

ART. IV.—*Annals of the Aglionbys*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM,
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AGLIONBY is a hamlet of Warwick parish, situate three miles east of Carlisle Castle and close to the highway leading from the city towards Warwick Bridge. The place-name, variously spelt in old records, seems to signify the *by* or farmstead of Agullun. Who was Agullun? John Denton states (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 104) that he came into England with the Conqueror, but that is an idle tale. The late Chancellor Prescott, in his *Register of Wetherhal*, furnishes some useful hints concerning the alleged founder of the hamlet and his immediate descendants.

For instance, Walter Agullun is witness to a quitclaim by Hildred de Carlisle to the priory *circ.* 1130 (*Wetherhal*, p. 146).

Alban, nephew (*nepos*) of Werri, witnessed another quitclaim, made to the monks *circ.* 1175 (*Ibid.*, p. 89).

Laurence son of Agyllun and Werri de Agyllunby were witnesses to a confirmation made to the monks soon after 1195 (*Ibid.*, p. 83).

The same Laurence Agelun and Elias, son of Werric, witnessed a charter concerning four acres in Corby, *circ.* 1200 (*Ibid.*, p. 114).

Laurence and Werric de Aguluneby were witnesses to a charter concerning a toft and croft in Warwick *circ.* 1200 (*Ibid.*, p. 130).

Laurence de Agullunby witnessed a charter concerning land at Talkin (*Talcan*) *circ.* 1200 (*Ibid.*, p. 228).

Laurence and Elias de Aguillonebi were witnesses to a charter made by Robert son of William de Corkeby,

concerning a toft and land in Constantine-clene, Wetheral, somewhat later than 1200 (*Ibid.*, p. 115).

Laurence Aglunby made a charter *conveying* four acres in the territory of Aglunby, in the presence of Eliseus de Aglunby and Alan his son, in 1223-9 (*Ibid.*, p. 184).

Elyas de Aglunby and Alan his son witnessed a convention respecting the private chapel of Corby in 1223-9 (*Ibid.*, p. 102).

John and Suan de Agulluneby were witnesses to a charter of John the cook, probably *circ.* 1239 (*Ibid.*, p. 135) and were again joint witnesses to a quitclaim of Walter doorkeeper of Wetheral, probably *circ.* 1239 (*Ibid.*, p. 163).

William de Agullunby witnessed a charter of the probable date 1260 (*Ibid.*, p. 160) and he made a charter at some date within the long period 1258-96 (*Ibid.*, p. 169).

Robert Aguylun was witness to a royal confirmation dated September 8, 1266 (*Ibid.*, p. 38).

Adam de Agilluneby witnessed a quitclaim relating to three acres in Wetheral, probably *circ.* 1270 (*Ibid.*, p. 133).

The above extracts from the Register of Wetheral Priory are supplemented by other reliable information contained in collateral documents.

In 1250, Everard de Agelunby, in company with William de Wardewyk, was juror at an inquisition held at Carlisle (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 331).

In 1267, Robert Aguilon was witness to a grant, made by King Henry III to Joan de Stutevill and her heirs, of a weekly market at her manor of Liddel, Cumberland (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 482).

Adam de Agliounby was juror at an inquisition held in 1304-5 (*Trans.*, N.S. v, p. 55); and A. de Aguylonby was again juror at an inquisition concerning the woods of Allerdale in 1317 (*Register of Holm Cultram*, edit. Grainger and Collingwood, p. 46).

On March 28, 1329, pardon was granted to John Agillounby, who aided the king in the late rebellion (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 3 Edward III, p. 475).

On January 5, 1341-2, John de Aglionby was juror at an *inquisitio post mortem* (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii, p. 250).

On July 27, 1362, the nuncupative will of Thomas Barton, rector of Kirkclinton, was proved. He bequeathed two stone of wool to Julian, wife of Adam de Agillony (*sic*) and appointed Adam de Agelonby and Thomas his son, executors (*Test. Karl.*, edit. Ferguson, p. 53).

It does not follow that Thomas succeeded his father at the vill of Aglionby.

On September 5, 1366, Adam de Aglounby was appointed by King Edward III to conduct an enquiry concerning the foundation and rights of Wetheral Priory (*Patent Rolls*, 1366, quoted by Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 466).

On January 16, 1368, there was an order to the sheriff of Cumberland to deliver a writ to Adam de Aglyonby (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1368, p. 403).

There can be little doubt that all, or most, of the foregoing facts lay within the ken of the assiduous record-searcher, but slovenly compiler, who is next mentioned.

John Denton, of Cardew, was writing *circ.* 1601-4 (see *Trans.*, N.S. xi, p. 19) and was buried at Dalston on November 26, 1617 (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, introduction, p. iii). He was the first to investigate the early history of the Aglionbys. The result of his investigation is contained in the version of his *Accompt* edited by Ferguson, p. 40; and in another version of the same *Accompt*, discovered in the library of the Earl of Leicester, at Holkham Hall, Norfolk, and containing a pedigree which commences in the reign of Edward III and ends in that of James I. The order is *inverted* in the original, but should read as follows (see *Trans.*, N.S. xxiii, p. 107).

22 Ed. III (1347-9). Adam I=Julian Whitfield.

22 and 43 Ed. III (1368-70). John=

14 Rich. II (1390-1). William=Mary dau. of Alan Blenerhasset (Blenerhasset is crossed out).

3 Hen. V (1414-16). Thomas=Kathrine dau. of Skelton.

14. Ed. IV (1473-5). John=Joan dau. of Skelton (Skelton is crossed out).

3 Hen. VII (1487-8). Thomas=Joan dau.

20 Hen. VIII (1528-9). Edward=dau.

10 Eliz. (1567-8). John=dau. of Salkeld of Corkby.

20 Eliz. (1577-8). Thomas son of Edward=dau. of Cuthbert Musgrave of Crokedyke.

20 James I (1621-2). Edward=dau. of Henry Browham.

Then comes the Heralds' Visitation.

VISITATION PEDIGREE

(edit. Joseph Foster).

Carlisle City.

Carlisle, 28 Mart. 1665.

Aglionby of Carlisle.

Arms. *argent*, 2 bars *sable*, in chief 3 martlets of the second. *No proofe made of these armes.*

JOHN AGLIONBY= . . . daughter of Richard Salkeld, of
of Carlisle, Esq. | Corby, in com. Cumbr., Esq.

EDWARD AGLIONBY=ELIZABETH, dau. of Cutbert
of Carlisle, Esq. | Musgrave, of Crookedayke
in com. Cumbriae, Esq.

EDWARD AGLIONBY=JANE, dau. of Henry | DOROTHY, wife of Alan
of Carlisle, Esq., died | Brougham of Black-
in a°. 1648. | well Hall, in com. Carlisle.
Cumbr.

JOHN AGLIONBY=MARGARET, dau. of | MARY, wife of John
of Carlisle, ae. 55 ann., | Christopher Rich-
28 Mart. 1665. | mund, of Highhead
Castle, in com. | com. Cumbr., Esq.
Cumbr., Esq.

2. HENRY.	4. RICHARD.	JOHN,*=BARBARA, dau. of	JANE.
3. CHRISTOPHER.	5. GEORGE.	aetatis 23 an.,	ISABEL.
		28 Martii, a°. 1665.	MARY.
		John Patrickson,	
		of Calder Abbey,	
		in co. Cumbr.	

JOHN, aetatis 2 ann., 28 Martii, a°. 1665.

Certified by John Aglionby, Esq.

* Afterwards Recorder of Carlisle.

The Visitation Pedigree of 1665 is *prima facie* authoritative. It has, at any rate, been submitted to the scrutiny of the heralds of that day, and serves as a touchstone to test statements made by commentators concerning John Denton's *Accompt*, which survives only in the shape of copies, or rather editions of that lost compilation.

On comparing this pedigree with the list of burgesses representing Carlisle in Parliament, printed in the *Victoria History of Cumberland*, ii, p. 325, it may be gathered that the Edward Aglionby, who died in 1648, was son of Edward Aglionby, burgess in 1592-3 and again in 1623-5.

And now as regards the commentators, Nicolson and Burn published their *History of Cumberland* in 1777, and seem to have relied upon a document resembling the very rough Holkham version of the *Accompt* above mentioned, which contains the entry 20 *Eliz.*, *Thomas Edwardi*, signifying Thomas son of Edward, and they concluded that he was brother of John, preceding him in the list of names. They allege, at p. 327, that Edward Aglionby the elder was son of Thomas and was sheriff in 36 Hen. VIII* (1544): that his arms were barry of 4 *sable* and *argent*, on a chief *argent* 3 sheldrakes *sable*:† that it was John, son of the said Edward the elder, who married a daughter of Salkeld of Corby: that it was Thomas, son of the said John, who married a daughter of Cuthbert Musgrave of Crookdake: and that it was Edward Aglionby the younger, *brother* of the last-named Thomas who succeeded to the inheritance, married a daughter of Henry Brougham and had issue by her, John, for many years Recorder of Carlisle.

Those allegations are so wildly at variance with the Visitation Pedigree that one is driven to the conclusion

* See List of Sheriffs, *Vict. Hist. Cumb.*, ii, 314.

† Can this coat be the "Aglionby arms in glass," which Bishop Nicolson had noticed at old St. Cuthbert's Church in 1703? (*Miscellany Accounts* p. 101).

that John Aglionby, the Recorder's father, who certified that pedigree, knew more about his own family than did Nicolson and Burn, whose evidence regarding the subject should be rejected.

Hutchinson published his *History of Cumberland* in 1794. As regards the earlier generations of the family, he repeats Nicolson and Burn's confused account, and is to that extent in error. But as regards the later generations of the family, he has furnished an elaborate table of its members, until the male line became extinct, on the death without issue of Christopher Aglionby of Nunnery in 1785.

The history of the family divides itself into three periods. During the first, the Aglionbys possessed only the hamlet of Aglionby. It is not certain that they actually resided there, because from an early date they were citizens of Carlisle and were probably domiciled within its walls.

What was the relative status of the hamlet of Aglionby in the scheme of feudal tenure? It was held of the family of de Wigton (see pedigree, *Trans.*, N.S. xxvii, p. 41) as parcel of the barony of Melmerby, which was an item distinct from the same family's barony of Wigton.

Odard the Sheriff, who is mentioned in the pipe roll of 1130, obtained from Henry I a gift of land to be held *in capite*, paying 26s. 4d. cornage rent due therefrom (*Testa de Nevill*). To cut a long story short, his remote descendant Walter de Wigton held in 1278 the barony of Melmerby, including the manors of Melmerby, Blakhale and Stainton of the king *in capite* by cornage (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 37); and John de Wigton, son of the last-named, died in 1315, seised of the said manors of Melmerby, Blakhale and Stainton, *including* the dependent hamlets of Warwick and Aglionby, of the king *in capite* (*Trans.*, N.S. xiii, p. 91). So from 1130 until 1315 and later the Aglionbys presumably held the hamlet of Aglionby as feoffees of the de Wigtons.

The second period, into which the family history naturally divides itself, commences with the acquisition by the Aglionbys of the manor of Tarraby, and this is how it came to pass. Tarraby had of old belonged to a family bearing the territorial name de Terriby, or de Tryby, as it is sometimes spelt in the *Placita de quo waranto*. It has been shown (*Trans.*, N.S. xxvii, p. 39) that by final concord made in 1325, Tarraby was entailed upon Matthew de Whitfield and Agnes his wife. According to the above-mentioned Holkham version of the *Accompt*, Adam Aglionby, about the year 1347, married Julian Whitfield, and so brought the manor into his own family, for in 1396 his grandson, William Aglionby, complained that he had been assaulted and was afraid to go to his house of Triby (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 20 Rich. II, p. 159).

It is generally supposed that the old capital mansion of the manor of Tarraby once occupied the site of what is now known as "Drawdykes Castle." The last-named edifice was erected by John Aglionby, Recorder of Carlisle, whose father certified the Visitation Pedigree. High up upon the parapet appear the arms, which the certifier claimed in that document to bear, namely, *Argent*, 2 bars *sable*, in chief 3 martlets *sable*, and also the date 1676.

Tarraby lay on the north side of the river Eden, in Stanwix parish, and had no connection whatever with the vill of Aglionby. The Aglionbys did not hold Tarraby *in capite*. Of what superior lord did they hold that manor in mesne? Nicolson and Burn allege vaguely (ii, p. 454) that Tarraby and Houghton (*sic*) came anciently by marriage to the Aglionbys, who were lords thereof for several generations. Their predecessor in title, John de Terriby, died in 1298 seised of certain land, which he held of the heir of Thomas de Multon of Gilsland,* who held it of the king (*Rot. Orig. Abbrev.*, 27 Ed. I, p. 106).

* That is to say Thomas *quartus*, an infant in the king's custody (see pedigree of Multon, *Trans.*, N.S. xxviii, p. 153).

The holder for the time being of the barony of Gilsland was therefore superior lord of the mesne manor of Tarraby. Such overlordships were matters of common notoriety, and were frequently left unnoticed, but they were of vital importance in the thread of feudal title.

The third and last phase of the family history commences with the acquisition, by the Aglionbys, of Nunnery in Ainstable parish.* The circumstances which led up to it were as follows.

In 1690, George Graham of Smardale, Westmorland (see pedigree of Graham, *Trans.*, N.S. xvii, p. 6) sold the ancient nunnery to Sir John Lowther, bart., and the latter in 1696, conveyed it to John Aglionby the Recorder, in exchange for Drumburgh Castle (Hutchinson, i, 195).

How, it may be asked, had John Aglionby the Recorder contrived to acquire Drumburgh Castle? The Lysons, writing in 1816, state, on the authority of *Thomas Denton's MS.*, now in the possession of Lord Lonsdale, that he purchased it from Henry, Duke of Norfolk in 1678, when it was in a ruinous condition, and put it into a state of repair (*Magna Britannia Cumberland*, p. 30).

The Recorder's grandson, Henry Aglionby, the elder, pulled down the ancient nunnery in 1715, and erected upon its site a capital mansion, which became the headquarters of the family. But upon the marriage of his son Henry, the younger, he and his wife Elizabeth withdrew to an adjacent dwellinghouse at Crossfield, where he died in 1759 at the age of 75. Crossfield is three-quarters of a mile N.E. of Nunnery, and lies in Kirkoswald parish. It must not be confused with Cross House, two furlongs N.E. of Nunnery. Those localities are best shown in the series of large-scale maps inserted between pages 312 and 313 of Hutchinson's first volume.

The two pedigrees B and C, relating to the later generations of the family, and printed in *Trans.*, N.S.

* See map of Ainstable, *Trans.*, N.S. xiii, p. 31.

xvii, pp. 9 and 12, reproduce Hutchinson's long genealogy and may be found more handy for working purposes.

The ancient parish church of St. Cuthbert, Carlisle, was for long the burial-place of the Aglionbys, and Bishop Nicolson, when describing the edifice in 1703, says (*Miscellany Accounts*, p. 101) that in the north aisle, over against the middle window ("in which were the Aglionby arms in glass") lay a man in armour with his wife by his side, and over her (*sic*) the inscription *Orate pro anima Katarine Denton que obiit anno domini MCCCCXXVIII* (1428).

Gough, in his *Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain*, vol. II, part ii, p. 150, adds

Under one of the north arches of the nave of St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, is an altar-tomb of red stone, with two rude figures of a knight and lady, and this inscription on the side capitals on the ledge: *Orate etc.* On the sides in quatrefoils (1) Fretty. (2) Ditto under a label of 4 points. (3) A fess between 3 fleurs de lis, impaling barry of 4 or 6, a bend. (4) Another coat not seen.

When St. Cuthbert's church was demolished and re-built about the year 1778, Christopher Aglionby, head of the family and last male representative of the same, transported some family monuments to his principal place of residence, Nunnery in Ainstable parish, including fragments of the above-mentioned altar-tomb, which, as he believed, formerly covered remains of his own ancestors.

The effigy of the man now lies upon the pavement at the north side of the altar of Ainstable Church, and bears upon its breast 3 martlets in chief, the cognizance of *Denton*.

The effigy of the lady lies upon the pavement at the south side of the altar, and bears the inscription *Orate, etc.*, quoted above.

Some coats of arms enclosed in *quatrefoils*, evidently removed from the above-mentioned altar-tomb are affixed

to the wall of a grotto in Nunnery Walks, and are more particularly described in *Trans.*, N.S. xvii, p. 14.

However, it is abundantly clear that the aforesaid altar-tomb did not pertain to the Aglionbys at all, but to the Dentons.

In conclusion. The history of the Aglionbys is a thrice-told tale, narrated by the copyists of John Denton's original notes, by Nicolson and Burn, and by Hutchinson, respectively. It is desirable to ascertain, if possible, the provenance of each detail of information, in order to solve the problems which arise in connection with the subject of this article.

It will be noticed that the Aglionbys were unable to substantiate their claim to armorial bearings at the Cumberland Visitation of 1665. But that claim was based on something more than mere family tradition. For there exists an old list of the names and arms of knights of the Province of York who served with King Edward I (1272-1307) in Scotland and elsewhere. In it occurs the item "Aglionby, *argent*, two bars and three martlets in chief *sable*." That list is printed in the *Visitation of Yorkshire*, 1584-5, edited by Joseph Foster, at p. 400. The arms of Aglionby differed from those of Denton of Ainstable and Cardew in tincture only.