

ART. XI.—*Brampton and Denton*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM,
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BRAMPTON.

BEFORE the advent of a Norman lord, Brampton, judging by the place-name, was occupied by a colony of Angles.

This portion of the "land of Carlisle" had presumably been subject to the sway of Earl Gospatric, and, later, of Ranulf Meschin. In the latter's day and subsequently its immediate lord was certainly Gilles son of Bueth; but when, in 1157, the whole land of Carlisle, including the land late of Gilles son of Bueth, fell into the king's hand, Henry II bestowed the last-mentioned fragment upon the Norman, Hubert de Vallibus. There is a legend that Hubert had, in his younger days, already acquired a grant of Gilles' land from Ranulf Meschin (*Chronicon Cumbriae*). If that is a fact, nothing came of it, because, for 20 years past and perhaps even longer, Norman influence in the land of Carlisle had been in abeyance.

It would appear from later events that Hubert, or his successor in title, constructed the *motte* of Irthington, to serve as the *caput* of the new barony of Gilsland.

Robert de Vallibus, son of Hubert, founded the priory of Lanercost and gave to its monks the church of "Brampton." Osbert parson of "Brampton" attested the foundation charter of 1169 (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 421) so it is possible that Brampton church, like Triermain chapel, was in existence "long before the arrival of Hubert de Vallibus" (these *Transactions*, N.S. xxii, p. 29).

In another document of somewhat later date, the place-name appears as "Brancton" (*Wetherhal*, p. 213). The spelling calls for attention, because the landowner at another Brampton, in Westmorland, who evidently derived his surname from the last-mentioned locality, styled himself, in 1208, Alexander de Brankeston (these *Transactions*, N.S. xxii, p. 319). Clement, chaplain of Branton, is mentioned in 1197 (*Pipe Roll*).

About 1220, Bishop Hugh, at the petition of Lanercost Priory, endowed a perpetual vicarage in the church of Brampton with the whole alterage, the land pertaining to it, the tithes of the same land and all tithes, oblations and obventions belonging to the altar of the said church. And he admitted magister Thomas, his clerk, who had been presented by the priory to the living (*Register of Lanercost*, cited Nicolson and Burn, ii, 492).

In 1252, Matilda, last of the family of de Vallibus and her husband, Thomas de Multon, acquired from the king for themselves and their heirs, free warren in all their demesne lands in Cumberland; a weekly market on Tuesday at their manor of "Braunton;" and a yearly fair there on the vigil and feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, 37 Henry III, p. 406). At a later date, she established her claim to free chase and assize of bread in Brampton (*Placita de quo waranto*, 20 Edward I, p. 126). Thomas de Multon had mansions at Burgh-by-Sands and Kirkoswald, so it is unlikely that he resided at Brampton.

By final concord made in 1256, Thomas de Multon and Matilda his wife gave to the priory of Lanercost 6 acres in "Branton" (these *Transactions*, N.S. xxii, p. 42).

Robert de Mora, in 1295, held of the barony of Gilsland 100s. of land in Brampton by service of one-eighth of a knight's fee; and Thomas de Northwood, at the same date, held ten shillings of land in Brampton by service of one-twentieth of a knight's fee (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 23 Edward I, p. 186).

Irthington was still the "chief manor of the barony" (*ibid.*, p. 183).

The prior and canons of Lanercost continued to present the perpetual vicar to the living of Brampton.

Richard de Caldecotes was vicar in 1334 (Nicolson and Burn). His grave slab survives.

In 1335, Ranulf de Dacre obtained licence to crenellate his manor of Naworth (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 168).

On the death of Richard de Caldecotes in 1346, John Engge was instituted vicar (N. and B.). In May of the same year, the king remitted the 10th and 15th due from "Brampton, in the parish of that town, destroyed by the Scots after Michaelmas last" (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 30).

John Engge died in 1361, and John de Hayton was instituted vicar (N. and B.).

There was an order in 1362, to deliver to Ranulf de Dacre the "castle" of Naward (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 323).

The said John de Hayton's estate, as vicar of Brampton, was ratified in 1371 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 123). He resigned, and was succeeded in 1372, by William de Kirkeby (N. and B.) whose estate was ratified in the same year (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 222).

The perambulation made in 1588 specifies the landmarks which had doubtless formed the limits of the manor from time out of mind:—

The boulder of this manor of Brampton beginneth at Irthington Milne and (*sic*) to a place called the Castlesteads Yeat, called the Wille Tree, and so in at the Castlesteads Yeat, out over Lumbrum to the casten dyke of the Mundholme, and along the dyke eastward, without (beyond) Irthing, unto the Abbie Bridge, and so up Irthing to the Castle Beck, and so up the Castle Beck to Denton Milne, and from thence to a place called the "Hurrlende Well," and so to the Foule Floshe, from thence westward, as the little river runneth into Milton Beck at Milton, from thence southward, up the Castle Beck, to an old dyke that parteth Farlam and Brampton, and so to the Red Yeat Foot at Hanbanke, from thence along the south side of the Talken Tarne, and so to Helbecke, as the little river runneth from Talken Tarne to Helbecke, from thence down to Gelt, and down Gelt to Gelt ryune in Irthinge,

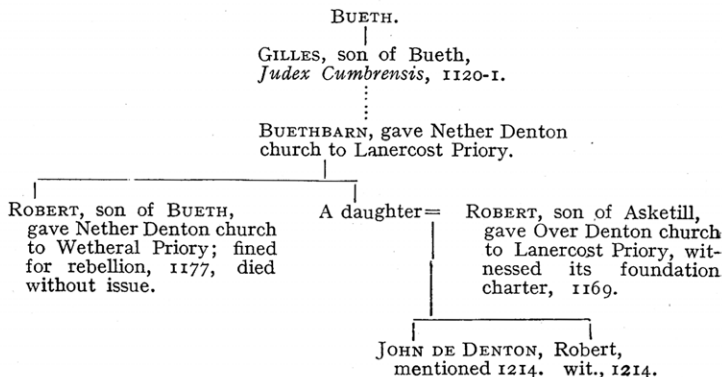
and so up Irthinge to Irthington Milne Foot (Hutchinson, *Cumberland*, i, 123).

Brampton parish comprises three townships, namely, Brampton, Easby* and Naworth. In recent times, the forest of Brerethwaite (whose bounds are set out in these *Transactions*, N.S. xix, p. 108) was deemed to be a detached fragment of Brampton parish, annexed to Naworth township. Between that forest and the manors of Brampton, Nether Denton and Over Denton, there intervened a long strip of Farlam parish, extending to the boundary of Northumberland (Parson and White, *Directory*, 1829).

DENTON.

The district known as "Denton" consisted of two manors:—Old, otherwise Over, Denton and Nether Denton. At the beginning of the twelfth century, Gilles son of Bueth was its lord. He probably lived and died at Bewcastle, because his grandson, Robert son of Bueth, though lord of Denton, continued to describe himself as "of Bewcastle," confirmed to the monks of Wetheral all the land which "my father" gave them in the vill of Bewcastle, and further bestowed upon them four acres and pasture for 300 sheep everywhere in the common pasture of Bewcastle (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, no. 107, p. 195).

PEDIGREE OF THE SONS OF BUETH.



* William de Essebi is mentioned in 1159 (*Pipe Roll*).

Bewcastle was not parcel of what the Normans termed "Gilles' land" and was, perhaps, held by a somewhat different title; yet both districts may have been originally subject to the same overlordship, first of Earl Gospatric, later of Ranulf Meschin. In historic times, Bewcastle pertained to the barony of Burgh.

MANOR OF OVER DENTON.

Shortly after the foundation of Lanercost Priory in 1169, David son of Terri and Robert son of Asketill* gave the church of Old Denton to that house (*Register of Lanercost*, cited *Wetherhal*, p. 74, note). Robert de Vallibus, lord of the barony of Gilsland, confirmed the gift (*ibid.*). Old Denton lay in the diocese of Durham, and Hugh de Pudsey, then bishop of Durham, granted to the prior and canons of Lanercost the "church of Vetus Denton, given by Robert de Vallibus and Robert de Asketill," and ordained that, whenever the Church was vacant, the canons should present to the bishop a perpetual vicar to serve the same and render episcopal dues. The perpetual vicar was to receive necessities of life (*victus*) from the canons and pay the yearly pension of half a mark (*Register of Lanercost*, quoted Nicolson and Burn, ii, p. 509).

The transaction amounted to appropriation of the church to Lanercost Priory and provision for a perpetual vicarage. A charter of confirmation, granted to the same priory by the pope in 1224, distinguishes the churches of Denton Superior and Denton Inferior (*Register of Lanercost*, cited *Wetherhal*, p. 75).

The Valor of Pope Nicholas, 1291-2, edit. Record Commission, p. 316, describes Over Denton church as the church of "Denton in Gilsland," under the heading "Diocese of Durham, archdeaconry of Northumberland,

* Robert, son of Asketill, was probably lord of the manor, and David, son of Terri, his undertenant. They made other joint benefactions (*Dugdale, Mon.*, vol. vi, p. 237).

deanery of Corbridge." It is similarly described in the *Nonarum Inquisitio* of Edward III's reign, quoted by Hodgson, part iii, vol. 3, p. xxxv.

Robert son of Asketil* left issue a son, John de Denton, living in 1214 (*Wetherhal*, p. 220) who presumably inherited both Over Denton and Nether Denton. But John Denton, the historian, states (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 140) that Over Denton was given, in 7 Edward I (1278-9) by Richard Stowland and Helena, his wife, to John de Widdrington, "with whose issue male it remains at this day" (1610).

Who are these Stowlands? They are certainly not the de Dentons' heirs, because Robert de Denton was in possession of Over Denton 16 years later. They are evidently the de Dentons' undertenants. We here descend into an underworld, peopled by sub-feoffees, of whom the royal *inquisitiones post mortem* do not take cognizance.

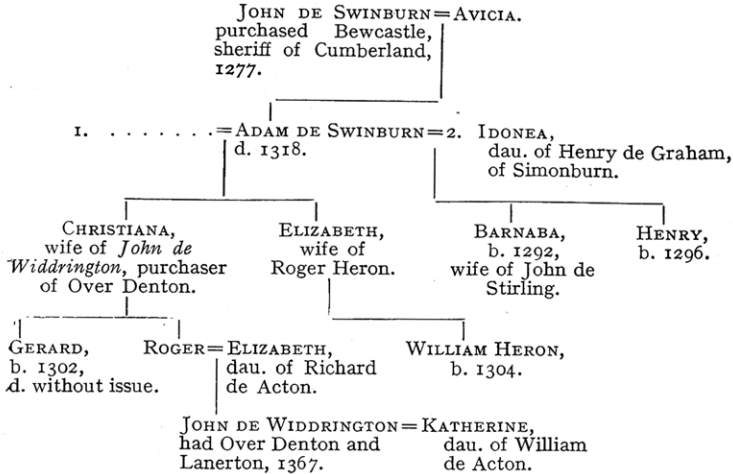
At the date of the Stowlands' conveyance, John de Swinburn, of East Swinburn, Northumberland, had lately obtained a footing in Cumberland. He purchased the vale of Bothecastre (Bewcastle) from the heirs of Richard de Levington (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iv, p. 361). He was sheriff of Cumberland in 1277.

He obtained, in 1277, a grant of free warren at Bothecastre (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, p. 203) and in 1279, a market once a week and a fair twice a year at the same place (*ibid.*, p. 213). One of his charters is confirmed by John de Denton, of "Denton in Gilsland" (Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part iii, vol. 2, p. 31).

The following pedigree is based upon those compiled by Hodgson (part ii, vol. 2, p. 231) and the Northumberland History County Committee (vol. iv, p. 309).

* Richard son of Ansketil may have been his brother (*Pipe Roll*, 1185, cf. Robert de Ansketil, *ibid.*, 1195).

PEDIGREE.



John de Swinburn had a son, Adam, who acquired (probably by feoffment of Robert de Denton) the manor of Lanerton, situate on the bank of the Irthing opposite to Over Denton.

John de Widdrington, purchaser from the Stowlands of Over Denton, married Christiana, daughter of the said Adam de Swinburn. The date of their son's birth (see pedigree) implies that she was not a child of Adam's marriage with Idonea, but of an earlier, unrecorded, marriage. The same remark applies to her sister Elizabeth. The history of Northumberland, edited by the County Committee, supposes (vol. iv, p. 309) that their mother was Margery, heiress of Lanerton, but the supposition seems to be founded upon a misreading of Adam's *inquisitio post mortem*, presently quoted.

Robert de Denton is first mentioned in 1293. He was a person of importance for he had a chapel at his manor of Lanerton (*Wetherhal*, p. 322). In 1295, the same Robert de Denton, "of Lanerton," held of the barony of Gilsland £10 of land at Denton, by service of one-sixth of a knight's fee (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 23 Edward I, p. 186).

"Denton" there means Over Denton, because the inquisition made nearly a century later (1338-9) at the death of William de Dacre, lord of the barony of Gilsland, distinguishes two fees held by free tenants, one at Denton, the other at Lanerton *et* Over Denton (*Cal. Esch.*, 22 Richard II, p. 229).

One gathers that, in 1295, Nether Denton, with a mansion at Denton Hall was held by John de Denton,* who attested a charter of Matilda de Vallibus dated June 29th, 1271 (*Wetherhal*, no. 194, p. 306); while Lanerton and Over Denton, with a mansion at the first-named locality, were held by Robert de Denton, possibly brother of the said John. Robert de Denton was then regarded as the responsible tenant although his interest in the premises had been acquired by his sub-feoffees, John de Widdrington and Adam de Swinburn respectively.

In 1296, Adam de Swinburn was an adherent of John de Baliol and forfeited all his lands for rebellion (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, 172). He was subsequently pardoned, and at his death, in 1318, it was found by inquisition that:—

Adam de Swinburn held nothing in Cumberland of the king, but he held the manor of Lanerton, in the same county, of Ranulf de Dacre and Margaret, his wife, *as of the inheritance of the said Margaret*,† by homage and service of 6d. a year cornage; and he held Bothecastredall, in the same county, of the said Ranulf and Margaret, by 2d. a year cornage. The manor of Lanerton is worth nothing now, because it is being wasted (*vastatur*) by the Scots, but in time of peace, it used to be worth 10 marks a year. Bothecastredall is worth nothing now, because it is being destroyed (*destruitur*) by the Scots, but, before the war, it used to be worth 40 marks. Henry de Swinburn is his son and heir and is 21 years of age and more (*Ch. inq. p.m.*, Edward II, file 61, no. 24).

* Prescott makes him son of the John de Denton living in 1214 (*Wetherhal*, p. 221); but 57 years have elapsed, and one suspects that there had been an intermediate John de Denton.

† The passage in italics refers, of course, to Ranulf. The "cornage" due from Lanerton is not a commutation of the ancient noutgeld, because the whole barony of Gilsland was exempt from that tax.

Henry forfeited his lands for rebellion in 1322 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 90) and he probably died in 1326, when it was ordered that the lands late of Adam de Swinburn should be taken into the king's hand (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, p. 426) and a second inquisition was held in the same year concerning those lands. It was found that Adam was seised of the manor of Bewcastle held of Ranulf de Dacre *as of the manor of Burgh*, by homage and fealty; and the manor of Lanerton as well. His heirs were then Barnaba, his daughter, aged 34; Gerard de Widdrington (son of Christiana, another daughter) aged 24; and William Heron (son of Elizabeth, another daughter) aged 22 (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 20 Edward II, p. 473). The original document is to a great extent illegible.

When Edward III came to the throne, in 1327, he partitioned all the family property amongst the then heirs of Adam de Swinburn, assigning Bewcastle to Barnaba and Lanerton to Gerard de Widdrington (*Originalia*, quoted by Hodgson, part iii, vol. 2, p. 302; and *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1 Edward III, p. 8).

The same king, in 1358, restored to Gerard de Widdrington lands of his inheritance in Denton and Lanerton, which had been taken into the king's hand (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 32 Edward III, p. 141).

Gerard died without issue, and Over Denton and Lanerton passed to his brother, Roger, who, in 1367, gave Denton and Lanerton in Gilsland to his son John and Katherine, his wife (Hodgson, part ii, vol. 2, p. 252).

The history of Over Denton is interlaced with that of Lanerton, but the de Swinburns were never seised of Over Denton. From first to last, it was the property of the de Widdringtons. Hence, *turris de Denton juxta Hawtwisil* appears, about 1415, in the list of Northumberland fortilices (Bates, *Border Holds*, i, p. 18).

The perambulation of 1588 includes Over Denton and Nether Denton in a single ambit:—

Manor of Denton. The boulder of this manor beginneth at the castle of Naworth and turneth eastward, up the park wall, to the Home (Holm) House burn, and it runneth in Irdinge, and thence up to Capple (Chapel) burn, and so eastward to Thomlinge Cleugh Head, from thence to the West Cleugh Head, from thence up a burn called the "Tenants' burn" to a place called "Eadley Stone," and then it turneth southward to the Low Hill, and down the Stole Layers to the Lawe Burn, and then it turneth westward, up the same burn, to the Greenway Syke, and so to the Green Tarn, and from thence to the Crashill Moss, and so to Carmitley (Carnetley) Dyke Head and to a grey stone, which stood at Battle Hodge's door, and so, still westward, down Danes-in-Ferle Dyke, to the Rotten Well, and so to the Rotten Syke down to Denton Burn, and thence to the said castle, where the same began (Hutchinson, *Cumberland*, i, 146).

The tenants' burn is evidently the Poltros burn, which separated the tenants of the barony of Gilsland from the franchise of Tindale, made parcel of the county of Northumberland in 1495 (Hodgson, part ii, vol. 3, p. 3). Eadley Stone is identical with Edelstone, a landmark on the bounds of the barony of Gilsland (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 479).

It should be carefully noted that Tindal Fell, near Denton, abutted upon the franchise of Tindale, but was never part of that franchise. It was included in the royal and extra-parochial forest of Brerethwaite, in which the lords of Gilsland enjoyed ancient rights of free chase, and is referred to in 1285, as "Tineleside in Cumberland" (these *Transactions*, N.S. xix, p. 107).

MANOR OF NETHER DENTON.

Buethbarn gave the church of (Nether) Denton to Lanercost Priory, and his son, Robert son of Bueth* confirmed "my father's gift" (*Register of Lanercost*, cited *Wetherhal*, pp. 75 and 196). Robert son of Bueth, "of Bewcastle," repudiated the transaction, and, by charter made 1170-80, presented William the clerk† to the

* Perhaps Boed Barn of 1183. (*Pipe Roll*).

† William the clerk attested Lanercost foundation charter.

church (*i.e.* the rectory) of Denton (*Wetherhal*, no. 108, p. 198). The see of Carlisle had long been vacant, so Peter de Ros, archdeacon of Carlisle and *custos* of the see, *circ.* 1180, confirmed the institution of William the clerk of Denton to the living, on presentation by Robert son of Bueth of Bewcastle, "to whom the right of patronage is known to belong," saving the respective rights of bishop, archdeacon and archdeacon's official (*Wetherhal*, no. 123, p. 219).

Robert son of Bueth then went a step further, and, soon after 1180, granted to the abbey of St. Mary, York, and its monks at Wetherhal, the church of Denton, the land belonging to the same, and 8 acres beside, which a certain David held in free alms, for the souls of the donor, his wife and parents (*Wetherhal*, no. 121, p. 217).

The abbot of St. Mary, York, thereupon presented William the clerk, *de novo*, and Peter de Ros, as *custos*, instituted him, for the second time to the "vacant" church, saving the said rights (*Wetherhal*, no. 120, p. 216).

Legal proceedings followed, in the course of which a *composition* was come to, namely, that Wetheral Priory should have one mediety of Denton church, and Lanercost Priory the other mediety, by the designation "church of Brancton"; that W. and R., the clerks (both Bewcastle men and, apparently, secular incumbents in common) should each pay a pension of 2s. to the respective priories; and, when the church fell vacant, each priory should present a clerk to its own mediety (*Wetherhal*, no. 119, p. 213).

Bernard was consecrated bishop of Carlisle about 1204 and confirmed to the priors of Wetheral and Lanercost the church of Denton to hold to their own proper use for ever, so that it should be lawful for those priors, after the deaths of the aforesaid W. and R., clerks, to enter and hold the church without impediment, but saving to the

bishop, synodals and archidiaconals* (*Wetherhal*, no. 117, p. 210). The prior and convent of Carlisle assented to that act of "Bernard our bishop" (*ibid.*, no. 122, p. 218).

It was then, perhaps, that the prior and convent of Lanercost quitclaimed to William clerk of Denton, their mediety of the church, on condition that he rendered to them yearly, at Carlisle fair, the two shillings pension due from his vicarage† (*ibid.*, no. 124, p. 220).

Early in the thirteenth century, Elias, son of David de Denton, quitclaimed to the monks of Wetheral for ever all the land in Denton which he, at any time, held of them, for the purpose of sustaining the light before the altar of the Holy Trinity in their church. William, parson of the church of Denton, and Adam, son of the same, attested the gift (*Wetherhal*, no. 126, p. 222).

John de Denton (see pedigree) in 1214, gave to the same monks and to the light of their church 8 acres in the territory of Denton, in the *cultura* called "Werduthel," in exchange for the 8 acres which "my uncle," Robert son of Bueth, gave to them (*Wetherhal*, no. 125, p. 220)‡ Robert de Vallibus, lord of the barony of Gilsland, confirmed the gift (*ibid.*, no. 193, p. 305). Bishop Hugh (1218-23) confirmed Bishop Bernard's grant to the priories of Wetheral and Lanercost of the church of Denton, to their proper and common use, so that, when the rector of Denton departed or died, they might enter the same, saving as before synodals and archidiaconals (*Wetherhal*, no. 118, p. 212).

Bishop Walter Malclerk, in October, 1238, confirmed to the priories of Wetheral and Lanercost the sum of 5

* Synodals and archidiaconals were taxes, due from the benefices of the diocese, to maintain the dignity of the bishop and archdeacon respectively (*Victoria Hist. Cumb.*, ii, p. 117).

† William was technically parson, because appropriation could not take place during his lifetime.

‡ The charter is witnessed by Robert, "brother" of John de Denton, the donor. His name occurs in 1211 (*Pipe Roll*).

marks a year from the church of Denton, by the hand of the vicar, to be divided between them in equal shares (*Register of Lanercost*, quoted *Wetherhal*, p. 422). In return for that payment, the bishop of Carlisle, by agreement between the parties, became *sole patron* of Nether Denton (*Wetherhal*, p. 75).

By charter of composition, dated February 4th, 1266, the abbot and convent of St. Mary, York, for the consideration therein mentioned, quitclaimed for ever to Bishop de Chausé and his successors its said pension of $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks, due to it from the church of Denton (*Wetherhal*, no. 34, p. 73).

The Valor of Pope Nicholas, 1291-2, mentions the pensions of $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks (33s. 4d.) due to the bishop of Carlisle and the prior of Lanercost respectively.

In 1304, the bishop, as patron, collated magister Richard Oriol to the parish church of Denton, and instituted him *rector* thereof, saving to himself and his successors 33s. 4d.; and to the prior and convent of Lanercost 33s. 4d., due of old (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i, 226).

In 1306, dominus Alan de Kele, priest (*ibid.*, i, 268); in 1309, dominus John de Culgaith, priest (*ibid.*, i 322); and, in 1317, dominus John de Berinton, chaplain (*ibid.*, ii, 145) were collated and instituted, saving in every case the annual pensions. Richard de Brocton was collated to the benefice in 1385 (Nicolson and Burn).