

VICTORIAE  
 .. GG AIFE  
 NSSENECIO  
 N COS FELIX  
 ALAIASTO

...M

PRA.

Horsley reads it thus : *Victoriæ Augustorum nostrorum fecit nepos Sosii Senecionis consulis Felix alæ primæ Astorum præfectus.*

There can, I think, be no doubt that this reading should be at once rejected. It is plain that the names in the second and third lines after AVGG are ALFENVVS SENECIO ; and the only real difficulty in the inscription is the initial letter or letters of the fourth line before COS. To me it seems most probable that we should read instead of N either VC or V alone. In a mural tablet found at Risingham, as given by Bruce, (*Roman Wall*, p. 287,) and Surridge, (*Notices*, &c., Pl. III.,) we find the words ALFENI SENEIO[O]NIS VOCOS, which, with \*Henzen, n. 6701, I would read, as here, VC COS i. e. *vir clarissimus consularis*.

Alfenus Senecio was *legatus Augusti* in Britain under Severus and Caracalla, the two *Augusti* noticed in the Benwell inscription. He is mentioned also on two other stones found at Greta Bridge and Brough.

As the Risingham tablet gives the 3rd Consulship of Severus and the 2nd of Caracalla as the date of its erection, it may be inferred that Senecio was in the island at some time between 205 and 207 A. D.

From an inscription found at Naples, and given by Gruter, p. 208, Orelli, n. 4405, and Mommsen, n. 2646, it also appears that he was Sub-Præfect of the fleet at Misenum.

Horsley offers a suggestion as to tracing ASTORVM to *Asta* in Liguria, not to the Astures, a people of Spain. There can be no reasonable doubt, however, that the latter are intended. In Bruce's *Roman Wall*, p. 110, we have an inscription on a stone found at the same place, Benwell, which is decisive on the point :

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\* There are other difficulties in this inscription, on which, however, I do not feel competent to offer an opinion, as the only copies, which I have seen of it, are the above mentioned ; and of these Bruce's is on too small a scale for distinctness, whilst Surridge's accuracy seems very doubtful. Indeed, if his copies of inscriptions be no more reliable than his interpretations, they are worse than useless. Henzen (as above cited) gives a restoration of the whole inscription with but partial success.