

Chapter Four

Hunting Reports

In 1878, Joe Bowman's first hunt at "the meet" which was to become inextricably linked with his name produced one of the best hunts of his first season, the fox finally defeated his pursuers by going to ground near Buck Crag after a terrific hunt which took in practically all the summits surrounding the valleys of Mardale, by the time the hunt ended daylight had gone. The story continues.....

The huntsman and whip coming round by Dale Head heard the hounds at the fox earth and proceeded thither as fast as they could, but when they reached the spot the moon was high in the sky, the stars glittered in the spangled firmament, so the fox was left in triumph of his well-earned victory. Later on R. Brumwell and James Watson, who had followed nearly the whole course called at Dale Head, weary, worn and wan, and after being refreshed were able to find their way over the pass, a little after the hounds had returned to their kennel and the fox to his lair. Although our friend Mr. W. Smith of Swindale says "killing crowns the day" we cannot but rejoice that so gallant a fox after such a splendid chase he gave, should escape his foes and be allowed the chance of giving us a future days sport, when we hope to break a lance with him. On the same day four hounds, Lucifer, Barmaid, Abigail and Cymbal, ran another fox to ground at Basin Crag.

Skelton 1921

THE ULLSWATER FOXHOUNDS. - These hounds met last week at Mardale, in connection with the shepherds' meeting. Soon after day break the quiet little dale rang again with the sound of the huntsman's horn. Naddle Forest was tried, and a drag was hit near Brown How, which turned back by Hop Ghyll and forward into Branstree, as far as Woodput Ghyll, where the line led out over the top into Swindale Head. At Black Bells a fox was unkennelled, and breaking cover, he received a ringing "tally ho" from Mr. Baldry and the noted mountain guide Mr. Johnson Thompson of Grasmere. All the hounds got well away, and drove reynard by Gowder Crag to near Tailbert, where he turned to the left and crossed the dale, taking a straight line to Naddle Forest. The hounds by this time were fast gaining ground, so the fox had to travel sharply along the breast above Haweswater to Guerness, thence forward by Brown How and Hop Gill into Branstree, above the Dun Bull. Here all the shepherds joined in the throng, making it quite lively up Mardale Green, where the run ended. To prolong his life reynard took refuge among some large stones, but was soon drawn and proved to be a nice dog fox. The hunters and shepherds, numbering about 60, repaired to the Dun Bull Hotel, where Mr and Mrs. Baldry provided a good dinner. At the

conclusion of a substantial repast, the chair was taken by Mr. G. Smith, and a very pleasant evening was spent in toasts, songs etc.



Ullswater Foxhounds

On the following morning Bowman decided to have another try, so a start was made up Branstree, where a line was hit and led the pack across Gatescarth to Harter Fell, where a fox was roused from his lair. The route taken was over the top and into Settle Earth. Here the course was changed by crossing Longsleddale, a little below Buckbarrow, then through Mosedale into Swindale, where the fox went to ground at Gowder Crag. His stay here was short as Tommy Fishwick soon arrived with a notice to quit. The fox cleared out in a few minutes with the pack close at his brush. After taking down the valley for some distance he crossed and went over the top into Naddle Forest, again taking earth, this time at Wallow Crag. After some time Bowman arrived with his terriers, and soon Nellie and Nip were hard at work, and made things pretty warm inside. At last poor reynard was obliged to leave and failing to clear himself, was rolled over by the hounds, thus ending another good run.

On Monday, the meet was at Longsleddale. The morning opened bright, with a keen frost. The dogs were taken over to Stockdale Bank, where they struck the cold line of a "rambler" which eventually led into Buckbarrow, where a dodging fox was unkennelled. After a fine display of crag hunting through Buckbarrow and Settle Earth, the fox was eventually left master of the situation in Buckbarrow. The day's sport was thoroughly enjoyed by a numerous field.

Westmorland Gazette 5th December 1896

It is interesting to see a field of 60 sitting down to dinner in The Dun Bull compared with the large numbers in the 1920s.

SHEPHERDS' HUNT IN MARDALE.

Mardale on Saturday was the scene of an unusually large gathering on the occasion of the old established shepherds' annual meeting and hunt. The meeting is a very important and necessary one in the fell dales where the commons are not enclosed. All sheep owners and shepherds are expected to collect any sheep that may have wandered onto their heafs and take them to those meetings where they can be handed over to their proper owners. I was very much disappointed on Saturday to see so few sheep owners present, even some in the dale neither attending nor sending a representative. Many of the principle farmers in the district were likewise absent. It is to be hoped that in future all those who are interested in sheep will see their way to attend this gathering and not let the old custom go down especially when it is so beneficial. Mr. Baldry, Dun Bull, in order to encourage the meetings had arranged for the Ullswater Foxhounds and the Windermere Harriers to meet there. The day as regards the weather was all that could be desired, but for scenting was very bad, especially in the shade, as where the sun had not penetrated there was a thick hoar frost. An unusually large gathering of sportsmen assembled including M. B. Logan, the master of the harriers. Mr. J. Logan, Low Wood Hotel, Windermere. Mr. W. Nixon, Burgh by Sands. Mr. Macdonald and Dr. Aitkin, Shap. Mr. J. Bland, Kentmere Hall. Mr. Bland, Measand. Mr. Ravenhill, Askham also that noted foxhunter, Will Smith, late of Swindale and many others from the adjoining districts. At nine o'clock the foxhounds in charge of Joe Bowman cast off at Branstree, where a fox was soon unkennelled and went away amid ringing hallos. His first course was to try across Mardale Green, but was prevented by seeing some hunter on the road, and took through the breast and crossed Gatesgarth on to Harter Fell. There two fresh foxes were put up, thus causing the pack to get divided, one portion making for Longsleddale and another taking over Miller Crag and on to Nan Bield Pass, but owing to the frost and bad scenting, the huntsman called off what hounds he could and proceeded to Holmes Pasture. No sooner had we entered than four foxes were unkennelled at the same time, three taking one path after each other, and the hounds were again running in all directions. One fox went up Riggindale and Long Stile to the top of High Street; another followed by half a dozen hounds, went through Blea Water over by Piat Crag and Nan Bield to Harter Fell, where it went to ground near High Holes Earth, a place impossible to reach owing to the rough rocks on every side, and it was feared that some of the hounds might lose their lives before leaving the place. Noon having arrived, Anthony Chapman, in charge of the harriers had cast off at Mardale Banks, and was in full cry of pussy. With the foxhounds running four lots things had become quite lively. However, we joined the harriers and a jolly afternoon was spent, the little dogs making grand runs around by Guerness, Brown How and Hop Ghyll. As with the foxhounds scent was bad, which resulted in only one hare being killed. At three o'clock "Anthony" called off his dogs, and the hunters returned to the Dun Bull, where Mrs. Baldry provided a first class dinner. Dinner over, Mr. G. Smith was appointed chairman, the condition being imposed that speeches must be short, while politics and Pooley sewerage were

strictly barred. However a very pleasant evening was spent, and eight o'clock soon arrived, when the coachman informed us that our conveyance was waiting, and shortly afterwards we were rattling down by the shore of Haweswater homeward bound - FUSEDALÉ

Westmorland Gazette 26th November 1898

SHEPHERDS' MEETING AT MARDALE

The annual meeting of shepherds for the purpose of exchanging stray sheep was held at the Dun Bull hotel, Mardale on Saturday. Most of the flockmasters from the neighbouring dales of Kentmere, Swindale, Matterdale, Hartsop and Patterdale, etc., were either present or represented by their shepherds and about 150 sheep were restored to their owners. This is a record number for Mardale. The Ullswater Foxhounds in charge of Joe Bowman, huntsman, and the Windermere Harriers, in charge of Mr. Bruce Logan. Master and Anthony Chapman arrived the night before. The foxhounds cast off at nine am at Chapel Hill. Taking a drag at the corner of Chapel Hill plantation they crossed over Rough Crag into Bracken Howes and went up Mardale Green to the foot of Harter Fell. Scent had never been good, and here it almost died away, and the tops being very misty, Bowman called the hounds off and tried them through Harter Fell breast across Gatesgarth Pass on to Branstree, but without success and hounds returned to kennel.

The Windermere Harriers-casting off at Isaac Greenhow's they took a quest in Goosemire Grassings. Crossing the wall onto the fell above the house Puss jumped up in view, in the middle of a scree bed, and hounds ran her out to the top. Swinging to the left, they ran down the fell towards Naddle Forest and bringing her back along the fell breast, they came in by Goosemire and crossed the road into the Meadows at the head of Haweswater. Running a short ring, they recrossed the road and once more climbed the fell towards Naddle. Turning right-handed they ran out to the top above Goosemire, and turning sharply in to the right came to a check after a very fast and exciting 35 minutes. Hounds cast beautifully but failed to hit her off. Chapman held them along the fell for a quarter of a mile or so, and a fresh hare jumped up. Running over the meadows they crossed the beck and went over the road into Riggindale. Here just as there seemed every prospect of a rattling good run with what was evidently an old-fashioned hare, they unfortunately changed onto the line of a fresh gone fox. Racing up the fields just past Riggindale Farm they climbed out to the sheepfolds near the footpath to Hartsop, and ran through the Screes under Kidsty Pike. Turning up to the right they crossed the Roman road and were next heard by Mr. Brownrigg high up in Martindale Head. Coming back through Lowther Lot, they crossed the Straits of Riggindale at the wicket, and going through the Screes under High Street ran down Long Stile Head to Horse Crag. Here Bowman and a few foxhounds joined them but scent was very catchy and it was some little time before they hit the line off the top of the crag. Crossing

the wall they hunted him up Long Stile Head to the foot of the last pitch leading on to High Street, where he jumped up afresh. Turning left handed they ran down to Blea Water Foot and climbing over Horse Crag once more, crossed over Riggindale Bottom and running through the Screes under Kirkby Pike, they went over the Roman road into Haweswater. Mr. Bland then viewed him shortly afterwards but by this time scent had almost failed, and as darkness had set in it was decided to call hounds off. Bowman and his hounds returned to Mardale, Mr. Logan and Chapman returning with the harriers to Kirkstone. An excellent dinner had been provided by Mrs. Baldry at the Dun Bull, to which needless to say ample justice was done and a very sporting "Sing Song" was held in the evening. Amongst those present during the day were Mr. Logan, master of the Windermere Harriers; Mr. W. Nixon, master of the Thurstonfield Harriers, Mr. Milchrist, Glenridding. Mr. Wilkinson, Thrang Crag, Matteredale. Mr. Bland, Kentmere Hall. Mr. Greigg, Baysbrown, Langdale. Mr. Noble Ewbank. Mr. J. Hodgson. Messrs. T and W. Wilson, Grange. Mr. Teasdale, Cartmel. Mr. J. Thompson, Selside. Mr. J. Greenhow, Goosemire, Mardale. Mr. R. Rigg, Windermere. Messrs, T. Cloudsdale, Windermere. C. Gelderd, Kendal. J. Thompson, Grasmere and J. Brownrigg, Hartsop.

HUNTING NOTES

THE ULLSWATER FOXHOUNDS - On Monday the meet was at Longsleddale. The morning being favourable, the dogs were hunted up-dale to the fell, finding a line of their "game" on Stockdale Bank, which led by way of Geliford Spout to Buckbarrow, where the fox was unkennelled. After a fine display of crag hunting among the rocky heights, the fox eventually got to ground, in spite of those deputed to guard the stronghold. The dogs were afterwards hunted over Goat Scour, Roughcraggs, Bitchhall Wood and Docker Nook without any further find.

Westmorland Gazette 25th November 1899

THE SHEPHERDS' MEET AT MARDALE - Saturday was a notable day for the unusually quiet Haweswater valley. In addition to the annual shepherds' meeting, visitors had the opportunity of witnessing what sport the Ullswater Foxhounds and the Windermere Harriers could provide. The popular huntsman of the former pack, Joe Bowman, unloosed his hounds at 8-30, and a bitch fox weighing 13½lbs, was killed, the brush being presented to Dr. Simpson, London. The harriers were uncoupled just before eleven o'clock, and were in charge of the master, Mr. B. Logan and Anthony Chapman the huntsman. Within ten minutes they picked up scent under Branstree. Puss took her pursuers over Hop Ghyll into Mardale Banks. Aiming up Kirkgate, she took round by the high side of the Banks, and after making a wide course returned by Brown How, and took a short rest among the brackens near the bottom of Hop Ghyll. Being hotly pursued she went for Peat Gate. From this point, the hunters had a grand view of a fine hunt. Gamely the hounds went along the breast of the Banks, until the death after an hour's good run. A second hare was soon found within a short distance from

where the first was killed. Like the first it succeeded in getting twice around Mardale Banks. Not caring to repeat the journey a third time, it made a double through the plantation whence it crossed the river, soon to be followed by the hounds in full chorus. The road was crossed about half way between Chapel Hill and the Vicarage. At the foot of Castle Crag, Chapman had the satisfaction of seeing his pack again draw blood after a swift run of three quarters of an hour. The hounds were again taken back to Mardale Banks, where hare No 3 was scented, and was killed in about 20 minutes, close to where the first one met its end. Although a sharp, cold wind prevailed, the scent was well kept, and the pack worked well from start to finish, and provided excellent sport for the large company, which attended, amongst whom were visitors from London, Wigton, Windermere, Burgh-by-Sands, Selside, Carlisle, Kendal, Patterdale, Shap etc.



The Windermere Harriers

Nearly four score sheep were to the fore at the shepherds' meeting which was attended by flockmasters and shepherds from Kentmere, Longsleddale, Hartsop, Patterdale, Martindale, Bampton, Swindale etc, who were present to either claim their own sheep or to bring stray ones in. The oldest flockmaster present was Mr. Thomas Fishwick, Swindale, who attended the meetings more than sixty years ago, and has never missed one for over forty years. Dinner was afterwards provided at The Dun Bull Hotel, and was partaken by a large company. The toast list was afterwards gone through. Mr. Macdonald, Shap presided.

Westmorland Gazette 24th November 1900

THE SHEPHERDS' MEET AT MARDALE-Saturday was the Shepherds' Meet at Mardale, all shepherds in the dales eagerly look forward to the event, as well as others interested in fell hunting, and there was an excellent gathering. This year about 50 sheep were claimed. The foxhounds provided the usual hunt. There was a large attendance, a dozen visitors being present from Manchester, and others from Penrith, Ambleside, Patterdale, Carlisle, Sedbergh, Kendal, Cartmel, Kentmere, etc. There was a good deal of snow on the hills, but scent was fairly good. At nine o' clock Joe Bowman sounded his horn. The cast off was up Branstree, where soon a drag was struck up Mardale Green, through

Edmondson Lot, and into Harter Fell, where two foxes were roused. No 1, followed by the greater portion of the pack, went over Little Harter Fell, through Browna Bottom, to Longsleddale Head. Climbing over the top, she went down Mosedale to Swindale. Swinging here to the left her route was by Black Bells, over Selside, through Hop Ghyll and back into Branstree. Here a grand sight was witnessed by most of the hunters as hounds ran along the breast. The hunt continued to Gatesgarth where the fox crossed and returned to her old haunts in Harter Fell. This being one of the roughest places in the district, it was feared she would take Holes Earth, but the pack stuck well to their game, which they forced back into Branstree, and when about to be run into, she took refuge amongst some stones. She was soon drawn and killed. Fox No.2 followed by five dogs, which ran their game over Long Stile, through Whelter to Fusedale, ran to ground at Brock Crag above Howtown. The hunters returned to the hotel for dinner, and in the afternoon a hound trail commenced. The trail led up Branstree, under Harter Fell, through the Waters, over Long Stile, down Riggindale and Kidsty Pike, behind Flake How, and ended in Chapel Hill meadow. The result was as follows:-1. Bowe's (Ambleside) Gambler; 2. 3 and 4. Walker's (Grasmere) Gay Lass, Cracker and Fullerton, 5. Bowes Champion.

On Monday there was another interesting hunt by the Ullswater Foxhounds.

25th November 1905

MARDALE SHEPHERDS' MEET AND FOXHUNT

The old-fashioned Lakeland hostelry the Dun Bull, at Mardale was on Saturday the rendezvous of a large gathering of flock-masters, shepherds, and foxhunters, on the occasion of the shepherds' meet, which is held annually on the Saturday nearest November 20th. The shepherds' meeting is one of the oldest established, as well as one of the most important of its kind in the country. For many years additional attractions have been provided in the shape of a fox hunt and hound trail. The weather was of a most discouraging character. The mountains were at times obscured from view by the rolling rain clouds, and the rain poured incessantly.

The stray sheep were gathered together in the sheepfold belonging to the inn, and the number brought in was slightly lower than in previous years, but the diminution in number was accounted for by some of the fells being un-gathered owing to recent stormy weather. These "waifs and strays" of the mountains were brought in from Swindale, Martindale, Kentmere, Hartsop and Bampton in addition to those captured on the Mardale fells. Every sheep was claimed. A notable flockmaster present was Tom Fishwick, formerly of Swindale, but now of Rosgill Green. Mr Fishwick has attended the shepherds' meeting for 54 successive years-a remarkable record and although he is fast approaching four score years; he is quite as "lish" as most men of 50 or even younger than that. Among other flockmasters and shepherds present were Messrs J. Wilkinson,

Thrang Crag, R. Ebdell, Drybarrrows; J. Hudson, Chapel Hill, G. Salkeld, Thornthwaite Hall; J. Wilson, Hartrigg; N. Gregg, Kentmere Hall; J. Noble; Little Water; W. Baldry and C. Farrer, Howtown; T. Greenhow, Swindale; J. Winder; Tailbert; T. Kitching; Measand; I. Dufton, Bampton; T. Edmondson, T. Watson; Mardale; and others.

The Ullswater pack of 14 couple of foxhounds and four terriers in the charge of their popular huntsman, Joe Bowman, threw off in Hop Ghyll. They took a line up Branstree Edge to Woodford Ghyll where reynard was unkennelled to a vociferous "Tally-ho" from Matt and Jim Thompson. He climbed the precipitous Harter Fell and crossed Nan Bield Pass thence through Mardale Water, with the hounds in full chorus re-echoing down the valley. His course was then over Blea Water Crag for Riggindale Straits, where he was brought back over Holmes's Pasture and past small Water Foot. When he crossed Gatesgarth Road he was headed by Longsledale and Kentmere hunters and circled twice-round Harter Fell ere he ran to ground in the stronghold of High Holes earth just before noon. The weather was so boisterous, and the stronghold so dangerous that Bowman deemed it necessary to call off the pack. The fox was a fine one and was frequently viewed by the whole of the hunters.

Ten dogs entered the hound trail, which was laid from behind Grove Brae, up the steep slopes of Branstree, through Gatesgarth, under Harter Fell, across Mardale Waters, past Blea Water tarn, over Chapel gate, through Yoad Pot, under rough crags and Kidsty Hows, thence through Randle Beck, along the edge of Castle Crag, across the highway and finishing in Holmes Pasture, a distance of about eight miles. The trail was keenly contested, several of the dogs running close together.

Result: 1. T. Chapman's Merry, 2. J. Wilson's Ransom, 3. R. Black's Dolly Grey, 4. R. Capstick's Charmer, 5. B. Black's Comrade. Merry only beat Ransom by a couple of yards: Comrade was the favourite, but lost a lot of ground by running wide.

24th November 1906

In 1911 Joe Bowman retired for the first time, he had begun hunting the Ullswater Foxhounds in 1889 but was to return in 1915 when the then huntsman George Salkeld was called up. Bowman finally retired in 1924. Here is an account of his first retirement.

*HONOUR FOR A HUNTSMAN
JOE BOWMAN'S RETIREMENT*

On Tuesday, at Patterdale, Joe Bowman, who has retired from the position of huntsman to the Ullswater Foxhounds, after 32 years faithful service, was the recipient of a handsome testimonial. The hounds met at Patterdale Hotel at ten o'clock for Place Fell, and were in charge of G. Salkeld, the new huntsman. Hounds were thrown off at Kepple Quarries, and they soon took a line, which led up into Grey Crag, where a fox was hallooed away by T. Wilkinson. Hounds got well away, and drove their game very fast along the breast of the fell to Rookin Ghyll, where reynard climbed out at the top of Red Gate into Boardale, on the edge of Boardale Fell, to above Foul Earth. Climbing out to the top again and crossing Place Fell, the fox found it heavy travelling, owing to there being a great deal of snow, so turned in at Hare Bennett and was forced to go to ground at Kepple Crag. The huntsman soon arrived with the terriers, and succeeded in bolting the fox again, which this time went down Blowick Moss, to near Bleaberry Knott. The fox turned to the left, and when about to be overtaken by the hounds, which were now running in view of their game, went to ground below Black Crag. Being soon drawn by J. Swinburn, and again set at liberty, the effort to escape was a vain one, as the young vixen was rolled over in the open. At the conclusion of the hunt the company returned to the Patterdale Hotel, where the Misses Hudson provided refreshments. About three o'clock the time fixed for the presentation, a large company assembled on the lawn in front of the hotel. Mr. Marshall, in opening the proceedings, said when it was announced some time ago that Joe Bowman proposed to retire from the position of huntsman of the Ullswater Foxhounds, a very large number of people thought that a testimonial should be presented to him. They could congratulate the gentleman who promoted the testimonial upon the excellent results of their efforts. As they had probably heard about 700 people had subscribed to the testimonial and they had received about £150 to present to Joe. (Applause) it had been said that there was only one time when people really said what they thought about anybody, and that unfortunately was when they were dead and gone. They did not want to wait for Joe's obituary notice but wished to take that opportunity of showing what they thought of him, (Applause). He was a modest man, and that would be rather a bad quarter of an hour for him, yet they would like to say how high he stood in their estimation. There were two reasons why they were making that testimonial. They wanted to give Joe's many friends throughout the country the opportunity of showing their appreciation of his services, but there was also another reason. In many forms of sport those who took part received monetary reward. The jockey, professional cricketer and footballer all receiving plenty of money for their services. But a hunter did not get any reward in hard cash, and therefore they thought they would do something for Joe in that direction (Applause). Although he had had a song written about him, and was one of the two greatest sportsmen in Westmorland-Lord Lonsdale and he being known as "Lordy" and "Hunty" respectively-he had not been blessed with much of the world's goods. For that reason they had done all they could for him in that way

(Applause) He (Mr. Marshall) was glad to see that all sorts of people were present that day. He thought someone who had known Joe for forty years and knew all the points of the game of hunting, should have complimented Joe on his long service, but it had fallen to his lot and he would do his best. (Applause). There were many people present who had followed Joe for years-people who admired the fells but who wanted something more than the view-wanted to see the shepherd at work with his dog on the fells and to hear Joe's voice re-echo from the crags. But the people of Patterdale were proud that Joe had lived among them for so many years, and that he was one of themselves. (Applause) As to the young people he hoped some of them would follow in Joe's footsteps, and remember that day as long as they lived. In Joe Bowman they had a worthy successor to John Peel and a man who could take his place beside that great hunting man. Plenty of those present understood hunting thoroughly, but there was something about the sport that made it fine, and Joe could bring out that something. (Applause) Joe had been blessed with good health and great strength, and while a man in his position could manage without a great deal of wealth, they wished him long life in which to enjoy the recollections of the good times gone before. (Applause.) There were many friends of Joe's who were not present that day, and a telegram had been received from Mr. Lancelot Sanderson MP reading "Heartly congratulations to Joe Bowman and best wishes." Mr. Sanderson thought a great deal of Joe, who was a fine old statesman and talked the old dialect of Cumberland and Westmorland, which was fast dying out. Joe was in the best sense of the word a fine Conservative. He had very great pleasure in presenting him with the cheque. (Loud applause.) Dr. Jackson, Greystoke also spoke, and Joe Bowman in replying, said he did not know how to start in order to thank them enough. He was proud to come of a healthy never-say-die kind of people, and he had been told of an ancestor of his who was deaf and dumb who used to go out hunting above Dockray with a man who was blind, and used to say to him, "Thou mun lissen and I'll leak." (Laughter.) Personally he hoped to see many good hunts yet, and though it might be against his doctor's orders, as long as he could breath he would continue to hunt. (Applause.) He desired to thank Mr. Marshall, as Master of the Hounds, for had it not been for him he would never have made many friends. He had never had a weary day with the hounds, because they were always faithful to him. He wished to thank all those who had subscribed to the testimonial, and to assure them that that day would never go from his memory, and he would always think of the many happy hours he had spent with the people and the hounds on the fells round Ullswater. (Applause.) He hoped people would show to the Master and the new huntsman the same kindness they had shown to him, and if that was done he had no doubt that those hills would long continue to ring with the merry music of the Ullswater Foxhounds. (Applause)-Cheers were then heartily given for Joe and "For he's a jolly good fellow" was sung and Mr. C. R. Farrer sang "Joe Bowman" the company joining in the chorus.

30th December 1911

1914

Ullswater. Master (from 1910). W.H. Marshall. Huntsman. G. Salkeld. 13 couple of hounds. Hunting three days a week.

Baily's Hunting Directory

To my surprise The Mardale Shepherds Meet and associated hunt continued through the years of World War 1, albeit with a diminished attendance. In the years leading up to the war, the then German Kaiser Wilhelm the second visited Lakeland to holiday, on a number of occasions from 1895 onward staying with The Earl of Lowther and touring the district as well as cruising on Lake Ullswater. For one of his visits, the Raven had her decks painted yellow and was used as a Royal Yacht, the Raven still sails Ullswater today.

The Kaiser met Bowman (who was currently hunting the Ullswater Foxhounds prior to his first retirement) and may have hunted with him for he apparently slipped Bowman a fiver (family anecdote). The Kaiser also shot deer in the nearby Martindale Deer Forest and a large bungalow was constructed for him and his entourage in the 1880s. This same bungalow is available today as a holiday let.

On one occasion the Kaiser and his retinue travelled over the Kirkstone Pass, the horses being well lathered on arrival at their destination apparently. My grandfather and two of my great uncles went to see him pass by. One of my great uncles told me the tale ending with the words "but we never thowt (thought) we'd be fighting the bugger". Beatrix Potter also watched the procession and recorded the following entry in her diary.

Tuesday August 15th 1895. We consumed three whole hours waiting to see the Emperor, not very well worth it. I had seen him in London. I think he is stouter. I was not particularly excited. I think it is disgraceful to drive fine horses like that. First came a messenger riding a good roan belonging to Bowness, which we could hear snorting before they came in sight, man and horse both dead-beat. He reported the Emperor would be up in ten minutes, but it was twenty. The procession consisted of a mounted policeman with a drawn sword in a state approaching apoplexy, the red coats of the Quorn Hunt, four or five of Lord Lonsdale's carriages, several hires and spare horses straggling after them. There were two horses with an outside rider to each carriage, splendid chestnut thoroughbreds floundering along and clinking their shoes.

They were not going fast when we saw them, having come all the way from Patterdale without even stopping at Kirkstone to water the horses, to the indignation of mine host, and an assembly of three or four hundred who had reckoned on this act of mercy. I think his majesty deserved an accident and rather wonder he didn't have one considering the smallness of the little Tiger sitting on the box to work the break.

The liveries were blue and yellow and the carriages much yellow singularly ugly low tub. With a leather top, to shut up sideways. The Emperor, Lord Lonsdale and two ladies, in the first, Lady Dudley etc in the second. There was a considerable crowd and very small flags. German one's bad to get at short notice, but plenty of tricolours. Lord Lonsdale is red headed and has a harum-

scarum reputation, but according to Mr Edmondson, less "stupid" than his predecessor whom he had seen "Beastly droonk" in the road on a Sunday morning.

But war was inevitable and when it broke out The Mardale Shepherds' Meet continued, albeit with a lower attendance, there was even enough ammunition for a clay pigeon and rifle shooting competition in 1916.

Mardale Shepherds *Large Number Of Stray Sheep*

The Mardale Shepherds' Meeting-the oldest of its kind in the north-was held on Saturday. The number of stray sheep collected this year into the fold adjoining the Dun Bull was 205, being far above average for many years. They were brought in from Longsleddale, Kentmere, Martindale, Troutbeck, Wet Sleddale, Bampton, Hartsop and Swindale. The sheep were mostly Herdwicks and black faces. All the sheep were identified and returned to their own flocks. Flock masters and shepherds were present from all parts of the district covered by the association, but regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. Thomas Fishwick, Rosgill and formerly of Swindale who had not missed a Mardale meeting for 59 years. Mr. Fishwick and his many admirers had looked forward to his 60th successive attendance, but the journey over the snow clad Kirk Gate was more than he could comfortably accomplish at the age of 88 years, although he covered both journeys on foot last year. A well-known flock master, deploring the absence of once familiar landmarks at the gathering said, " What wi Willie and Isaac Greenhow gone, and Tommy not here, yan can hardly think is't sheep meetin at aw". The fold was in charge of Messrs. T Edmondson Flake How and R. Ebdell, Drybarrrows. The Ullswater foxhounds were loosed at Goosemire, Mardale Waters, Naddle Forest and Thornthwaite were tried with out success. The pack was then taken over into Swindale by way of Bewbarrow Crag. A faint line was taken up before reaching Mosedale beck, and the game was marked on a bink in Black Bells. Here the fox was unkennelled, and it took its pursuers down Steel Rigg towards Swindale Head, where it passed through the garth adjoining the house. The game kept down the valley and crossed the beck at the Parsonage Steps. Being hard pressed by the whole pack, the fox went to earth in Gowder Crag. Salkeld was soon up and the terriers affected a bolt. The hounds prevented the fox climbing out of the valley. The hunt was then along the meadows, where hounds were quickly gaining ground. The fox crossed the beck near Truss Gap, and was run into by the pack in the churchyard. The game proved to be an old vixen. Weighing 14lbs. The huntsman and Mr. Metcalf-Gibson were the first in at the kill.

There were eleven entries for the hound trail, which was laid by T. Greenhow and N. Walker, the course being from Mardale Green, right round the lake, a distance of nine miles. Result-1. Grant's Chanter, Egremont. 2. Hawkigg's Wait and See, Ambleside. 3. Rambler, Kendal; 4. Baldry's Crazy Lad, Howtown; 5.

Jackson's Welfare, Ambleside; Mr. C. W. Wilson, Gowbarrow Hall, was judge and Mr. C. R. Farrer, Howtown, timekeeper. The time occupied was 35 minutes.

28th November 1914

MARDALE SHEPHERDS THE ANNUAL MEET AT THE DUN BULL

The Mardale Shepherds' Meet took place at the Dun Bull on Saturday. The attendance of the general public was not up to that of the last few years, mainly owing to the war, but the flockmasters and shepherds attending showed little if any diminution. The number of stray sheep however exceeded all previous records, no less than 284 having been gathered into the fold adjoining the hotel, which was again in charge of Mr. T. Edmondson, Flake How, and Mr. R. Ebdell, Drybarrows. Mr. Ebdell, when asked how he accounted for the increased number of sheep this year, said that during a fine autumn such as that recently experienced, sheep aimed for the tops of the hills, even though far away from their own heafs, and the suddenness of the recent storms had compelled them to seek refuge at the nearest points. With the exception of a few half-breeds the sheep were of the Herdwick and blackface breeds, the former greatly predominating. There was one animal, which had missed last spring's shearing and Mr. Edmondson claimed it. Out of the 284, two remained unclaimed at night, and as they both bore tar marks and were ear marked it is evident that they had strayed long distances, otherwise they would have been identified. The principle topic of conversation all the day was of the loss the meeting had sustained by the death of Mr. Thomas Fishwick, whose 64 successive annual attendances clearly entitled him to "King of the Mardale Meet." The Naddle Forest shepherd's summing up was typical of the general opinion when he said to a flockmaster, "What lad, it isn't like t' auld do at a'w without Tommy." The venerable flockmaster's death has removed a great character from the local mountain sheep world and the Mardale Shepherds' Meeting seems all the poorer by his "travelling on." The principle flockmasters and shepherds present were: - Messrs. J. Noble, Little Water. E. Dodds, Shap Abbey, S. Barnett, Shap Lodge, J. Bigland, Hartsop, R. Lancaster, Patterdale Hall, R. Hall, Thrang Crag. C. R. Farrer, Howtown, H. Metcalf, Heltondale, I. Cookson, Gill Head, T. Thompson, Hullock How, R. Nicholson, J. Nicholson, M. Fishwick, J. Fishwick, R and G. Rogerson, Long Sleddale, T. Tyson, B. Gilpin, T. Dixon, J. Rowlings, Kentmere, N. Gregg, J. Fawcett, W. Hayton, Troutbeck, J. and S. Thompson, Garnett Bridge. R. P. Hindson, Truss Gap. W. Davis; Wet Sleddale; J. R. Hudson; Thorney Bank; F. Metcalf, Shap; T. Greenhow; Thornthwaite Hall and Naddle Forest; J. Winder, Tailbert; W. Allenby, Settra Park; J. Kirkbride, Helton, A. Horner, Mosedale; J. Martin, Knipe Hall; G. Bland, High how; T. Thompson, Eastward, H. Hudson, S. Mounsey, Chapel Hill; T. Edmondson Jnr, Flake How, and T. Kitching, Measand. The Ullswater Foxhounds were in charge of G. Salkeld, huntsman, and B. Wilson, whip. The conditions were against good hunting owing to the frozen state of the ground, and the hills were deeply covered with snow, so it was

decided to try the lower ground. A fox was put up between Thornthwaite Hall and Wallow Crag, running up the side of the lake as far as Guerness. The game for a short distance climbed up Guerness Brow, then aimed in a right handed direction along Mardale Banks, past Brown How, where he was "tally ho'd" by two ladies from Windermere. Thence the game crossed Hoy Ghyll down to near Dun Bull, and then climbed along the ridge of Branstree, out over the tops for Mosedale Fell, where he was met by hunters, who turned him round the north end of Selside Brow, across Gatesgarth Pass and the summit of Harter Fell. He descended by Miller Crag and crossed Nan Bield Pass in the thick snow. Reynard next climbed Piet Crag, over Mardale Ill Bell, for the top of High Street, whence for about half a mile he seemed to be making for Kentmere Head, but doubled back along the sharp edge of High Street, down Riggindale Straits, over Tuppenny Crag, under Sail Pot for Kidsty Pike, where the pack were quickly gaining ground and running in ful cry. The hunt now lay along Kidsty Hows, through Wrangdale, towards Castle Crag, where it was expected the fox would take shelter. Instead of entering the stronghold reynard swerved to the right, past Flake How, through the Vicarage Wood and thence into Chapel Hill meadows. Here the hounds had great trouble owing to the shouting of the spectators and the interference by shepherds' dogs-always a deterrent to hounds. After putting in a few dodges the fox went through Chapel Hill plantation into Dudderwick and crossed over Mardale Green into Branstree Bottom where hounds received another severe check from the sheep-dogs and spectators. When reynard passed behind the Dun Bull it showed signs of a severe gruelling from its fast and long run. It went over Hop Ghyll onto Mardale Banks, where he was turned by Mr. J. Hudson and others into the bottom, and crossed the meadows at the top of Haweswater. It ran along the road in front of Whelter, then round Lairthwaite for Measand, running on the wall top for about a quarter of a mile, being lost close on dark in Mr. T. Kitching's turnip field, where Salkeld called off the hounds. It was one of the best hunts ever witnessed in Mardale, and would undoubtedly ended in a kill, but for the over zeal of some of the spectators. - A hound trail had been arranged, but there were no entries, owners not running under such unfavourable conditions. There were 29 entries for the clay pigeon shooting, which resulted as follows: 1. J. H. Simpson, Skelton, 2. J. Noble, Little Water, 3. S. Mounsey, Chapel Hill. Mrs. Daffurn prepared dinner and a convivial evening was spent.

27th November 1915

1916 – 1917

Baily's

Ullswater. Joe Bowman returned as Huntsman for his second spell after retiring in 1911, (he continued until 1924) replacing G Salkeld, who (according to "The Reminiscences of Joe Bowman by Skelton 1921) left "due to the exigencies of war"

Bowman hunted 3 days three days per week with 13 couple of hounds.

At the Mardale shepherds' meet that year, a fox went to ground in the peat holes above Wolf Crag (**Skelton 1921 takes up the story**) *"the first follower on the scene J. Teasdale found two or three hounds had attacked their kennel comrade Mariner, who died soon after. The cause was put down to excitement in trying to get at the fox. Terriers often scrap when underground, sometimes with fatal result, but such quarrelling is rare amongst the fell hounds."*

MARDALE SHEPHERDS' MEET A POPULAR LAKELAND GATHERING

The Mardale Shepherds' Meeting, the oldest of its kind in the country, took place at the Dun Bull, at the head of Haweswater, on Saturday, when, in spite of the storm, there was a large concourse of flockmasters, shepherds, hunters and visitors from many parts of the two counties. Upwards of 150 stray sheep were collected in the fold adjoining the hotel and only two failed to find their owners. The stragglers had mostly been collected from the Mardale, Swindale, Bampton, Martindale, Longsleddale and Kentmere Fells.

The Ullswater Foxhounds, under the veteran Joe Bowman, were to have started a hunt at nine o' clock, but snow was falling so the search for a fox was delayed for an hour. Hounds obtained a drag in Guerness Crag, went down High Forest to Walla Crag, where a fox was unkennelled, went down Naddle Forest, and on towards Swindale, where the storm compelled the fox to return to Walla Crag. Hounds compelled him to bolt and he went round Naddle Forest, but once more returned to Walla Crag, and Bowman called off his hounds without a kill.

There were shooting competitions afterwards on Mardale Green, and in the evening Mr. M. Sedgwick, Sedbergh, presided over a concert in the dining room of the hotel.

25th November 1916

Or this version:

Mardale Shepherds' Meeting - This meeting, the oldest of its kind in the country, took place at the Dun Bull on Saturday, when in spite of the storm, a large number of flock owners, shepherds, hunters and visitors assembled. Upwards of 150 stray sheep were collected together in the fold adjoining the hotel, and with the exception of two, all were claimed and restored to their

owners. The stragglers had mostly been collected from the Mardale, Longsleddale, Swindale, Bampton, Martindale and Kentmere fells. The Ullswater Foxhounds, again in charge of the veteran Joe Bowman had been kennelled overnight in the valley. At nine o'clock there had been a heavy fall of snow, consequently Bowman waited an hour before loosing. The hounds obtained a drag in Guerness Ghyll, down High Forest to Walla Crag, where a fox was unkennelled. The game went down Naddle Forest, up past Naddle House, on to the heights leading for Swindale, where the severity of the snowstorm was too much for him, Reynard turned to the right for Guerness Ghyll, down to the shores of Haweswater, which he skirted as far as the underside of Walla Crag, where he took refuge for a time, but the marking of the hounds compelled him to bolt. A fast spin ensued round Naddle Forest, and the fox once more went into the Walla Crag stronghold, where Bowman called off his hounds without a kill having been effected. - Competitions for clay pigeon shooting and rifle shooting took place on Mardale Green. In the evening Mr. M. Sedgwick, Sedbergh presided over the convivial gathering in the dining room of the hotel.

26th November 1916