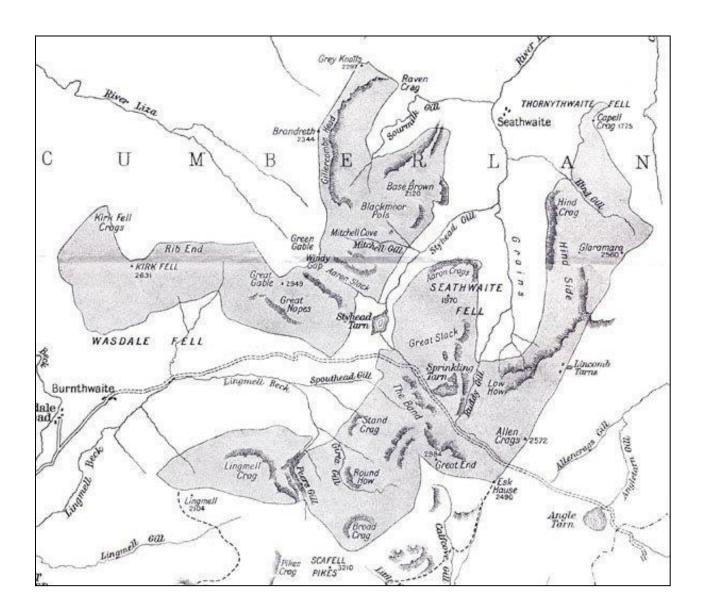
Fell and Rock Climbing Club Our Memorials for members killed in action during The Great War 1914 to 1918 and The World War 1939 to 1945

The Memorial for The Great War 1914 to 1918

The Memorial is a huge tract of land, purchased by our club, permitting free and unfettered access for all time by walkers and climbers to some of the most magnificent upland in the country. Previously many landowners controlled and restricted access.



Timeline

- 1. February 1919: Herbert Cain suggested 'Let's buy a fell'.
- 2. November 1919: "After several schemes had been debated upon the unanimous feeling was in favour of a scheme proposed by Herbert Cain that the Club should enter into negotiation with a view to purchasing Pillar Rock or part of Great Gable and present such purchase into the hands of the National Trust and so perpetuate the memory of those of our comrades who had given their lives in the War."
- 3. May 1920: "...that Lord Lonsdale was not disposed to entertain the suggestion for the purchase of Pillar Rock by the Club."

- 4. September 1922: "...a letter was read from the solicitor to the Wasdale Head Estate which held out some hope of the Club's being able to acquire eventually the rights sought for on Gable mountain."
- 5. March 1923: "...map and particulars supplied by the Wasdale Hall Estate, which was again to be offered for sale, showed that Row Head Farm included the top of Great Gable...but the committee could not consider any purchase of the whole farm...Richard Hall had attended sale of Wasdale Hall Estate and had made one bid of £1100 for Row Head Farm, subsequently offering £1150, without being accepted."
- 6. April 1923: "...Row Head Farm had been withdrawn but had been purchased, together with the remaining farms, by W.H. Walker of Seascale... and he had expressed his willingness to hear proposals as to purchase of the fell land as a War Memorial."
- 7. 8th May 1923: [Solicitors] "...Mr Walker is willing to deal with you upon the terms of the accompanying heads of agreement."
- 8. 10th May 1923: Herbert Cain to Leslie Somervell "We have done it! Herewith letter and Heads of Agreement which followed me on here and arrived this morning whereupon I spent part of my life's savings in a telegram to you."



"Walker will sell us all asked for over 1750 plus Kern Knotts 400 pounds, writing. Cain."

GREAT GABLE ETC.

$\frac{\text{HEADS OF AGREEMENT PROPOSALS TO THE ROCK CLIMBING CLUB}}{\left(\text{dated }8^{\text{th}}\text{ May }1923\right)}$

- 1. <u>AREA</u> Such portions of the Row Head, High & Low Burnthwaite, Seathwaite and Thornythwaite farms as lie above the 1750 feet contour line AND also a piece of land below that line comprising Kern Knotts.
- 2. <u>INTEREST SOLD</u> Such rights in the soil as belong to the Vendor except sporting rights, mines and minerals with powers of working and grazing rights, the rights reserved to be defined in the formal agreement hereinafter mentioned. There being some doubt as to the nature of the vendors rights in the Thornthwaite and Seathwaite fells the club must be content to take what he can give them.
- 3. PRICE £400
- 4. <u>TITLE</u> The title shall begin with the will of the late Mr J. Musgrave from whose trustees the vendor has recently purchased. He shall not be bound to make any better title than is offered to him under the conditions of that sale.
- 5. <u>AGREEMENT</u> There shall be no binding contract for the sale until the parties shall have executed a formal agreement to be prepared by the Vendor's solicitors.
- 6. The property sold to be vested in some body or body of persons (e.g. the National Trust) who will preserve it in substantially its natural condition.
- 7. <u>COSTS</u> The Club to pay the Vendor's solicitors costs of negotiations for sale deducing title perusing and completing conveyance under the second schedule to the Solicitor's Remuneration Order.

Informing all members of FRCC

Dear Sir or Madam,

The time has now come when it is the privilege of the Committee to put before you the War Memorial Scheme.

After much delay, which they think you will consider to have been not without its compensation, they have negotiated for the purchase of a very large portion of the centre of climbing and walking in the district.

This comprises the tops of twelve mountains, viz.:- Kirkfell, Great Gable, Green Gable, Brandreth, Grey Knotts, Base Brown, Seathwaite Fell, Glaramara, Allen Crags, Great End, Broad Crag and Lingmell, together with almost all the land over 1,500 feet, bounding them on the sides facing the Seathwaite to Wasdale track.

The Committee have been most cordially met in their dealings with the owner, Herbert W. Walker, Esq., of Seascale.

Arrangements are being made to hand this whole area over to the National Trust who will comply with the conditions laid down by the Club and safeguard its interests in perpetuity. It has been considered desirable definitely to associate with this most appropriate memorial the names of those members who gave their lives in the War, and for this purpose a bronze tablet will be placed on, or near, the summit of Great Gable.

The Committee confidently invite all members to support this memorial as generously as they can, realizing that in so doing they do honour to their comrades, while preserving to their successors for all time the finest area of fell and rock in England.

In order that this memorial may be truly representative of our club, it is hoped that some contribution will be received from every single member.

Yours faithfully,

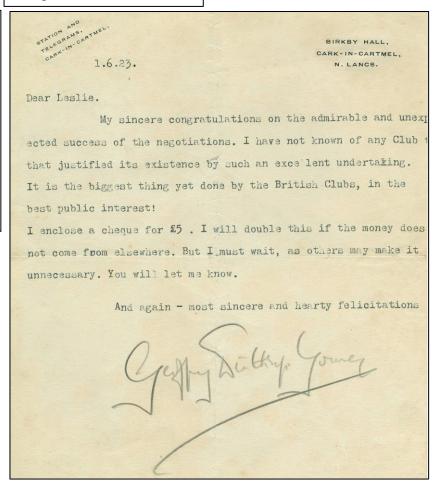
DARWIN LEIGHTON, President. WILSON BUTLER, Vice-President.

HERBERT P. CAIN, Librarian. L.W. SOMERVELL, Secretary.

Borrowdale, 19/5/23.

Congratulations (selection).

"My sincere congratulations on the admirable and unexpected success of the negotiations. I have not known of any Club that justified its existence by such an excellent undertaking. It is the biggest thing yet done by the British Clubs in the best public interest."



4. IRTON ROAD.

SOUTHPORT.

Dear Somewell,

Shawfyanvery smuch
fryan letter, & Sin delighted

(though not surprised) to hear

that the money is coming in

so well. It's a florious thing
to have accomplished, & Sin

Since everybody will think it an

honan to have a share in it.

Any how I do, & Im flast

belong to the Club that has done

it.

With Themse Frequency

HESLEOTH

"It's a glorious thing to have accomplished and I'm sure everybody will think it an honour to have a share in it. Anyhow I do and I'm glad to belong to the Club that has done it."

"At the Annual General Meeting of The Yorkshire Ramblers Club a resolution was carried unanimously 'That we send to the Fell and Rock Climbing Club our congratulations on the magnificent gift which they have recently made to the nation.'

We think it is the very finest form of War Memorial and congratulate you on the splendid spirit shown by your members which enable you to make the gift." TEL. ADD: "BURROW, LEEDS."
PHONE HEADINGLEY 347.



8, MONKBRIDGE ROAD,
HEADINGLEY,

LEEDS.

20th Decr. 1923.

L. W. Somerville, Esq.,
The Hon. Secy.,
Fell & Rock Climbing Club,
Brantfield,
Kendal.

Dear Sir,

At the Annual General Meeting of The Yorkshire Ramblers Club, a resolution was carried unanimously "That we send to the Fell and Rock Climbing Club our congratulations on the magnificient gift which they have recently made to the Nation."

We think it the very finest form of War Memorial, and congratulate you on the splendid spirit whown by your members which enabled you to make this gift.

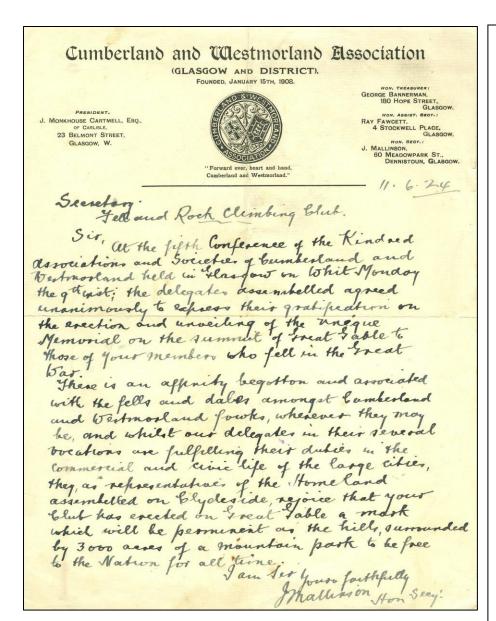
With all good wishes for 1924,

Yours truly,

for THE YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS CLUB

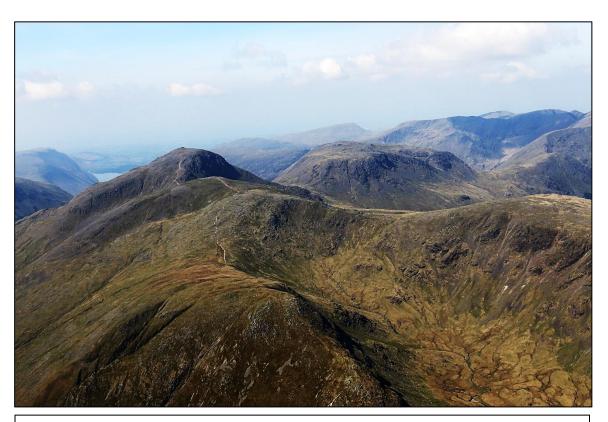
Chas & Burrows

Hon. Secy.



"At the fifth Conference the Kindred Associations and Societies of Cumberland and Westmorland held in Glasgow on Monday the 9th inst., the delegates assembled agreed unanimously to express the gratification on the erection and unveiling of the unique Memorial on the summit of Great Gable to those of your members who fell in the Great War.

There is an affinity begotton and associated with the fells and dales amongst Cumberland and Westmorland fowks, wherever they may be, and whilst our delegates in their several vocations are fulfilling their duties in the commercial and civic life of the large cities, they 'representatives of the Homeland assembled on Clydeside', rejoice that your Club has erected on Great Gable a mark which will be permanent as the hills surrounded by 3000 acres of a mountain park to be free to the Nation for all time."



Base Brown, Brandreth, Green Gable, Great Gable, Kirkfell, Grey Knotts.



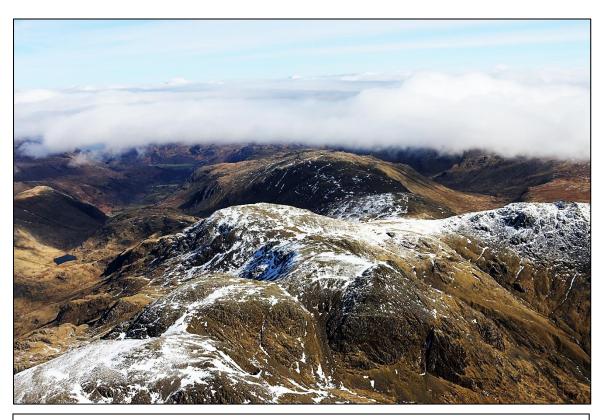
Glaramara, Great End, Seathwaite Fell, Great Gable, Green Gable, Brandreth, Base Brown.



Kirkfell, Great Gable, Lingmell.



Seathwaite Fell, Glaramara, Allen Crags, Great End.



Base Brown, Seathwaite Fell, Broad Crag, Great End, Allen Crags, Glaramara.



Great Gable.