

PARISH OF GARGRAVE.*

THIS may be considered as the central parish of Craven, as well as one of the warmest and most fertile. The name is unusually constructed, and therefore requires a particular explanation. The oldest orthography of the word, as it occurs in charters, is Gerigraph. Now there remains at this day, at a small distance from the parish church, on the west, a close called Garris, in which is a deep and broad moat, once, beyond a doubt, surrounding the manor-house of the town, which is always found adjoining to the church. Gerigraf, therefore, is the graf or trench of Garri, a personal name, which, with a slight variety in the spelling, † still remains in Craven.

This extensive parish [which contains, according to the Ordnance Survey, 11,667 a. 3 r. 16 p.] consists of the townships of Gargrave, Coniston Cald, Cald Newton, since called Bank Newton, Stainton, Eshton, Flasby, and Winterburne. It is partly within the fee of Clifford, and partly in that of Percy, which are divided by the river Are. About half a mile beneath the town, on a fertile plain, are the buried remains of a Roman villa called Kirk Sink, from a tradition that some great ecclesiastical edifice had there been swallowed up. The stones of which this building have been composed have gradually been removed, probably to build the present church; but the inequalities upon the surface prove it to have been a parallelogram about 300 feet long and 180 wide. In modern times it was first dug into about seventy years ago; and the fame of a tessellated pavement discovered at that time, of which I had seen some remains, induced me to apply for permission to open the ground again. But the walls had been so completely grubbed up to the foundation, that though it was just possible to ascertain the size of the apartments, which had been very small, no masses of cohering pavement could be taken up, and the whole lay in heaps mingled with mortar, consisting of cubes of various colours, some an inch, others not more than half an inch in diameter, together with floor tiles of about three inches square. On this warm and fertile plain some wealthy Roman, or some provincial who emulated the arts of Roman elegance, had fixed his seat; but the name of the founder and his residence are equally lost in remote antiquity. The climate of Craven will account for a very wide departure in placing this villa from the rules of Vitruvius and Columella—"Locus erit" (says the former) "excelsuset non nebulosus, non pruinosus;" ‡ and the latter more distinctly—"Petatur aër, quem fere medius obtinet collis, quòd neque depressus hieme pruinis torpet, aut

[* In 1871 the population of the parish was 1,814, living in 373 houses.]

† Garrs.

‡ Vitruvius, l. i. c. iv. ed. de Laet.

torret æstate vaporibus, neque elatus in summa montium, perexiguus ventorum motibus, aut pluviis omni tempore anni sævit.* The *medii colles*, the unsheltered knolls of Aredale, would have exposed a tender colonist to many bitter blasts; and even the irrigated plain on the margin of the stream might be trusted, on the word of the natives, that it would exhale no malaria. The same observation will, as far as I am acquainted with the subject, apply to the situation of every other Roman villa which has been discovered in England.

This parish is surveyed in Domesday as follows:—

TERRA ROGERII PICTAVENSIS.†

ƿ In WITREBURNE . ƿ Torfin . III . car^h træ ad gld . Leuetat .^{.III. c}
 Flatebi . Geregræue . Neutone . Hortune . Selesat .^{.III. c' . II. c' . II. c' . II. c' . I. c'}
 ƿ In bidē . Torfin . ƿ . II . car^h tre ad gld .

One part of Gargrave, therefore, was within the manor of Winterburne. But again—

ƿ In Gheregræue Gamel ƿ . VIII . car^h ad gld .
 ƿ In Stainton ƿ Stam . III . car^h ad gld .
 In Estune . Archil 7 Vctred . VI . car^h ad gld .

I have already had more than one occasion to hint at the uncertainty of the time when the estates of Roger of Poitou in Craven were added to the two fees of Percy and Romille. The subordinate Collinge fee of which Gargrave was a part has already been explained in the introduction, and elsewhere. From the Esch. Rolls of the 39th Henry III. it appears that John de Longvilliers died seised of the manor of Gargrave. In the 8th of Edward I., free warren was granted to Geoffry de Nevil in his demesnes of Gargrave.‡ In the 13th of Edward II. the jurors found that the manor of Gargrave, valued at half a mark, was of the inheritance of Margaret de Nevile, late wife of Geoffry de Nevile, and was holden of the honour of Skipton. The demesne consisted of thirteen oxgangs. I have never been able to discover how or when this manor was re-absorbed in the Clifford fee.

[The canons of Bolton had a farm here.]

The church of Gargrave, of which the era is altogether unknown, followed that portion of the manor which was annexed to the Percy fee. The reader has already seen on what occasion it was given to Sallay Abbey.§ [The impropiators are Trinity College, Cambridge.]

* Columella, l. i. c. iv. ed. Steph.

† Land of Roger of Poitou. Manor.—In Witreburne (Winterburn) Torfin had three carucates of land to be taxed. In Levetat (Leslat) three carucates. In Flatebi (Flasby) four carucates. In Geregræue (Gargrave) two carucates. In Neutone (Newton) two carucates. In Hortune (Horton) two carucates. In Selesat (Selsat) one carucate. Manor.—In the same Torfin had two carucates of land to be taxed. Manor.—In Gheregræue (Gargrave) Gamel had eight carucates to be taxed. Manor.—In Stainton (Stainton) Stam had three carucates to be taxed. In Estune (Eshton) Archil and Vetred had six carucates to be taxed.]

‡ By an inquisition *post mortem*, 13 Edward I. (1284-5), it was found that Galfrid' de Nevill had possessed the manors of Kirkby and Gargrave.]

§ In the endowment of this vicarage, which I shall not recite, is one article of very rare occurrence, the "Decimæ alborum," or of "White Silver," an ancient personal tithe levied upon the wages of all labourers and artificers which were supposed to be paid in silver.—See Du Cange *in voce Albi*, and a constitution of Abp. Winchelsey, *apud* Lindwood, l. iii. t. 16. A more oppressive or unpopular exaction can scarcely be conceived.

The catalogue of incumbents is here given.

But, prior to the foundation of Sallay Abbey, I find a Roger Clericus de Gerigraf; and, contemporary with the founder of that house, a Fulco Presbyter de Gargrave, and Jordan his son. After the commencement of the registers of the see of York, these names occur.

RECTORES DE GARGRAVE.

Temp. Inst.	Rectores.	Patroni.	Vacat.
15 kal. Feb. 1228.	D's <i>Hen. de Gray</i> .*	D's <i>Ric. de Percy</i> .	
	D's <i>Walterus de Gray</i> .	Iidem.	per mort.
2 id. Sept. 1272.	D's <i>Godfrid. de Altaripa</i> , Rectoriâ tunc valente 30 <i>l. per annum</i> .	D's <i>Hen. de Percy</i> .	
4 kal. Aug. 1300.	D's <i>Adam de Osgodeby</i> , Subd.	<i>Edm's fil. Regis</i> , Custos terrarum	
9 kal. Oct. 1316.	D's <i>Rob. de Cliderhow</i> , Presb.	D'ni <i>Hen. de Percy</i> defuncti.	
10 kal. Maii, 1317.	D's <i>Adam de Armyn</i> .	Ab. et Conv. de <i>Sallay</i> .	
		Iidem.	

OLD VICARS OF GARGRAVE.

Temp. Inst.	Vicarii.	Patroni.	Vacat.
19 kal. Feb. 1227.	D's <i>Rob. de Percy</i> , Cl.	D'na <i>Agnes de Percy</i> .	
2 id. Mart. 1253.	Mr. <i>Hen. de Schipton</i> , qui recepit decimas majores et minores nomine Vicariæ.†	D's <i>Ric. de Percy</i> .	

NEW VICARS OF GARGRAVE.

7 id. Apr. 1327.	D's <i>Peter de Rykhal</i> , Presb.	Abb. et Conv. de <i>Sallay</i> .	per resig.
24 Sept. 1344.	D's <i>Galf. de Langholt</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per resig.
12 Jul. 1350.	D's <i>Rob. de Pickering</i> .	Iidem.	per resig.
11 Aug. 1355.	D's <i>Peter de Rykhal</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	
	D's <i>Joh. Deyvill</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per resig.
4 Apr. 1363.	D's <i>Rob. Mustroull</i> .	Iidem.	per mort.
12 Jun. 1377.	D's <i>Tho. de Malgham</i> , Presb.	Iidem.	per mort.
11 Apr. 1396.	D's <i>Joh. Parker</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per resig.
10 Jun. 1441.	D's <i>Joh. Acastre</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per mort.
23 Apr. 1474.	D's <i>Rob. Winslugh</i> , A.M.	Iidem.	per resig.
25 Maii, 1484.	D's <i>W. Parish</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per mort.
19 Maii, 1485.	D's <i>X'topher Hamerton</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per mort.
17 Jul. 1506.	D's <i>Edm. Crofton</i> , Presb.	Iidem.	per mort.
8 Feb. 1507.	D's <i>Joh. Acastre</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	
25 Mart. 1536.	D's <i>Jac. Townley</i> , Cl.	Æp'us per laps.	
	D's <i>W. Weldon</i> .		per resig.
24 Maii, 1548.	D's <i>Ant. Forest</i> , Cl.	Assignati <i>Arthuri Darcy</i> , Mil.	{ pro non solutione subsidii regii sed tandem per mort.

[* Confirmation of the vicarage of Geirgrave to Robert, which he had by the presentation of Agnes de Percy and the institution of C. our predecessor; reserving an annual pension of ten marks to Henry de Gray the parson, as William Coe paid it.—Archbishop Gray's Register, Ottele, 19 kal. Feb. 1226.]

Institution of Henry de Gray, clerk, to the church of Geirgrave, at the presentation of Richard de Percy; reserving to Robert de Percy his perpetual vicarage therein—viz., the whole church, he paying ten marks yearly as a pension to the said Henry—half at the synod after Easter and half at the synod after Michaelmas.—Gray's Register, "Porocestre," 15 kal. Feb. 1227.]

Confirmation of the grant of eight acres of land in the territory of Geyregrave which Henry de Gray, rector of the church, made to Wm. Anglicus, with the assent of Sir R. de Percy, the patron.—Gray's Register, Ottele, 12 kal. Sept. 1235.]

[† Institution of Mr. Henry de Schipton to the vicarage of the church of Gayregrave, at the presentation "nobilis viri dom. Ric^d. de Percy," having all the houses, lands, rents, tithes great and small, obventions and oblations, and paying yearly therefrom to Walter de Gray, the rector, 20*l.* sterling.—Gray's Register, Rufford, 2 id. March, 1252.]

Temp. Inst.	Vicarii.	Patroni.	Vacat.
27 Aug. 1552.	D's <i>Joh. Wilson</i> , Presb.	D's <i>Arth. Darcy</i> , Miles.	
4 Dec. 1576.	<i>Adam Rose</i> , Cl.	<i>J. Procter de Cowper Coats</i> , Ge.	
1 Feb. 1578.	<i>Adam Rose</i> , Cl.	<i>Eliz. Regina</i> .	per mort.
21 Nov. 1600.	<i>Arthur Somerscales</i> , Cl.	<i>Hen. de Somerscales</i> .	per mort.
30 Aug. 1632.	<i>Joh. Waite</i> , Cl. S.T.B.	<i>Ric. Monkes</i> , Arm.	per mort.
29 Nov. 1660.	<i>Ed. Garforth</i> , Cl. A.M.	<i>Joh. Palliser</i> , Gen.	
9 Jun. 1673.	<i>Christopher Lawson</i> , S.T.B.	<i>Hen. Marsden</i> , Arm.	per mort.
8 Nov. 1717.	<i>Christopher Dodgson</i> .	<i>Christopher Dodgson</i> , Senr.	per mort.
5 Aug. 1757.	<i>Francis Yates</i> , LL.B.*	<i>Henry Marsden</i> , of <i>Wennington</i> .	per mort.
10 Sept. 1762.	<i>Gulielmus Wilkson</i> , A.B.	Archbishop of <i>York</i> , per laps.	per mort.
10 July, 1778.	<i>Henry Croft</i> .	{ <i>Henry Marsden</i> of <i>Wennington</i>	
		{ Hall.	per mort.
25 Jan. 1806.	<i>Anthony Lister</i> , A.M. [He changed his name to <i>Marsden</i> .]	{ <i>Anthony Lister</i> of <i>Giggleswick</i> .	per mort.
1 Apr. 1852.	<i>Charles John Marsden</i> .	Rev. <i>C. J. Marsden</i> .	

Inscription on a monument erected at the east end of Gargrave Church, within the altar rails:—

The Righteous shall be had in everlasting Remembrance.—PSALM cxii. ver. 5.

Sacred to the memories

of Matthew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, Esq.

and Frances, his wife, who was fourth daughter

of Richard Clive, Esq., of Styche, in the County of Salop, and M.P. for Montgomery;

and sister to Robert, the first Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey.

She was born the 12th day of February, 1734; married the 7th of July, 1759;

and exchanged this mortal life for a blessed immortality on the 3d of October, 1798.

Her life was happy, for it was useful and pious;

and her death, although painful, was serene,

from a well-grounded hope of eternal glory, through the merits

of her Redeemer.

Matthew Wilson, Esq., was the eldest son of Matthew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, Esq., and Margaret, his wife, who was the daughter of Henry Wigglesworth, Esq., of Town Head.

He was born the 12th day of February, 1729; and was called to the Bar in 1757.

After a life of integrity, and spent in the exercise of domestic virtues,

he resigned this world, in humble hope of obtaining an everlasting inheritance,

on the 16th of April, 1802.

Sacred also to the memories of Matthew and Rebecca,

their children,

who closed their innocent lives in early infancy.

Margaret Clive, the surviving daughter and heiress of Matthew Wilson, Esq., and Frances, his wife, married, first, the Rev. Henry Richardson Currer, Rector of Thornton, in Craven, by whom she has one daughter, Frances-Mary Richardson Currer; and, secondly, her first cousin, Matthew Wilson, Esq., of London, second son of the Rev. Henry Wilson, Rector of Slaidburn, and Vicar of Otley; by whom she has issue.

This Marble is erected by Matthew Wilson, Esq., and Margaret, his wife, as a memorial of their affection and respect.

[The registers commence in 1675.]

Testamentary burials at Gargrave—

April 9, 1392. John del Bankes.

February 6, 1459. William Gargrave, Esq.

September 27, 1564. Thomas Banke, of Bank Newton, Esq.

The following miscellaneous particulars may be added:—

In the reduced taxation of the Craven benefices, after the devastation of the Scots, the

* Father of Lowther Yates, D.D., late Master of Catherine Hall, Cambridge.

church of St. Andrew, of Gargrave, was valued at xxiii marks. After the Dissolution, the rectory and advowson were granted to Sir Arthur Darcy, Knt., together with xii oxgangs of land, which were probably the old rectorial glebe. In 15th Elizabeth [1572-3] the advowson was alienated by Henry Darcy, his son, to Thomas Cecyl, and in the same year was sold by Cecyl to John Proctor, Gent. But the rectory of Gargrave seems to have taken a different course; for, in the 23rd of the same reign [1580-1], there is a pardon granted to Francis Earesby for having acquired it without licence from Thomas Cecyl, and, in the 25th of the same [1582-3], another pardon to Laurence Lister for having acquired from Henry Darcy the rectory of Gargrave. I am unable to reconcile these two representations.*

The church itself is spacious and respectable, of no high antiquity, and without a vestige of the original structure. The choir is the oldest part remaining, and precisely in the situation in which it was left by the monks of Salley. The north choir belongs to the manor of Bank Newton.† The tower has an inscription [under a niche on the west side], now become very obscure from the perishable nature of the stone; what I could decipher of it appeared to be **Peter For, Bailiffe**; but the date will be fixed nearly to the year 1500

* All these passages are extracted from a book in the Herald's Office marked A 8, and abstracted by Mr. Curren.

† The church, with exception of the tower, was entirely rebuilt in the Perpendicular style in 1852. The three old bells were recast in 1877.

There are several memorial stained glass windows, some by Capronnier, of Brussels:—

To the memory of Frances Mary Richardson Curren, only daughter and heiress of the Rev. H. R. Curren, and a great benefactrix to this church, who died at Eshton Hall, in the parish, 28 Apr. 1861, aged 76. Set up by Mathew Wilson, her half-brother and successor.

To H. Curren Wilson, whilom Vicar of Tunstall and Rector of Marton, second son of Mathew Wilson, of Eshton, who died Dec. 1, A.D. 1866, aged 62.

To Thomas Watkinson, and Betty, his wife.

To Sophia Louisa Emerson, daughter of Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bart., and wife of Mathew Wilson, of Eshton, who died 29 Sept. 1833.

To Margaret Clive, wife of the Rev. H. Richardson Curren, sometime Rector of Thornton, in Craven, and afterwards wife of Mathew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, Esq.

Mathew Wilson, of Eshton, born Aug. 16, 1772; died 15 Oct. 1854.

The Rev. Anthony Marsden, M.A., Vicar of this Church for 45 years. Died Feb. 17, 1852, aged 75.

To Mary, wife of the Rev. Anthony Marsden.

To Sarah, wife of the Rev. John Preston, of Flasby Hall. Set up by her daughter Olivia, 1851.

To Cooper Preston, Esq., of Flasby Hall, in this parish, died 7 Apr. 1860, aged 73. And of Mary Jean, his wife, dau. of Colonel Cathcart Taylor, 2nd Dragoon Guards, died 15 Sept. 1852, aged 59.

To Philip Charles Damer Preston, R.N., son of Cooper Preston, Esq., and Mary Jean, his wife, who died at Malta, 14 Ap. 1835, aged 21.

Mary Mason, wife of Joseph Mason, and to Joseph Mason. She died 4 Feb. 1849, aged 48; he 30th May, 1869, aged 67.

The twelve clerestory windows are also all filled with stained glass.

In the churchyard is an inscription—

HERE LIETH
THE BODIE OF
JOHN PATCHETT,
OF MIDGLEY,
WHOSE SOUL
ASCENDED TO GOD
THE 33 OF AUG.
1623.
AGED 41.

And on a brass plate upon the same stone—

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ELLEN, YE WIFE OF ANTHONY GARFORTH, OF GARGRAVE, WHO DIED YE 16TH OF MAY, 1697.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF GRACE, WIFE OF THOMAS GARFORTH, AUG. YE FIRST, 1713.]

2 E

by the arms of Banks quartering [really impaling] Pudsay on one of the buttresses [the south-west]; as these undoubtedly refer to John Banks and Amely, his wife, daughter of Sir John Pudsay, of Bolton.

In addition to the foregoing particulars relating to this place, it appears from Kirkby's "Inquisition," 14th Edward I., that there were in Gargrave 18 carucates, of which 10½ are of the fee of the castle of Skipton, and 7¼ of the fee of Percy. These were held under Percy by Sir John Dayvile, Knt.*

The others passed, as we have already seen, through the family of Nevile, to Margaret, wife of Thomas de Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, on whose demise† they descended successively to the Harringtons and Langtons. In the 11th of Henry VI. [1432-3] a moiety of the manor was in Sir John Langton. From the Langtons it passed through an heir female with Farnley, &c., to the Danbys, and by inquisition, taken before Sir Ingram Clifford 6th of Edward VI. [1552-3], it was found that Christopher Danby, Knt., held a manor in Gargrave. Soon after it must have been repurchased by the chief lord, for George Earl of Cumberland certainly held the whole manor. On the separation of the Clifford and Percy fee, after the death of Henry, the last earl, in 1643, it was once more divided according to the ancient limits, which are still known and observed. But within the space of forty years immediately preceding, almost all the tenements had been sold off, one by Earl George in 1603, and thirty-two others by his two successors.

Gargrave gave name and residence to a martial family, who bore lozengy as their arms. These were also the bearings of the ancient Neviles, of Gargrave, and were therefore arms of dependance or affection. Of this family was Sir John Gargrave, governor of Pointoise under King Henry V., and there interred. His son, Sir Thomas, was master of the ordnance in France, and slain at the siege of Orleans. Their posterity, after the dissolution of monasteries, planted themselves on the site of the priory of Nostel. Their seat here was probably the Garris, where was lately found [in 1803] a very singular remain, here engraved [of the full size].

This relic is of brass, but the letters are of steel, inserted into the other metal. Their form appears not to be later than the time of Henry II. [They read AVE MARIA GĀCIA PLEĀ DOMINUS TECUM CREDO IN DEOM PATRAN OM.] From some engravings of Albert Dürer, lately pointed out to me, I am now convinced that it was the frame of an ancient purse, several figures being represented by that artist, with such appended to their girdles. From the form of the letters, however, this specimen must have been long prior to Dürer.

[* GERGRAVE.—In eadem villa sunt XVIII car. terræ de quibus X car. et di. sunt de feodo castri (de Skypton) et residuæ VII et di. sunt de feodo de Percy, quas Johannes de Dayvill tenet, et nullam fit inde servitium de quo fit mentio in inquisitionibus prædictis.—Kirkby's "Inquest," A.D. 1284.

GAYRGRAVE.—In Gayrgrave sunt VII car. et di. de feodo de Percy quas dominus Johannes de Eivill tenet de domino (Henrici) de Percy, et Percy de rege in capite.—"Knights' Fees," 31st Edward I.

By the "Nomina Villarum," 9th Edward II., we learn that Nicholaus de Bolynbrok, domina Margareta de Nevill, and Nigellus de Staynford, were lords of the manor of Gargrave.]

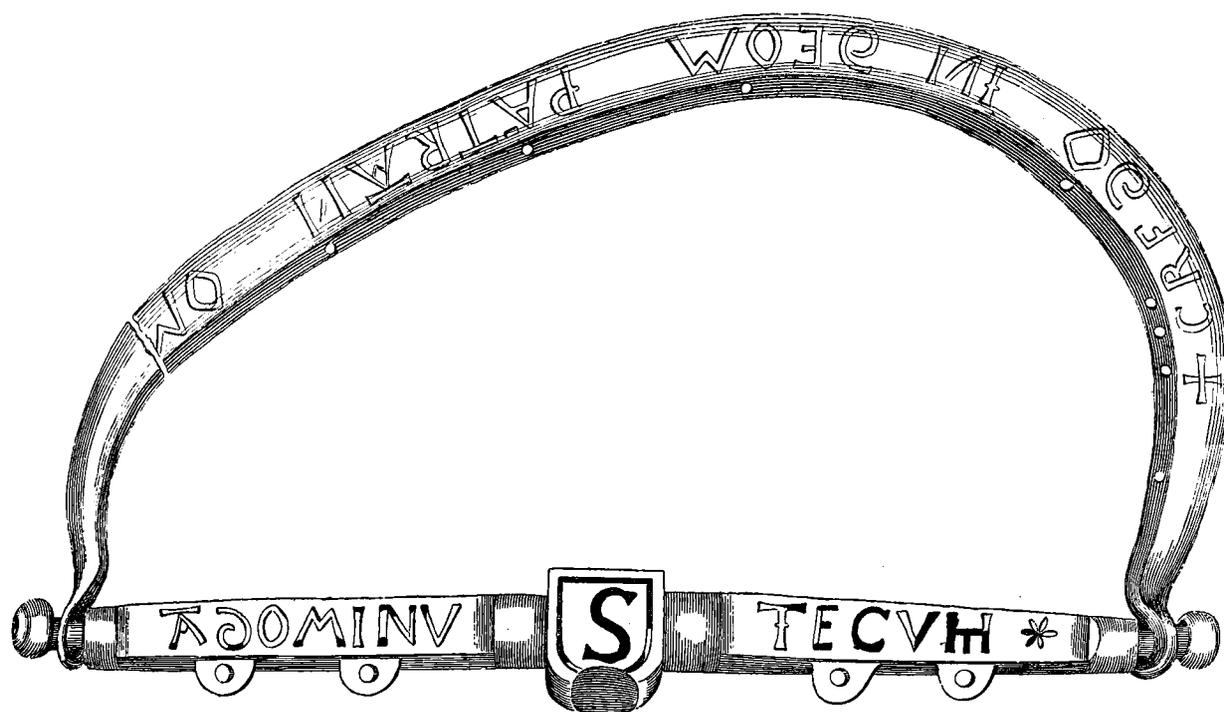
[† By an inquisition *post mortem* 5th Henry VI., 1426-7, Thomas Beaufort, lately Duke of Exeter, was found to have held the manors of Coningley and Gairgrave.]

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk



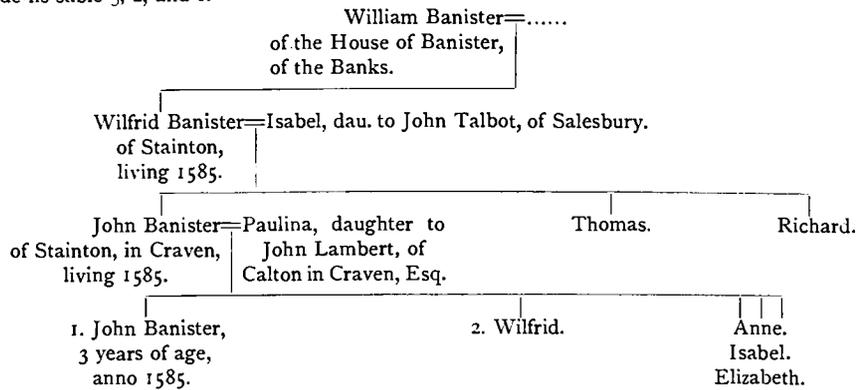
The most westerly township or hamlet dependent upon this parish, is

STANTON,

which was given by William de Percy to his new foundation of Salley, and continued in that house till the Dissolution, when it was granted with their other domains to Sir Arthur Darcy, from whom or his son it was early purchased by the Heber family, progenitors of Richard Heber, Esq., the present owner. [The Banister family were also seated here.]

[BANISTER OF STAINTON.]

Arms: Argent, a water bouget between
6 fleurs-de-lis sable 3, 2, and 1.



Glover's "Visitation of Yorkshire," 1584-5.

Eastward from this place is

BANK NEWTON,

so called from the family of Banks, who held the manor more than three centuries, but more anciently Cald Newton, from its exposed situation, for which reason the two neighbouring villages, Cald Coniston and Calton (qu. Cald town), have been honoured with the same appellation. It was purchased from the last of the Banks by Nicholas Townley, Esq., of Royle, in Lancashire. Newton was of the Mowbray fee, where no less than twenty-eight carucates went to make up a knight's fee. In the 31st of Edward I. [1302-3] three carucates here, and three in Elslack, were held by Alan de Catterton immediately of Sir Philip de Kyme, and half a carucate here by John de Catterton, and all by Kyme of the heir of Roger de Mowbray. Before the Cattertons, in a charter *s.d.*, I meet with a Becke de Neuton. [In the 9th Edward II., John de Cathorp (? Catterton) was lord of the manor. — "Nomina Villarum."]

The mansion of this family remains nearly entire, and immediately adjoining to it on the north-east is a little chantry, now an out-house in the garden, adjoining to which many bones are said to have been dug up. From the shape of one of the original windows yet remaining, I should conjecture this humble foundation to be as old as the Cattertons (perhaps of the age of Edward I.). The chapel of Bank Newton (parish of Gargrave) was returned by Archbishop Holgate of the value of xxxiv. vii. d. No founder or dedication is mentioned. It appears from Browne Willis that no stipend was paid in 1553, so that the last incumbent was probably dead. In an adjoining out-house, but probably removed from this chapel, is a large inscription in the character of Henry VIII.'s time.

IN HELP.

Next is

CONISTON CALD,

so called probably (qu. Konigtune?) from having been crown land in the Saxon times. This town consisted of six carucates, of which at the time of Domesday the king held three

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

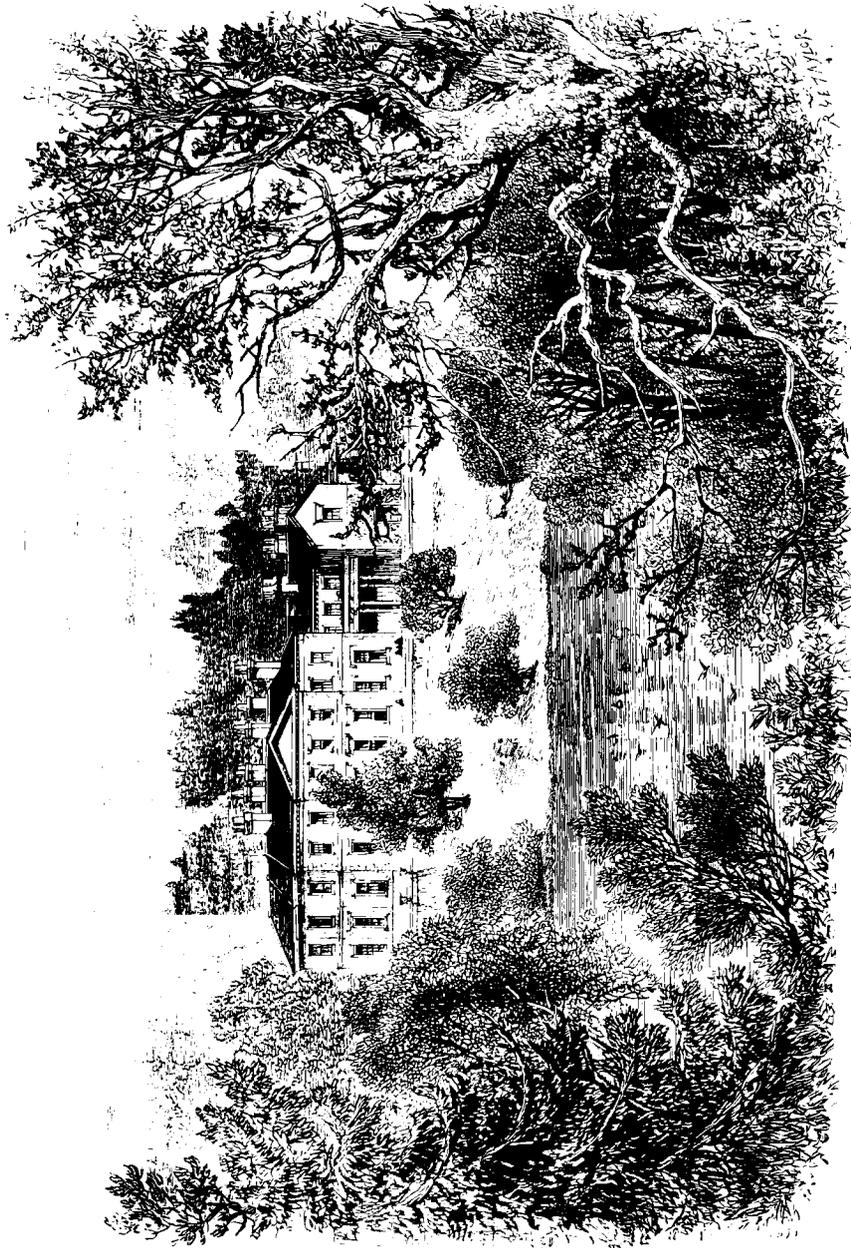
tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk



CONISTON HALL, THE SEAT OF J. W. TOTTIE, ESQ.

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

of the lands of Earl Edwin dependent upon the manor of Bolton, and Roger of Poitou had two; the rest are not distinctly expressed, as they were mixed with other lands of Berenger de Toden and William de Percy.

At the time of Kirkby's "Inquisition" here were three carucates of the fee of Percy, and three of the fee of Skipton Castle.

The oldest charter which I have seen relating to this place is a grant from Rodbert Dapifer, or sewer to William de Percy, founder of Sallay, of twelve oxgangs in Conigaston, to Gilbert fil. Ricardi, none of the witnesses to which had acquired a local name. The seal has an equestrian figure, and the inscription is SIGILLUM ROBERTI DAPIFER. In the next place, I find the Normanvills, who were also dependants on the Percies, making several successive purchases in Coniston: for, 1st Robert de Hawkswic grants to Richard de Normanvile the service of one carucate in Kunnegeſt' held by Geoffry, the clerk, and Nicolas Coe; and 2nd Nicolas, son of William de Eccles, grants to Sir Ralph de Normanvile, *totam terram in Conigston cum molendino tam in dom. quam in feodo.*

All this while we hear nothing of the manor.* But in the 33rd Edward III. Brian de Normanvile grants in trust to certain persons *Manerium meum de Coniston.* In the family of the Normanviles it continued till the 1st of Henry VIII., when Sir John de Normanvile sold it to William Malham, rector of Marton, and one of the clerks or masters in Chancery.† In this family the manor of Coniston rested till the year 1665, when it was purchased of the last Malham of Elslack by the Coulthursts of Gargrave, who sold it about eighty years ago to Mr. Laycock of Lothersdale, whose descendant once more disposed of it to the present owner, Mr. Garforth.‡ Since the last purchase the village and township of Coniston has been put into a course of gradual improvement; the buildings and fences are in excellent repair, nurseries and young plantations have been formed, the cultivation of turnips and other winter crops has been introduced, and the whole estate evinces a very judicious application of commercial wealth.

On Steeling Hill, a high, round knoll above this village, commanding one of the most central and extensive views in Craven, is an elliptical encampment, the circumference of which has been measured to 522 feet; it is probably Danish. On the north-west side of Coniston Moor is a place called Sweet Gap, where tradition reports that the inhabitants of Gargrave made a stand against a party of Scottish invaders, and were cut off almost to a man. Gargrave, according to the same tradition, had then seven churches, six of which these destroyers burnt, and spared the seventh for the merit of being dedicated to their own national Saint Andrew. The first part of the story is probable enough.

[On the 20th May, 1847, Cold Coniston was separated from Gargrave and made

[* Johannes de Coniston tenet de Domino Radulphus de Nevill in Coniston I car. Rogerus de Barke tenet de eodem in eadem I car. Willelmus Malgham tenet de eodem in eadem VI bov. Gilbertus de Singleton tenet de eodem in eadem II^{as} bov. terræ.—"Knights' Fees," 31 Edw. I. In 9th Edw. II. Radulphus de Normanvill, Willelmus de Malghum and Johannes de Seyneton (? Singleton), were lords of the manor of Coniston.—"Nomina Villarum." John de Nevill, of Raby Ch'r, and Eliz. his wife, in 12 Richd. II., 1388-9, held Cald Conyngeston maner' cum feodis pertin.—Inq. *post mortem.*]

† From the papers of the Malhams of Elslack, transcribed into the Townley MSS., G. 19.

‡ John William Tottie, Esq., is now the lord of the manor.]

into a new parish. The dedication of the church, which was consecrated on the 19th November, 1846, is St. Peter. The Rev. John Stansfeld is the vicar, instituted 6th July, 1847, on the presentation of James Braithwaite Garforth, Esq.; but John William Tottie, Esq., is now the patron.]

ESHTON,*

or the town of Ash-trees, which in the dialect of Craven are called Esh. The Saxon word is *Ærc* and the diphthong has been alternately changed by taking away the former and the latter vowel.—Thus Esher, as it was spelt

“When Kent and Nature vied for Pelham's love,”

in Cardinal Wolsey's time was called Asher. This manor is of the Skipton fee, and the first mesne lords were the family De Eston,† who occur as witnesses in the earliest charters of the neighbourhood.‡ But John de Eston is chiefly memorable for having contested the right to the earldom and estates of Albemarle with Edward I., an account of which will be given in its place. I am unable to trace his descendants in lineal succession. The last of whom I have seen any account is William, son of Robert de Essheton, whose wardship and marriage Thomas Clifford his chief lord granted to Sir William de Rillestone, 14 Richard II. [1390–1], in the following charter :—

“Sachent tous Gents, nous Thom' de Clyfford Sen' de Westm', avoir dognet et graunte a n're cher compaignon Mons. W. de Rilstone, la Garde et la Marriage Will' filz et heire Roberte de Essheton, ove tous les terres et ten'ts que le dit Rob' de nous ten't in Essheton, Kighelay, et Halton sur le Hille, etc. Escryt a Skipton in Craven le Joudy prochie apres la feste de S. Hillarie 14 Rich. 11.”§

A minor in 1391 may probably be supposed to have survived to about the year 1430; in 1450, Henry de Preston was lord of Essheton;|| but in the 23rd of the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the hands of Henry Marton, the names of which family appear in the register of baptisms and burials at Gargrave down to 1584; yet I suspect that the manor of Eshton was before this time sold to the Cliffords, for the second Earl of Cumberland, who was a purchaser, died in 1570, and fourteen years after, his son was plunged in extravagance and waste. But, whatever the precise date of this transaction may be, it is certain that in 1597 or 1598, George Earl of Cumberland mortgaged this manor to Robert Bindloss, of Borwick Hall, for 2,000*l.*, with a clause that upon non-payment of that sum within five years, the purchase should be absolute. It never was redeemed, and the Bindlosses held Eshton till the year 1648, when it was once more sold to Mr. John Wilson, of Thresfield, ancestor of the present possessor.

[* HESTON. In eadem villa sunt vi car. terræ quæ tenentur de rege, et quælibet car. redd. per ann. ad finem prædictum 111*d.* ob. q.; unde summa est xxiii*d.* ob.—Kirkby's “Inquest,” A.D. 1284.]

[† The Abbot of Furness holds of the Lady Margaret Nevill in Eshton 1 carucate.—“Knights' Fees,” 31 Edw. I. Johannes de Eston in 29 Edw. I. held manor of Eston.—Inq. *post mortem*. John de Essheton held *in capite* of the lord of the Castle of Skipton ten carucates in Kighley, Halton, and Essheton, of which four carucates are in his own hands in Essheton.—“Knights' Fees,” 31 Edw. I. By the “Nomina Villarum,” 9 Edw. II., we learn that John de Eston, William de Malgham, and the Abbot of Furness were lords of the manor of Eshton.]

‡ Ranulf de Eston was living in 1186. Sir John de Eston, living in 1314, died *s. p.* and had a brother Richard, who, by Juliana his wife, had William, whom I suppose to have been the father of Robert, father of the last William. James de Eston, who sold Appletrewic to the Canons of Bolton, seems to have been another brother of Sir John.

§ Clifford MSS. in Off. Arm.

|| In that year there is an award relating to the boundaries of Essheton and Flasby, and wood growing on the same, between this Henry and Rich. Nessfield.—“Essheton Brigge” is mentioned in 1314; MSS. at Bolton Abbey.

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

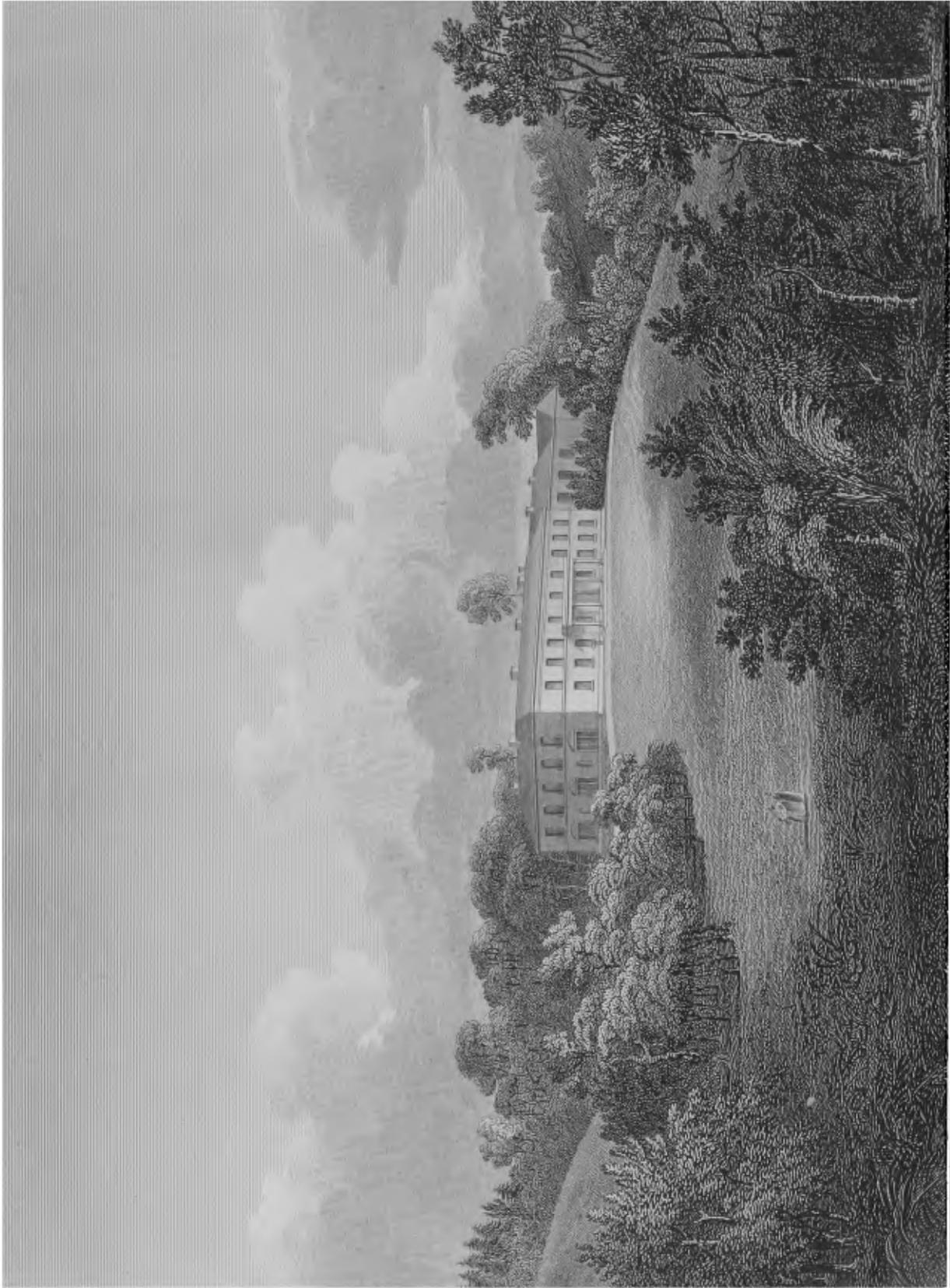
tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk



Engraved by J. B. H. 1840

Eshton Hall.

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk



HALL.

ESHTON

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Eshton Hall stands in one of the most fertile and pleasing situations in Craven, on a gentle slope with a foreground of the finest verdure, contrasted with the brown and rugged summits of Elso, and on the east a fine trout stream running briskly along a retired and woody valley.*

This stream is augmented about half a mile above by one of the most copious springs in the kingdom. St. Helen's Well † fills at its source a circular basin twenty feet in circumference, from the whole bottom of which it boils up, without any visible augmentation in the wettest season, or diminution in the driest. In hot weather the exhalations from its surface are very conspicuous. But the most remarkable circumstance about this spring is, that, with no petrifying quality in its own basin, after a course of about two hundred yards over a common pebbly channel, during which it receives no visible accession from any other source, it petrifies strongly where it is precipitated down a steep descent into the brook. To this well anciently belonged a chapel, with the same dedication; for in the year 1429, a commission relating to the manor of Flasby sat "in Capella beate Elene de Essheton;" ‡ and on the opposite side of the road to the spring is a close called the Chapel Field. This was probably not unendowed, for I met with certain lands in Areton, anciently called Seynt Helen Lands. §

The honours of Helena, though a native of Britain, have been limited by Christian superstition to the neighbourhood of York and Segontium. At the former, Constantine was born; at the latter, Constantius is said to have died. In North Wales, her name is preserved in the Sarn Hellen, the Funnon Hellen, and the Coed Hellen; in West Yorkshire, by Hellen's Ford, Chapel and Well near Tadcaster, and by two springs dedicated to her honour in Craven. That she had crossed the ford now named after her is almost certain; that she had drunk of the well is not improbable. In Leland's time the chapel was remaining—it is now dilapidated and gone, but the following discovery will prove it to have been a place of devotion in the Saxon times. At a small distance from the ford, and close to the right of the Riggate, one branch of the great Roman road to York, are a few hillocks covered with furze and interspersed with trees, from the south end of one of which, within a small natural arch of rock, overhung with brushwood and ivy, rises St. Helen's Well, which spreads over a shallow gravelly bottom. The water is soft and very clear; it is much esteemed as a remedy for weak eyes, and the adjoining bushes are still hung with votive offerings of ribbons, &c., by persons who either expect or conceive themselves to have received, a cure through the merits of St. Helen. Adjoining are two smaller springs, also esteemed sacred;

[* Eshton Hall is the seat of Sir Mathew Wilson, M.P.; it was erected in 1825-7, Mr. Webster of Kendal being the architect. In the library are some very important MSS. which are described in the Appendix to the Third Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners, and comprise forty-one volumes of Dodsworth's "Yorkshire Collections," a fifteenth century "Chronicle of London," and the correspondence of Dr. Richardson. There is also a fine library of books, chiefly consisting of a portion of the collection of the late Miss Richardson Currer, whose portrait by Masquerier is in one of the rooms. There are some fine pictures, notably, portraits of Cromwell, Fairfax, and General Lambert, all said to be by *Walker*. Charles I. in armour, his hand on a glass globe; this picture was brought from Browsholme. Diana and Actæon, by *Rubens*. Virgin and Child. *Vandyck*. Heliodorus driven from the Temple, *Vandyck*. Centaurs and Lapithæ, *Luca Giordano*, and a large water-colour drawing of Thurland, in the Valley of the Lune, by *Turner*.]

† There was another St. Helen's Well at Fernhill.

‡ Bolton MSS.

§ Lambert Papers.

and the waters of all the three soon uniting, run eastward along the bottom of a deep and narrow gill.

Opposite to St. Helen's Well, and hid among the brushwood, was lately discovered the shaft of a cross lying on the ground. It was of the early Saxon form, obeliscal, with two broad and two narrow sides, all of which had a rude carving in relievo of a kind of foliage, in the same style with St. Augustine's crosses at Whalley, though the pattern was specifically different.

Thus much I have thought due to this interesting fountain, as it cannot be doubted that the fame of St. Helen of Tadcaster suggested the dedication of the two Sister Springs of Eshton and Fernhill.

Still more to the north is Eshton Tarn, abounding with pike, which, though now less than a mile in circumference [it is now only about 500 yards], seems, from the spongy levels about it, to have been formerly of much greater extent. The *Lacus de Eshton*, then extended to *xxxxs. per annum*, was granted by Edward I. to John de Eston, as part of the consideration for his claim upon the earldom of Albemarle and barony of Skipton. This estimate confirms my conjecture as to its former extent, for land then bore a rent of no more than *4d.* an acre, and it can scarcely be supposed that water would be worth more than the ground which it covered. A circle of two miles would do no more than embrace ninety Craven acres. The area of this pool, therefore, must have been four times as large as at present. A rampart of a few feet at the outlet would restore it to its former expanse.

WINTERBURN,*

a sequestered village at the north-east extremity of this parish, is undoubtedly so called from the brook that washes it, which, though never dry in the hottest summers, is suddenly swelled by the winter rains collected in many collateral torrents. The manor of Winterburne, which belonged to Furness Abbey, is far more extensive than the township, as the monks, for the convenience of holding their courts, found means to comprehend within its limits all their lands in the adjoining townships, and some in other parishes.

From a letter printed by Mr. West in the Appendix to his "History of Furness," as well as from a sort of memorial written by one of the bailiffs of the first Earl of Cumberland a short time prior to the Dissolution, it appears that that nobleman had actually obtained possession of Winterburne. It is equally clear that he was quickly compelled to restore it.

The particulars of the estates of the abbey, which are extracted from the general survey of the 26th Henry VIII. [1534-5] in the First Fruits Office, are as follows—

"Furness. Roger (Pyle) abbot, Rents of free tenants, Wynterburn Hall *vi*s. Vill of Wynterburne *x*l. *x*s. *ii*d. Freerhead *viii*l. *iiii*s. *iv*d. Cowper Coate *viii*l. *x*s. Cowhouse *viii*l. Heton, Assheton, Flashby, and Yarton (Areton), *ix*l. *ix*s. In all *l*l. *xiii*s. *vi*d.

These were the extended rents. The estates were parcelled out after the dissolution of monasteries by the Crown, with the reservation of certain small annual payments, which at the Restoration were granted to General Monk, and are still paid to the lords of the honour

[* In the township of Flasby with Winterburn, and about a mile and a half from Eshton in a northerly direction, is Friar's Head, an old house where the abbots of Furness were accustomed to come for hunting; and on a field near are three long raised parallelograms, called the "Giants' Graves," a square camp, and a barrow.]

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

of Clitheroe, Waifs, Strays, Treasure Trove, &c. But the manor of Winterburne, together with free warren within the same, and the mines and minerals within the leaseholds, was claimed by the late Thomas Wilkinson, Esq., and has been generally allowed.

Before I take leave of Winterburn, I am bound to notice two obscure names, Selsat and Leflat, in the Domesday survey of the manor. The former is conjectured by a respectable friend* to be Skeldyet, a farm within this manor partly within the township of Hetton, and parish of Burnsall, and partly within the township of Winterburne. On the subject of the latter I have no information.

The last township in the parish of Gargrave is

FLASBY,†

Flaxby, Flasheby, or Flattesby, for in all these ways it has at different times been written. In this township there were, besides the part included in the manor of Winterburne, six carucates, held, according to Kirkby's "Inquisition," of the lord of the Skipton fee, but more accurately, according to the extent of 31st Edward I., of the fee of Mowbray. These belonged in very early times (certainly as early as the reign of Stephen) to the family of Grandorge, Granordei, or de Grano hordei, a singular name which continued in Craven till the last century. Of this race it appears, by the black book of the Exchequer, vol. i. p. 311, that William Granordei, on whom Thomas Hearne learnedly observes, "Granum ordei lingua vernacula dixeris Barley corn," held half a fee under Roger de Mowbray. This was a very considerable estate, for in that fee no less than twenty-eight carucates constituted a knight's fee.

In 1314, and probably long after, lived John de Grandorge,‡ and Agnes his wife, whose daughter and heiress Margaret married, about 36th Edward III., William, son of Thomas de Nesfield, and thereby carried the manor of Flasby into that family; for in that year Thomas the father, styles himself "Curator des Corses W. son filz & Marg. Grandorge sa fême deinz age esteaunts de lour manour de Flasbye en Craven." The title, however, of this heiress was contested by the male line, who were soon brought to repent their rashness, which one of them expresses in these humiliating terms—

"Ego Tho. fil. W^m Grandorge licet ex insano consilio nuper injurare præsumserim Marg. fil. Joh. Grandorge fratris mei de Manerio de Flasceby, nov^{is} me ex meliori sensu statum ipsius Marg. in p'd' confirmasse."

In this line it continued about two centuries, for in the 17th Henry VI. [1438–9] Ric. Nesfield and Avilla his wife convey the manor of Flasby.

* The Rev. Francis Wilkinson, Vicar of Bardsey, a native of this place.

[† FLASCEBY.—In eadem villa sunt VI car. terræ quæ tenentur de rege et domino castri prædicti (Skipton); quarum Willelmus Greindorge tenet IIII^{or} car. et unam bov. et idem Willelmus redd. per ann. ad finem prædictum IIII. pro tota villa.—Kirkby's "Inquest," A.D. 1284.]

FLASCEBY ET WINTERBURN.—Willelmus Greyndorg tenet in capite, &c. VI car. in Flasceby et Winterburn.—"Knights' Fees," 31 Edward I.

In the 9th Edw. II. Johannes de Greyndorge was Lord of the Manor of Flasceby.—"Nomina Villarum."

The brass matrix of the personal seal of William Graindehorge (device, a lamb with flag), legend in Lombardic characters, WILLI GRAINDEHORGE, date, 13th century, was found at Flasby in 1843.—*Arch. Jour.* ii. 399.]

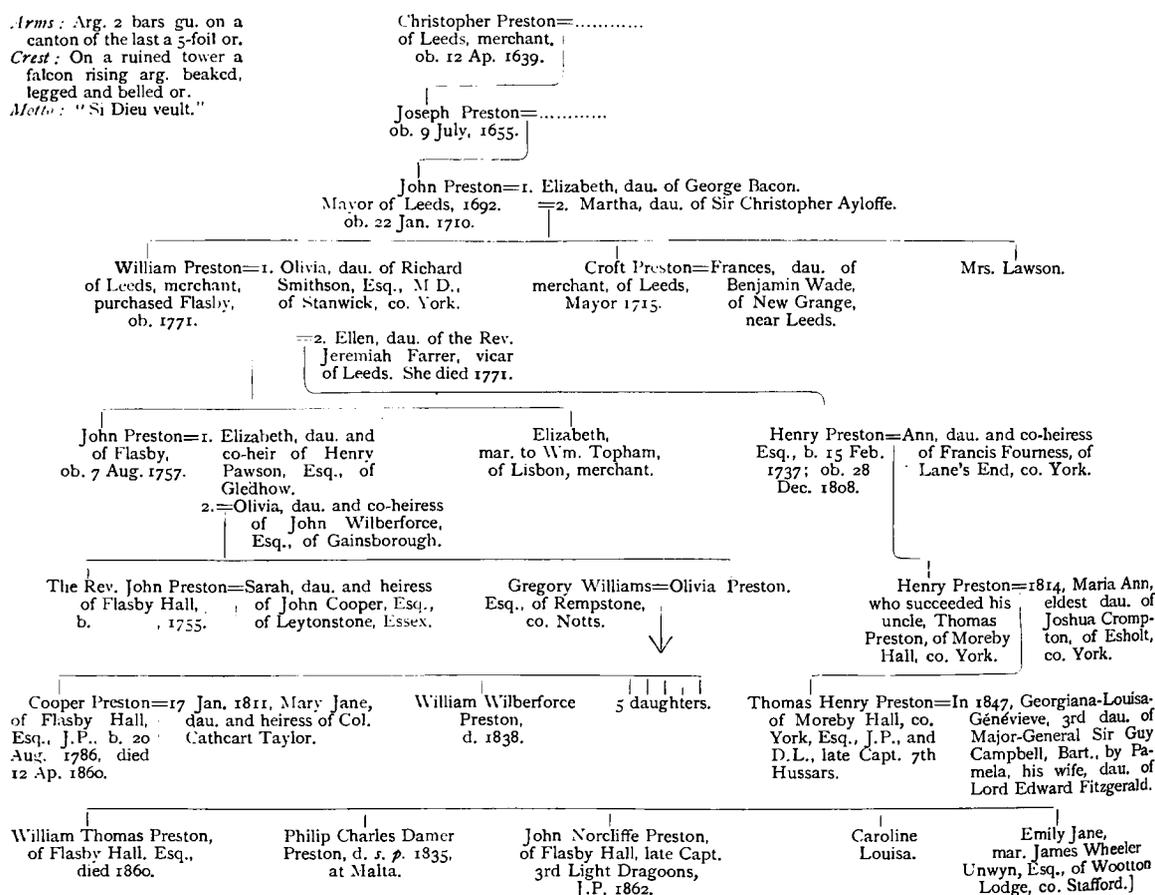
‡ A son of this family was Nicholas Grandorge, Master Forester to Roger de Clifford, whose patent of appointment is in these terms: Cest indenture fait entre Mons. Rog. de Clifford de Westm'land d'un p'te & Nichol Grayndorge d'autre p'tie, tesm' que le dit Mons. Rog. a graunt a dit Nichol le Gard de la Mest' Forrest' de tutz ses boyses, chases, parkes & garrens, appendents a son Sen'ry de Skipton.—41 Edward III.

The Grandorges, in allusion to their name, bore three ears of barley, a bearing which appears on several seals yet appendant to their charters at Bolton Abbey.

In the 23rd Henry VIII. [1531-2] lived Thomas Nesfield of Flasby, Gent., and in the 23rd Elizabeth [1580-1] is a bond of 1000*l.* from William, son of John Nesfield, to George Earl of Cumberland, conditioned to convey the manor of Flasby to the said earl; and thus it fell into the great property of the Cliffords. I do not know by which of the three last earls the respective tenements were sold off. I am equally unable to trace the alienation of this manor from the Cliffords, or by what steps it passed into the family of the Duke of Queensbury, by whom, together with the manors of Bradley and Lothersden, it was once more sold to the family of Cavendish about the year 1756. Very little demesne is now annexed to the manor, but the heavy quit-rents charged on the different estates prove them to have been granted out at no distant period. One moiety, however, of this village was the property of the Rillestones, and after them of the Nortons, and was denominated from the last Flasby Norton. The hall estate is now the property of the Rev. John Preston, one of the portionists of Linton, who has laid out the grounds about it with great taste. On digging the foundation for an enlargement of the house, I have been assured that many human bones and vestiges of an ancient chapel were discovered—another instance of the numerous domestic oratories once existing in Craven.

[PRESTON OF FLASBY HALL.]

Arms: Arg. 2 bars gu. on a canton of the last a 5-foil or.
Crest: On a ruined tower a falcon rising arg. beaked, legged and belled or.
Motto: "Si Dieu veult."



Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

Copyright Skipton Castle 2010
Skipton Castle
Skipton
North Yorkshire
BD23 1AW

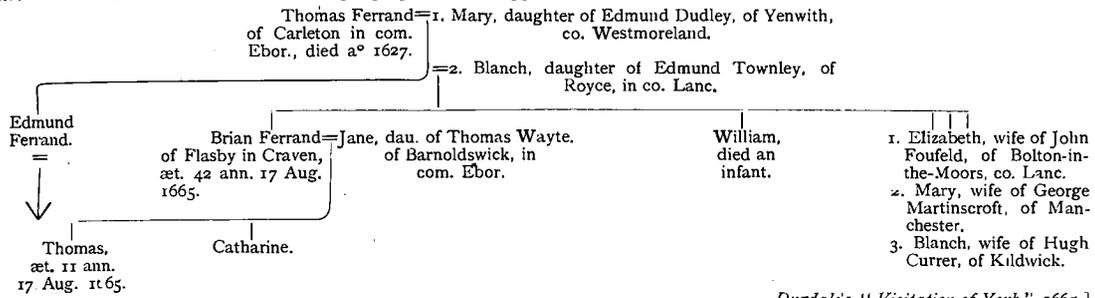
tel +44 (0) 1756 792442
info@skiptoncastle.co.uk
www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

The sides of Flasby Fell still continue to show what the forests of Crookrise and Elso once were, clothed with native oak, which in its ascent gradually dwindles to a fan-like shrub, till its fine mellow tints blend insensibly with the purple of the ling and the grey moss which envelops the crags. It is for the painter alone to emulate Nature in the production of such colouring. The planter will generally find, to his disappointment, that the materials which he works with grow more intractable and inharmonious from time.

[FERRAND OF FLASBY.

Arms: Arg. on a chief gu. 2 crosses fleury vair a crescent for diff.

Crest: A cubit arm erect vested vair, the hand grasping a battle-axe ppr.



Dugdale's "Visitation of York," 1665.]

[Thoresby states that he rode "to Gargrave, thence to Cunniston, where the young man lived that was of late years so remarkably converted by reading some pages (dropped from Madam Lambert, of Cowton, as she was reading in the book in her way to the meeting) of Mr. Baxter's 'Call to the Unconverted,' strangely brought into the house by a little dog."—Thoresby's "Diary," i. 264.]