

ART. XII.—*Newby Hall*. By R. MORTON RIGG, Licentiate R.I.B.A., M.S.A.

*Read at the site, July 14th, 1911.*

THERE are many places of the name of Newby (which means no more than Newtown), and therefore this, by way of distinction and from the nature of its situation, is called Newby Stones. From Nicolson and Burn we gather that this manor appears to have had no connection with the Cliffords. There were anciently many of the name of de Newby, who seem to have been lords of this manor.\* In 1519 Richard Vernon of Nether Haddon, Derbyshire, held of the king (Henry VIII.) in capite, 16 messuages and 300 acres of land in Newby. He was succeeded by his son George Vernon, of whom Richard Nevinson of Kemplees, rented a messuage at Newby-in-the-Stones, together with Newby wood and a parcel of ground called Forty-penny farmhold. In 1559 Richard Nevinson died, and appears to have been possessed of certain lands and tenements in Newby Stones, which he left to his son Richard, "and the heirs male of his body" and the remainder to his son Stephen. Richard died without issue and left Stephen in possession. Stephen's son died in 1638.

The grandson of the latter was John Nevinson, who appears to have rebuilt Newby Hall some time in the seventeenth century; his initials with those of his wife are inscribed on several door lintels bearing the date 1685. He married Elizabeth Garth of Hedlam in the county of Durham. This John was the grandfather of Stanwix.

---

\* On the family de Newby, see an article by the Rev. Frederick W. Ragg in these *Transactions*, N.S., ix., pp. 244-251.

Nevinson, the last of the line, his mother being the sister of General Stanwix. He married Elizabeth Blake, whom, according to a tradition current in the neighbourhood, he treated very cruelly, and finally shut her up in a room until she died. His second wife was Julia Gaskarth of Hutton Hall, Penrith, and it seems he found his match in this lady; he predeceased his wife in the year 1772. A tablet to his memory can be seen in the chancel of Morland Church, and there are fragments of a tombstone in the courtyard of Newby Hall which bears the same inscription as the Morland Church tablet. The inscription is as follows:—

Near this place is interd the remains  
of

Stanwix Nevinson Esquire  
Lord of the Manor of Newby  
He died the 22nd of Feb. 1772  
aged 70 years.

He was twice married 1st to  
Elizabeth, 3rd daughter of Robt. Blake Esquire  
of Twisel Castle in Nortamshire in the  
County of Durham. His 2nd wife Julia  
3rd daughter of John Gaskarth Esquire  
of Hutton Hall in Penrith Cumberland—  
Erected this monument to his memory.

---

Lord who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle, or  
who shall rest upon Thy holy hill.  
Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life  
and doeth the thing which is right and  
speaketh the Truth from his heart.

It seems very probable that the old stone at Newby was the original, and once stood in Morland Church and has been replaced by the marble tablet already referred to.

The estate was left to Julia his wife, who afterwards married the Earl of Suffolk.



NEWBY HALL.

TO FACE P. 122.



NEWBY HALL : the Nevinson arms over the main door.

*Photo. by A. Archer-Betham, Penwith.*

TO FACE P. 123.

The present building has no doubt been erected on the site of a former house, which was at one time occupied by the family of de Newby, sometimes spelt "Neube."

It has not any very striking architectural features—a typical manor house of the seventeenth century, with features of the Jacobean period; or at any rate the characteristics of that period are evident, though we must remember that at this time (1685) the Anglo-classic style was predominant; Sir Christopher Wren was building St. Paul's, commencing in the year 1675. The Jacobean was only a transitional style between the late Gothic and the Classicism of the latter part of the seventeenth century.

The main features by which one is led to imply that this manor house is Jacobean in style are—firstly, the plan, which consists of a central block 26 feet in length, with a central door leading directly into the hall, and two side wings projecting a distance of 13 feet. Secondly, the classic doorway, with its moulded cornice, supported by pilasters; and yet a tinge of Gothic is displayed in the mullioned windows with the string course carried over them with an embattled line. We are therefore led to assume this house was built earlier and probably restored by John Nevinson in 1685.

The iron casements with their curious device for fastening are of considerable interest, consisting of two iron catches joined on an iron rod.

The tablet over the main door contains the armorial bearings of the Nevinsons; the shield bears a chevron, charged with a mullet, between eaglets displayed, on an esquire's helm the crest, a leopard passant collared.

There is one notable feature about the stone in the walls, as it consists of two kinds of freestone, though Newby is noted for its limestone. The dining hall is 21 feet by 18 feet. It has a fine old, though plain fireplace, 10 feet wide. The flue is of considerable width and in it the original chain and loop are to be seen hanging from

their iron bars, and from which hams, bacon, and other meats were suspended to be smoked. Leading out of this hall are the private rooms, kitchen and staircase. I have been told that the house is extensively cellared, though it has not been used for many years. It is, however, thought that the entrance must be near the larder door, because the floor at this point is boarded, yet on each side the stone floor remains. It would be of considerable interest if this cellar could be explored, and in all probability we should find a vaulted roof. In the kitchen there is a bakstone, an attribute requisite to every manor house, because at that time oatcake or "haver bread" was the staple food, while now it is only a delicacy.

The panelling in the sitting room is no doubt of a much earlier date than that in the upper rooms. The whole of the woodwork has been defaced and modernized with paint. There are the nail marks still visible in one of the rooms on the woodwork, which I am inclined to think has at some time been covered with tapestry. A very particular feature of the bedroom floor is that each room has a separate closet or dressing room about 5 feet or 6 feet square, and it is interesting to note that those adjoining the bedrooms of the central block are in the thickness of the wall, which forms the dining hall fireplace recess on the ground floor; the wall is about 7 feet 6 inches in thickness.

I cannot vouch whether it was in one of these rooms that Stanwix Nevinston banished his wife, or that her ghost still roams through these dark passages on a wild winter's night, chanting a weird melody, until weary she sits down to her spinning wheel, the only companion allowed by her cruel lord with which to amuse herself.

At the end of the courtyard near the west gate is the site of the old Tithe House, where the lord received his tithes in kind, being every tenth stook or any other articles or animal; little now remains of this building,

but several of the original door or window lintels have been built into the walls of the farm buildings when they were repaired by the estate agent some years ago. Though the farm buildings are modern, there is much of the old walling remaining, but the repairer has done his work and the antiquity has consequently suffered. The estate now belongs to the Earl of Lonsdale.

---