

OSTA Tour of England and Scotland a Success

By David Fallowfield

Eleven US members of the Old Spanish Trail Association have now returned home after enjoying 10 days of touring in Cumbria and adjoining counties in England and Scotland from June 26 through July 5. The group was mainly based at B and B's in Penrith (six nights) and for three nights in Scotland at Moffat and Dryburgh. They were here at the invitation of members of the local William Workman Chapter of the Association, who over eight years have attended conferences in the USA and encouraged the members there to come to Britain. They came from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada and included the National OSTA President Ashley Hall, who travelled with his two grandsons Joshua and Stuart. Also in the group was a descendant of the pioneering William Workman, from Clifton, who emigrated to America in 1822 and gained fame and fortune in New Mexico and California. From the Los Angeles area was William Workman's great great-great-grandson Dr. Donald Rowland, accompanied by his wife Jean: he is also descended from William Workman's business partner and co-leader of the historic Rowland-Workman Party expedition from New Mexico to Los Angeles in 1841, John Rowland.

One of the highlights for Dr. Rowland was the visit to the former Workman home "Whitrigg House" in Clifton village. In Clifton the group viewed the Workman grave-



Pictured at Carlisle Castle, the tour members were: L to R: Dr. Don Rowland, Jean Rowland, Dennis Ditmanson, Carol Ditmanson, Joshua Hall, OSTA President Ashley Hall, Stuart Hall, Judy Nickle, Jerry Nickle, Dr. Reba Grandrud and Colin Benge.

stones in the churchyard of St. Cuthbert's church. Others in the group were Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud from Arizona accompanied by her son Colin Benge from New Mexico, Jerry and Judy Nickle from Arizona, and OSTA Manager Dennis Ditmanson and his wife Carol from New Mexico.

The group were met at Manchester Airport and after travelling 70 miles north they diverted through the limestone scenery of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and had lunch in a quaint pub in the market town of Hawes. Several old castles were seen on the way to the accommodations in Penrith.

The detailed itinerary for the ten days of tours was planned by local chapter secretary David Fallowfield of Penrith, himself a descendant of the same Workman family. His great-great-great-grandmother

was Mary Workman of Brown Howe Farm, Melkinton. The Fallowfield coat of arms can be seen in the east window of Clifton Church, and David's brother Alan, also of Penrith, was the last constable of Clifton.

The second day of the visit commenced with a seminar in Penrith when the group were warmly welcomed by Chapter Director Donald Harrison (standing in for Bill Ramsay who was attending a family funeral). Unfortunately, another Director, John Thompson, was in hospital and his wife Anne was naturally otherwise engaged. The group then heard two lectures by David Fallowfield on the Workman brothers David and William. The first talk was "The Workman Brothers of Clifton: Their Masonic Careers in the USA" and this was a review to what they achieved in America. The second talk entitled

“William and David Workman: Their English Background” was a paper originally written for presentation at the OSTA conference at Pomona held June 2011 which due to unforeseen circumstances was never presented. It served as a great introduction to the history and geography of the area the OSTA members were due to visit during the following few days. Ashley very kindly presented shirts for each of the 12 members of the Workman Chapter, which his wife Lorna had badged with OST badges. (These have now been distributed, except for the Aldersons who are in Spain, and have been greatly appreciated).

After lunch we toured Yanwath, Lowther, Clifton and Brougham Hall and Castle. The next day touring was spent in the northern Lakes area, commencing with a visit to Aira Force waterfall and on to Castlerigg Bronze Age Stone Circle followed by a walkabout in the town of Keswick. In the beautiful Borrowdale Valley the group had lunch at the Borrowdale Hotel. After lunch they went via Honister Pass to Buttermere Lake, Crummock Water, Bassenthwaite Lake and back to Penrith.

Day four was spent in the south Lakes area, with stops at Thirlmere Lake and the poet William Wordsworth sites in Grasmere village. Lunch was at Brantwood, on the shores of Coniston Lake, where many of the group heard about John Ruskin for the first time. Brantwood is regarded as having the finest lake view of any house

in England. They were joined here by Bill Ramsay of Ulverston, President of the Workman Chapter. Later they visited the Arts and Crafts house Blackwell at Bowness on Windermere, travelling home via Kirkstone Pass and Ullswater Lake. That evening we visited Temple Sowerby, where David and William Workman were born in 1797 and 1799 respectively, on the way to Appleby, where Donald and Thelma Harrison, Appleby members of the William Workman Chapter, joined us. Tourist Officer Alison Taylor had opened the Moot Hall and arranged an audience with Mayor Andy Connell. In the council chamber, Mr. Connell told us of the many connections of the town to the Washington family of the USA. He was made an honorary member of the Association by President Ashley Hall. Dinner was enjoyed at the Midland Hotel owned by Donald and Thelma's daughter Amy.

On the fifth day we visited historic sites in Dumfriesshire, including Ruthwell Cross, a unique and remarkable 18-foot-high 7th century carved cross, 13th century Caerlaverock Castle and Drumlanrig Castle, the home of the Duke of Buccleuch. We spent the night in the Scottish town of Moffat. On day six we toured the Scottish Borders, visiting the town of Kelso; Floors Castle (largest occupied castle in Scotland) home of the Duke of Roxburghe; Smailholm Tower (a fortified tower house); and Scott's View, a vista point favoured by Sir Walter Scott. That evening Mary, Countess of Strath-

more, joined the group for dinner at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel where they were staying. The following day was in Scotland's Capital City of Edinburgh. We returned to Penrith via the Northumberland National Park and World Heritage Site Hadrian's (Roman) Wall and Lanercost Priory.

The next day at Carlisle we saw the Tithe Barn, the Cathedral and Castle, and had lunch at Tullie House. The group learned that President Woodrow Wilson's mother was born in the city. That evening (Fourth of July/Independence Day) there was a reception for the visitors, chapter members and invited guests at Hutton in the Forest. Lord and Lady Inglewood, who own the castle, were among the guests and were made honorary members of the Old Spanish Trail Association by Ashley Hall. We were happy to be joined by John Thompson, who was present following his recent operation.

The final day was spent in the City of York (another World Heritage Site) with its Minster (largest Cathedral in northern Europe), city walls, castle and river waterfront. Feedback from the American visitors indicates they were extremely impressed with everything they saw. Their highlights were the visit to Clifton, Appleby, the Lakes and Hutton in the Forest together with Scotland, Hadrian's Wall, Carlisle and York. ♦