

Chapter XI

Memorials

During his time as a County Councillor in 1890, Hardwicke met a visitor to Keswick called Miss Frances Power Cobbe. They found that they had many interests in common and became involved in fighting against the scheme to build a railway up Snowdon. He wrote letters to the press and also to people he thought would be interested enough to support the campaign. Their attempts to stop the building of the railway were dismissed out of hand and Hardwicke was described as a dreamer and faddist; his letters as sickly, sentimental dribble. Next they took it upon themselves to investigate rights of way in the Dolgelly district. Miss Cobbe also ran a campaign against vivisection, but Hardwicke did not totally agree with her, but preached care and kindness to animals in general and against the abuse of vivisection. He also spoke against the cruelty of rabbit coursing, which was popular in the district at that time. In addition he also pleaded for protection of wild birds which were being destroyed because their plumage was in demand for decorating hats, according to the custom of the day.

Miss Cobbe wrote to Hardwicke constantly and to her friends about him in glowing terms. One of her suggestions was that the faithfulness of Gough's dog should be remembered by some form of memorial. Charles Gough of Manchester, a relation of the Goughs of Ireland, who loved the Lakeland mountains, died in a hail storm when he lost his way on Striding Edge and fell six hundred feet to his death from Red Cove Crag down to Red Tarn, Helvellyn. His little Irish terrier, Foxey, stayed on watch by his body for fourteen weeks, even though she had puppies during that time, which she was not able to feed. Opinions are divided as to whether she kept herself alive by eating dead sheep or grass, probably both. When Gough's body was found, his bleached bones were still covered by his clothes but his skull was separate from

Put
in
Gough
memorial

his body.¹ As the remains were being taken for burial to the Quaker burial ground at Tirril, Thomas Clarkson² was given his pocket book and from his Disownment paper from becoming a volunteer, contained in it, was able to identify the body as that of Charles Gough.

This tragedy has been recounted in poems by Walter Scott, "The Faithful Dog"; Wordsworth's "Fidelity" and by Wordsworth's friend, Thomas Wilkinson,³ a local poet, "To the Memory of Gough".

The following words from the last named are quoted by Hardwicke and refer to the fall,⁴

"Then at his feet his weary head he laid,
Moan'd in his sleep, and till the morning stay'd,
Thus pass'd the nights; and when the rosy dawn
On Swirrel's rocks and Striden's horrors shone,
To his dead lord the faithful servant crept."

Scott's poem, "The Faithful Dog", contains these lines:-

"Nor yet quite deserted, though lonely extended,
For, faithful in death, his mute favourite attended,
The much loved remains of her master defended,
And chased the hill-fox and the ravens away."

Wordsworth's poem, "Fidelity" has the following verse,

"The Dog, which still was hovering nigh,
Repeating the same timid cry,
This Dog, had been through three months' space
A dweller in that savage place."

¹H.D.R., Literary Associations of the English Lakes, pp39-41

²Thomas Clarkson was an opponent of the slave trade and at the time of this incident lived at Eusemere by Ullswater, at Pooley Bridge

³Wilkinson born the 6 April 1751 of farming stock, lived at The Grotto in Yanwath. His only education was that given by an old dame in the next village. 1789 he wrote a Journal of a tour to the Highlands which Wordsworth borrowed when he, Dorothy and Coleridge did the same journey in 1803. It is said that this work inspired Wordsworth's poem, "The Solitary Highland Reaper"

⁴H.D.R. *ibid* pp39-40

Hardwicke loved memorials and agreed at once with her suggestion and ordered a Borrowdale slate stone from J. and J. Bromley of High Hill, Keswick, monumental masons, in 1891.

The account for the work done is as follows¹

"1891, per Rev. H.D. Rawnsley, Helvellyn. To erecting Borrowdale slate memorial and cutting and blacking inscription upon the same to the memory of Charles Gough and his dog 1805 £6-0s-0d

Conveying and fixing tablet in cairn. Wallace and Easton's horses (2) took the stone up on a low wheeled bogey. R. Coles acting as guide 5s-0d

Willie Birkett, builder, G. Birkett, labourer, W. Bromley and A. Hutchinson fixing. 3 days' expenses £2-3s-9d

Wallace on 2nd and 3rd days brought cement and sand and stones to build cairn. Gibson's account £3-3s-9d

Wallace, Hutchinson and Bromley put up at Nag's Head £1-14s-0d

Wallace's account £1-19s-0d

Total £15-5s-6d

On the 18 June 1891, which was fine and sunny, the stone was dragged up Helvellyn on a low wheeled bogey. A picture taken on that day by the Ambleside photographer, Herbert Bell, for *The Herald*² newspaper, shows five workmen with tools, a harnessed horse and Hardwicke. The cairn is in the process of being built and the stone in position, as it still is today.

A year later Hardwicke commissioned another Borrowdale stone which was to be seven feet high. The design which was in the

¹*Cumberland and Westmorland Herald*, 3/8/91, a letter giving these details from Richard Bromley Viney, son of Ashley Viney, last representative in the monumental mason's business. Died in 1957 and the company is now known as the Lakeland Stonecraft Co

²*Cumberland and Westmorland Herald* reproduced the picture on the 20 July 1991

form of an early British wayside cross was by Mrs. Rawnsley with Scandinavian knot work on the trunk. The base for the cross was of rough tooled stone with a space for the inscription which is cut under the scroll work, which says:-

"In loving memory of two Skiddaw shepherds:
Edward Hawell, of Lonscale,
Born October 21st 1815
Died June 2nd 1889

and his son

Joseph Hawell, of Lonscale,
Born December 24th 1854
Died February 20th 1891

Noted Breeders of Prize Herdwick Sheep

Great Shepherd of Thy heavenly flock,
These men have left our hill:
Their feet were on the Living Rock,
Oh, guide and bless them still.¹"

This beautiful stone was erected on Lonscale Hill on the side of the path up Skiddaw, on a flat stretch just above the Gale where it still stands.

The Hawells moved to Lonscale, an isolated farm hidden behind a spur of Lattrigg in 1869. Edward followed the family tradition of breeding fine Herdwick sheep. In 1881 he won fourteen first prizes at Keswick Show and continued this success at Ireby, Whitehaven and Kendal. One champion tup, "Lord Paramount", won forty first prizes at the Royal Show. Hill sheep farming is a hard life and Edward suffered a great deal with rheumatism and asthma. As he was dying he wished to see one of his prize rams and his sons had to struggle upstairs with a very strong and reluctant animal. On his death, aged seventy four, he was buried in Greystoke churchyard and his son Joseph continued his father's

¹H.D.R. sent an account of this memorial to the *Westmorland Gazette*, 1892. This was recalled in the Cumbrian Family History Society Newsletter of Feb 1988, under the initials C.R.H. (Roy Huddleston)

work. He planned to raise a memorial stone to his father, but died two years later, at the early age of thirty seven, before being able to complete the project. Hardwicke visited the family often and was fascinated by the great number of trophies relating to Herdwick sheep, the walls of several rooms being covered by prize cards. He also knew of Joseph's wish to honour his father with a memorial stone, so Hardwicke carried out his wish and added Joseph's name. He also wrote a sonnet for Edward, which begins,

"The sheep are bleating
 in the fell-side field
 The kine call sadly from
 the homestead near.
 But thou art far away
 thou dost not hear."

Hardwicke's interest in memorials continued throughout his life. Five years later in 1897, on a visit to Whitby, it occurred to him that England's first Christian poet, Caedmon, should have some memorial in the place where he lived and died. At once he set about making his views known and gained the support of the Rector. At a public meeting, after reminding his hearers of Caedmon's story, Hardwicke suggested that a beautiful cross should be erected to the poet's memory, near St. Mary's church. Most people were in favour of the plan, but there were some who were doubtful. They argued that perhaps the story of Caedmon was a myth and that he had never existed at all and that they would be open to ridicule if this was the case.

Hardwicke overcame these objections by promising to consult the best Anglo-Saxon scholars of that time, Professor Skeat and Professor Yorke Powell. This he did and armed with letters and information from them, he called another meeting. Doubts were dispersed and a committee formed to raise money for the project. An artist, Mr. Hodges, with antiquarian and Anglo Saxon interests agreed to draw plans and designs for the memorial.

The Bishop of Bristol, Dr. Browne, suggested that a transcript of Caedmon's first song, "The Song of Creation", in modern English and Anglo Saxon should be carved on three sides of the cross, together with panels depicting Christ giving Blessings, David playing on the harp and Abbess Hilda with Caedmon in his stable.¹ The inscription on the front was to be, "To the glory of God, and in memory of his servant, Caedmon. Fell asleep hard by A.D.680." Further designs full of symbolism were to be on the back and sides of the cross.

The money was soon gathered and when the monument was ready, Hardwicke felt that it would be most fitting for the Poet Laureate, Mr. Alfred Austin² to perform the unveiling ceremony. This he did on 21 September 1898.

As usual, Hardwicke wrote a sonnet for the occasion, ending with the words,

"Own child of Whitby's moors and waters wan,
He wrote Creation's story line by line,
And won such fame as shall not pass away."³

Punch could not let this pass without comment in the form of a poem containing the following lines:-

"But Canon Rawnsley too shall get
Full credit for his work upon it
(I never knew a subject yet
on which he didn't do a sonnet)"

Hardwicke was a great admirer of Wordsworth, so it is not surprising that he wished to establish memorials to him and members of his family. From 1881 he began working towards this end when he wrote to Professor Knight, Lord Coleridge and members of the Wordsworth Society, suggesting some form of memorial to mark the place where William parted with his

¹Reminiscent of the 2 other ancient Northern crosses of Ruthwell and Bewcastle

²1896-1913

³Rawnsley, E.F., Canon Rawnsley, p117

brother John, near the top of Grizedale Pass. Eventually, agreement was reached and in 1882 the first four lines of stanzas III and VII from Elegiac Verses, were cut into the rock at that place¹

"Here did we stop, and here looked round
While each unto himself descends
For that last thought of parting Friends
That is not to be found.

Brother and Friend, if verse of mine
Have power to make thy virtues known
Here let a monumental stone
Stand sacred as a shrine."

At the final meeting of the Wordsworth Society in 1886 Hardwicke put forward the idea of a permanent memorial to the Lake Poets in the form of a reading room, where original manuscripts, the best editions of their work, portraits and objects of interest could be kept safely for students and all interested people to use and enjoy them. He was asked to find out if there was any support for such a scheme. To his enquiries he received many sympathetic replies from people such as William Rossetti, William Morris, Thomas Woolner, Edmund Gosse, Aubrey de Vere, Charles Elliot Norton and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Four years later in 1890, Mr. Stopford Brooke and his brother managed to buy Dove Cottage by public subscription and put it in trust for the nation. Hardwicke was on the Committee of Management and then was elected as Chairman of the Trustees, which post he held for the rest of his life.

After this, Hardwicke felt that Wordsworth should be honoured in his birthplace of Cockermouth. He wrote to *The Times* newspaper on the 31 July, 1895 saying that Mrs. Harris was presenting land for a park in Cockermouth, which was to be dedicated the following week and he proposed a memorial in the form of a drinking fountain to the poet, who had described himself as, "a

¹Elegiac Verses, written in memory of Wordsworth's brother John. John was Commander of the E.I. Company's ship, Earl of Abergavenny, in which he died when it was shipwrecked on the 6 Feb 1805

simple water drinking bard." Forty six pounds had already been raised by lovers of Wordsworth, but at least double this amount was needed for a design worthy of the project. Subscriptions towards it could be sent to him or Mrs. Harris.

The money was raised and a fountain consisting of a stone basin with a graceful figure of a kneeling child pouring water from a cup, fashioned in bronze was produced.

On the 26 March, 1896 Hardwicke wrote to W.E. Gladstone in the following terms:-

"Crosthwaite Vicarage,
Keswick,

Dear Sir,

On the April 7 the birthday of the poet Wordsworth we are going to unveil a little fountain in the public park at Cockermouth within sight of the place of his birth to the memories of William and Dorothy Wordsworth. It is the first public recognition of the poet's birth in his native place - you know better than most men how much the teaching of Wordsworth has done and is doing to make men feel the sanctities of nature and of man. And I do not think that from anyone would a simple message of sympathy with the occasion be so prized as from your venerable self.

At the same time I feel that you may well have no time or inclination to send a message - Sir Wilfrid Lawson is to preside and as a student of Wordsworth I have had at the bidding of the Urban Council to unveil the little fountain on the occasion. I have the honour to ? myself with apologising for the boldness of the request.

H.D. Rawnsley¹"

¹British Library, No 132 and 133, 44522

W.E. Gladstone must have replied to Hardwicke's letter as he writes again as follows:-

"Crosthwaite Vicarage
Keswick

7th April 1896

Dear Sir

Your most interesting note of sympathy with our attempt to honour Wordsworth in his native place on the 126th anniversary of his day of birth, will I feel certain be much appreciated by the assembly on Tuesday next and I am certain that the honour you feel for this great Cumbrian poet will find an echo in many hearts. My kind friend the American Ambassador and your friend J.H. Shorthouse write most helpfully for the occasion.

I have the honour to remain with gratitude for your sympathy.

H.D. Rawnsley

I shall hope to send you some account of the proceedings. The little town of Cockermouth is excited over the event."¹

At the unveiling ceremony, Hardwicke explained that the water of the fountain, being poured by the kneeling child from a cup, symbolized,

"The perpetual stream of living thought for the healing of the nation that Wordsworth poured forth, and typifying the purity of language and the clearness of truths to which he gave utterance."²

He also read letters he had received from many people, e.g. James Martineau, James Bryce, Montagu Butler, J.H. Shorthouse and W.E. Gladstone, which expressed the influence of Wordsworth on the thought of people at that time, although Wordsworth had never

¹British Library, No 155 and 156, 44522

²E.F.R., Canon Rawnsley, p101

known that any of his works were either sold or read in Cockermonth. G.F. Watts had also written:-

"Rich as English literature is, and great as poets using the English language have been, it may be doubted if any have lifted the human heart on so strong a wing."¹

In 1908, Hardwicke was aware that the 6 August, 1909, would be the centenary of Tennyson's birth and he felt that there should be some memorial to him in his birthplace, Somersby. Hardwicke therefore began probing to discover what the general feeling in Lincolnshire was to his suggestion. The response was rather apathetic. Some said they were weary of centenaries, while others thought the time was not favourable and a few thought perhaps something should be done.

Undeterred, Hardwicke continued with his plan by having an examination of Somersby church carried out and an estimate for the cost of repairs and rejuvenation made. He then wrote to *The Times* in August 1909, setting out his suggestions for the restoration of the church and the provision of a memorial. Almost at once a Centenary Committee was formed and met in Lincoln. Hardwicke's ideas were accepted and fund raising began.

The work took two years to complete. It was a great occasion for the Parish of Somersby when on the 6 August, 1911, the church was reopened. There was a large congregation consisting of Tennyson's relatives, friends and parishioners. At the morning service the Bishop of Lincoln preached and a replica of Woolner's bust of Tennyson unveiled. In the evening, Hardwicke gave the sermon. On the following day, in lovely summer weather, parishioners and many Lincolnshire people had an enjoyable get together in a field near the rectory.

The Duke of Westminster who had supported Hardwicke in many of his activities, particularly that of founding the National Trust, of which he was the first president, died in 1899. Hardwicke keenly

¹Ibid, pp101-2

felt the loss of such a valuable supporter and friend. It is not surprising, therefore that he became one of the chief organizers of the National Memorial to the Duke, especially in the formation of a Committee, to carry out the project. Mr. Alfred Waterhouse was appointed Chairman and Hardwicke acted as one of the Honorary Secretaries. The Duchess was consulted and it was agreed that the memorial should consist of filling the Rose Window and the twelve lights below it in the south transept above Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, with better quality stained glass of more pleasing colours than existed at that time, dating back to 1840. Messrs Burbison and Grylls carried out the work with the advice of Mr. G.F. Bodley, R.A. The brass tablet placed on a level with the triforium containing the inscription to the Duke, was made in Keswick at the instigation of Hardwicke.

Ruskin died in the following year, 1900. Recalling the deep impression made on Ruskin in 1824, when he visited Friars' Crag on Derwentwater, for the first time at the age of five,¹ Hardwicke thought it was the most fitting place for some form of memorial. He set about consulting friends and lovers of Ruskin, who agreed with him. Having gained the permission of R.D. Marshall the Lord of the Manor, to place some token to the memory of Ruskin on the chosen site, a simple monument was designed. It consisted of a monolith of Borrowdale stone with a bronze medallion portrait of Ruskin on one side, with his own words inscribed beneath, "The first thing that I remember as an event in life was being taken by my nurse to the brow of Friars' Crag, on Derwentwater." On the other side is a Celtic cross with the inscription,

"The Spirit of God is around you in the air that you breathe, his glory in the light that you see, and in the fruitfulness of the earth, and the joy of its creatures. He has written for you day by day His revelation, as He has granted you day by day your daily bread."

¹On this occasion Ruskin was deeply impressed by the twining, mossy roots of the trees on Friars' Crag.

From the Deucalion.

The memorial was erected,

"... by friends and lovers of John Ruskin, to show their gratitude for that servant of God, and of the people, whose eyes were opened here first to the wonders of creation and the beauty of God's handiwork, and in the hope that it may serve to perpetuate to passers-by one of the messages of the teacher."

On a stormy day in October 1900, Mrs. Severn, Ruskin's cousin, unveiled the stone. Later, Hardwicke had replicas made of the bronze medallion, giving one to Corpus Christi College and the other to Coniston Institute.