

Chapter XII

The National Trust

With the development of travel, due to the expansion of railways in Victorian times, it became possible for many more people to visit remote, beautiful, unspoilt and interesting places, which had previously been inaccessible to them. Delightful and refreshing as this was, especially for people living and working in manufacturing and industrial areas, the way was also open for the destruction, indiscriminate development and exploitation of these hitherto secluded areas.

Already in existence was the Commons Preservation Society,¹ which came into being for the preservation of open spaces and common rights which were in danger of being lost to the public through building and agricultural enterprises and expansion. A leading figure in this movement was George John Shaw Lefevre who later became Lord Eversley. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, becoming a barrister at the Inner Temple and M.P. for Reading in 1863. He became the First Commissioner of Works, which enabled him to give the public access to several of London's once privately owned open spaces.

Eventually through the efforts of Octavia Hill, the housing reformer and Sir Robert Hunter, the solicitor for the C.P.S. until he resigned in 1882, to become Chief Solicitor to the Post Office, the C.P.S. expanded to include the Kyrle Society which was named after John Kyrle the philanthropist who gave a public park to his home town.² This society had begun in 1878-79 by looking for small open spaces in London and discovering many neglected graveyards, which members endeavoured to make into gardens for people to use for recreation and enjoyment. In spite of some opposition there were successes and the scope of the society increased with the passing of the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act

¹C.P.S.

²John Kyrle was the 'Man of Ross' in Alexander Pope's Moral Essays

and a Conservation Act of 1884. In 1899 the National Footpaths Society also became part of the C.P.S. and in 1910 became known as the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society. The Societies of Antiquaries were responsible for the Ancient Monuments Act of 1882 which was concerned with prehistoric earthworks, megalithic remains, dolmens, tumuli and stone circles, including Stonehenge. Later, some categories of ancient buildings and ruins received some protection. On the 5 March 1877, William Morris highlighted the dangers facing unprotected buildings and seventeen days later the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings came into being.¹ These societies did not own properties but had built up a body of knowledge and expertise, enabling them to give advice when asked on restoration and maintenance.

This was the situation in 1893 when the Falls of Lodore, an island on Grasmere, together with some other pieces of land were put up for sale. In the same year, after ten years at Crosthwaite, Hardwicke was appointed Honorary Canon of Carlisle. Through his lectures about the Lake District to members of the Holiday Fellowship of the National Home Reading Union, on the first evening of their visits he became aware how much these visitors, who came mostly from northern industrial towns and cities, looked forward to and enjoyed the beauty of the Lake District.

When these properties came up for sale he felt that such beautiful areas ought to be preserved for present and future generations to enjoy. Since there was no organisation in existence able to buy and own such properties, how was this to be achieved? It occurred to him that some society was needed for buying suitable properties as they became available. Hardwicke contacted his friend Octavia Hill, who was engaged in housing reform. Together they approached Sir Robert Hunter, the solicitor for the C.P.S. and later the Chief Solicitor to the Post Office, with experience in drawing up Acts of Parliament. They all had experience and knowledge of footpaths and the open space movement and decided to approach the Duke of Westminster with their ideas. The Duke had represented Chester in Parliament for twenty two

¹S.P.A.B.

years, succeeding his father as Marquis of Westminster in 1869. He was offered a Dukedom for his loyal support of Gladstone in his first administration. With his private fortune and vast land holdings - around six hundred acres in London and thirty thousand acres on the borders of Cheshire and Flintshire, it was felt that he would understand the problem and have the power to help them to realize their aims and ambitions. Fortunately he was interested and sympathetic to their scheme, so they invited him to be the President of the suggested new organisation. This invitation he accepted and loaned Grosvenor house for an inaugural meeting, which was held on the 16 July 1894. Shaw Lefevre (Lord Eversley) of the C.P.S. realized that the new organisation would eclipse it and after discussions with Octavia, Sir Robert and Hardwicke, agreed to join with them. A list of council members was drawn up consisting of eminent people from the aristocracy, universities, Parliament and representatives from organisations which could be useful to the new Society, e.g. the Linnaean Society, the Royal Academy of Arts, the London Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Institute of British Architects, S.P.A.B, the Royal Botanic Society, the County Councils Association. Several artists were interested in the new organisation, especially Holman Hunt, George Frederick Watts, who later was elected to the Council and Walter Crane. Sir Robert Hunter became the Chairman with Miss Harriet Yorke of the Kyrle Society as Treasurer; Mr. L.W. Chubb, later Sir Lawrence as Secretary, with his considerable expertise on the legal aspect of preservation and Canon H.D. Rawnsley as Honorary Secretary. Two other Lake District residents were also members of the First Council. Shaw Lefevre represented the C.P.S. The founders of the Trust were thought of as Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Rawnsley. Its full title was The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty, shortened to The National Trust as suggested by Sir Robert Hunter. Canon Rawnsley held the post of Honorary Secretary for the rest of his life. He was indefatigable in his work for the Trust, each day being engaged in some activity or other connected with its work. In 1895 the Trust was registered as an Association and twelve years later the Committee submitted to Parliament a special Bill to reconstitute the Trust on a more

permanent basis. The Trust started with nothing but good intentions, but by this time it had twenty eight properties, twelve of them being buildings - altogether about two thousand acres. In 1907, the National Trust Act was passed which gave it special powers of management and authorized it to make by-laws and to make its properties inalienable, i.e. they may never be sold.

The first gift to the Trust was from a friend of Hardwicke's, Mrs. Talbot who lived at Barmouth. During a visit to her, she gave to him for the new organisation, a beautiful stretch of cliffs above Barmouth, known as Dinas Oleu, "The Fortress of Light", from which there was a superb view of Cardigan Bay and Mawddach estuary.

For some time Hardwicke had been concerned that there was little access for the public to the shores of the Lakes, most of the land being privately owned with only a few public landings. As he pondered the problem, the Brandlehow Park Estate, consisting of over one hundred acres on the western shore of Derwentwater, stretching up to Catbells, with one mile of lake frontage was offered to the Trust, by the executors of the late Mr. Bell of Fawe Park for £6,500 if the money could be produced within six months. Five months later, £7,500 had been raised by fund raising committees in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham and Keswick. The donations ranged from large subscriptions from wealthy supporters to small amounts such as two shillings from a working man. On the property there were a number of unsightly waste tips from the then disused Brandlehow lead mine which Mr. Frank Marshall and some helpers gained permission from the Lord of the Manor of Newlands, to tidy and plant them with trees and gorse.

The opening ceremony was performed by Princess Louise, accompanied by the Duke of Argyll on the 16 October 1902. For the occasion Keswick had a holiday, with all shops and businesses closed. Streets and buildings were decorated with beautiful flowers, foliage and colourful banners. A special arch was built in Station Road bearing a message of welcome, "Lakeland welcomes

H.R.H. the Princess Louise." The Royal party had been staying at Naworth Castle as guests of Lord and Lady Carlisle, leaving the day before the Brandlehow ceremony, they arrived at Penrith station to be met by the Earl of Lonsdale, with whom they were to stay overnight, before proceeding to Keswick on the next day. The whole event was very impressive and conducted as a state visit. The weather, however, took no account of this and was at its worst. The opening should have taken place on the 15th, but the Princess had chosen the 16th, which proved to be fortunate, as the tremendous wind and rain storm on the 15th was responsible for the destruction of the large marquee, which had been erected for guests and the reception of the Princess. It was blown like a balloon up into the sky and came down a tangled mass of poles and canvas, leaving the little red dais on its own out in the open. Octavia described the scene as, " ... most beautiful and very funnily primitive."¹

On arrival at Keswick station the Royal party drove through Keswick in carriages from Lowther Castle, drawn by beautiful chestnut horses said to be worth £2,000. At the Town Hall the Princess was presented with a beautifully illuminated address bound in Morocco and decorated with the Keswick arms and three miniature photographic views, Friar's Crag, the Town Hall and Broomhill Point. Amidst loud cheers from the great crowd the procession proceeded to the K.S.I.A., where Mrs. Rawnsley and Mr. Maryon, director of the School, welcomed the Princess. She was very interested in a large mural memorial of the late Queen Victoria, designed by Miss McBean and made by members of the School. She then bought one or two pieces and ordered two large candlesticks from a pattern and asked that they should be called the Duchess of Argyll candlesticks. From there the party proceeded to the Ruskin Linen Industry where they were welcomed by Miss Twelves and Mrs. Arthur Severn.² A dress length of natural linen was presented to the Princess.

¹Quoted by E.F.R. p112

²Joan Agnew, Ruskin's distant, devoted cousin who cared for him in his last years. She married Arthur Severn, an aspiring painter who also looked after Ruskin's affairs.

After this the procession dramatically made its stately way along the high lying road flanking Catbells. The torrential rain had stopped, but a bitterly cold north west wind continued to blow, while the sodden ground added to the discomfort of all those present. In spite of this the large crowd was determined to enjoy such a fine occasion. The First V.B. Border Regiment played the "National Anthem" and stirring music to entertain all those present. A small marquee had been erected for the guests and a canopy was carried by ten men to afford some protection from the weather. Lord and Lady Muncaster welcomed the Princess and her husband then escorted them to the dais, together with the Earl of Lonsdale, Lord Brougham, Lord and Lady Churchill, Lady Lawson, Sir J.T. Hibbert, Sir Robert Hunter, Mr. Howard and Canon Rawnsley. Lord Muncaster asked Hardwicke to read an address from the Council of the National Trust which welcomed the Princess as Vice President of the Trust, on her first visit to Keswick and recounted the events which led to the acquisition of the property being opened to the public on that day. The address also thanked all those who had made the donations which enabled the Trust to purchase the property. Over one thousand three hundred people had subscribed, many of them workers in northern towns. Canon Rawnsley ended by thanking the Princess for coming to perform the opening ceremony. The address was placed in a silver and enamelled casket, which had been made at the K.S.I.A. It was coffer shaped, with a Viking ornament and inside the lid was a picture in enamel of Derwentwater. The inscription in raised lettering was as follows:-

"Presented to H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll,
in declaring open the Brandlehow estate on
Derwentwater,
16th October, 1902"

The conjoined arms of the Princess and her husband were engraved on the lock plate. A further present consisted of an album of platinotypes of Derwentwater and neighbourhood given by the photographer, Mr. H.C. Petitt. There were thirty photographs mounted on brown boards in a cover of green

Morocco leather bearing the Royal Arms. The Chairman of the Keswick Committee, Mr. Mitchell-Dawson read the inscription which he said was not only a book of remembrance, but also a token of gratitude to the kindness of the Princess for coming to perform the opening ceremony. Canon Rawnsley had written a prefatory sonnet of welcome for the album, the words of which unfortunately bore no resemblance to weather on that occasion. The opening words of the sonnet are:-

"From such a hill might angels long to lean
And gaze once more upon their native place;
So calm the waters, Walla face to face -
So calm Blencathra, Skiddaw so serene."

The Duke of Argyll then thanked everyone for their warm welcome, remarking on the beauty of the Lake District. He went on to mention that the Princess had spent a long time in Canada and America, where they had set aside tracts of country as National Parks. He caused much laughter when he said this country was very small in comparison, so that Americans thought that they could not take a long walk without falling into the sea. After speaking of the Lake poets he went on to thank all the workers and supporters of the Trust for their efforts, which were not just for the present, but for the future and not just for the inhabitants of this country, but for the Colonies and the great kindred nation across the Atlantic.

The Earl of Lonsdale and Mr. Howard gave votes of thanks to the Royal party and to the founders of the National Trust. Three cheers were given for Canon Rawnsley. Five oak saplings were then planted on the high side of the park near the road by the Princess, the Duke, Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Rawnsley. They had been given by Mr. T.R. Hayes from his splendid nursery gardens at Grasmere, together with bunches of white heather for the Princess and the Duke. The procession then drove around the Lake to the railway station, where the guests received a rousing send off. The Princess and the Duke spent the weekend with the Earl of Lonsdale at Lowther Castle. The day

ended with the Border Regiment band playing in the Market Square at Keswick to a large and appreciative crowd¹.

Four years later Mr. H.C. Howard of Greystoke Castle offered the Trust about seven hundred and forty acres of land at £12,800. This consisted of Gowbarrow Fell with Aira Beck running through it which culminated in the beautiful Aira Force* waterfall before tumbling into Lake Ullswater. In addition there was about a mile of lake frontage and a lovely meadow on the Park Brow side of Aira Beck. Although the price was substantial for that time, it could have been sold for a great deal more to property developers but Mr. Howard preferred that the estate should remain in its natural state, without being cut up and built upon. Already by his courtesy the property was partly opened to the public.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the Trust to acquire a substantial property, which would give pleasure to millions in the ensuing years. Undaunted by the amount required, Canon Rawnsley, assisted by Octavia Hill tackled the problem vigorously and by their persuasive efforts, managed to raise the money within two years. At the opening ceremony Sir Robert Hunter paid tribute to their efforts by saying that he did not know how they achieved the target. The money had not come in steadily but in "spurts and gushes" and there were dispiriting moments when the flow seemed to have dried up, but then came to life again from unexpected sources. The last £3,000 had come in a great rush.

The opening took place on the Thursday 9 August 1906, and although there was heavy rain in Penrith, approximately twelve miles away, not a drop fell in the vicinity of Ullswater. The sun shone so brightly that it was too hot for some of the crowd. The beautiful scene has been described by a local news reporter as, "entrancing,"

¹This account is based on the report of the occasion in the *Cumberland and North Westmorland Herald* of the Saturday 18 October 1902.

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"The lake," he said, below and the surrounding mountains never looked more perfectly lovely. Every scarred crag gleamed pink under the warm light of the August sun and every shadow was of that rich purple hue which gives such charm to Lakeland. The Lake was tinted with all the lustrous colours of the moonstone, the sun catching the white sails of the yachts careening gracefully like so many gulls as they beat their way down to their Pooley Bridge moorings."¹

The air was filled with the hooting of motor horns, the clatter of horses' hooves, the ringing of bells by those on cycles and the excited chatter of those who arrived on foot, as the huge crowd converged on the meadow where a platform and marquee had been erected with a roped off enclosure for ticket holders.

On the platform were the Right Hon. the Speaker, Sir Robert Hunter, the Chairman of the National Trust, Lord Barnard of Raby Castle, the Mayors of Carlisle and Workington, Sir J.S. Randles, M.P., Canon Rawnsley, Mr. Nigel Bond, the Secretary of the National Trust, Lady Mabel Howard, Mr. F.W. Chance M.P., Viscountess Dunluce, Mr. G. Harwood, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Riley of Ennism.

Among the crowd was Sir F. Carruthers Gould, the famous cartoonist, known popularly as F.C.G., accompanied by his wife, Lady Gould.

Canon Rawnsley then read out several apologies for absence which had been received. Chief amongst these was a telegram of regret from Princess Louise. He continued by saying that their thoughts were with the Royal family on that day, the 9 August as it had been the Coronation day of King Edward VII in 1902. Princess Louise also sent congratulations for their great achievement in acquiring such a lovely property.

¹*Kirkby Stephen, Keswick and Alston Advertiser*, the Saturday 11 August 1906. For the Nation - Opening of Gowbarrow - Brilliant function in lovely weather.

Sir Robert Hunter introduced the Hon. J.W. Lowther, the Speaker of the House of Commons¹ and invited him to perform the Opening Ceremony. In doing so, he congratulated the members of the National Trust on their hard work and Mr. H.C. Howard for being such a patient and kindly vendor, whose natural modesty kept him away from the Ceremony. He also congratulated the one thousand six hundred subscribers who had fallen victims to the persuasive powers of Octavia Hill and Canon Rawnsley. As he concluded his speech, Speaker Lowther made an appeal that the public would respect their own possession and not treat it as they would other people's possessions! This caused much laughter. He asked them to avoid throwing about glass bottles, sandwich papers and the other disfigurements so connected with present day civilisation. In conclusion he said, "I declare that this noble mountain of Gowbarrow and the Force below it are now and for ever the possessions of the British public."²

Sir John Hibbert on behalf of the Lancashire County Council gave votes of thanks to Speaker Lowther, the National Trust and the subscribers to the Gowbarrow Fund. He congratulated Cumberland on having Mr. Speaker Lowther as one of its representatives and hoped he would long be spared to occupy his high position. "The National Trust", he said, "had now twenty four properties and one thousand seven hundred acres of land, which he hoped millions of people would enjoy."³ The work of Octavia Hill and Canon Rawnsley was much praised. There was much laughter and applause, when he ended by saying that if there were any millionaires present with spare thousands, they should give them to the Trust.

Canon Rawnsley in replying, thanked people for attending the opening of, "these lordly pleasure grounds." As it was the King's Coronation Day⁴ and they were thinking of the Royal family, he felt that first of all he must read the telegram from Princess

¹Later he became Viscount Ullswater

²*Kirkby Stephen, Keswick and Alston Advertiser*, the 11 August 1906

³*Ibid*

⁴i.e. the 9 August (King Edward VII was crowned in 1902)

Louise in which she sent congratulations for the happy occasion and her great regrets that she was unable to be with them. Among the others who sadly could not attend was Octavia Hill. Lady Lawson was not there as Sir Wilfrid Lawson had died. They were sadly missed, as they had worked very hard for the Trust.

He then thanked Sir Robert Hunter for his kind words about his work in collecting the money for this great undertaking and would pass them on to Miss Octavia Hill, who had been his chief colleague in this arduous task. Canon Rawnsley then paid tribute to the press for their kindness and support, which had greatly assisted their fund raising activities. There had been only one ill informed and anonymous piece of criticism in one daily paper.

After speaking in Glasgow at his first drawing room meeting a small child gave Canon Rawnsley a threepenny bit, saying that it was all he had, but he wanted to give it to Gowbarrow. This was the beginning of the fund. After that money came from many sources, such as from northern factory workers and from some who gave in memory of loved ones who had died. One hundred friends had paid for part of the meadow in which they were standing that day, in memory of Mr. Walter Gorst Clay. He remembered the solid work of Dr. Withers in rousing the people of Manchester to contribute. Amongst other contributors was a venerable lady who lived at Rampsbeck; some anonymous Lake District folk who gave the last £100; the Lake District Association and members of the Co-operative Holiday Association. The secretaries who had organized collections in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle were thanked for their hard work. Others who deserved special thanks were Lord and Lady Liangattock who had opened their beautiful London house to eighty artists, who sold pictures for the fund and a "stroller" who in *The Spectator* offered £100 if nineteen others would do the same, thereby raising £2,000. Finally, Canon Rawnsley thanked Mr. Howard for making the property available and for making the transaction so easy and trouble free, ending with an appeal to the people, as had the Speaker, to respect the

property and not leave a litter of sandwich papers, egg shells, orange peel and glass bottles.

After all the votes of thanks the Speaker replied by saying that his ears had been tingling, not with the sun but with listening to all the kind things which had been said about him which he felt that he did not deserve. He thanked the large crowd for coming and for asking him to open such a beautiful property for the nation for all time.

The event ended by the singing of the "National Anthem", after which tea was served in the marquee, while the Penrith Subscription Band played selections of music.

Two years later in 1908, more land was acquired at Derwentwater, including a wooded knoll given by Hardwicke and Edith as thanks for twenty five happy years of marriage and life in the district. Other pieces were given by Mr. Birkett, Dr. Withers and friends.

The death of Ruskin on the 20 January 1900 led to the Trust's first appeal in the Lake District for a memorial to him. At the age of five, Ruskin had been taken by his nurse to Friars' Crag, Derwentwater. This visit made a profound impression on him especially the twining of old tree roots on the land and in the water. Hardwicke thought this was the most suitable place for a memorial and this was agreed and eventually a tall monolith of Borrowdale slate with a bronze medallion portrait of Ruskin was erected there. It is interesting to note that Hardwicke's own memorial bought by subscriptions was placed close by.

The next part of the Lake District which became available was a beautiful part of Borrowdale, the Borrowdale birches by the side of the River Derwent, with the Bowder Stone and Grange Fell, three hundred and ten acres in all. These were advertised for sale, but Hardwicke felt that it was too soon after the other appeals to ask the public to give money again. Since £1,200 was required at once, he and Mr. Birkett tried to negotiate for part of the property, i.e. the south shore of the Lake, with adjoining rough

ground and some land in Borrowdale. The vendors would not agree to this unless the Riggside Farm was bought as well. Although they did not want the farm, if they did not buy it then they would lose the land as well, so they sent a telegram to secure the deal. This proved to be fortunate, as within an hour a higher offer was made, but the deal was honoured. The National Trust gained a five year option for payment, which was finally bought by public subscription, except for the farm, which Hardwicke bought and later gave to Keswick School to provide a scholarship.

Octavia Hill was interested in the schemes of the trustees of American reservations and from these she suggested plans through which land could be given in memory of loved ones. The first property acquired in this way was Toys Hill on the edge of the Kentish Weald. This was followed by gaining more of the Kentish Weald, e.g. Idle Hill and Mariner's Hill. Meanwhile Princess Louise bought the summit of Grange Fell as a memorial to her brother, Edward VII.¹ The National Trust supported the idea of giving such properties as memorials in the First World War and the action of Princess Louise stimulated this scheme in the Lake District. The summit of Scafell Pike* was given by Lord Leconfield in memory of Lake District men who died in the 1914-1918 war and Castle Crag for Lieutenant John Hamer and the men of Borrowdale. A tract of land comprising about one thousand acres of the Scafell Range, which included the summits of Great Gable, Kirkfell and Glaramara, also was donated in memory of their members who fell in the First World war, by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club.²

¹Now known as King's How. On a slab of Borrowdale slate near the summit facing Derwentwater is the inscription: In loving memory of/King Edward VII/Grange Fell is dedicated by his sister/Louise: "As a sanctuary of rest and peace./Here may all beings gather strength and/Find in scenes of beautiful nature a cause/For gratitude and love to God giving them/Courage and vigour to carry on His will." The Lake District Baddeley, 18th Edition, p176

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²A Remembrance Service is held on the summit of Great Gable, at the memorial, every November to commemorate those who died. On a boulder near the summit (2,949 ft) is a bronze memorial tablet engraved with a relief map of the neighbouring peaks. It was purchased by the Club and unveiled on Whit Sunday, 1924.

The number of National Trust properties grew and the organisation flourished. Naturally enough there was most activity around the areas in which the three founders lived, two of them being in the south, Octavia Hill in Kent and Sir Robert Hunter in Surrey; with Canon Rawnsley in the north - the Lake District. Being a larger area the Trust gained more properties in the south. Nevertheless, although fewer in number, many beautiful, important, historic and choice sites were obtained in the north of England.

Due to the efforts of Gordon Wordsworth, the grandson of the poet; Gordon Somervell, Frank Marshall, Hugh Redmayne, Professor Collingwood of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society; Noël Rawnsley and especially his father, Canon Rawnsley, in the years leading up to 1913, several more Lake District properties came into the possession of the National Trust.

The first of these was Stybarrow Crag, a delightful area of about five acres with half a mile of lake frontage extending from near Glenridding to Glencoyne on Ullswater.¹ The trees, mostly beech and oak are magnificent, especially in their spring and autumn colours. Views of Lake Ullswater from this spot are superb. The land was in danger of being sold for building sites and an attempt was made locally to purchase it for the parish but this failed. At this point the National Trust took over. Canon Rawnsley called a meeting on the 11 August 1911, in the Parish Room at Patterdale. He explained that Mr. Howard of Greystoke Castle was willing to let them have the land for £250, although it was known that he had been offered double that amount. Canon Rawnsley warned that more than £250 would be needed, for the legal deed of transaction, postage, circulars etc. There was great support for the scheme and over £100 was subscribed at the meeting although Dr. Ludlam who expressed agreement, protested at the number of

¹Stybarrow Crag is said to be where one of the Mounseys of Patterdale Hall obtained the title "King of Patterdale" for repulsing an invasion of Scottish moss troopers, with a few villagers who followed him.

notice boards erected by the Trust on their properties. He said that while he objected to the litter of eggshells he preferred them to the boards! Canon Rawnsley noted the objection and said it would be considered by the Council.¹

Eventually, in 1928 Glencoyne Wood adjoining Stybarrow Crag was secured for £3,000, making one property of one hundred and ninety five acres. The felling of the larch trees had already begun when Dr. H.J. Moon, a local naturalist and Mr. H.T. Roberts, together with the National Trust stepped in. As well as saving the oak trees and protecting the varied bird life of the area they managed to raise the £3,000 necessary to purchase the wood. The wood was in the County of Westmorland, while Aira Force and Gowbarrow were in Cumberland.² Between them was the Glencoyne estate, comprising a fine sheep farm, park and a long length of lake shore. Again, when this was up for sale the danger of building development loomed threateningly. Fortunately for future generations Sir S.H. Scott bought the two thousand two hundred and sixty acres involved and entered into restrictive covenants making it "protected land" for as long as the National Trust exists. These three areas form a large and special district of great beauty for the enjoyment of the public.

As early as 1898 when there were no Trust properties in the north, Canon Rawnsley was interested in the site of what proved to be a Roman Fort in Borrans Field at Ambleside. It was not until fifteen years later, when it was in danger of having lodging houses built upon it, that it was bought for the National Trust by public subscription for £4,000, the deal being completed in 1913. The field itself was about twenty acres in extent and at one time had contained the kennels of the Lake District otter hounds. The site was not excavated although an early account³ described it as an oblong, one hundred and sixty five yards long and one hundred yards wide. The fort was the Roman Galava. In its earliest form

¹*Kirkby Stephen, Keswick and Alston Advertiser*, the 12 August 1911, "Ullswater Beauty Spot for the Nation".

²Now Cumbria

³Camden 1551-1623

the fort was an earthwork structure thought to be the work of Agricola, who took over parts of northern England in 79A.D. The site tended to be marshy and liable to flooding and there were signs of three attacks probably in 155A.D., 180A.D. and 270A.D. It was rebuilt in stone about 120A.D. and was occupied until towards the end of the 4th century. During the excavations several Roman coins of different periods were found, also much pottery, a bronze bell, a bronze eagle, leather shoes and a silver spoon. It was hoped to have a small museum built to house the finds but this has not been possible but the relics are in the care of the Armit Library at Ambleside, together with a model of the fort.¹ Unfortunately in the 17th century some remains were taken, especially inscribed stones. In 1934 also at Ambleside, Sir Cuthbert Grundy presented to the Trust a small field of twelve acres known as "Great Bog" in order to preserve a clear view of the fells.

The third property which was also acquired in 1913 was a beautiful wooded hill with frontage on to Lake Windermere, known as Queen Adelaide's Hill. It received this name when on the 26 July 1840, the Dowager Queen Adelaide of King William IV, after attending evensong at Windermere Parish Church, sailed from Bowness to a specially prepared landing place. This gave access into a field in the demesne of Reverend F. Fleming of Rayrigg, where the Queen was met by the Flemings who accompanied her to the top of the bank, from which excellent views of Lake Windermere could be enjoyed. A flag pole had been erected and the flag unfurled, beneath which chairs had been placed for the Royal party. The Queen was delighted with the beautiful views and was lavish in her praise and thanks.

Canon Rawnsley and some Windermere residents had for some time wished to obtain this property for the Trust. £5,000 was needed to achieve this aim. £2,800 was subscribed by local people and then Hardwicke made an appeal to the public, which resulted in the extra money needed, being quickly provided. In

¹Some of the finds are at Brockhole National Park Centre including the tombstone of a Roman killed in action.

September, 1913 the opening ceremony was performed by the Speaker, Viscount Ullswater in the presence of one thousand people. Canon Rawnsley had added to the invitation, that after the opening, those who wished could go to Borrans Field which was about four miles away, where Professor Haverfield was going to speak to the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, about the Roman Fort and excavations.

These years were very busy ones for Hardwicke. No sooner had he achieved one objective than another one presented itself. In the same year, 1913 he became aware that the Castlerigg Stone Circle and the nine acre field in which it stood, although scheduled as an ancient monument by the Board of Commissioners of Works, was likely to be fenced off with barbed wire and admission charges made. The other danger was that, because of its commanding situation, on a plateau above Keswick and looked down upon by Skiddaw, Blencathra and Helvellyn, it might be sold as a desirable building site. There are forty eight stones still standing in a rather oval shaped circle, approximately ninety feet by one hundred and eight feet.¹ Originally there may have been more stones. Opinions vary as to the purpose and date of the circle. Excavations have ruled out the idea of it being a burial site, but it may have been a tribal meeting place connected with religious practices or to have had an astronomical purpose. The circle may have been in use from Neolithic times and altered throughout the subsequent periods. Wishing to ensure that the circle should be preserved, Hardwicke launched an appeal for funds and was gratified by the quick response, which produced sufficient money and within a month the site was bought by the National Trust.

¹The stones are difficult to count and it is easy to arrive at a different number each time!