Mrs Graham Spence’s Reminiscences of
The Lakeland Terrier

Compiled by Ron Punter
The "Egton" Kennel of Lakeland Terriers

The Property of
Mrs. GRAHAM SPENCE,
Egton Kennels,
Howtown,
Ullswater.

Phone: Pooley Bridge 31.

Adults and Puppies of really typical Lakelands, always for sale.

FOUR HOME BRED WINNERS

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Living at Howton on the shore of Ullswater, Mrs Graham Spence was well placed to know the breed in its natural environment. Howton was a favourite meeting place for the Ullswater pack, which had been formed by the amalgamation of the Bald How (Matterdale) and the Patterdale Foxhounds in 1873 which, coincidentally, was the same year as the Kennel Club's formation. Certainly, Alice Spence (as she signed her breed notes) knew Kitty Farrer, the long serving Secretary of the Ullswater, who had hunted with the legendary Joe Bowman.

In 1878, the year before Bowman became huntsman, "The Field" commissioned a special correspondent to make a tour of the northern packs of foxhounds; in his report on the Ullswater he wrote: "The pack consist of between fifteen and twenty couple of hounds with three couple of shaggy little mountain terriers".

These little dogs of the district were taken up by the local working men, and by the time Mrs Graham Spence came into the breed the Lakeland Terrier Association (now defunct) was well established, but she was one of the few people to exhibit Lakeland Terriers outside Cumbria.

The Kennel Club show held at the Crystal Palace on October 7th 1931 scheduled Lakelands with Challenge Certificates for the first time. Mrs Graham Spence's Egton Lady of the Lake won the bitch ticket, and her dog, Egton Rock of Howton was just 'pipped' by Mr Tweedie's Evergreen's Double. In the years that followed, up to the Second World War, she was without doubt one of the principal owners of champion Lakelands.

During the war years, breeding was severely curtailed, and very few shows took place, championship shows ceased altogether. Mrs Graham Spence was the Lakeland Terrier correspondent for the Dog World newspaper. Writing breed notes is never easy at the best of times, under the circumstances of wartime conditions it must have been practically impossible. Perhaps more due to a lack of subjects to write about than any other reason she turned to reminiscing about the early days, and over a period of several weeks wrote the notes which are the subject of this book.
The first two sets of notes concern the original purpose of the Lakeland Terrier - hunting the Fox. Mr Neville Dawson had evidently said that some Lakelands were too big, a sentiment with which I think Catherine Fisher, breed note writer for the other canine newspaper "Our Dogs", agreed. The original standard of the Lakeland Terrier Association was – max 15 inches. The Lakeland Terrier Club has adopted the same height as the Fox Terrier standard – max 15 ½ inches. Unified standards were only achieved by the Kennel Club in 1950 when by unanimous vote at the AGM’s of both clubs "not more than 14 1/2 inches” was agreed.

The rest of the notes are her personal reminiscences of the dogs and people who brought the breed to prominence.

One point, from the old standard (page 7), that has caused confusion is the term "Level Bite" this is sometimes misinterpreted nowadays as the teeth meeting edge to edge. The glossary in A Croxton Smith's book "About Our Dogs" circa 1931 has the following entry: -

“LEVEL MOUTH - In which the upper teeth just fit over the top of the lower, as the blades of a pair of scissors do.”

Lord Lonsdale (“Lordy” as he was affectionately known in the hunting field) was actually the second President of the Lakeland Terrier Association and not the first as stated in Mrs G.S’s notes.
Some of my readers who do not get the chance to see the local papers, may be interested in these extracts from the "Westmoreland and Cumberland Herald".

"Fell Fox Hunting" R.H.L. Broadcast talk by Mr. R.H.Lamb, Greenrigg, Caldbeck. In the course of his broadcast Mr Lamb explained that Fell Fox Hunting is quite an important business, because, if the foxes are not kept down, they cause tremendous losses amongst the Fell sheep. Foxes live largely on rabbits and beetles, but in the spring when there are cubs, they carry off day or two-day old lambs. The only way to kill foxes is to hunt them with trained hounds and organised packs.

"Now it is more important than ever to safeguard Fell sheep and that was why there was a special ration for Fell hounds of one cwt. of cereal foodstuffs for every ten hounds per month. Provided you are fairly sound in wind and limb, a grand day was to be spent following the Fell hounds- ‘and come back fit enough to eat a whole tatiepot yourself’. The whole cost of keeping up an average Fell pack is only about £200 a season - just about what a fashionable pack in the Shires will spend on button polish. Every Fell farmer subscribes from 2/6 to 5/- a year, most other local people give something and the rest is raised by dances and whist drives in the Fell villages and hamlets. The five Fell packs hunt about five days a week.

"The Blencathra has already killed about forty foxes this season. Some of the hounds in this pack are directly descended from the hounds which belonged to the immortal John Peel who, by the way, lived in the next farm to mine at Caldbeck."

The second cutting is as follows: - "Blencathra hounds have been operating this week in the John Peel country. Kennelled at Fellside they were unable to turn out on Tuesday on account of the weather, and there was little improvement on Wednesday morning when hounds were cast off at Fellside. Fortunately they had not left the kennels many minutes until they picked up a line.
"The fox had evidently been late on the prowl and hunters were soon left far behind as hounds traversed the road to the Smelt Mill where they crossed over the steam to Crook Brow and on towards Red Ghylls where hunters lost touch. From there it was a case of hide and seek, two lone hunters moving off in different directions in the hope of locating the line.

Finally the hounds where discovered by Mire House Head, by Mr F Bartle, having run their fox to ground on West Fell End near to Haltcliffe. The terriers were tried, but Reynard was unable to bolt and was finally drawn and dispatched”.

These two cuttings show that hunting is no mere pastime in these parts but that the pack is out to kill and thus guard the sheep. If farmers are troubled by having their lambs or hens taken by a fox they appeal to the hunts which then comes and tries to catch the thief. I read that Mrs. Fisher advocates the lowering of the standard height of the Lakeland Terrier. If they were bred to the size she wishes, namely 131/2” I fear that they would cease to be the hunting terrier which is their great attraction but would just become pretty little pets which has been done in so many cases with the Cairn and other terriers. A terrier of only 131/2 inches could not travel the distances which are required. In these parts the terriers are never carried but have to walk where the huntsman goes, often in deep snow, and little ones could not manage it.

Also, unless they were rather high on the leg they could not get up and down the ledges in the rocks to which the foxes bolt. We have tried, perhaps not always with success, to keep the working qualities combined with the smartness of a show dog. To get either one or the other quality is not so difficult but to get the two together in one animal is not an easy thing, but such a thing has always been the ambition of the breeder. If we are now only going for the one quality and not caring about the chief use of the terrier, then I am afraid the breed will be quite ruined. However smart a dog we may get let us never forget their uses and what they are primarily bred for.

In referring to the remarks of Mr. Neville Dawson, which Mrs. Fisher quotes, he of course, was speaking about a bitch which I quite agree should be less than a dog, but there again it must not be too small or the puppies will be small too.
A good height for a bitch is from 13 1/2 inches to 14 inches and they mostly
are that. I have before me the list of past champions, and, with the exception of
one or possibly two dogs I should think none of them are much under 15 inches
and two of them certainly were above that. Of course I am referring to dogs
now.

March 6th 1942

As Mr Neville Dawson evidently gets this paper I will shortly answer his
letter to Mrs. Fisher in it, as I am the correspondent and so he will be able to
read what I want to say.

I was very interested to read what he had to say about the size of the
terriers and the difference in those used in the South to those used up here. Here all the hunting is done on foot, and there are no drains for the Terriers to
get into, and, as to their being carried in a bag, I tremble to think what laughter
their would be if anyone here were brave enough to appear with one in that
way.

I can quite see that when the following is on horses such a way of taking
a Terrier to a hole would be the best way; in fact, the only way of getting them
there; but here it is very different.

No, here the terriers must do the walking, often 30 miles or more, either
with the hounds or with their masters, sometimes over Helvellyn, more often
than once, and so they must not be small or short-legged. Mr. Paisley who
hunts with the Blencathra, and uses his terriers only for work, once tried
Borders, but he found them too small. They could not travel with the hounds
nor could they get up and down the ledges in the rocks, and that is always
where the fox goes to ground.

May I tell a short story to illustrate this point? Long ago I had two
terriers, one a Scottie and one a Lakeland. I lived in a town, and at one time, for
some reason or other, I left my terriers here at Howtown with Mr. Chris. Farrer
who then lived here. This is what he told me; They both went hunting, as they
often did, but only one, the Lakeland, came back. The dog was very uneasy and
would not rest until he had got Mr. Farrer to go up the fell with him. At a hole
in the rocks he made him stop and he could hear barking. So he dug down and
at last found the Scottie at the bottom of a deep ledge from
Which he could not get up. There was a dead fox which they had both killed. The Lakeland having longer legs, was able to get out, but the Scottie, though he could jump down could not get back again. I have often thought of that, and know that for the purpose for which they are used and for which they exist a small dog is no use.

As Mr. Dawson is so interested in the breed I often wish he could come up here and go to one of the hunts and then he would see, much better than I can tell him, why the dogs must differ so from those used in the South. From the show point of view and as a picture, I quite agree that the small, cobby ones are the nicest, but I have always tried to get them, as it were, for the double purpose, a not very easy thing to do.

Now as to the special dogs he mentions. In some cases I think I can help him in remembering. The first that he mentions, at the first show he judged at in 1934, were Ch. Zip and Ch. Lady of Kinniside. Ch. Zip was a small one, possibly the smallest ever shown. I bred him and his litter brother Ch. Crab, who was much bigger, but, I thought, a better dog, so I kept him and sold him afterwards to go to Rumania. Now, Lady of Kinniside was not a small bitch and would not be as small as Zip, though he was a dog, but I should think she would be somewhere about 14 inches.

Son of Bluebird was decidedly on the big side, certainly up to 15 inches. I can't tell you the exact size of Ch. Kowslip of Kinniside, but I do know about Int. Ch. Marshall. He was quite a small dog, hardly more than 14 inches, and I should think that Ch. Lemon Lady would be about the same height.

This letter seems to have ended rather as a personal one to Mr. Dawson, but I have written it hoping that he will read the paper. I hope very much that, in the good days to come he will judge our breed once more, for it is a great pleasure to come under one who is really interested in the breed.
Mrs Graham Spence’s Reminiscences

Breed Notes January 1942

These notes are especially for those who are getting interested in the breed or are thinking of taking it up. I notice in the 'Kennel Gazette' several names, and though they may not all want to breed I think they may be interested to know more about the game little terriers than perhaps they already do. And so I thought it would be a good thing to put in some notes for them only.

There have, as far as one can tell, always been in these districts Lakeland Terriers, though they were not always called by that name. In fact the name Lakeland Terriers was only used for the breed when they attained show status. Before they were called just Terriers or Fell Terriers. Almost every man about here owned one of them and used them when he went out with the hounds or had one even if he did not hunt. They were the dog of the district and most of their owners knew all about them. Then, in 1921, the Lakeland Terrier Association was founded, with Lord Lonsdale as the president. Its object was as follows:

To promote the breeding and exhibiting of Lakeland Terriers and to publish a true type; to urge the adoption of such type on judges, breeders, etc. to offer special prizes at shows where classifications were held for Lakeland Terriers and to encourage breeders and exhibitors in retaining the gameness of the breed by offering special prizes for terriers holding a M.F.H. or M.O.H. working certificate and to adopt such other means as may be deemed advisable for the encouragement of the breed.

The standard then laid down was as follows:
Colour: Blue, blue and tan, red, mustard, wheaten, grizzle, or black (white predominant to disqualify)
Weight: Dog not to exceed 17 lbs. Bitch not to exceed 16 lbs.
Height: Not to exceed 15 inches.
Head: Moderately broad in skull, with broad strong muzzle, not excessively long. Black nose preferred, but liver or flesh colour not to disqualify.
Mouth: Level.
Ears: Small and dropped- round or V shaped.
Eyes: Dark or hazel, medium size (not too prominent)
Neck: In proportion to body.
Front: Narrow.
Forelegs: Straight.
Feet: Sound and not flat.
Back: Moderately short and well coupled, with long sloping hindquarters.
Coat: Hard dense and wiry, grooming allowed to improve general appearance, but judge in all cases to give preference to a good hard coat.
Tail: Carried gaily - not docked too short.
General Appearance: Smart and workmanlike.

These Terriers, as the name implies, are an ancient breed belonging to the Lake District. They are used in conjunction with the Lakeland packs of Foxhounds in bolting and despatching foxes from their rocky fastnesses. It is work of a very arduous nature. Powerful jaws and a hard dense coat and all other details in the standard are essential.

I shall not write any more this week on account of the shortage of paper, but I will go on in subsequent weeks till I have told all I can about the breed.

My notes this week are going to be personal ones, because I think it may interest my readers to know how I first started in Lakelands. It was after my husband died and Overs, who is now my Kennelman, was his keeper, and we then had Golden Retrievers as shooting dogs. When I had to give up the shooting I could not train them and, as I was going to live in this part of the world, I thought I would like to take up dog breeding seriously, so looked round for a suitable small dog. After a time I thought "what could be better than to go in for the dog of the district and try to work hard at the breed?" It was not then acknowledged as a show breed, but was scheduled amongst foreign dogs; rather annoying as it was such an essentially English breed.

The first one I bought from Mr. Hall of Calder Bridge. I drove over there one very wet day and picked a pup out of a litter and brought it home. Then, some time after, when I was still showing Golden Retrievers, I took them up to a show and with them my "Chips" as he was called, the first Lakeland I had, to be put into a variety class. When I was there an Irishman haunted the benches and spoke to me, and after a time asked me if I would sell "Chips". I said "No" as he was the only one I had, but he said he liked him most of any dog in the show. He had so much sense in his face, and he would give me what I liked if only he could have him. And so in the end I gave way, and after the show he went off with him.
And so I began in that way showing them in variety classes till gradually they got classes of their own and then some challenge certificates. I then got very interested in them and did all I could to push them on, but knowing all the time that there were in this part of the country men who knew much more about them than I did and to them I have always gone when I have wanted to know anything.

Now there are twelve championship shows at which challenge certificates are offered for the breed, and it was going well when the war came. A great many people in the south became interested in the terrier and many went there, and latter the Lakeland Terrier Club was founded, which works for its members down there, and has also many members up here. This Club is very flourishing but is now lying dormant during the war. The Secretary is Miss Edwards, and it has now about £80 invested in War Loans, which will be there to be used when wanted. I expect it will start with renewed vigour when the war is over, and we shall hope then that the new people will rally round and become members, for it is on them that the future of the breed depends.

I, as so many others in the past, have worked hard to put the terriers on a good footing, and I think we have had our reward, but it now lies in the hands of the newcomers to the breed to bring in their energy and enthusiasm and to carry it on from where it is now. This is the time when new blood is so much needed.

Don't think that breeding is an easy or in many cases a profitable thing. To breed successfully there must be a genuine love of the dogs, and a wish to do the best for them, even if it should mean losing money. It is not a flowery path of roses but a thorny one, and has many disappointments, but the successes are worth all the disappointments, and the joy of making a dog a champion is very great. All the more so because it has meant real hard work to achieve that.

13th February 1942

I should like to write this week about some of the old breeders and those dogs which I can remember, but this is all written from memory, so if I have left any out they must please forgive me.
“... the finest Lakeland Terrier in America”

America Export - Egton Marvel

Egton Surprise the black dog from which the black Lakelands in Scandinavia are descended
Mrs Graham Spence at Howton with:-
Glen, Cloud, Crab, Laddie, Oregill Lady and Rock

Egton Majestic Born 1944
Ch Egton Crab of Howton   Born 1931

Egton Winning of Howton   Born 1935
Ch Egton Bachelor of Howton  Born 1937

Egton Twinkle
When I first started, was to me, the best time of all. They were all very nice to me, and as there were no classes for Lakelands at the big shows we just went to those in the district, of which in the spring and summer there were many, and so one got to know the men who were interested, and there was then an atmosphere about the shows, which they have now to a great extent lost. I always feel sorry for those breeders who came in later and did not get into that "world", which then had ceased to exist. Not that there was not in some cases bitter rivalry, but it was against men who knew each other personally and, quite naturally, thought that they had got a good dog and wanted to see it win.

Even now I am not sure that they would not take the judgement of men about here who judge at these shows and have known the terrier all their lives against the judgement of some of the best known of our judges. In fact, however much a dog may win at the big shows even now, unless it comes up here and is at these shows, and put up, they think very little of it unless the dog itself seems to them a good one.

And so the first shows to which I went were the local ones, generally run in connection with a hound trail, and attended by crowds, and then always there was a big crowd round the Lakelands and great interest shown in them. I seem to remember in particular one which was held in Keswick in connection with a hound trail. A most wonderful situation and most of the then best breeders were there. There were generally four classes two for grown-up dogs and two for puppies, and everyone brought what they had, and a win at such a show was very highly valued.

There was another at Borrowdale which still goes on very much the same as it did and to which I always try to go. The entries at most of the shows are taken on the ground, and at Borrowdale a silver cup is always given for the best terrier. This is very highly prized and I am very proud of one which I got.

20th February 1942

Continuing her notes of last week Mrs. Spence says:
At the time I met Mrs. Paisley, and she said it had always been her ambition to win such a cup, but I think she said she had never succeeded and very much envied me. She had a very famous bitch, Trinket, which when I first went in for the breed, won everything and carried all before it.
She and her husband who is well known and hunts regularly with the Blencathra, also had a very well known dog called Hoic Halloa. It seems a great pity that they, like so many others, have now gone out of the breed as far as showing goes, for they did know a good terrier and would have been valuable. He uses his now only for hunting, and they are therefore, very game and have plenty of practice.

In judging Mr. Paisley went very largely for them as a game terrier and always had that point of view, their uses, and what they were bred for, which some judges are apt to forget. If it were not for the abundance of foxes about here and the damage they do to the lambs etc. these little dogs would not have existed, as these packs are out to kill, not merely for sport, and in the killing the terriers play a very valuable part. Therefore, a man who hunts regularly and knows this is not likely to forget it in his judging.

27th March 1942

I feel I want to write about Mr. Crellin, whose Crab of Wastwater was one of the founders of the breed and a very well known sire. I think his name will appear somewhere in the pedigree of a great many Lakeland Terriers. I think I only once saw the dog, though my man seems to remember him quite well.

Mr. Crellin used to be at all the local shows, and I can, in the early days, remember him once up at a show in London, where I felt very uneasy about him as he looked so ill and had with him only a young grandson and I must say I felt more happy when the show was safely over. What dogs he brought up then, I can't remember. He was terribly keen on the terriers and always very anxious to win, though he could lose well, a thing which is not easy. Of course, chiefly I remember him at a certain show at Threlkeld and at which he died in the most fitting and beautiful way, showing his dog. I can see it now. He and I standing at one side of the ring while Mr. Paisley's dog was on the board. I was showing then, I think, a little bitch and I think his must have been a bitch too.

We stood side by side watching, and I think it rested between his and Mr. Paisley's. At any rate I know I was not in the running. I was talking to him and said that I could never get my bitch to show properly. He said; "You should handle her more, Mrs. Spence"
Those were the last words he said for just then I looked to see what was going on in the centre of the ring and heard him make a strange noise. The next moment he had fallen down I had let my dog go and was holding him by the shoulders. Nobody seemed to notice but my chauffeur who had said to Overs; "The mistress has let her dog loose".

Then a doctor rushed into the ring and we undid his collar but he said "He's gone. Has he any people here? "He had not, as he had come with a young Mitchell and his brother who were then only boys. So he died in a way he would have wished, among his dogs to the last moment and knowing nothing about it. He was a gallant old man and knew this might happen at any time for the Doctor had told him he had a weak heart. It was a tremendous shock to me and a great loss to the Fancy for he was one of the keenest in it.

I have mentioned young Mitchell. That was what I always called him. In the early days he was very keen and at all the local shows, and also took his dogs up to London. He had very good ones bred from old Crab of Wastwater, but the one I chiefly remember was Gamester of the Screes. He was brother to my Rock. Though not out of the same litter, but their mother was Vic of Wastwater, also a well-known dam. He showed him a certain amount and then I had a letter from a gentleman in Canada, who had bought two from me, saying that he wanted a really good dog and could I get one for him?

I thought of Gamester and bought him from young Mitchell to send away. He was really a very good dog but he hated to be shut up and would bite his way out of anything. Before he went I showed him once at Patterdale. As we were going in at the gate a man said: "Hey, Mrs. Spence, you have lost your dog." We had then a small trailer and he had eaten his way out of his basket in it and then got out of the very small window in the trailer and was caught by a policeman on a bicycle.

When I sent him to Canada I had to have a special box, steel lined, to send him in as if not I was afraid he would be in the middle of the ocean. As it was he apparently arrived rather knocked about trying to get out, but once he was out he was perfectly quiet. The gentleman in Canada was perfectly delighted with him and said in his letter, "You have sent me a really good dog this time and all the judges are mad about him."
Curiously enough with the dam he had from me previously, a large proportion of the puppies were red. He himself, was a grizzle or almost black-and-tan, and so was the dam.

Now you must please remember in reading these notes that you must only regard them as thumbnail sketches. It is like turning back the pages of memory and sometimes I will not say that my memory does not make mistakes. You must not be too critical if my details are not always quite right, but should they be seriously wrong, then I hope someone will write and tell me.

February 27th 1942

My mind goes back to people with whom I came in touch even before Mr. Crellin. I think almost the first was Mr. Minshaw, who then owned a dog called Tim the Pilot. He was used a good deal as a stud dog, but I think the first bitch I mated him with was my Sting of Cathra, which I bought from Mr. and Mrs. Paisley, and was the first bitch I owned. By Tim I see she had six puppies, and all her life she proved a first class bitch for breeding and had some very good puppies. Later she was mated to Egton Rock and had in that litter two champions. Ch. Egton Crab and Ch. Zip.

I used to see Mr. Minshaw at shows. but I did not come across any other of his dogs. Then there was Mr. Kitchen, whom I still see occasionally, but, of course have not done since the start of the war. He owned Central Midge and a bitch called Kitchen's Meg, both very well known in these parts, but, as far as I remember, I don't think Mr. Kitchen ever took them up to championship shows. The last time I saw him was at Ennerdale. I had been asked by a gentleman in Canada, who had bought dogs from me, to try and get him a good red dog. This was not an easy thing to do, and all I had myself was one young puppy.

I heard that there might be a dog at Ennerdale, so went over there. It was in the days before petrol restriction. I was looking at this dog, when who should come up but Mr. Kitchen with a very nice one on a lead. Unfortunately this proved to be a bitch, otherwise I should have tried to get it, as it was just what I wanted, but in the end it was made a champion and was Ch. Lemon Lady, so no wonder it was what I wanted. I always used to get my entries from Mr. Kitchen for the Ennerdale show, which was a charming really old-world show in such a beautiful place right at the back of beyond.
I think I only went to the show myself two or three times, as it is so far from here, but when I did so I thought it was quite unique. Then there was Mr. Pepper who still turns up at shows with a good dog. In those days Mr. Tweedie, the owner of Evergreen's Double, used to be very much to the fore, as he lived at Windermere. Evergreen's Double was a beautiful dog and won the championship, and for a great many times my Rock was always runner-up but never succeeded in beating Evergreen. He had several very good dogs. One a beautiful little bitch, Evergreen, which I bought from him and then sold to go to Sweden.

Both he and his wife were devoted to the dogs and were at most shows. Then I must not forget the two brothers Mills, who live at Threlkeld. one of them, Mr. Fred Mills, has often judged and has a very good eye for a terrier. Both he and his brother breed them and show about here, and one had a good terrier which he used to send up to championship shows and was generally in the money. Mr. Dawson, too, of Burnside, though now he is working very hard and has not time for them, is terribly keen and has judged at championship shows, and is a very well known judge round here, and a wonderful ring steward. if he is in the ring one knows that "everything will go well." Mr. Bone, too, of Egremont, has always had very good dogs.

The late Mr. Hogarth I used to see much of, as he lived in Penrith and drove for a doctor. I generally went in on market day, and he was terribly keen. His death which occurred very suddenly, was a great shock to us all, and he is a great loss to the Fancy. A great many of Miss Edwards dogs come from him and she always went to see what he had when she came up North. He bred a good many good ones and his widow still has Corncrake, a very well known sire and one which I have often used. Mr. Jackson, I used to see at shows, and he bred the Bluebird strain, of which Ch. Son of Bluebird was one.

Mr. Ridley is still breeding, but only in a small way, as the food problem is getting rather difficult, but he goes on with some of his good bitches and always gets good puppies. I think he has been one of the best breeders of champions, though Mr. Johnston, I believe heads the list, but Mr. Ridley bred Int. Ch. Marshall of Howtown, Am. Ch. Egton Batchelor of Howtown, and many other good dogs, some of which have gone abroad.
There are of course, many others whose names I cannot at the moment remember, but to all of them we latter breeders owe a debt of gratitude, for they gave us something to breed up to and improve upon, if we could.

17th April 1942

I have not written for a few weeks and as far as I can remember, have only so far written about the early days of the breed as I first knew it, though, of course, it had gone on for many years before I became interested in the dogs. The breeding of them had gone on for very many years and was taken up very seriously by the men of this district, under the leadership of the Lakeland Terrier association. In those days the Association had a very big membership, as it had also when I joined it, and was then under the joint secretaryship of Mr. Bruce, also secretary of the Hound Trailing Association, and of Mr. Paisley. The Earl of Lonsdale was President and always took a very keen interest in the breed. He did not approve of the modern trimming for shows.

I remember one day meeting him in the narrow road which leads here and he stopped his car and got out. I was going to a show so he must have the dogs out and tell me what he thought of them. He said then "You, Know, Mrs. Spence, I don't approve of this trimming" I remember I said "But for a show, you even trim up a sheep and even sometimes dye them, which we don't do to the dogs. He said "No, but you soon will" His terriers were quit different from the show ones largely because they were not trimmed at all, and I am afraid, would not be looked at in the ring.

In those days every litter had to be registered with the Association, but since the breed was acknowledged by the Kennel Club, that automatically stopped. As I have said before, at first we were scheduled under the heading of Foreign dogs, which always used to annoy me as they were such an essentially British dog. Then they began to be recognised and given a few certificates, and now we have twelve in all, given during the year at certain shows. the number of certificates given depends on the number of registrations and also on the entries at shows, and if these two things do not keep up then the Kennel Club has the right to take away the certificates or to reduce the number. That is why after the war it is up to everyone who is interested to work hard to see that this does not happen, and to both register
and enter at shows so that what has been worked for so hard by breeders in
the past may not be taken away as the Kennel Club will not support a breed
which is obviously not a growing one. One can’t just sit tight and think that
the certificates will go on automatically.

It has meant in the old days, much guaranteeing of classes and
registering any puppies to get the certificates we have got, and those who
come into the breed now must do their share to keep things going and even to
make things better.

The days of being pioneers are not yet over. All the time we are trying
to breed the perfect dog. We have not attained it yet but we still go on but the
longer one goes on the more difficult one is to please, and puppies which in
the old days one thought good, do not now please one. One thing I have
learned in long experience, never breed from a fault, either on the outside or
temperament. Possibly the latter is almost the most important and the most
difficult to get rid of when once you have it in the breed. A good point may
sometimes fail to come out, but a bad one never.

15th May 1942

Memory is a fickle jade and mine has failed badly, for I now remember
I have said nothing about Mr. Robert Gibbons, one of our best exhibitors and
breeders. It was only when I got a letter from him the other day that I thought
that he had never been mentioned in these notes, a very great error for which
I hope he will forgive me, if he has read what I have written about the
Lakelands.

I don't seem to remember him much in the old days before we went up
to London and other parts of the country for shows, but since then he was
always to the fore and showed some very good dogs. Perhaps the most
notable among them, and in fact the most notable terrier in the breed, was one
he owned called Lady of Kinniside. He bought her from Mr. Crellin's sons
after their father died, and she was bred by Mr. Crellin and was the sister of
my dog "Rock". She came out at one of the London shows I rather think it
was the Kennel Club one. At any rate I know it was held at the Crystal
Palace. I hoped then to win the challenge certificate with my bitch, Egton
Fearless, a daughter of Egton Lady of the Lake, and a good bitch who got
two certificates, but always came up against Lady of Kinniside and was
nearly always beaten by her.
I can't remember quite how many certificates Lady of Kinniside won, but it was over twenty and she won far more than any other dog or bitch. She was dark in colour and never looked much on the bench, but when she was in the ring, she showed up and I must say that Mr. Gibbons handled her beautifully. But then he did this with all the dogs he showed and I think that on that point he was the best handler we had. He then bought from me quite as a puppy, a dog which he afterwards made a champion, Ch. Zip. I made his litter brother Ch. Crab a champion too, but I think Mr. Gibbons thought he had got the best of the two. In his letter he tells me that the only one he has now is old Zip, who must be now about eleven. after that he had one more champion. Kavalier of Kinniside, and he was sold to go to America, and is now an International Champion, as he got his distinction there as well as in this country.

Mr. Gibbons had many good dogs but these are the three which I remember best. He is now secretary of the Lakeland Terrier Association, as well as a member of the Lakeland Terrier Club.

24th April 1942

And now comes the time when this breed began to be known in the South of England, because as certificates were given at the big shows, and as they had a separate classification, they became more widely known. in this I can only speak as it first affected me, but as far as I can remember, Miss Johns, of the Grillington prefix, was the first breeder down there to go in for them. if I am wrong I stand to be corrected. at any rate she was the first to buy two, a dog and bitch, from me. The bitch I was showing and the dog I took up and had it in the car outside the show so that she could see him, and she went away from the show with both.

Then later on when I was still breeding Cairns, I had one which I thought was good, so as I was taking the Lakelands up for a show, I thought I would enter the Cairn too, and try my luck. I got a ticket with her, I can't remember what, but then I thought I would sell her, as I found it rather too difficult to run the two breeds, so I put a price on her and she was at once snapped up by Mrs. Fleming. Till then I had not known her, but she since made her a champion, and she is now known as Dulse out of the West. Mrs. Fleming came, at that show, to the Lakeland benches, and got very interested in the breed, which she then took up for quite a long time.
The Lakeland Terrier Club was started under her, and she became the first secretary of it, and did a lot to get it going. I think she, too, found the two breeds were rather too much, for she dropped out, and her place as secretary was taken by Mr. Meageen, who had then come very strongly into the breed. His prefix is Mockerkin, and his dogs were always shown by Mr. Alf. Johnston, who also bred a great many of them. He did very well by the way of champions, and I think has owned the most that were made, and has been a very strong supporter of them.

When he found that he had not the time to carry on as the secretary, his place was taken by Miss Edwards, who still holds the position, and has taken the club one stage further in its career. Of course, as was inevitable, there is a certain amount of jealousy between the club and the association, and it would be really much better if there were only one for such a small breed, but that, I fear, will always be a dream for the north thinks nothing good can come out of the south, and that they were the first to form an association, and therefore ought to take a first place, and the south thinks that they have done so much for the breed and so ought to be acknowledged. And so it goes on, even though many breeders are members of both associations. Many come into the breed but for one reason or another had to give up.

Miss Ashdown still goes on very strongly, but lately has not shown much, even before the war. Then I remember at one time Mrs. Mirlees, who had Cairns, took them up, and she is on the list of judges, as she is a very good judge of Cairns, and is well known. It then became a very busy time, and the dogs became known in most parts of the world. Many people at shows were attracted by them.

I often wonder in these days of things being upside down what has happened to all the dogs which have gone from this kennel, whether they are still alive, poor things. Two to Vienna, three to the then Prime Minister of Rumania, Monsieur Titulesco; several to Italy, three to Sweden, and many others. Little did I think when they went that this world at war was going to exist. However, like many people, they will have to share the fate of their masters.
And now I think that this must be the end of my writing for the present. As I said at the start of these articles, they are written chiefly for those who in the future will take my place, and that of many others, the newcomers in the breed. To them may I say first of all, always aim for something better than you have ever had before, and NEVER be content with a second best. If you are starting, start with as good stock as you can get, but then try to breed for something better than that. Remember that we have not yet got near the perfect terrier, but always go on hoping that some day one will breed it, and even if one never does, the hope remains, and life as well as breeding would be a poor thing without that. Go on trying and don't be disheartened by failures. If you do not win at shows, first of all think whether the fault does not lie in yourself. And do not blame the judges. Your dog may be badly presented, badly trimmed, may not show well, and many other things. Remember that to present a dog and show it well is not an easy thing, and needs much practice. A judge cannot put up a dog, however good, if it shows to disadvantage, or looks wrong or is not well handled in the ring. Remember not to be discouraged by failures in the ring, but to try and try again. And so good luck to you who are at the beginning of the game. Best wishes from one who is at the end of it.

Alice Spence
Mrs Graham Spence with
The first Lakeland Terrier Bitch to win a Challenge Certificate

Ch Egton Lady of the Lake
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
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<th>Owner</th>
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Dog World

Every Friday