth Bank. This road would pass Langley Hall which still stands in ruins hidden by a dense wood of yew and pine. It was built by Henry Scrope in the sixteenth century on land granted to a steward of William the First. Henry Scrope came from Castle Bolton in North Yorkshire. Its ruined fireplace and the corbels, with their blank shields on the gable end of the great hall, I used to find interesting to draw. They were fascinating by moonlight when I prepared to cycle home. Langley Hall belonged to the Earl of Durham. I was told that Edward VII used to shoot thereabouts with the Lambtons, and was regaled in one of the pantile-roofed cottages on that road, now demolished. Lady Ann Lambton gave a trophy for Durham Regatta.

When I bought 1 West View, I noticed on the deeds that the land had formerly belonged to the Earl of Durham. We had a small garden, and one autumn I seem to remember, since there were no wheelie bins then for the disposal of garden rubbish, wondering whether to transport mine to the weed-grown dyke-backs of my old haunts, and return to the Earl of Durham some of his former earth and the fruits thereof.

The Romans and their Suebian cavalry no doubt swore at the cold winds blowing across Humber Hill and noticed the ever changing skies and the light playing across our dramatic country landscape. Being tough they hunted hereabout and in the wilds of Weardale where did the Bishops of Durham.

Most of the farms are on the surrounding hills. Some lie in the valley of the Browney, the Stockerley Beck and Smallhope Burn that flows partly unseen through the village.

One of the first things I learnt on coming here were the attractive names of the farms where many of the E.P. school children had their homes:

Esp Green, Low Town, Newhouse, Newbiggin, Margery Flatt,
Crowhall, Fenhall, Moor Leazes, Peth House, Manor House,
High Burnhopeside, Low Meadows, The Lizards, Langley House,
Langley West, Deanery Farm, Upper Houses, Hollinside Hall,
Colepike, Square House, Greenwell, Throstle Nest, Middlewood,
Broadwood, Bargate, Holly Bush, Low Mill.

A typical countryman I particularly remember was Mr Howden who lived at Hollinside. He had a patient horse and a high-wheeled cart and was often to be seen moving along the country lanes.

I think of him whenever I read "Stopping by woods on a snowy evening" by Robert Frost. Here are the last two verses:

He gives his harness bells a shake,
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Eric Micklethwait

THE WHITES AND WOODLANDS

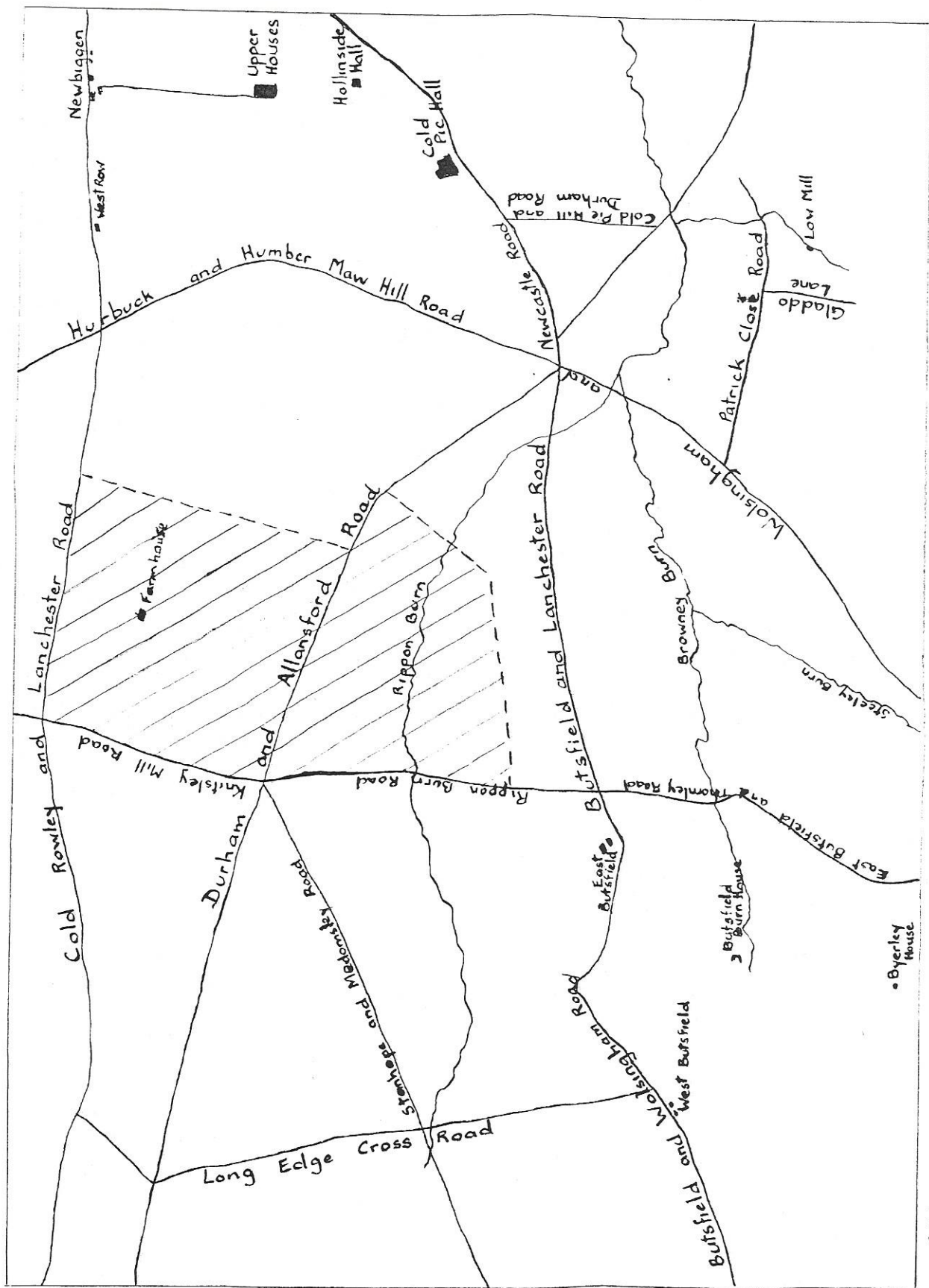
Thomas White senior was born about 1736. His birthplace and background are unknown but he is thought to have started his career as a landscape gardener in Dublin. He was living in Tickhill in Yorkshire in 1764 and in Retford in Nottinghamshire in 1773 when an Enclosure Act was obtained from parliament enabling the division of some 16,000 acres of the Lanchester Common between the lord of the manor, the Bishop of Durham, and his freehold and copyhold tenants.

Thomas White was probably familiar with this area for he had worked on plans for the improvement of the grounds at Lumley and Raby Castles. In 1773 he was looking for a large area of indifferent land on which to put into operation his afforestation schemes. Observation and experience had shown him that tree planting was profitable provided it was done on a scale large enough to ensure protection for the young trees and to minimise the cost of enclosing the land. Moreover the coal and lead mines of County Durham could be expected to provide a good market for the sale of timber, now that tenants were to be free to dispose of the trees on their land as they pleased.

The Commissioners appointed to administer the awards were also empowered to sell parcels of land to defray the expenses of enclosure such as procuring the Act of Parliament and the laying down of roads. Thomas White was one of the principal buyers of such land. He bought 227¼ acres between Knitsley and Butsfield, free of tithe for £260. This was not the 1,000 acres he had hoped to acquire, but he bought a further 300 acres which the Commissioners offered for sale to provide a fund to indemnify the allotment owners for damage which they might suffer due to the mine workings of the Bishopric beneath their land. For these acres and the few buildings thereon White paid £400 and bore the cost in 1779, of procuring the necessary Act of Parliament. He and his heirs were also to pay a perpetual charge of two shillings per acre (i.e. £30) per year, a charge which was collected from all subsequent owners until 1970 when it was discharged by a final payment of £300.

These adjacent parcels of land lying three miles west of Lanchester were covered with heather, fern, broom and poor grass and with rushes in the wetter places. The high parts were barren and channelled by water with grit stone rock only inches below the surface. Lower down the slope the soil was better but lacked drainage. As the Reverend John Hodgson described it in his poem 'Woodlands' published in 1807:

Nothing but heath agrostis, hardy plant
And rush, delighting in the foulest swamps
Covered the spot...



ENCLOSURE AWARD 1801 showing Thomas White's allotment in LANCHESTER COMMON

In 1776 Thomas White enclosed his original purchase of 227 acres with a six feet stone wall and built a few cottages for his workpeople. He began to prepare the land for planting. In the wet areas, he directed the streams through stone conduits laid below the surface. The heather was burnt off and the ashes dug into the ground. He used oxen to break up the land, the first man in these parts to harness oxen to ploughs, harrows and carts. White favoured mixed planting because the intermixture of species was visually pleasing and it allowed the different species to make maximum use of varying depths of soil. In the autumn of 1776 he began to plant the higher ground with larch, fir and mountain ash, hardy trees, natives of mountainous countries. To help the young trees to establish themselves, they were planted out when only eighteen inches high and at two feet intervals to provide shelter for each other.

In Spring 1777 he planted the lower, deeper land with oak, ash, elm, sycamore, beech and plane, more permanent trees, which after cutting would sprout from the root. The moist ground was planted with alder, poplar and willow. All these were planted at a proper distance apart to make a good timber wood. Between them he planted the fast growing mountain types to provide shelter for the slow growing wood and an earlier profit for himself.

By 1780 the planting of the first 227 acres was complete and he turned his attention to the other 300-acre allotment which he walled and in which he planned to site his residence. By 1786 his improvements were complete; he had weathered some bad seasons, made good his failures and re-stocked his nursery. He was able to say that of his 527 acres there was not a square yard that was not occupied by some useful or ornamental plant and that he had planted or re-planted over four million trees including thousands of shrubs and plants to delight the eye and provide food for birds.

His achievement was recognised by the Society for Arts and Science by the award of ten medals: six in 1778 for planting respectively 10,400 Lombardy poplars, 13,000 larch, 100,000 Scotch firs, 15,000 spruce, 3,000 silver fir and two and a half acres of plane: another two medals in 1779 for 7,000 Norfolk willow and 35 acres of ash; one in 1786 for 10,000 English elm and another in 1787 for 37,230 alders and a silver medal in 1788 for planting 50,000 oaks. White had set aside three acres for a nursery on his estate, but the four million trees which he planted makes one speculate about the number and location of the nurseries required to supply the demand for trees for the upsurge in landscape gardening and

Woodlands Hall and grounds.



the hedges needed for enclosure in the eighteenth century. Thomas White in his scientific approach to afforestation and enhancement of the landscape justifies his description as a pioneer arboriculturist.

Together with his son Thomas White continued to follow his profession of planting woods for other estate owners notably in Yorkshire and Scotland for which he charged £4 an acre rising to £6 as labour costs increased. His own plantation was left in the charge of his bailiff Mr John West. For the first twenty five years there was little profit from this plantation. After ten years the thinnings were only suitable for broom shanks and after fifteen years for corfe baskets and crates but they paid his expenses and some of the original costs of planting. After twenty five years larches suitable for spars and joists were selling at eighteen pence a cubic foot and five years later sold for pit props and clog soles at two shillings per cubic foot. It was his heirs who reaped the benefit of his foresight. In 1820 his larch and fir woods were valued at £40,000. Mr William Greenwell said that his heirs received £15,000 from the annual felling of timber from the estate.

In 1786 he and his family came to live in the large stone house which he had built on an elevated site in the midst of the fir plantations. The two-storied Georgian mansion built of sandstone with Tuscan porch and roofed in slate was surrounded by gardens and orchards and faced east overlooking lawns and four small lakes which he fed by making use of the Roman aqueduct nearby. In the words of the Reverend Hodgson:

See from the heaving bosom of that grove,
How modestly the mansion raises up
Its roof of sober blue...
Deep in the unruffled bosom of the lake
In simple elegance the front is seen,
..... o'erhung
With loftier trees, the rural buildings throw
Their sunny roof impendent o'er the sky.

The name Woodlands which he gave to his estate seems self-explanatory but was said to derive from Lucan in Ireland where a family called White had a house of that name. Could this point to the roots of Thomas White himself?

Thomas White died on 27th July 1811 and was buried in Lanchester churchyard. His obituary in the Newcastle Courant began:

Died 27th July Thomas White Esq., of Woodlands, designer of grounds, whose exquisite taste and skill in his profession and convivial and pleasing manners will long be remembered by his numerous friends and employers: and his beautiful residence, formed by his industrious hand from a bed of heath will be a lasting testimony of his enterprising and perservering spirit.

It seems likely that his wife had died before he settled at Woodlands. His son, Thomas White II had made his home at the Hall with his wife Elizabeth whom he had married in Lanchester Church in 1799. She was the daughter of Robert Surtees of Cronywell and Anne Greenwell of Ford who resided at Upper Houses. It was Elizabeth who encouraged the friendship between the Whites and the Reverend John Hodgson, the young Lanchester schoolmaster, poet and antiquary.

As previously mentioned, he was associated in business with his father and in 1813 he gave an account to the Society for Arts and Science of his father's method of managing and thinning out the woods. He himself received a lesser gold medal for his successful experiments in substituting larch bark for oak bark in tanning leather. He died in September 1836 aged 72 and was buried at Lanchester near his wife who had pre-deceased him.

With his death the connection of the Whites with Woodlands began to disintegrate, even though Thomas White II had four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, also Thomas White, went into the church and received the household goods and furniture as his portion by his father's will. His second son, John Surtees, was an attorney and emigrated to Australia as did his son Robert, an architect. The youngest son was a merchant sailor, probably unmarried and perhaps out of favour because by his father's will he received the interest on £1,300 paid in weekly instalments. Ann, his unmarried daughter received all the household silver and the gold and silver medals, but the estate, by then about 800 acres went to his son-in-law Robert Wilkinson, a Bedfordshire solicitor with local connections, husband of his daughter Mary.

In the 1840s Wilkinson sold the estate to Mr John Smith of Wester Hall, Northumberland who in turn sold it to Mr Jonathan Richardson for £8,000. The latter improved and enlarged the estate. He died in 1871 and when the property, now over 2,000 acres of arable, pasture and woodlands, the Hall and Sheepwalks and Eliza farms were put up for sale in 1872 it

was bought for £18,000 by Mr Van Haansbergen, a Dutch gentleman of Enfield Lodge, Newcastle. Before he died in 1921 Van Haansbergen had acquired Knitsley West Grange, three farms at West Butsfield, the Hythe and Satley Grange farms, Steeley farm and Butsfield Burn farm. He was not married and when he died the estate was broken up. He left Byerley farm and Red Houses to Edward Craggs, his bailiff, but the bulk of the estate was left to Miss Annie Turnbull. However most of the farms were heavily mortgaged and Miss Turnbull's trustees put up 1,145 acres of the outlying area for sale by auction in 1922. The sale realised £22,005, half the property being bought by the Consett Iron Company. Miss Turnbull sold Woodlands in 1935 to Mr Saddler, a timber merchant who cut down most of the trees. After the war in 1946 Mr Steele senior rented and later bought the Hall and farm, cleared the stumps and Woodlands reverted to pasture.

In 1988 the Hall and grounds were sold and await a new development. The Georgian house with its walled garden and former cottages rather dilapidated now still retains its charm, while the ornamental lakes, the flowering shrubs and the remaining oaks and beeches testify to the vision of Thomas White senior.

E.L. Thornborrow

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THE ANGLO-SAXON SETTLEMENT OF NORTH-WEST DURHAM

The Anglian settlement of North East England began later than elsewhere. There had been early incursions by raiding bands but it is thought that the capture of the British fortress of Dinguarde (Bamburgh) in 547 A.D. marked the beginning of the permanent colonization. But it was only after the decisive defeat of the British in 603 that colonization was able to spread from this North Eastern nucleus. Since this did not precede the Christian Mission of St Aidan (635) by many years there is little archeological evidence from pagan graves. Place names and documentary evidence provide a clearer indication of the progress of the colonization.

It is generally agreed that place names ending in -ing and -ingham are indicative of early Anglo-Saxon settlement. The frequency of these in Northumberland and along the Tyne valley compared with the dearth in Durham County suggest that the early invaders used the same roads of ingress as had the earlier Beaker and Iron Age Folk, and had shunned the inhospitable cliff coast of Durham. Penetration from Northumberland took place along the Tyne valley and initially the lands to the south were shunned. Symeon of Durham described the lands between the Tyne and the Tees in the sixth century as "a deserted waste and nothing but a hiding place for wild and woodland beasts". At first, then, the Anglian settlement showed a close parallel with the earlier invasions from the continent but the possession of better agricultural techniques, particularly the iron mould board plough, enabled the newcomers to exploit the fertility of the tree-covered boulder clays in the drift-filled valleys. Although the variable nature of the soils in the valley bottoms does not preclude the possibility that the settlers chose the lighter soils of the sands and gravels that occurred locally in the drift cover.

Colonization of the valleys of North West Durham, therefore must have been a late event. From which direction the settlers arrived is unknown but it is tempting to imagine that the establishment of the village of Lanchester may have been because Dere Street was being used by the immigrants and that the substantial ruin of Longovicium lying above the valley would have provided shelter for the Anglo-Saxon frontiersmen. The termination 'chester' was given to place names by the Anglo-Saxons because of the presence of a fortification (either Roman or British). According to tradition St Ebba founded a convent on the Derwent in 660 A.D. so Ebchester (the camp of Ebba) got its name. Lanchester is simply

translated as the long camp. It cannot be assumed that the Anglo-Saxons found the area entirely deserted for in all probability these Roman forts encouraged the settlement of the British nearby. The area cannot, however, have been more than sparsely populated.

The later Danish invasions have left their influence on place names only in South Durham where streams are known as becks and not by the Anglo-Saxon 'burn' as found in North West Durham. Place names ending in 'by', 'thorpe' and 'thwaite' are also in evidence in South Durham but absent in North West Durham. Although certain speech elements are of Scandinavian origin these are probably only borrowed, for evidence is very strong that North West Durham escaped Scandinavian occupation. It is probable, then, that the settlement of this remote area was late and slow with intermingling of British and Anglo-Saxon elements. The possibility that Ebchester remained a bridging point cannot be ruled out and if this is the case it is possible that settlement took place from Northumberland and that Dere Street was still an important route for the colonizers.

The spread of Christianity, the growth of the influence of the Church, the establishment of the Shrine of St Cuthbert and the subsequent building of the Cathedral and Monastery at Durham gave the region an orientation toward that city. It is possible that at this time the ridgeway routes along the North and South sides of the valley were developed. As we learn from Fordyce, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, these 'circuitous routes along the heights' were in use before the construction of the turnpike from Durham to Shotley Bridge, along the bottom of the Browney valley, in 1810.

The Northern rebellion against the Norman conquerors resulted in William's ravaging of the North Country and the establishment of the Prince Bishops of Durham further strengthened the position of Durham, making it a focus of civil as well as ecclesiastical authority. The Palatinate was not included in the Domesday survey but in 1183 Bishop Hugh Pudsey carried out a rental survey of the Bishopric which has come down to us as the Boldon Book, providing an indication of the settlements existing at that time. There were three kinds of villas recorded in the survey. Agricultural villas, similar to those found in the English Midlands, were found mainly in the lowlands in the southern part of the county, whilst elsewhere there were pastoral villas. In the North West of the county, however, there were forest villas which were distinguished by 'drengage', that is, service in the forest. The term 'forest vill' did not imply that the area was continuously forested but indicated that it was a hunting area for the Bishop. Later, forest villas, were to become areas outside Common Law and subject to Special Law. The Vill of Lanchester was a Forest Vill and the following entry occurs in the Boldon Book.

"In Lanchester there are 41 oxgangs, each one of 8 acres, with 20 villeins hold, and render for each oxgang 30d. and with the help of the cotmen they mow the whole meadow, and make and lead the hay, and bring the swine from pannage, and whilst they are mowing they have for once a corrody, and when they bring the swine each one has a loaf. Luilf holds there 60 acres, and renders 60s. and goes on the Bishop's errands and comes to the great hunts with one greyhound. Ulkil and Meldred hold in like manner 40 acres and render 12s.6d. and go on errands. Orm holds in one clearing 8 acres and a half and renders 2s.0d. The wife of Galfred, the parson's man holds one toft and 8 acres of the alms of the Bishop. Four cotmen hold 8 acres and render 4s.0d. The pounder holds 6 acres and has the thraves from the town of Lanchester and renders 40 hens and 300 eggs. The meadows and the cow pasture are in the hands of the Bishop. Moreover, 5 oxgangs of land in villeinage are in waste, also 18 acres which are part of the demesne. The mills render 8 marcs. And every 2 oxgangs of the villeinage find one rope at the great chase". (The total acreage would seem to have been 468 acres and the population 30×3 (a factor allowing for families) = 90).

Although the open field system of cultivation was practised in the North East of England, its extent in the County of Durham was probably limited to the south-eastern lowlands of the county, extending from the Northallerton Gap. The system in use in the foothills of the Pennines, in North West Durham, is likely to have been the Infield/Outfield system where the infield received all the manure and was constantly cultivated until soil exhaustion required it to lie fallow for a time. The large agricultural villages found in the English Midlands are consequently absent from North West Durham. Lanchester is the largest agricultural settlement but is not to be compared in size with the large villages found in the Midlands. Other agricultural settlements are today only hamlets of small clusters of eighteenth or early nineteenth century dwellings, the result of the enclosures of that time and presumably built on the sites of former less durable settlements. The landscape of the area in the early centuries of the second millenium is probably accurately described as 'oases of agriculture in a desert of forest and moorlands'. (Victoria County History of Durham).

The importance of Lanchester is shown by the entry in the Boldon Book quoted above. Other places mentioned are listed below but the written account shows them to be of lesser status than Lanchester.

Cornsay)	
Hedley)	Corneshowe et Helley
Greencroft	Grencroft
Iveston	Ivestan
Consett	Coneksheved
	'Arnold the Baker has Consett in exchange for Tursdale and renders 24s.
Heley	Heleie
Muggleswick	Muglyngwyc
Medomsley	
Holmside	Holneset

It would seem that Lanchester was the mother settlement for the Mid-Browney valley, and that the Anglo-Saxon settlers spread out from this centre and founded the outlying hamlets. Since trans-humance was the practice of the infield/outfield cultivators it is reasonable to assume that the early settlers in Lanchester took their animals to higher summer pastures. Reference to the map will show that later settlements tend to occur at higher altitudes. Huts would be erected and limited clearance would take place, and in time a permanent settlement would grow as the ground round the hut became manured by animal droppings and was cultivated. The terminations of the above place names suggest that this may have been the way in which these settlements were established. 'Side' or 'Set' is a common ending for such a settlement and 'howe' indicates a settlement on a ridge or promontory. 'Croft' means an enclosed field usually adjacent to a dwelling house and 'ley' indicates a field or clearing.

Some 200 years later Bishop Hatfield carried out a survey, circa 1382. This survey shows the great increase in the number of settlements that had taken place in the intervening years. From the list of settlements given, which has been abstracted from the survey, place name endings are highly indicative of mode of origin of the settlements. 'Side', 'Croft', 'Ley' or 'Legh', 'Howe' or 'Hough', 'Feld' or 'Field' are well represented. 'Schels' is a middle English termination meaning a temporary building or a summer hut.

The creation of these settlements and the taking in of new land should be seen in the general context of the successful medieval agricultural economy in Western Europe. The period of the Middle Ages saw a great increase of population and a consequent expansion of internal and external frontiers. It was an economy successful enough to allow the development

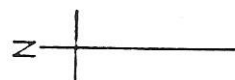
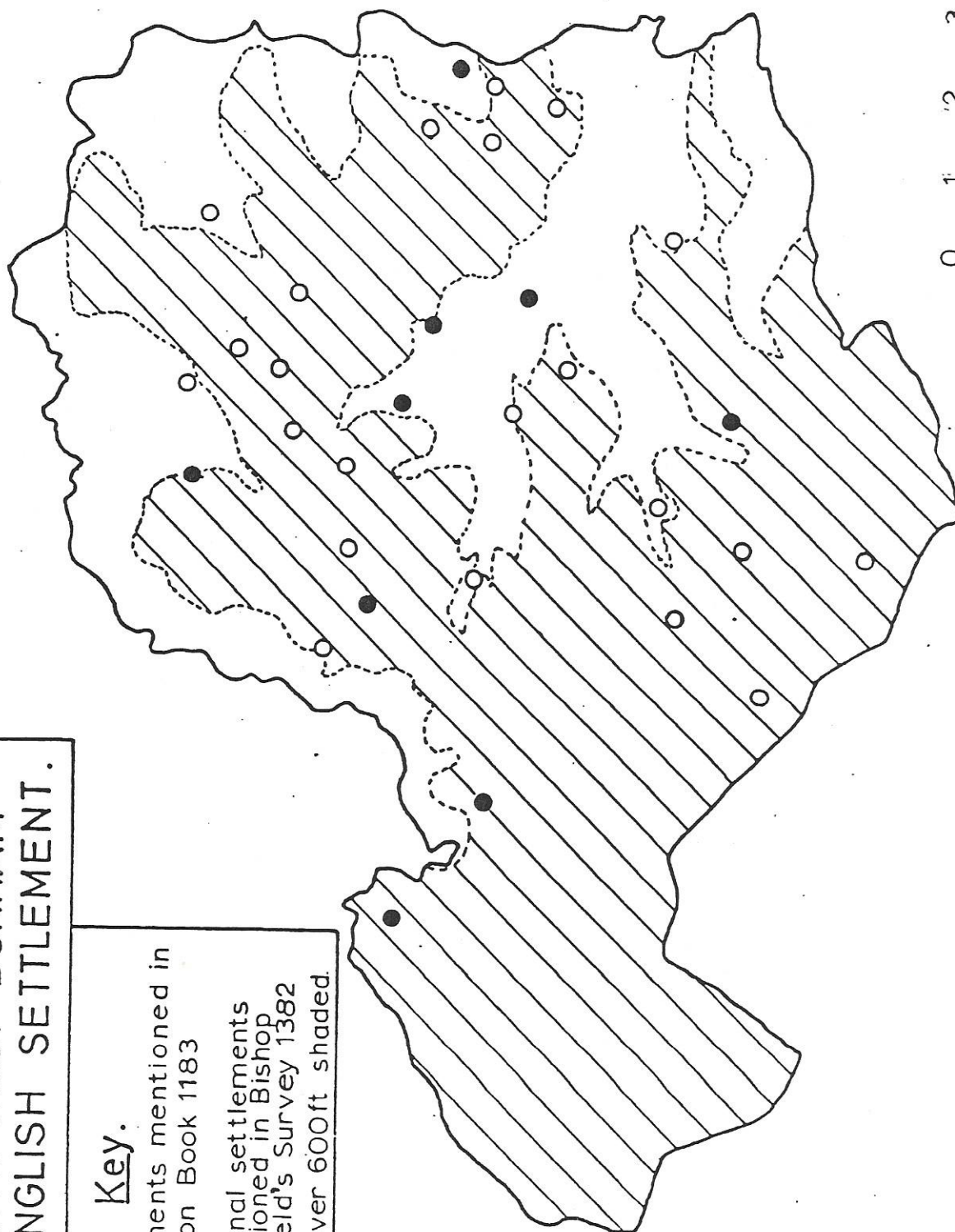
NORTH WEST DURHAM THE ENGLISH SETTLEMENT.

Key.

● Settlements mentioned in
Baldon Book 1183

○ Additional settlements
mentioned in Bishop
Hatfield's Survey 1382

Land over 600ft shaded.



0 1 2 3
miles

of a network of market towns and the building of many castles, cathedrals, monasteries and an abundance of village churches. By the middle of the fourteenth century, however, the period of expansion was over and population declined dramatically. At the end of the fourteenth century North West Durham possessed a settlement pattern that was to persist, only with minor alterations, until the eighteenth century when enclosure of the waste and industrial development set processes in motion that produced the landscape we see today.

J. Clifford

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(from 'Bishop Hatfield's Survey' Reverend Wm. Greenwell,
Surtees Society, 1857)

LANCHESTER	CORNESHOWE
HURTBUK	RUGHSYDE
BENFIELDSIDE	TAMFEDLEGH
BILLYNSYDE	WHETLEY
PONTHOP	HOLESET
BUTESFELD	OUSTRE
KYOWE	WARLANDFELD
BROMESCHELS	WESTROULEY
SATELEY	HELEY ALEYN
KNYCHELEY	CONKESHEUED
HEDLAYSIDE	COXSYDE
IVESLEYBURDON	ALEYNSCHELS
MERLEY ET HEDLEY	MEDOMESLEY
HUNTYNGHOUS	MEGGESLEY
BROME CUM LE FLASSH	DURESBLADES
IVESTANE	COLIERLEY
GRENCROFT	CROKHOGH
HAMSTEL CUM BURNHOP	MUGLISWYK

A HISTORY OF EBCHESTER

The scenic countryside of Ebchester and the Derwent Valley, has seen many colourful and moving events take place since the earliest communities were established here around 5,500 years ago. The grass covered mounds, remains of Roman buildings and the church are lasting symbols of life and death, power and persuasion. Today, you can trace some of the story of Ebchester through the surviving remnants of these societies.

The earliest known inhabitants at Ebchester were the Mesolithic people (Middle Stone Age). They settled on the north bank of the River Derwent about half a mile to the north-west of the present village. The site is located on a small plateau, about 450 feet above sea level on the elevated ground of the Heugh Wood. These people lived by farming, using stone and flint for tools and weapons. Over the years, the site has yielded numerous flints, flakes and occasional flint tools along with animal bones and pottery.

The modern village of Ebchester lies astride the site of the Roman fort Vindomora, which was established here in A.D. 80 during the advance of Agricola into Scotland. During the advance, the Roman road Dere Street was being constructed to carry much needed supplies for his army, the role of the fort being to protect the road and the river crossing over the Derwent. This road ran from north of York into Scotland and possibly crossing the Forth near Falkirk.

The fort, approximately 400 feet square and covering four acres, stands on a narrow river terrace on the steep southern slope of the Derwent Valley. The site had been selected for its excellent natural protection on the north, by the steep descent to the Derwent. The east side was protected by a ditch system. Though small by Roman standards it was garrisoned by a cohort of 500 men.

In the beginning, the fort was temporary, composed of an earth rampart protected around its perimeter by pointed stakes, accommodation would consist of hide tents and later timber buildings would be erected. There would be a timber gateway in each of the ramparts and an angle turret in each corner.

This temporary fort lasted from A.D. 80 to A.D. 125 when the Romans left and abandoned the fort. During our excavations in 1972, four periods of timber buildings were identified.

On their return in circa A.D. 160, remains of the earlier defences and buildings were removed and the erection of a permanent stone fort began. This comprised the building of a stone wall around the fort; gateways, angle turrets and all internal buildings were rebuilt in stone. The excavations of 1972 revealed three phases of stone buildings and also that the fort occupation appeared to terminate at the end of the fourth century.

Little is known of the garrison at Ebchester though there is the usual evidence of legionary activity. The earliest fort belonging to the Agricoltian period, may well have been constructed by units of the Legion 9th Hispana. From stamped roof tiles and inscribed altars, we know that the Legion 6th Victrix were involved in the second century reconstruction. A number of stamped roof tiles by the fourth cohort Breucorum, a unit which was raised in the area covered by present day Hungary, garrisoned Ebchester under Caracalla or Elegabalus and that the probably remained there throughout the third century.

Visitors to the site may inspect the remains of the fourth century Commandant's Bath House, also the site museum, which contains plans and material recovered from the excavations. Further material may be seen in the porch of the church of St Ebba. (Key for the site museum may be obtained from Mr Dodds at Mains Farm).

After the departure of the Romans at the turn of the fourth century, the history of the village becomes obscure. There is no doubt that the Roman road Dere Street would remain in use long after the Romans left, and indeed today vast tracts of the road still underlie the modern road to the north. In view of this, there would still be a role for the village to play, for travellers moving north and south, who would require a staging post for an overnight stop.

The first church at Ebchester was built between A.D. 1090 - 1100 at the request of Bishop Pudsey of Durham. This church, St Ebba, stands in the south-western corner of the Roman fort and is largely built of stones removed from the remains of Roman buildings. Though the present church was rebuilt in 1876, it still retains at least two of the original Norman windows, with deep internal splays and slit-like windows set in thick walls. The original altar, with its consecration crosses, still lies beneath its successor.

Little is known of the early history of the church, however two priests who served at St Ebba's became Priors of Durham. The first, William of

Ebchester, was a Benedictine monk who was appointed Prior to Durham on June 30th 1446. He held office for ten years, dying shortly after his resignation in 1456. He is buried in Durham Cathedral under a marble stone, in the south aisle of the middle transept, before the altar of the Holy Virgin. He was the author of a beautifully illuminated obituary roll. Little information is known of the second of St Ebba's clergy, one Robert of Ebchester, Prior of Durham 1478 - 1484.

It is interesting to note that for some 800 years, the village of Ebchester was owned and influenced by the Sherburn Hospital. The Sherburn Hospital is situated some two miles from Durham and was established as a house of lepers in the twelfth century, by a Charter of Bishop Pudsey dating between 1181 and 1186. Records of this influence are now obscure, but at the present time the hospital still retains a small portion of the village.

At this time, the church would be the centre of the village community, so it is no surprise to find the remains of the older part of the village in close proximity to the church, although these only date to the turn of the seventeenth century.

A brochure of Ebchester's history barely skims the surface of the period of its existence, and therefore if the reader wishes to delve deeper, one must turn to the writings of the earlier historians.

In closing it must be said that Ebchester has now returned to its peaceful village image, a home for commuters to Newcastle, Consett and Durham, and a venue for tourists. The latter are being catered for by the various places of interest being highlighted on new notice boards and brochures, including the new English Heritage Site and the Derwentcote Steel Furnace, which was built in 1753 and is at present being excavated and restored, before being presented for public inspection.

To assist visitors to the area to make the most of their stay, a new Tourist Information Office and Heritage Centre is open seven days a week at Shotley Bridge.

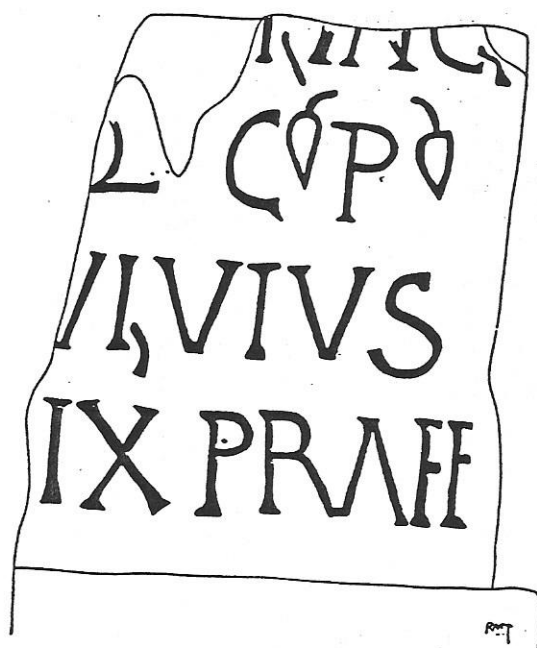
Alan H. Reed

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A Roman Altar from the Fort at Lanchester.



Lanchester, Co. Durham: inscribed altar.

Scale 1:4

(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin.)

A ROMAN ALTAR FROM THE FORT AT LANCHESTER

In October 1986 Nicholas Greenwell, whose family has owned the site of the Roman fort at Lanchester (Longovicium) for many years, ploughed up an inscribed mass of local buff sandstone measuring 0.35 by 0.62 by 0.45m. It is the base and die of a Roman altar made, as usual, in the form of a square pillar; the capital, on which incense would have been burnt, is lost, and likewise the left-hand portion of the inscribed die. But thousands of other Roman inscriptions survive from all over the Empire, and by using what they tell us, it is possible to recover almost all the text from Lanchester, and to interpret it. As it happens, the most important piece of evidence comes from another broken inscription, found in what is now Tunisia.

The text is cut, like that of most Roman 'monumental' inscriptions, in the capital letters from which our own are directly descended. To read it, therefore, is not particularly difficult, granted that the 'G' and 'L' are both closer to Roman handwriting than capitals, and that the Romans used pear-shaped 'leaf stops' to indicate abbreviation. The literal reading is this, the square brackets indicating where something has been lost:

[]
 []LING
 []Q[]C.P.
 []VLVVS
 []IXPRAEF

The Romans, like ourselves, used abbreviations which can puzzle the uninitiated. The most obvious is 'C.P.' for c(ui) p(raeest), 'commanded by', a standard phrase in the texts of altars dedicated by a military unit and its commanding officer. This might be on 3 January, when the Roman state and its agencies, especially military units, made promises (vota) to the gods to secure their favour for the coming year, and redeemed last year's promises by sacrificing animals and incidentally providing butcher's meat. The principal god to whom such dedications were made was Jupiter, and his presence here is confirmed by an eight-spoked wheel carved in high relief on one side of the altar; the symbol is found on other altars dedicated to Jupiter by military units in Britain. The god's name and titles are regularly abbreviated to 'I.O.M.', I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo), 'To Jupiter Best and Greatest', and this can be supplied as the missing first line of the Lanchester inscription.

The text would continue with the names of the military unit and its commanding officer. Fortunately enough survives of the second line to be sure that the unit was 'Lingones', in fact the First Cohort of Lingones, which we already know from other inscriptions, was the third-century garrison of Lanchester. This was an auxiliary unit raised originally from the tribe whose name survives in 'Langres' in eastern France, commanded of course by Roman officers, which by the third century would have been recruited locally in northern Britain. Another inscription, from a second-century posting at High Rochester, tells us that it was equitata, a combination of infantry and cavalry. (Its nominal strength would have been 480 infantry and 120 mounted men). Thus the formal title of the unit was Cohors prima Lingonum equitata, regularly abbreviated to 'Coh. I Lingonum eq.', which fits perfectly into the second and third lines. (There was a 'leaf stop' after 'Q', and we will see in a moment that only two or three letters have been lost from lines 3-5).

The altar was therefore a dedication by Jupiter by the First Cohort of Lingones commanded by ... whom? The commanding officer of such a unit was a praefectus ('prefect'), regularly abbreviated to 'praef.', which can duly be seen at the end of the text. What remains, in lines 4 and 5, must be the man's name. He would be a member of the 'equestrian' aristocracy, defined by free birth and the ownership of property to the value of 100,000 denarii. It is impossible to 'translate' ancient sums of money, but this would have been a fortune restricted to a tiny minority: in the second century, before inflation became serious, it would have been enough to feed and pay the cohort for a year. (What would a battalion of the British army cost today?). The man would have been a landowner, a member of the ruling class of one of the Empire's cities, embarking on a public career. He would also have borne the usual three names of a Roman citizen, the praenomen ('forename', abbreviated to a single letter), the nomen (his inherited family name), and the cognomen his distinguishing name within the family), in that order. The latter therefore ends in -ix, and fortunately there is only one possibility, Felix ('happy'). This incidentally establishes the width of the missing portion to the left, two or three letters. The nomen in line 4 therefore ended in -ulvius (the Romans used the same letter for the vowel 'u' and the consonant 'v') and, if we allow for the missing half of the first 'V' and the missing praenomen, only one letter has been lost. There are two possibilities, 'Fulvius' and 'Mulvius'. Since there are c. 400 instances of 'Fulvius'

in inscriptions to c. 25 of 'Mulvius', the odds are on 'Fulvius'. The prefect's name was thus 'Fulvius Felix' (there is no knowing his praenomen), and the text of his altar can be almost entirely restored:

[I . O . M .]
 [COH I] LING
 [E] Q [.] C . P .
 [. F] V L V I V S
 [F E L] I X P R A E F

[I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo)] | [Coh(ors) (prima)] Ling(onum) | [e]q(uitata) c(ui) p(raeest) | [.] [F]ulvius | [F]elix praef(ectus). 'To Jupiter Best and Greatest, (from) the First Cohort of Lingones part-mounted, commanded by Fulvius Felix, prefect.'

The name 'Fulvius Felix' is not particularly distinctive, but is just enough to identify him. As we have seen, the nomen 'Fulvius' is common; 3,542 instances of 'Felix' have been recorded, 1,238 of them in the African provinces, where 'Fulvius' is also well attested. It now becomes possible to narrow the inquiry. Nine instances of 'Fulvius Felix' are known from the city of Rome, none of them a man of equestrian rank. Elsewhere in the Empire there seem to be only two instances, one in a small Italian town north of Rome, the other in a provincial African city called Mustis. (The name survives in the modern 'Henchir Mest', otherwise known as Le Khrib in Western Tunisia). This man was called Gaius Fulvius Felix, and we know that he was a native of Mustis. He was not our prefect, since his tombstone records only that he died at the age of 65, but he is likely to have been a kinsman of a family revealed by another inscription from Mustis. This is a fragmentary dedication in honour of a third-century emperor, probably Elagabalus (218-22), erected by a lady of the local aristocracy and her two sons. The elder was called Lucius Fulvius Kastus, advocatus fisci, a barrister in the public service, from whom we know that the family was called 'Fulvius' and enjoyed equestrian rank. The name of the younger son has been lost, but enough survives of the inscription to know that he held an equestrian military command in Lower Britain. (The Roman province of Britain was divided into two in the early third century; the 'Lower' province had its capital at York and contained Hadrian's Wall and its hinterland forts, including Lanchester). There have been other attempts to identify this young man and his command, but they have been only intelligent guesses. The Lanchester altar now provides

a 'Fulvius' who held an appropriate command in the right province at the right time, a 'Fulvius' who even bore a cognomen ('Felix') found in combination with it at Mustis. The identification seems as certain as these things can be.

This altar solves a small problem in the epigraphy of Roman Africa. It also attests the Lingones at Lanchester in the reign of Elagabalus (218-22). The other inscriptions already mentioned belong to the reign of Gordian III (238-44), and have sometimes been taken as evidence that Lanchester was being re-occupied after many years, perhaps half a century, of disuse. They can now be seen instead as evidence of necessary maintenance work, or perhaps of its past neglect, by a garrison which had already been there for at least twenty years. Finally, this altar is one more scrap of evidence of the cosmopolitan recruitment of the Roman imperial ruling class. It poses an unanswerable question. Fulvius Felix was a rich young man from a Mediterranean province, a popular tourist resort for north Europeans in our own day. Whatever did he think, when his long journey was over, and he stood on the windy hilltop of Longovicium for the first time?

R.S.O. Tomlin

Langley Hall is an early Tudor Manor House in the County of Durham built by Sir Henry le Scrope, Seventh Lord Scrope of Bolton, Yorkshire, and is situated approximately five miles North West of Durham City. The Hall can be reached by travelling on the A691 to Lanchester. Approximately one mile after leaving the village of Witton Gilbert there is an unclassified road leading to the village of Burnhope. The Hall can be found on the edge of a small wood three-quarters of a mile from the junction with the A691, on Ordnance Survey, sheet 88, 1976 series, Grid Reference NZ 211466.

It is situated on the Eastern slope of the Findon range of hills and has been for many years a ruin, but when it was occupied it must have been a magnificent building.

At a very early period, probably in the latter part of the twelfth century, one Robert de Langeleye gave to "God and Saint Cuthbert, and the Prior and Monks of Durham in pure and perpetual alms, two bovates of land in the vill of Langeleye, with a toft and croft which Hugh held for him". The Witnesses to this charter were:- Leone the Sheriff, Joraano Escolland, Gilbert de Seia, William de Lumley, Roger de Kimilsworth, Roger Heplindene.

One of the above, Joraano Escolland, was a witness to a Charter of Bishop Pudsey (Puiset) concerning land in Norham, Northumberland, and in the County of Durham. This gives an approximate date.

When Bishop Pudsey caused the survey of his Diocese to be made, it is recorded in the Boldon Book that Langeleye was held by, "Arco le Dispenser, a Steward, for the service he performed to Henry of happy memory, Bishop of Winchester, as for that which he rendered to Hugh (Pudsey) Bishop of Durham, a moiety of which the said Lord Bishop bought with his own money, and gave to the said Arco with the service of the moiety, and he renders thence half a mark".

When Arco le Dispenser died the estate reverted to the See of Durham, and on April 26th 1232 there was a Royal Grant to Peter Saracenus, a Frenchman, granting the vills of Langeleye and Yiggeleye and 30 acres of land in Cherlawe. Archdeacon of Durham, Henry de Gray and the said Peter regularly had and held, rendering to the Bishop of Durham yearly for the vill of Langeleye half a mark, and for other lands five shillings at the four terms in the Bishop's Palace at Durham, and the said Peter was to hold these lands for ever".

Witnesses were:- Bishop Joceline of Bath, Bishop William of Carlisle, Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, Richard de Argent, Geoffrey Despenser, Ralph Terrel. The Charter was given by Ralph, Bishop of Chichester, Chancellor at Westminster.

A few years later there was a grant by Peter Saracenus to Master William de Kylkenny, "For 240 Silver marks the said William de Kylkenny held all Peter's lands in the Manor of Langeleye between Tyne and Tees. Peter grants that William may have and hold all the said land with everything belonging in demesne, villein-tenure, homage, services, rents, reliefs, wards, and escheats without reservation, for this sale Peter gives up to William 40 li which Peter receives annually at the Bishop of Durham's Exchequer".

Witnesses were:- Sir William de Cantilupus, John de Plossacus, Ralph son of Nicholas, William de Chennity, Robert Norrays, William Heir, Richard Harpy, William de Coleville, Walter de Calosclyve, Hameline de Cluny.

Prior to 1250 the Estate again changed hands, and in a grant from William de Kylkenny, Archdeacon of Coventry, to his nephew Richard de Kylkenny. It is recorded that, "The said Richard de Kylkenny was granted the Manor of Langeleye in the Bishopric of Durham which once belonged to Peter Saracenus, rendering to grantor one pair of spurs, or six pence annually at Easter for all customary charges, suits of court belonging to grantor and all other secular demands, and at the Durham Exchequer services due". Witnesses were:- Sir John de Sweres, Sir Roger de Lokynton, Sir Nicholas de Maur, Sir Robert de Shotenon, Henry de Malo, Walter de Nueport.

Before 1280 the Estate was again vested in the See of Durham, and in 1281 the Manor was granted by Bishop Robert de Insula (1274-1283) to Henry de Insula, who was probably a relative.

There were three Charters granting the Manor of Langeleye to Henry de Insula, two of the Charters granted free warren to the Manor lands, and the third Charter granting the Manor of Langeleye, with all the terms and conditions is as follows.

"To all the faithful of Christ by whom the present writing shall be seen or heard Robert by the Grace of God Bishop of Durham welcome; know you that I have given, granted and by this our present Charter confirmed to our beloved and faithful Henry de Insula for his homage and service the whole Manor of Langeleye with appurtenances which was the escheats of our Church of Durham; to have and to hold to the same Henry and his heirs or his assigns of us and our successors and the Church of Durham for ever freely, quietly, peacefully, and entirely with all the liberties and easements of the aforesaid Manor belonging; and making thereof annually to us and our successors at the Exchequer at Durham half a silver mark at the four established terms in the episcopate of Durham; and doing suit at all the Courts of

Durham; and foreign service as much as appertains to the twentieth part of a Knights fee for all other services and customs exactions and demands; we will also grant for us and our successors that the aforesaid Henry and his heirs and assigns may have right of common with all his animals and cattle in foreign meadows and pastures of us and our successors; and that they may have severally all the land belonging to the said Manor throughout the year and can enclose it if they wish; and that the same Henry and his heirs and his assigns and all his men, free and villein, may be quit of the pannage of their pigs in the forests of us and our successors; and that they may be quit of suits of our mills; and that the same Henry and his heirs and assigns can build and have at their will a mill in the said tenement and may be quit of tallages as they occur; and that they may have housebote and haybote by view of our foresters, from the woods of us and our successors; in testimony of which thing we have hereupon affixed our seal to this Charter".

Witnesses were:- Sir Robert de Neville, Gilbert Haunsard, Robert de Hilton, Wicker de Charron, Thomas de Herington, Roger de Lumley.

As a point of interest, the Manor Mill mentioned in the Charter was situated at Beechgreen, approximately half a mile South of the Hall. The Mill was fed by the Langley Burn, and a section of the Mill race, which may be original, can still be seen.

On the death of Henry de Insula the Estate was once again in the possession of the See of Durham, and on the 21st April 1310 there was an inspeximus by William, Prior of the Church and Convent of Durham of a Charter by Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham (1283-1311) granting to Sir Henry de Percy the Manor of Langeleye, and the gift received ratification from King Edward II in the same year.

The Manor remained the property of the Percy family until 1319, when a letter of Attorney dated June 30th 1319 from Robert de St Oweyn to Peter de Synnthuayt, William de Synnthuayt, John de Derlyngton, and Ellis de Stretford to deliver seisen to Sir Henry le Scrop of two parts of the Manor of Langeleye in the See of Durham. This was granted on the death of Eleanor, widow of Sir Henry de Percy, who, in an earlier Charter granted two parts of the Manor of Langeleye, in the event of her death, to Sir Henry le Scrop.

Two days later, after the letter of Attorney, on the 2nd July 1319, there was a grant from Robert de St Oweyn to Sir Henry le Scrop; "The Manor of Langeleye in the Bishopric of Durham; to hold for a term of

ten years rendering a rose at the festival of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist".

In 1328 there was a quitclaim by John de Insula, cousin and heir of Henry de Insula, to Sir Henry le Scrop, claiming his right to the Manor of Langeleye, which belonged to Henry de Insula, but John de Insula failed to obtain the Manor as there is a Charter of Lewis, Bishop of Durham, dated 4th September 1332, to Sir Henry le Scrop, of the suit Sir Henry owes the County of Durham for the Manor of Langeleye and the annual arreages of rent of seven shillings for the said Manor.

Sir Henry le Scrop died in 1366, and the Estate was granted to his son and heir Sir Richard le Scrop, later 1st Lord Scrop of Bolton, who in turn granted the Manor to his son Roger le Scrop.

On 21st March 1366 there were letters patent of Thomas, Bishop of Durham; an inspeximus of an inquisition in which it is stated that Roger le Scrop Knight, died seisen in his demesne as of fee of the Manor of Langeleye beside Witton Gilbert held of the Bishop in chief for service for a fourth part of a Knights fee; rendering annually at the four usual terms seven shillings and doing suits of court at the three principal feasts of County Durham annually; after deduction it is valued at 40 li annually in all issues; That Roger died on Monday next after the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle in the sixteenth year of the said Bishops episcopate (1361); that Richard, son of the said Roger is next heir and aged 10 years or more;

Charter given by William, Chancellor of the Bishop of Durham.

In 1366 there was a grant from Sir Richard le Scrop to his son Richard, granting the "Manor of Langeleye with a rent of ten shillings issuing annually from the manor of Esshe in the Bihsopric of Durham; to hold for Richards life rendering annually forty marks sterling; should the rent be one month in arrears, or Richard his son be promoted to any ecclesiastical benefice to the yearly value of forty marks; or marry any girl having lands or tenements to the value of forty marks; grantor may enter the Manor and retain the rent".

Witnesses were: Roger de Fulthorpe, John de Byrtley, Gilbert de Clyston, John de Bissopdale, John de Orchard of Langeleye.

Charter given at Langeleye.

In 1443 the Manor was still in the possession of the Scrop family, and on the 12th April 1443 there was another quitclaim, this was from Sir William Eure to Sir Henry le Scrop Lord of Bolton; he claimed all his right in the Manor of Langeleye and all the lands within the Bishopric of Durham which Sir Ralph Eure, his father, lately had by gift of Sir

Henry le Scrop of Bolton. Again the claim came to nothing but, in 1446 Henry le Scrop gave a lease of 40 years to Geoffrey Middleton esq; to the Manor of Langeley, with two parts of the demesne lands, remaining in the hands of Lady Margaret le Scrop, Henry's mother, as her dower, rendering annually to Henry for the manor and the demesne lands 63s.4d. sterling, and for herbage 24 shillings; on the death of Lady Margaret, Henry is to lease to Geoffrey the Manor, and three parts of the demesne lands at an annual rent of 6s.8d. sterling".

Charter given at Bolton.

The lease did not last for the full term as there was a Charter dated 24th October 1480 given by Alexander Cressenere with assent and by direction of Sir John le Scrop, Knight, Lord Scrop of Bolton to Richard le Scrop esq., and his wife Eleanor; of the Manor of Langley and a close called the Brakkes in the Bishopric of Durham, which with Richard le Scrop, Thomas le Scrop, William Marshal, and Thomas Kelsay, now deceased, he lately had by gift and feoffment of Henry, lately Lord Scrop, to hold to Richard and Eleanor and their heirs male, failing which remainder, after the death of Eleanor to Sir John le Scrop of Bolton and his heirs; Alexander appoints Thomas Smyth and Nicholas Plough to deliver seisen to Richard and Eleanor.

Richard le Scrop died in 1485 and left no issue and the Estate reverted to his father, Sir John le Scrop, 5th Lord Scrop of Bolton who died in 1498, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir Sir Henry le Scrope.

Sir Henry le Scrope was born about 1468, but after succeeding to his fathers tile and lands in 1498 he died in 1506, and was succeeded by his son and heir Henry le Scrope who became 7th Lord Scrope of Bolton on the death of his father.

The present Langley Hall was built by this nobleman between 1510 and 1513, which, as evidence seems to suggest replaced an earlier building. In the 1874 edition of the Pedigree Families of Yorkshire, it is recorded that Richard le Scrope, second son of Sir Henry le Scrope, 4th Lord Scrope of Bolton was the owner of Langley Castle in the County of Durham, also Richard, 1st Lord Scrope of Bolton granted the Manor of Langley to his son in a Charter dated 31st October 1366.

When Sir Henry le Scrope died in 1533, he was succeeded by his eldest son John, who was in the possession of the Langley estate until his death in 1549.

The estate remained the property of the Scrope family until the extinction of the male and legitimate heirs caused by the death of Emmanuel Scrope, 11th Lord Scrope of Bolton, Earl of Sunderland, and Lord President of the Council of the North who died in 1630, and his estates were settled on his three illegitimate daughters, Mary, Annabella, and Elizabeth.

Langley with more important estates were granted to Mary Scrope, who married Charles Powlett, Marquis of Winchester, later 1st Duke of Bolton, and remained the property of this family until William Powlett, second son of the 1st Duke of Bolton sold the estate of Langley to Henry Lambton, who was Member of Parliament for the City of Durham. He was succeeded by Ralph Lambton who was the collector of customs in the Port of Sunderland, and was the brother of General John Lambton who was also Member of Parliament for the City of Durham.

The direct descendant of Henry Lambton, is the present Lord Lambton, Earl of Durham, who is the present owner of the Langley Estate...

J. K. Leary

Part II in next issue

A COPY OF THE ACT

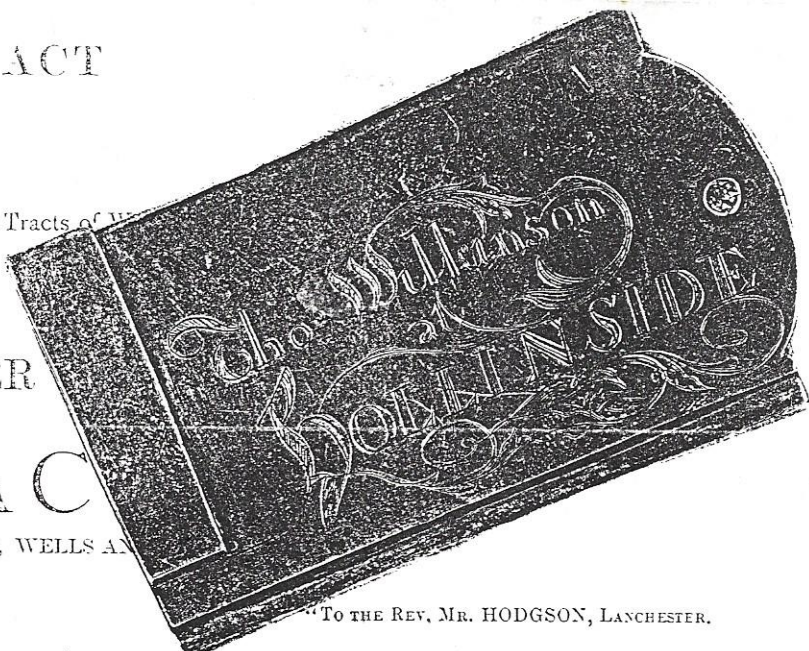
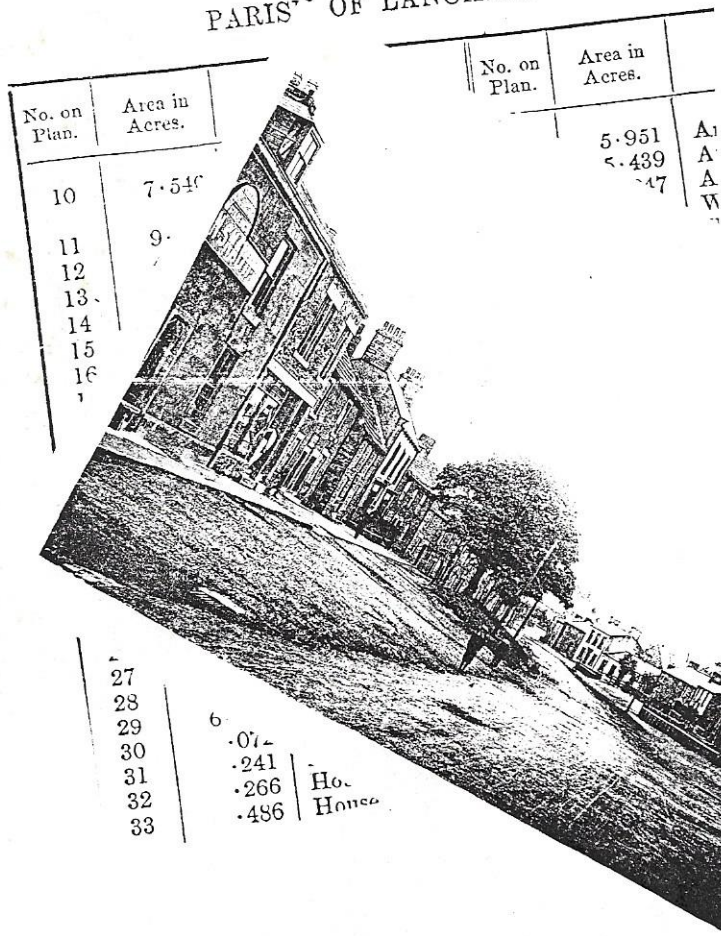
of 13th, George 3rd, 1773,

- For dividing and inclosing certain Moors, Commons, or Tracts of
- Land, within the Parish and Manor of Lanchester,
- Palatine of Durham," and called

THE LANCHESTER COMMON AC

WITH THE AWARDED ROADS, COMMON QUARRIES, WELLS AND
WATERING PLACES,

PARISH OF LANCHESTER, PART I.



"Sir,

East Morton, 5 May, 1806.

"Yours of Saturday morning was handed to me in Durham. I shall willingly give you any small information I have respecting the Roman station at Lanchester. The altar you allude to is a small votive one, and was in good preservation the last time I saw it at Hollin Hall: but since that it was in possession of the late Mr. Callender of Newcastle, who gave it, along with some other antiquities, to P. Crosthwaite of Keswick, in whose museum I suppose it still remains.

"The inscription I have not by me: it being among other old papers of mine in Gateshead; but I will seek them out, and send it you in a few days. About 18 or 20 years ago, a considerable number of Roman

inscriptions, with a stylus and other things, were found at your station.

Some of Hamsteels) got these; who tells me he gave them

to me. They are at present in the collection of Dr. Mitford.

I have a copy of their inscriptions preserved,

which was printed in the Newcastle Chronicle, at

the time. The station has been supplied with water

from a well, above Knycheley, a distance of about

one mile. Fenwick, of Dipton, and myself, traced the

course of the stream, from its head down to the west side of the station,

where it enters a reservoir. It begins about a mile to the S.W.

of the mill, near a house called Dyke Nook; where an

embankment has been thrown across the rivulet, to collect the waters of

the stream—thence skirting along the heath, till it crosses the

west side of Mr. White's woodlands, where it enters his

park, and passes on a little way south of the house, distributing

itself by the superior size of the trees, which are more numerous

than in other parts of the grounds; and then it flows

directly through the new-inclosed field, and finally

into the Hill, takes a sweep to

THE PARISH REGISTRE OF All Saints' Church, Lanchester

IN THE COUNTY AND DIOCESE OF DURHAM.

