



DALEGARTH (looking W. N.W.).

East aspect of house.

From Knoll (1 on plan), standing above ? site of small tower.

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Photo. by Mary C. Fair. August, 1928.

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ART. XXI.—*Austhwaite and Dalegarth*. A NOTE BY
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Read at Grange-over-Sands, September 18th, 1928.

THE ancient habitation on the south bank of the Esk known to-day as Dalegarth Hall is of interest on account of its long association with a branch of the distinguished family of Stanley, though it has degenerated into a farm since the end of the seventeenth century, when the Stanleys removed to Ponsonby Hall.

For many years Dalegarth has been in a picturesque condition of semi-moribund decay; its present owner, Sir John Ramsden, has now had the fine old house (what remains of the Stanleys' mansion, for much of it was pulled down or turned into farm buildings, etc., when that family quitted Dalegarth), put into thorough repair, great care being taken to preserve its most striking feature, the massive, typical chimneys, in their former shape. A sharp look-out was kept during the renovation work for any relics of interest, but no discoveries were reported.

It is a matter of general knowledge that the original name of the estate was Austhwaite, the occupants taking their name from it, the manor being granted by one of the Boyvilles in 1102 to the family styling itself de Austhwaite who remained in possession till about 1345 when the line became extinct in male succession, the heiress, Constance daughter of Thomas, the last de Austhwaite, marrying Nicholas Stanley of Greysouthen. We first hear of *Dalegarth* in 1437, when Thomas Stanley, great-grandson of the above Nicholas, is recorded as being of Dalegarth when he married Anne Hudleston. His son,

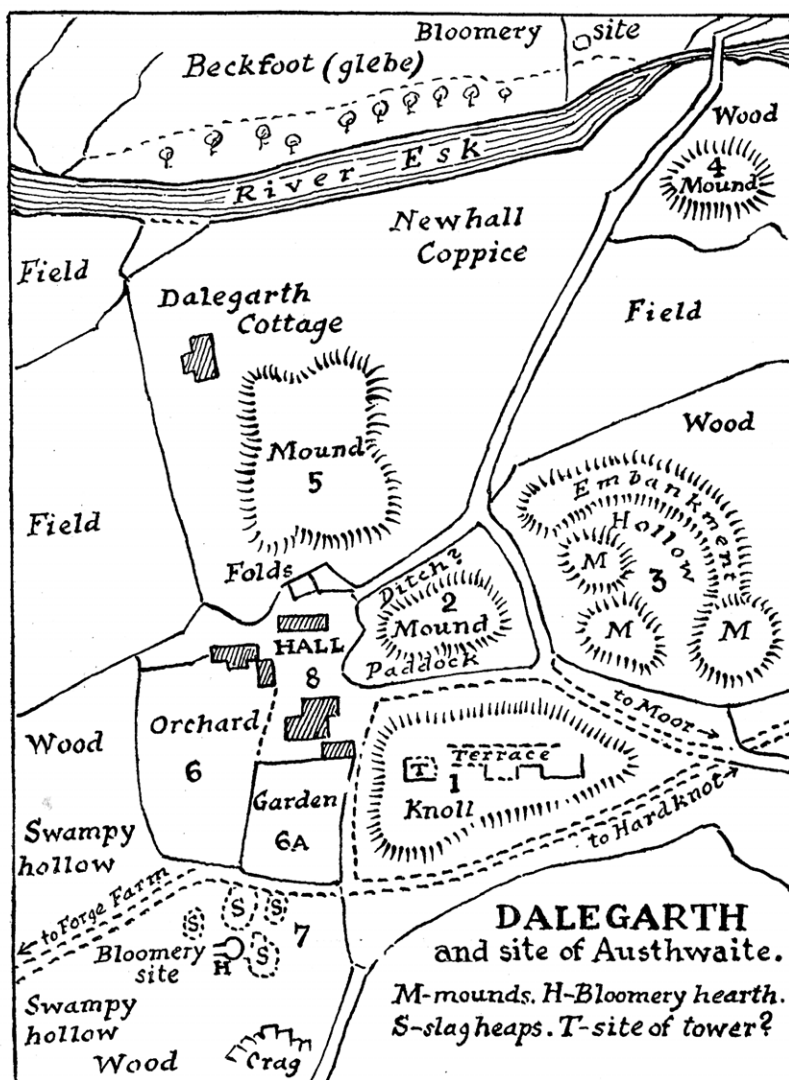
William Stanley of Austhwaite and Dalegarth, married Alice Ducket.

The question thus arises, why did the name of the manor change from Austhwaite to Dalegarth? Certain indications given in the neighbourhood of the present Dalegarth Hall suggest a possible answer to this question.

It is reasonable to suppose that as conditions of life became more settled, and increased luxury and comfort were desired by the landed gentry of the Middle Ages, the dwellers in the Austhwaite habitation followed the example of many others of their fellows (as at Irton Hall for example) and built themselves a new residence, or perhaps built on to the old keep or semi-fortified pele or whatever Austhwaite may have been, increased accommodation for family and retinue.

This possibly was carried out sometime before 1437, and the name of the new mansion was Dalegarth. I have long suspected that there are faint traces of older foundations adjoining Dalegarth Hall to the eastward, so faint and fragmentary that a plan cannot be plotted, but worth recording perhaps in view of the suggestion that here we have the site of Austhwaite.

Dalegarth Hall stands south of the river Esk, south-west of the ancient church of St. Catherine on the north bank of the river. Adjoining the premises is a knoll (1 on plan) on the north face of which are suggestions of levelling for some kind of building and something which suggests the foundation of a very small tower. Immediately north of this knoll is a little enclosure now called the Paddock (2 on plan) in which is a mound with a suggestion of a ditch on its north aspect. East again of 1 and 2, across the road leading up to Birker Moor, in a wood, are more suggestive remains (3 on plan), a semicircular embankment enclosing a hollow, the latter now turning into a tarn for into it drains the gravitation water tank which collects the farm water supply, and a group of mounds.



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It appears possible to me after much consideration of these features, that here we may have the site of Austhwaite.

There is a knoll, now planted, which may have been used as a look-out post commanding the bridge which carries the road across the Esk at a narrow point (4 on plan). Mound 5 on plan between Dalegarth Hall and Dalegarth Cottage may or may not be connected with the other features noticed.

The two enclosures marked on plan 6 and 6a, Orchard and Garden, are now grass paddocks, the names merely keeping alive their use in former days. West of the Orchard the ground falls away into a wet and swampy hollow, which, before it was drained, may have been some kind of tarn or ornamental water, or perhaps a relic of a moat or ditch forming part of the defence of Austhwaite. It continues to the south, and on its rim, just over the wall of the orchard and garden, there are substantial slag-heaps and a bloomsmithy hearth all now very much overgrown and almost impossible to find, but there must at some time have been extensive iron smelting operations conducted here (7 on plan). The present Dalegarth Hall is 8 on the plan.
