

ART. VI.—*The Irtons of Irton Hall*. By the REV. S. TAYLOR.

RECORDS of the Irton family, if meagre, are persistent through 600 years of West Cumberland History. They were neither so bold nor so dominant as were those families who lived in places of strategic importance nearer to the storms of the Scottish Border; for the sheltered position of their beautiful home, tucked away in the narrow valley of the Irt between the sea and the great hills of Wastdale, inclined them no doubt to a more peaceful pastoral existence. Nevertheless they had their share of incident, triumph and disaster, of which later generations would have known more had it not been for a hasty action on the part of one of their wives.

They had lived for five centuries at the least, probably for much longer, in the same old house, which by the middle of the 19th century contained not only that treasure of furniture, books and odds and ends collected through the passing years by a well-established family, but also a store of papers, deeds and other documents, which might have been of the greatest value to the student of Cumberland history. When the last Irton died in 1866, his wife, a Senhouse of Calder Abbey, made, one Sunday evening, a bonfire of all the documents, maps and papers relating to the family and its possessions, holding that as there were no more to bear the name of Irton, these relics could be of no interest to anyone else.

A few years later, in 1872, the house itself was sold and its contents disposed of by public auction at Irton itself and at Ambleside. A marked copy of the library sale, which has come to hand, is a torture to any book lover.

Books and manuscripts of the greatest value, including many of the 18th century first editions, went to the winds at prices which to-day sound ridiculous. A number of pictures and miniatures, an old altar cloth, family bibles and other objects, which the last widow Irton took away with her to furnish the home of her widowhood, still survive, together, strangely enough, with a manuscript book written in 1764 by Samuel Irton (1), the London merchant, who took great interest in the story of his ancestors and who called in the help of Mr. Warburton, Somerset Herald, and of a certain Mr. Jones to investigate their records in the family archives and elsewhere. The result, which is given in *Appendix I*, exactly as it was written by Samuel Irton, is an amusing if not altogether valueless production, which can only be described as a hotch-potch of muddled family traditions and records, jumbled up with scraps of information concerning certain earlier Irtons, which Warburton seems to have gleaned promiscuously from any available source in Cumberland and out of it or perhaps in some cases from his own unaided imagination.

It is unfortunate that in 1664-65, when Dugdale made his Visitation, the Irtons in common with certain other Cumberland families did not put in an appearance. The Irton Visitation pedigrees are earlier and short. They will be found in *Appendix 3*.

But in spite of these omissions and the disaster of the bonfire there remains a good deal of material from which to draw. The late Dr. Parker of Gosforth made many notes as the result of patient work, and a certain amount of other information has been gathered by Mr. W. N. Thompson, Dr. C. Moor and Col. Haswell, to all of whom the present writer is greatly indebted, as also to the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch, who has helped him in the task of compiling the following notes, which if they are perforce somewhat scrappy in their account of the earlier Irtons,

present a connected story of the family from the end of the 15th century onwards.

IRTON CRUSADERS.

A glance at the Family Memoir (Appendix 1) will show how strong was the tradition that one or more of the Irtons were Crusaders. The fact that one such Crusader lay buried by the altar in Irton Church was well known. His grave slab, bearing, as Samuel Irton says in 1764, "His Jerusalem Cross, sword and gauntlet," was removed at the time of the rebuilding of the Church in the mid-nineteenth century and taken to the Hall and afterwards (about 1872) presented to the museum at Distington, where it may be somewhere in existence. All this, taken together with the fact that the Irtons certainly since early Tudor times bore a Saracen's head couped at the shoulders as their crest, strengthens the tradition. It is, however, quite impossible to give names. The Memoir states that the first Crusader was called Adam de Irton, but the unreliability of its information in regard to these earlier years is so glaring that this statement taken alone cannot be accepted. Though it goes against an equally strong tradition, supported by Dr. Parker and others, that the Irton family's occupation of the land was pre-Norman, it is possible, even probable, that a follower of William le Meschyn was given land or at any rate rewarded with more land in Coupland on the return of that noble from the Crusades in the 12th century, as was the case with the de Boyvills, the first lords of Millom. It is, however, useless to speculate. We can only proceed to the names of those de Irtons for whom we have definite written evidence.

* There is still in existence a Tudor seal set on a spike bearing on a shield parti per pale the arms of Irton and Stapleton, surmounted by the Saracen's head crest (see below).

THOMAS DE IRTON I, 1225-1250.

The name of Thomas de Irton occurs many times in the Chartulary of St. Bees, which cover such a long period that there must have been two men of this name, the first of whom signs as witness to a charter* by Roger son of Edward, granting to the Priory of St. Bees a house near the market cross of Ravenglass with four acres of land. This grant the Rev. James Wilson dated between 1220 and 1230. The name also occurs as that of a witness to other charters† ranging in date from 1235 to 1250.

In the *Furness Coucher Book* there is a record of a grant‡ by Adam de Boyvill of the advowson of the Church of Millom to the monks of Furness, which may be dated about this time and is signed by Thomas de Irton as a witness.

In one of the St. Bees charters,§ dated c. 1250-1255, whereby Alan de Coupland gives to St. Bees one acre of land in Santon among the witnesses are "Thomas de Irton, *Richard his son.*"

RICHARD DE IRTON I, 1250.

The only mention of this Richard de Irton, son of Thomas de Irton, is as a witness to the charter of Alan de Copeland in 1250-1255 (see above).

ALAN AND GERMAN DE IRTON, 1246.

In the Quo Warranto Rolls (co. Lancs. Lonsdale Hundred) dated Michaelmas, 30 Henry III (1246) there is the information that John and William de Copeland with Alan and German de Irton were fined three marks.

* *St. Bees Chartulary* (Surtees Society), p. 475.

† *Ibid.*, pp. 151, 153, 155. Charters of Richard de Newton. p. 293, Charter of William de Waberthwaite. p. 297, charter of Adam son of William p. 297, Charter of Peter de Sevenhouse. p. 431, Charter of Richard son of Alan. See also pp. 313, 314, 332, 432, 475.

‡ *Furness Coucher Book*, p. 555, No. 57.

§ *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 431, No. 432.

This gives us a hint that the Irtons, who may have originally been connected in blood with the great Lancaster-Copeland clan, held land in Lonsdale, as the families of Lancaster and Copeland certainly did, before they began to settle in the hitherto untouched Cumberland districts during the reigns of Henry II and his successors.

NICHOLAS DE IRTON (1), 1270-1290.

This man, the first of the three Irtons who had the name of Nicholas, may have been the son of Richard and grandson of Thomas de Irton, though there is no means of proving the fact. The repetition of the name in later years may indicate that he was in the direct line of succession.

In the Chartulary there is a grant* to St. Bees of land in Newton by Thomas son of Hubert de Newton. The witnesses are:—Sir Ralph de Bethun, Sir Richard le Fleming, William de Morthing, John de Thwaites, William de Waberthwaite, William de Ponsonby, Robert de Wilton, Nicholas de Irton and others. Mr. W. N. Thompson went to a great deal of trouble in fixing the date of this charter by comparison of witnesses and places it about 1271. It cannot be much earlier.

Another charter† signed by Nicholas as witness, whereby Richard de Gill gives the Priory a house and land in Gosforth, is dated by the Rev. James Wilson as before the end of the 13th century.

THOMAS DE IRTON (2), 1275-1311.

The name of this second Thomas de Irton occurs in the St. Bees Chartulary as a witness to a charter‡ of Walter de Sevenhouse which is dated 1270-1280 and to others§ dated only a few years before.

* *Ibid.*, p. 166, No. 125.

† *Ibid.*, p. 325, No. 316.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 296, No. 283.

§ *Ibid.*, p. 314, No. 304. Also p. 296, No. 283.

In 1311 Alan de Copeland brings a suit* against Thomas de Irton for failing to have his corn ground at Copeland's mill in Santon.

IVES SON OF HUBERT DE IRTON.

A Charter whereby Walter de Sevenhouse, a member of a family who almost certainly hailed originally from Hall Senna in the valley of the Irt, sells to Ives son of Hubert de Irton, an acre of land in Bolton, carefully detailing its boundaries. The second Thomas de Irton witnesses the charter, but we have no means of telling what relation he was to these two men, Ives and Hubert. The date of the charter is probably about 1275.†

RANULPH DE IRTON, 1270-1300.

There are two cases in the de Banco Rolls which fortunately throw a good deal of light upon the obscure history of the Irton family in the 14th century. They give a short family tree which is of great value.

The first‡ is dated 1334 and tells how Constancia de Irton daughter of Roger son of Ranulph de Irton, brought a case against her nephew, John son of Richard son of Roger de Irton about two messuages of land (50-12-12 acres) in Santon, which the said John claimed as his right.

In the next year§ John son of Richard de Irton is the plaintiff, making a claim against his aunt, Constancia, daughter of Roger son of Ranulph de Irton, about a messuage of 31 acres in Bolton, Gosforth, which Hugh Butt gave to Roger, son of Ranulph de Irton, and Marjery his wife and which after the death of Roger and his wife Marjery and their son Richard, should, he claimed, have come to plaintiff, Richard's son.

* De Banco Rolls, Harrison MSS., Trinity, 5 Edward II.

† *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 296, No. 283.

‡ De Banco Rolls, Harrison MSS., m. 408, D. Hilary, 17 Edward III.

§ *Ibid.*, m. 340, D. Michaelmas, 18 Edward III.

From this evidence we must conclude that Ranulph* de Irton must have lived about 1290-1300 and had a son *Roger de Irton*, of whom following.

ROGER DE IRTON, 1300-1334. JOHN DE IRTON (1), 1285.

Roger de Irton, presumably the son of Ranulph de Irton (see above), was signing charter† at St. Bees from about 1285 to 1334, the year doubtless of his death, when his daughter Constancia brings her case against his grandson John. In 1285 he may have also had a brother John de Irton, who signs with him as a witness to a grant‡ by Adam de Ponsonby to Adam the younger of Eskdale. This John can hardly have been the grandson of 1334.

Roger de Lancaster brought a case§ in the year 1281-2 against John de Irton and Roger de Irton for armed riot in "Ridale, County Cumb."

Roger married (see above under Ranulph de Irton) Marjery the daughter of Hugh Butt of Bolton in Gosforth and presumably had with her a dowry of land in Bolton, which property was not only a cause of quarrel after his death but seems to have remained among the family possessions for some time (see below, Tudor I.P.M's.).

Roger de Irton and Marjery Butt had certainly two children:—

1. *Richard de Irton*, of whom following.
2. *Constancia de Irton* (see above under Ranulph).

* The Irton Bishop of Carlisle (1280-1292) had the name of Ralph or Ranulph. Formerly Prior of Guisburn, he was possibly a member of a family of de Irton which sprung from a village of that name near Harrogate (see Appendix 2). The fact that the Bishop of Carlisle and the father of Roger de Irton had the same name is probably a mere coincidence.

† *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 221 (4th April, 1331), p. 223. (20th Jan., 1331), p. 227 (11th Nov., 1320), p. 228 (18th Dec., 1323).

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 571. Grant of Alan de Ponsonby, which is signed by both Roger and John de Irton and is dated 29th Jan., 1285 (Ponsonby Hall Deeds).

§ Coram Rege Rolls, 62-25, D. and 66, 14, 9 Edward I.

RICHARD DE IRTON (2). Dead 1335.

Richard de Irton, the son of Roger Irton and Marjery Butt and the grandson of Ranulph de Irton, does not appear in the St. Bees Chartulary. It is certain that he died before his father, and probably in youth. He left a son

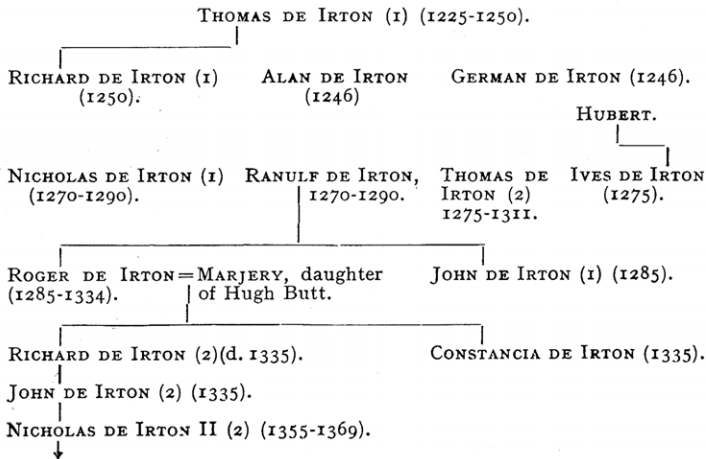
John de Irton, of whom following.

JOHN DE IRTON (2), 1335.

John de Irton (2), the son of Richard Irton and grandson of Roger de Irton and Marjery Butt, was living in 1335 when he brought a case against his aunt Constancia de Irton (see above under Ranulph de Irton). He does not appear in the St. Bees Cartulary. He was followed by *Nicholas de Irton* (2).

Although it is impossible up to this date, the middle of the 14th century from the evidence at our disposal to produce a connected pedigree of the Irton family, it may be convenient if, at this point, the information we have is put into table form, before proceeding further.

PEDIGREE I. THE IRTON FAMILY (1220-1350).



NICHOLAS DE IRTON (2), 1340-1369.

Nicholas de Irton (2), probably the son of the foregoing John, appears as a signatory to charters* in the *St. Bees Chartulary* with dates ranging from 1359 to 1366. He also signs a deed† which is among those at Ponsonby Hall, dated 30th May, 1354.

It was almost certainly he who by his marriage with an heiress began to change the fortunes of these humble squires by making them large landholders in other parts of Cumberland. Adam de Bassenthwaite, a member of a family prominently concerned with Border affairs during the 13th and 14th centuries, died in 1358 and his will‡ proved at Rose Castle on 31st Jan., 1359, makes mention of three children, Jane, Agnes and Ellen, only the last of whom is at that time married and has children. There seems to be agreement in many quarters that the heiresses of the de Bassenthwaites married Irton and Martindale, and as from this time onwards there is evidence of half the manor§ of Bassenthwaite and much property there being in the possession of the Irtons, we can at least take the fact of marriage as certain. Nicholas de Irton (2) was followed by:—

Richard de Irton (3).

RICHARD DE IRTON (3), 1380-1429.

Richard de Irton (3) followed Nicholas (2) and his name appears in the *St. Bees Chartulary* as a witness to a grant|| made to the Priory by the three chaplains, Leonard de Multon, Thomas de Loweswater and Randolph Bell of

* *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 237 (26th April, 1359), p. 263 (7th Sept., 1365).

† *Ibid.*, p. 574. Additional MS. XXV.

‡ These *Trans.* o.s. v, 3, 68.

§ The Family Memoir (see Appendix 1) has an interesting statement, not to be ignored, about the Manor of Bassenthwaite. It says "In an old deed in this family Waldeve ye son of Gospatrick, Earl of Dunbar, granted or confirmed to Adam the son of Dolfin Bassenthwaite with all its members and appurtenances with a right to cut wood and turn cattle on the forest."

|| *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 332.

lands and tenements, which seem to have been in Groncogill, Gosforth. This land was a gift from John Scharpe, Vicar of Dalton, who was Vicar of Whicham in 1371. The date of this grant would seem to be between 1380 and 1400. Again on 12th March, 1399, Richard de Irton witnessed to a grant* of land to Sir Alan de Pennington by Thomas de Berdisay. An inspection† of Thomas de Sevenhouse confirming to the Priory a rent service on the lands of Fleming Hall, Newton, is witnessed by Richard de Irton and is dated 22nd Feb., 1420. In 1427-28 Richard de Irton was an assessor.‡

A lay subsidy in 1429, the inquisition being taken at Rose Castle on 20th March, finds Richard de Irton a member of the Jury. He was followed by *Nicholas de Irton* (3).

NICHOLAS DE IRTON (3), 1428-1453.

The third Nicholas de Irton on April 1st, 1428 was a member of a jury§ appointed to settle a dispute between Thomas de Dacre and William Stapleton concerning Blakhall, Bocharaby and Staynton. In 1434 he is mentioned in a list of gentlemen of the County of Cumberland made by Hugh Lumley, Bishop of Carlisle.

In 1434, May 11th, his name, 'Nichs Irton,' appears among a list|| of names certified in Chancery by the knights of the shire of persons who should take the oath not to maintain law-breakers and to appear before the Commissioners.

The family Memoir (Appendix 1) states that he was Sheriff of the County in the 32nd year of Henry VIth 1453), a year which is left blank in all the lists of the sheriffs, presumably because of the King's sudden illness.

* *Penningtoniana*, p. 25.

† *St. Bees Chartulary*, p. 173.

‡ These *Trans.* n.s. x, 174, Dr. C. Moor.

§ *Ibid.*, n.s. xiii, 224.

|| *Patent Rolls*, 1399-1509.

He may, however, have been nominated, and in 1764 Samuel Irton may have had access to some document to that effect. Both the Family Memoir and the Dykes pedigree state that he married a daughter of William Dykes of Wardhall by Catharine, daughter of William de Thwaites. His wife's name is not given. He left two sons:—

1. *Richard de Irton* (4), his heir, of whom following.
2. *William de Irton*. This man certainly had possessions in Bassenthwaite. At Easter, 1469/70 he brings a case* against Nicholas Williamson, of Bassenthwaite, yeoman and Thomas Westwraye of Bassenthwaite, labourer, for various transgressions and the sheriff is ordered to arrest them.

He has another case† against Henry Fisher and the same two men. In some year between 1493 and 1500‡ his nephew John Irton of Irton brings a case against John Jackson, in which John Irton states that he has entered a messuage of 50 acres in Bassenthwaite, the property of his deceased uncle William, as his heir, but that John Jackson holds the deeds and refuses to give them up. In 1500§ the same John Irton brings another suit against John Jackson for the same reasons, this time concerning the deeds of a moiety of the manor of Bassenthwaite.

It would appear therefore that this William Irton died childless and that his possessions passed to his nephew, John Irton of Irton, the son of his brother Richard. Whether he was in fact the elder of the two brothers must remain doubtful. The Family Memoir in this connection makes a statement which may embody a tradition about this William Irton.

* *Coram Rege Rolls*, K.B. 27-836, Easter 10 Edward IV.

† *Ibid.*, K.B. 836, M. 64.

‡ *Early Chancery Proceedings*, C. I, 209-30. Between 1493 and 1500.

§ *Ibid.*, C. I, 209-31. 15th July, 15 Henry VI.

It states "the estates descended upon William his younger brother who married a Fleming daughter of Rydal. In 1493 was appointed receiver generale to the Duke of Gloster and his deputy lieutenant (as appears by an old grant in ye family)." This mention of an old grant is worth noting. The Fleming family were not at Rydal at this date and there was no Duke of Gloucester in 1493. But this William may nevertheless have been an active Yorkist and have worked under Richard, Duke of Gloucester in the north at an earlier date. He may have been the elder son and he may have married a Fleming, whose arms appear in the Irton chapel window.

RICHARD DE IRTON (4), 1440-1490.

Nicholas (3) was followed by another Richard (4), who would appear to have died about 1488, probably about the same time as his brother William. In the Early Chancery Proceedings between 1486 and 1493 a case* is brought by Richard Irton against Thomas Stanley and Richard Barwys. "Richard Irton owns the manor of Irton, co. Cumb., but various charters and muniments have got into the possession of the deforcians who refuse to give them up." In the De Banco Rolls there is a case† in 1488 brought by Richard Irton against Matthew Postlethwaite concerning a legal trespass in Gosforth.

It was probably in this man's time or in that of his brother William (see above), that the unfortunate King Henry VIth, flying with a few followers after his disastrous defeat at Hexham in 1469, took refuge in the Lake country of Cumberland. A strong local tradition, which cannot be ignored, has it that he came to Irton Hall, where he was refused shelter by its Yorkist master, and slept that

* *Ibid.*, C. I. 143-45.

† De Banco Rolls, Michaelmas, 3 Henry VII.

night under the great oak in front of the house, which still stands, a mere hulk, called the King's Oak. In the morning, as Dr. Parker says, he would wander on by the old road which formerly ran straight up the fell by Branckenwalls and come out on the Roman road by Muncaster Chase, and then turning down it would reach Chapels, where a tower now marks the spot where Sir John Pennington's shepherds met him. He was taken to Muncaster Castle, given shelter and during his stay probably used the famous glass goblet, which is now called "The Luck of Muncaster." The lady in black with white lace, whom members of the family have seen at Irton (the last appearance was about 70 or 80 years ago to the writer's great-grandmother), who is said to come out of a cupboard in the corner of the Tower room and go to the window to gaze out, may be the ghost of Margaret Broughton, the daughter of another Yorkist House and the wife of the man who refused his King shelter. The curious part of the story is that the cupboard in question, which always figures prominently, marks the obliterated and long-forgotten entrance which must have opened on to the original newel stair of the Tower.

The Visitation Pedigree (see Appendix 3), which is published in Cumberland and Westmorland Pedigrees, by Joseph Foster, gives "Margaret, daughter of John Broughton" as the wife of this Richard Irton. In relating this marriage in 1764 Samuel Irton wrote in his memoir that he "maryd Margt daughter of John Broughton of Broughton Tower in Lancashire," then crossed it out and substituted "of Broughton in Staffordshire." This rather goes to prove that, however greatly he failed in accuracy, he was trying to be honest! By 1764 the Broughtons of Broughton, Lancs. had disappeared from the country for nearly three hundred years, while the Staffordshire Broughtons, originally an offshoot, were still flourishing.

The Lancashire Broughtons, of Broughton, were ardent Yorkists and the last of them, Sir Henry Broughton welcomed the Pretender, Lambert Simnel in Furness and espoused his cause, to his ruin. There are certainly many signs that the Broughtons, the Kirkbys and the Irtons were interrelated not only through this marriage but through the Copelands.

Richard Irton was succeeded by *John Irton* (3).

JOHN IRTON (3), 1480-1510.

John Irton (3), the son of Richard Irton and Margaret Broughton, brought a case against Richard Skelton between 1485 and 1493, probably not long after his father's death. John Irton is "seased of a messuage and 50 acres in Hensingham, co. Cumb." The deeds have got into the hands of Skelton, who will not give them up.

Between 1493 and 1500 there came up the case† which has already been referred to (see above, under William Irton), whereby John Irton claimed his uncle William's property in Bassenthwaite and a moiety of the manor, the deeds of which have been held by John Jackson, who may have been a relative by marriage. About 1500 John Jackson declares‡ that the deeds have been placed in the hands of Clement Skelton, the escheator and Thos. Muncastre, the under Sheriff of Cumberland.

Between 1493 and 1500, probably nearer the latter date, another case§ is brought by John Irton against John Pennington and his brother William. These two men had required Irton to be their surety for keeping the peace, and had broken their pledge. There had been a riot, in which a Pennington had been killed. Throughout the whole of their history there was little love lost between the

* *Early Chancery Proceedings*, C. I. 143-52.

† *Ibid.*, C. I. 209-30 and C. I. 209-31.

‡ *Ibid.*, C. I. 209-32.

§ *Ibid.*, C. I. 209-33 and C. I. 209-34.

Irtons and the Penningtons and they were always on opposite sides.

There is every reason to believe that the Visitation Pedigree (see Appendix 3) is right in stating that the wife of this John Irton was Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Lamplugh, by Eleanor, daughter of Sir Henry Fenwick. The marriage is in the Lamplugh records* and is corroborated by a bequest† made by Margt., daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Fenwick, who married John Denton and who at the death of her husband at Carlisle on 9th June, 8 Henry VII gave half the advowson at Angrave to John Irton, who had married her sister's daughter and to George and Nicholas Lamplugh, presumably another sister's younger sons.

In the Irton Chapel window (see Appendix 4), the arms of Lamplugh were emblazoned twice, once for this marriage and once for the marriage in the 18th century of George Irton (2) with Elizabeth, the last survivor of the main Lamplugh line (see below). The family also possesses an extremely ancient wooden shield, parti per pale, with the arms of Irton and Lamplugh upon it. About this time another event occurred, which was to make a great difference to the fortunes of the Irton family. In 1491 John Copeland, the last male representative of the ancient family which had held the manors of Santon, Bolton and Cleter in Copeland, died‡ on the 8th of May, leaving three young daughters his heiresses, Mary aged 8, Elizabeth, aged 6 and Joan aged 5.

The lives of unfortunate small girls who became heiresses must have been exciting to say the least of it.

* These *Trans.* n.s. xxxviii, 86, The Lamplugh Family.

† De Banco Rolls, Trinity, 11 Henry VII, m. 296. The daughters and heiresses of Sir Henry Fenwick (1401-1465) were Margaret, married John Denton, Elizabeth married Sir Christopher Moresby, Mary married Sir John Hudleston, Eleanor married Sir Thomas Lamplugh, Joan married John Skelton and Anne married John Ratcliff. (See Hill's *Northumberland County*, p. 165).

‡ De Banco Rolls (Harrison MSS.), Inq. P.M. 10 June 6 Henry VII.

In the next year, 1492, John Kirkby, who must have had some connection with the Copeland family and was presumably the guardian of these children, brought a case* against John Irton of Irton for the abduction of "Mary Copeland, Eliz. Copeland and Johanna Copeland," who were under age and whose marriages were said to appertain to plaintiff. It has as yet not been found possible to find out what was the outcome of this particular case, but on the face of it it seems certain that John Irton managed to marry one of the heiresses, Elizabeth, to one of his sons, possibly having come to an agreement with Kirkby to that end. The Irtons by a Copeland marriage not only quartered the arms of Copeland with their own, but became possessed from this time forward of some of the Copeland property, including a third of the manor of Santon and part of the Manor of Cleator, which descended to the family through Richard, this John Irton's son and heir.

The children of John Irton (3) and Ann Lamplugh were:—

1. *Richard Irton* (5), his heir, of whom following.
2. *Thomas Irton*. The Family Memoir (see Appendix 1), states, "Sir Thos. Irton was knighted by the Erle of Surrey at floden field was afterwards killed in a skirmidge at Kelso by the Scots—died without issue," making him the eldest son.

It is difficult to believe that a family which had held the same house and the same traditions for so long a period could be mistaken in their knowledge that one of their number had been knighted at Flodden field and afterwards killed, though they might be mistaken in other details. It is worth noting that if he was called Thomas he would be

* *Ibid.*, Michaelmas, 7 Henry VII, M. 399, D. The account given of this case states that these three children were "Cousins and heirs of Richard Copeland," who may have been uncle to their father, John Copeland.

named after his maternal grandfather, Sir Thomas Lamplugh, a notable man in his day, High Sheriff and Knight of the Shire.

3. *John Irton*. In Marshall's Visitation of Wiltshire, 1623, by Robert Cooke, Clemenceaux, an Irton pedigree is given, which begins with "John Irton of Irton younger son of the Family in Cumberland," who is stated as having *a son*, "*Alexander Irton of Amport, co. Southampton*," who married "Grace Hamer of the County of Devon." This is confirmed in some part by an I.P.M. of 'Alexr Irton, gent.,' dated 8th Jan., 1589, held at Romsey on 27th October of that year, in which Alexander is described as of Southampton and as having *a son*, *George Irton*, aged 34 at that time.

Marshall's Visitation states that George was Alexander's only son, 'of Amport, Southampton' and of 'Birtford juxta Sarum,' who married 'Elizabeth daughter of Richard Bacon of Mickle-marsh, Southampton.' They had *a son*, '*Richard Irton*, aged 23 in 1623, and *a daughter Joan Irton*, wife of Thomas Johnson of Aldebeire, co. Wilts.

Some of this information appears in the Family Memoir (Appendix 1) and it looks as if Warburton had seen this Wiltshire Visitation Pedigree.

It is possible (see Family Memoir, Appendix 1) that the original John Irton who went south, married a member of the family of 'Odingsels' of Wolverley, Warwickshire.' In this connection it is interesting to recall that a 'Mrs. Odingsels' (a most uncommon name) was with Amy Robsart, the ill-fated wife of Robert, Earl of Leicester, when she was murdered, as report went, at Cumnor Place.

4. *Elizabeth Irton*, is mentioned in the will of her brother Richard (see following and Appendix 5). The Yorkshire Visitation of the Irtons (see Appendix

4) states that she was the wife of William Armorer. (See also Family Memoir, Appendix 1, which mentions another daughter, Mary).

RICHARD IRTON (5), ded 1534.

This Richard (5), the son of John Irton and Anne Lamplugh, was High Sheriff of the County in 1531 and a man of wealth and substance, owing no doubt to the access of property to the family through the Bassenthwaite and Copeland marriages. The Memoir states that he was possessed of real estate to the value of £1500 per annum and also, in a note, that he sold the manor of Bassenthwaite to Sir William Capell, the Lord Mayor of London. This information, strangely enough, is confirmed by the Feet of Fines,* which records in 1516—"Plaintiff Sir William Capell, Knight V Richard Irton and Ann his wife—the manor of Bassenthwaite, with the appurtenances, 27 messuages, 10 tofts, one mill, 500 acres of land, 300 of meadow, 400 of heath and marsh, 20/- rent with appurtenances in Bassenthwaite."

This sale is difficult to understand, because a considerable amount of the Bassenthwaite property at least was in the possession of Richard Irton's successors as early as 1540 (see following I.P.M's.). It would appear therefore that either Sir William Capell had the manor and property in Bassenthwaite for a certain period in payment of a debt or that the Irtons bought it back not long afterwards or that they sold a portion only of their property there.

The Feet of Fines† also gives a sale in 1525: "Plaintiffs John Ratcliff, Alice his wife,‡ Edward Dudley of Dudley, knight, George Dudley, clerk and Christopher Curwen, armiger. Deforciantes . . . Thos Dykes, armiger, Richd. Irton, armiger. The manors of Castlerigg, Tallentire and

* *Feet of Fines*, Cumberland, 7 Henry VIII.

† *Ibid.*, Cumberland, 17 Henry VIII.

‡ Alice Ratcliff was the aunt of Richard Irton's wife, Ann Middleton.

the island of Derwentwater, with other lands." In 1524 there was a case* of a dispute about the family succession among the members of the family of Kirkby of Kirkby, in which John Irton of Irton is appointed on a commission to examine the facts. This was probably this Richard's eldest son (see following).

In 1516 (see above, case of Sir William Capell) the name of the wife of Richard Irton (5) is given as Ann and so he names her himself in his will of 1534 (see Appendix 5, Will of Richard Irton). Both in the Family Memoir and in the Visitation Pedigree she is given as Ann, daughter of Sir William Middleton of Stokeld. Ann Middleton's mother was Jane, daughter of Edmund Sutton, who had two sisters, Alice Sutton, married to Sir John Ratcliff, and Dorothy Sutton, married to Sir John Musgrave. Alice Ratcliff, dying in 1554,† makes her "cousin Dorothy Irton" her residuary legatee. This marriage between Richard Irton and Ann Middleton must have taken place. But equally certainly there must have been a former marriage to Elizabeth, one of the Copeland child heiresses abducted by this Richard's father, John Irton. This is proved by the fact that in an I.P.M.‡ dated 1553, on Richard Irton's grandson, Richard (6), it is stated that this Richard enfeoffed his second son, George Irton, with a third of the manor of Santon, which was part of the original Copeland property, in 1512. It is, however, probable that Elizabeth Copeland died before she had children. It is hardly likely that Richard would have been granted the hand of Ann Middleton, eldest daughter of the knightly family of Stokeld (a great step for his family socially) if he already had children by a former wife. It would seem that his father, when he abducted the children, married one of them at once to his

* Duchy of Lancaster, D.L.I.M. 78, 15 Henry VIII.

† William Jackson, "The Dudleys of Yanwath."

‡ I.P.M. Egremont, 1st July, 6 Edw. VI. Richard Irton, Court of Wards, 7, 6-13.

eldest son and that she died while still a child, leaving her third share of the Copeland property in her husband's hands. Richard Irton's children were:—

1. *John Irton* (4), the heir, of whom following.
2. *George Irton*. In his will (see Appendix 5) Richard Irton leaves to this son George, one-third of the manor of Santon (Copeland property). In an I.P.M. dated 1553 on the testator's grandson, Richard Irton (6), it is stated that this elder Richard enfeoffed his son George with the Santon property in 1512. It also states that the moiety of the manor of Santon had by that time (1553) returned to the main Irton property. It would seem, therefore, that by 1553 this George had either died without heirs or had sold the property back to the family. The names of two Irtons, George, described as 'of Lamplugh' and John 'of Gosforth' occur in certain depositions in the Court of Wards in 1543, in regard to a trespass in Gosforth.
3. *Alice Irton*, is mentioned in the will of her father (see Appendix 5) who leaves her 100 marks. The Visitation Pedigree of Skelton of Armathwaite, states that John Skelton of Armathwaite married Mary Irton. A Skelton marriage probably took place, either in this generation or in the previous one.
4. *Dorothy Irton* is also left 100 marks in her father's will. The Memoir states that she was the wife of Ralph Swinburn of ffathwaite (*sic*). If she was still Dorothy Irton in 1558, when her great aunt, Dorothy Ratcliff makes her her residuary legatee, she was still unmarried, unless the testator ignored her married name.

JOHN IRTON OF IRTON (4), died 1539.

John Irton (4), the eldest son of Richard Irton (5), did

not long survive his father. He died on the 5th Dec., 1539. There are two copies of his Inquisition Post Mortem,* which was held at Cockermouth on 10th Feb., 1540, which not only give particulars of his father's will (see Appendix 5) but also give much information about the Irton property. John held the manor of Irton with 45 messuages, 2 mills, 1230 acres of wood and 1000 acres in Irton, Drigg and Gosforth. He also held 40 messuages in Bassenthwaite, Birker, Haile and Cleter. The Irton property was held of the King, Birker from John Hudleston, gent., Drigg of Richard Eglesfield, Santon from Henry Kirkby and Bassenthwaite of the King. The Visitation pedigree states that he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Christopher Stapleton of Wighill (by Alice† daughter of William Aske, who died on 16th Nov., 1521). There is still in the family's possession an ancient seal set on a spike, which is undoubtedly Tudor in date. It shows parti per pale, Dexter, Argent, a fess, in chief three mullets, with a second bar parallel to the fess with part of the bar cut off (presumably for difference). Irton; Sinister, on a shield semée with fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant, Stapleton. This seal has scroll work on the side of the shield. Immediately over the shield is a knight's helmet and above all the Saracen's head couped at the shoulders. This seal according to expert opinion must have been made not long after the time when coat armour was first engraved in this manner.

John Irton (4) and Elizabeth Stapleton had two children:—

1. *Richard Irton*, his heir, of whom following.
2. *Christopher Irton*, who succeeded his brother, of whom also following.

* Court of Wards. E. 150, 122-8. I.P.M. John Irton, Cockermouth, 10th Feb. 30 Henry VIII and also Court of Wards, C. 42, 60-113. I.P.M. John Irton, 1st May, 31 Henry VIII.

† Foster's *Yorkshire Families*, "Stapleton."

RICHARD IRTON (6), 1534-1552.

Richard Irton (6), the eldest son of John Irton (4) and Elizabeth Stapleton, was five years old when his father died in 1539, and he died on the 8th July, 1552, unmarried, to be succeeded by his brother Christopher. His Inquisition* Post Mortem gives an account of his property. He held the manor of Irton with 40 messuages, 2 mills, 1320 acres of wood, 1000 acres in Irton, Drigg and Gosforth, with 40 messuages, 270 acres of wood plus 13 acres in Bassenthwaite, Haile and Cleter, with one-third of the manor of Santon. This I.P.M. states that Richard Irton (5), this Richard's grandfather, had enfeoffed his son George with one-third of the manor of Santon on Oct. 20th, 1512. When the elder Richard died in 1534 it came to his son and heir John (4) and at John's death to this Richard (6). The I.P.M. also states that Richard Irton held Irton of the King, Birker of Anthony Hudleston, Drigg from Richard Eglesfield, Gosforth, etc., from the Duke of Suffolk. Richard Irton was succeeded by his brother,

Christopher Irton, of whom following.

CHRISTOPHER IRTON, 1535-1562.

Richard Irton (6) was succeeded by his brother Christopher, who was born in 1535 and was thus only 17 when his brother died. When he died† on 5th Dec., 1562, he held the manor of Irton with 44 messuages, 1400 acres of wood and 1000 acres of moss in Irton, 2 messuages in Drigg, 20 messuages in Gosforth and Bolton,‡ with one-third of the manor of Santon. There is this time no mention of the Bassenthwaite property, which, however, reappears later. Christopher held under Thomas, Earl

* I.P.M. Egremont, 1st July, 6 Edw. VI. Richard Irton, Court of Wards 7, 6-13.

† Court of Wards, 9-12. I.P.M. Christopher Irton, 18th April, 5 Eliz.

‡ For this Bolton property see above under Roger Irton and his wife Marjery Butt. (1335).

of Northumberland by cornage and scutage and free rent of 5/- per annum, worth £20 per annum. Drigg he held of William Pennington, Gosforth of Thomas Stanley, Cleter of Thomas, Earl of Northumberland, Haile and Cleter from the Queen.

He may have married twice, but he certainly married Maud, the daughter of Edward Redman of Levens. She had an adventurous career. After his death in 1562 she married Sir Thomas Leigh of Isell, a man much older than herself, who had no children by her and only survived the marriage five years, leaving his considerable property at Isell and Threlkeld to his wife for her life. She then married for the third time (her opponents said after only two months), Sir Wilfred Lawson, who again had no children by her but apparently managed to get hold of a considerable part of the Leigh property and give it to his relatives.

She died in September, 1624 and after her death and that of Sir Wilfred Lawson, her third husband, there arose one of the longest and most scandalous cases in Lake Country annals (see *Chancery Proceedings*), which has been well described by Col. Haswell in his article* on the Irtons of Threlkeld. It appears that Maud Redman had two children by Christopher Irton, her first husband, i.e. his son and heir, Richard Irton (7) (see following) and another Christopher, whom perhaps she took with her when she married Sir Thomas Leigh. At any rate this second Christopher Irton became Lieutenant of Cockermouth and by his wife, Marie, had many children, the eldest of whom, Wilfred Irton, appears to have been married off by his grandmother and Sir Wilfred Lawson to Matilda Leigh, the rightful heir to the Leigh property. After the death of Maud and Sir Wilfred Lawson, this Wilfred Irton of Isell and his wife, Matilda Leigh brought an action against

* These *Trans.* N.S. xxiv, "The Irtons of Threlkeld," by Col. Haswell, who gives a good account of this case and also of the Irtons of Threlkeld.

the Lawsons and others, to whom Leigh property had been given, for recovery in right of Matilda Leigh, the rightful heiress of the Leighs of Isell. Col. Haswell thinks that the case ended in a compromise. In any case Wilfred Irton and his wife established a branch of the Irtons, who lived at Threlkeld Hall for a long time and had a considerable part of the Leigh property.

Christopher Irton therefore left two sons:—

- (1) *Richard Irton* (7), his heir, of whom following.
- (2) *Christopher Irton*, of Cockermouth, the son of Maud Redman and the trusted servant of Sir Wilfred Lawson and Lieutenant of Cockermouth Castle, where he was living in 1605 with his wife Marie and their children. He died before his mother.

His children (see Col. Haswell's article) were:—

- a. Wilfred Irton, who married Matilda Leigh, daughter of Robert Leigh and presumably rightful heiress of the Leigh property. Their family became possessed of Threlkeld Hall (see Col. Haswell's article)*
- b. *George Irton*.
- c. *Jason Irton*.
- d. *William Irton*.
- e. *Henry Irton*.
- f. *Isabella Irton*.
- g. *Matilda Irton*, wife† of Thomas Wybergh of Clifton and St. Bees, who had issue.
- h. *Mary Irton*, wife† of Henry Swinburn of Hewthwaite.

RICHARD IRTON (7), 1557-1608.

Richard Irton (7), son of Christopher Irton, was born in 1557‡ and was thus only a child of five years old when his father died and his wardship and marriage, as was the

* *Ibid.*, n.s. xxiv.

† See Cumberland Visitation Pedigree (1665), 'Wybergh and Swinburn.'

‡ I.P.M. Christopher Irton, 18 April, 5 Eliz. Court of Wards 7, 9-12.

custom of the time, was sold* to Sir Thomas Stanley for £30. This wardship was the cause of trouble. The documents relating to the Irton property seem to have been dispersed and to have come into alien hands. Presumably Sir Thomas Stanley sold the wardship in his turn to Roger Kirkby of Kirkby, who was accused† in 1614 by this Richard's son, John Irton (5), of having sold part of the manor and the mill at Santon to William Thornborrow. This case, which was a long one, might have given much evidence about the families who lived round the Irton district were not the documents so badly damaged that they are scarcely decipherable.

Richard Irton‡ died on 19th Feb., 1608. His I.P.M. states that he had the Irton property as possessed by his father, with property at Drigg, together with half the manor of Bassenthwaite and a third of the manor of Santon. The name of his wife, Dorothy is given and this bears out the Family Memoir, which states that he married Dorothy, daughter of Roger Kirkby of Kirkby, the man who held the wardship of him in his minority. In his *Antiquities of Furness*, West states that Dorothy was the third daughter of Roger Kirkby by Margaret, daughter of John Preston of Preston Patrick.

Richard Irton's widow survived him. Richard Purchase, yeoman of the parish of Irton, in his will,§ dated 1615, bequeathes money to his 'old mistress, Dorothy Irton.'

In a survey of goods, dated 1579, preserved at Cocker-mouth Castle, the Manor of Cleter is shown as being divided into six parts, the holders being, 1. Richard Irton, 2. Richard Sevenhouse, 3. Roger Kirkby, 4. Christopher and John Hayle, 5. The heirs of Lord Dacre,

* Court of Wards, 9-15.

† *Early Chancery Proceedings*, II, p. 11-12.

‡ I.P.M. Richard Irton. Penrith, 12 Oct., 6 James I. Court of Wards 7, 42-38.

§ Dr. C. Moor.

6. John Hilton and heirs of John Towerson. This Manor, Cleter, was part of the Copeland property inherited through the three child heiresses of 1492.

The survey of 1578 states that Richard Irton held the Manor of Irton by homage, fealty and suit of court and by the rent of 7d. by cornage.

The children of Richard Irton (7) and Dorothy Kirkby were:—

1. *John Irton* 5), his heir, of whom following.
2. *Christopher Irton* (Family Memoir). The Memoir gets more reliable as the date advances, and there certainly was a Christopher Irton at this date, described as 'of Windhall,' who died about 1638. He may have had a son, John Irton (see Appendix 6. Will of Mary Irton).
3. *George Irton*. There was a George Irton who lived at Dailsyke in this generation, who died about 1618.* His widow Isabel Irton made a will on 16th April, 1634, in which she mentions her children:—
 - a. *John Irton*, who was married to Elizabeth
 - b. *Dorothy Irton*.

JOHN IRTON (5), 1578-1642.

John Irton (5), son of Richard Irton (7) and Dorothy Kirkby, was born† in 1578 and died‡ on 25th Dec., 1642.

His I.P.M. states that he held, in addition to the Irton property and manor, one-third of the manor of Santon with 20 messuages there, with other property at Drigg and Gosforth. But there is this time (1642) no mention of the

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Copeland Will. Inventory of goods of George Irton, 20th May, 1618 (wife's name Isabel). Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Copland Wills. Will of Isabel Irton of Dailsyke in Wasdale, 16th April, 1634.

† I.P.M. Richard Irton. Cockermouth, 6 James I, Court of Wards 7, 42-38.

‡ I.P.M. John Irton. Cockermouth, 18 Charles I, Court of Wards, C. 142, 703-752.

Bassenthwaite lands, and it would seem that it was he who finally disposed of them. There is a suit* in Chancery dated 13th Feb., 1633, brought by John Irton of Irton against Richard Fletcher and William Lawson concerning a loan of £250 made to Irton by Fletcher on a mortgage of the manor of Bassenthwaite. Sir Wilfred Lawson had paid off this mortgage for John Irton and lent him another £150, when Bassenthwaite was again mortgaged, this time of Lawson and John Irton's eldest son John, in 1625. In 1633 John Irton claims that William Lawson (son of Sir Wilfred, now dead) takes the profits of the manor and will not let him pay off the debt and redeem the property.

Previous to this on the 8th of Feb., 1630, John Irton brings a suit† in Chancery against James Wilson and others, customary tenants of the manor of Bassenthwaite, John Irton being the lord of the said manor. The deforciant had previously exhibited a bill of complaint against Irton to have the estate fines on their tenements made certain. On 7th Feb., 1622 it was agreed that the tenants were to pay £110 to Irton for his consent, but had only paid £80. He is willing to comply as soon as the remaining £30 is paid off.

On 7th April, 1614, John Irton brings a suit‡ in Chancery against Roger Kirkby and John Salkeld about the manor of Santon and a corn mill there. It is stated that the Plaintiff, John Irton, is the son of Richard Irton and grandson of Christopher Irton. When Christopher died, his son Richard was only five years old, and Roger Kirkby had had the wardship of him. Richard had died 30 years after having become 21, but during his nonage Kirkby had sold part of the mill at Santon to William Thornborrow, who in his turn had sold it to John Salkeld. A long list of witnesses follow, with their evidence, but the document is badly damaged. A George Irton of Santon, aged 80,

* *Early Chancery Proceedings*, C. 8, 71-63.

† *Ibid.*, C. 3, 405-12.

‡ *Ibid.* II, pp. 11-12.

gives evidence. The document states that Kirkby had delivered to Richard Irton, the Plaintiff's father, the deeds, etc., of Irton and Santon. Then follows what appears to be a list of these deeds, which unfortunately is extremely difficult to decipher; one of them, a marriage settlement, gives a hint that Christopher Irton (1535-62) had a sister, Maud Irton, married to Thomas Stanley, of London.

It is indeed unfortunate that when Dugdale made his visitation, the Irtons did not obey his summons and produce their pedigree and arms. It is the more tantalising, because the Memoir, which in other respects becomes more accurate as time goes on, here skips a whole generation, going straight from the Richard Irton who married Dorothy Kirkby to the Cavalier John Irton at the end of the 17th century. The I.P.Ms. have, however, cleared up the fact of the existence of this intervening John Irton (5), though they do not give the name of his wife. A will of a certain Mary Irton (see Appendix 6) dated 14th April, 1646, seems to be that of the lady in question, though by that time she would appear to have had her own establishment. She may, however, have had charge of Irton Hall itself during her son's absence at the war. She speaks of a grandchild John Irton, to whom she bequeaths a bedstead in the Middle Tower. This can only refer to Irton Hall, which had three towers up to the beginning of the 19th century. It points to the fact that Mary Irton had lived there. A portrait in the family's possession of a woman in early Caroline dress is labelled on the back 'Mary Swinburn' and may be a portrait of this Mary, wife of John Irton (5).

If we may assume, as I think we may, that the widow Mary Irton who died in 1646, was the wife of this John Irton, then their children were:—

1. *John Irton* (6), his heir, of whom following.
2. *Roger Irton*, of Plumgarth, who is mentioned in his

mother's will.* In 1646 an admonition of the goods of Roger Irton of Plumgarth in the parish of Irton was granted to Robert Stephenson, John Forder and John Nicholson on 2nd March, 167—. An inventory of his goods is given.

3. *Dorothy Irton*, who in 1646 was married to ——— Latus, presumably a member of the Latus family of Millom and Whicham.
4. *Barbara Irton*, unmarried in 1646.
5. *Anne Irton*, unmarried in 1646.
6. *Richard Irton*. There is a will† and inventory of a Richard Irton, gent., dated 11th Dec., 1673, in which he bequeaths all that he possesses to his wife Susanna and makes her sole executrix. His assets amount to £82. 13s.

JOHN IRTON (6), 1603-1676.

John Irton (6) the eldest son of John Irton, was born in 1603‡ and died in 1676.§ He was a Cavalier Major|| and was one of the Cumberland gentry who sent provisions to the city of Carlisle during its siege by the Scottish General Leslie in 1644. He suffered severely as a recusant during the Commonwealth period and was¶ in London at the time of the Restoration of Charles II, where his name, so similar to that of Cromwell's general Ireton, might bring him into suspicion. He might well be glad of the King's return. His estates had been sequestrated under the Recusants' Acts and he had been fined† £10 as a delinquent. The tradition that Oliver Cromwell spent the

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Copeland Wills. Bond and Inventory of Richard Irton of Plumgarth in the parish of Irton, dated 10th Feb., 1687.

† Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Copeland Wills. Will and Inventory of Richard Irton, gent., late of Irton, 1673.

‡ I.P.M. John Irton. Cockermouth, 3rd Oct., 18 Charles I.

§ See Appendix 7, Will of John Irton, 1676.

|| *Chancery Proceedings*, C. 10, 476, 165. John Irton of Irton v. William Tubman of Moored. John is described as a Royalist Major and owes money to Tubman who had been a sequestrator, 23 June, 1664.

¶ Sandford.

** Letter to Oliver Cromwell from Col. Charles Howard, Carlisle.

night at Irton Hall on his way north is probably untrue, though the family still possess the snuff-box of early Caroline date which he is supposed to have left behind him.

John Irton (6) was certainly in debt* to his neighbours and it may be for this reason that he failed to obey Dugdale's summons. The herald demanded 27/- for certifying a pedigree.

At the time of John Irton's death in 1676, his wife Ann having refused to have anything to do with the matter, John Shacklock of Irton took out letters of administration and produced an inventory of goods, which were valued at £41. 9s. 2d., and he states that the debts incurred for funeral expenses amounted to more than the value of the goods. (See Appendix 7. Inventory of John Irton of Irton).

John Irton's wife, who died† in 1685 was Ann, daughter of Henry Ponsonby‡ of Hale and of Dorothy, 2nd daughter of Henry Sands of Rottington. The Family Memoir states that they were married in 1638, which seems likely enough. Their children were:—

1. *John Irton* (7), the heir, of whom following.
2. *Christopher Irton* (Family Memoir).
3. *Elizabeth Irton*, who married Henry Salkeld, § son of John Salkeld of Threapland, Elizabeth's husband was dead by the 27th Oct., 1673, when John Irton brought a case|| against John Salkeld, the father.

* *Chancery Proceedings*, C. 10, 480-71, 15 June, 1676. John Irton v. John Walker of Santon. Irton had been borrowing money from Walker and Edward Stanley of Dalegarth.

† Bishop Nicolson's Diary, 1685, March 29. "Preached at Torpenhow Mr. Salkeld and wife at Mrs. Irton's funeral."

‡ Cumberland Visitation Pedigrees, 1665, 'Ponsonby.'

§ *Ibid.*, 'Salkeld.'

|| *Chancery Proceedings*, C. 10, 493-134, 27th Oct., 1676. John Salkeld has lately died (after his son Henry) and his daughters, who are his executors, Barbara Salkeld, wife of Joseph Gregg and Mary Salkeld, wife of William Nicholson, now own the manor of Irton, the £350 dowry (see above) never having been paid by John Irton.

The report states that the marriage was arranged in 1662, when John Irton had agreed to pay £350 for the dowry, while John Salkeld was to settle real estate on the couple.

JOHN IRTON (7), died 1700.

This John Irton (7), the eldest son of John Irton and Ann Ponsonby, succeeded to the estates in 1676, what was left of them. The Family Memoir, whose writer is now speaking of his own grandfather, states that he married Elizabeth, daughter of — Musgrave of Mealrigg, brother of Sir William Musgrave of Crookdale, knight. In 1689, he along with Bridget Kirkham and James Danson, sold* the manor of Irton with 200 acres of land to James Crosby and John Hudson for £300. This and the statement on the tomb of his son George Irton (1) that he retrieved an estate that was almost lost, points to this last John Irton having inherited an estate from a Cavalier father, which he left still more impoverished. His name appears frequently in the Court Rolls of the manor of Santon from 1688 onwards. He was buried† at Irton on 2nd Oct., 1700.

He and Elizabeth Musgrave had four children:—

1. *George Irton* (1), his heir, who succeeded him.
2. *John Irton*, died abroad unmarried.
3. *Edward Irton*, died abroad unmarried.
4. *Elizabeth Irton*, who married — Haddick of Preston, Attorney at law.‡

GEORGE IRTON (1), 1667-1749.

As this George Irton was 82 at the time of his death, he must have been born about the year 1667. He was the eldest son of John Irton and Elizabeth Musgrave of

* These *Trans.* n.s. xvi, "Two deeds transcribed from originals in his possession," by Mr. W. N. Thompson of St. Bees.

† Irton Parish Registers.

‡ The Family Memoir, which can hardly be wrong as late as this.

Mealrigg. He appears to have been a man beloved by his tenants and yeoman neighbours, one of whom not only makes a bequest to the squire's daughters but appoints the father as guardian of his own young son. The tombstone to George Irton and his wife in Irton Church states that "in a long life spent in the greatest industry they retrieved an estate almost lost." He sold the manor of Unthank to Sir George Fletcher of Hutton, Bart., and Dr. Parker in his notes surmises that it was he who put the bell in the tower of Irton Hall in memory of the defeat of the Pretender in 1715. He married Elizabeth, daughter of David Poole of Knottingley and Sykehouse in the county of Yorks., who was buried at Irton on 19th Feb., 1744, aged 75, while he himself was buried on 7th Dec., 1749, aged 82. Their children were:—

1. *David Irton*, baptised 23rd March, 1697/8, who was lost at sea when young.
2. *George Irton* (2), who succeeded and of whom following.
3. *Samuel Irton* (1), who succeeded his brother George and of whom also following.
4. *Rebecca Irton*, baptised 3rd July, 1699, buried 17th June, 1791.
5. *Elizabeth Irton*, baptised 9th Jan., 1701/2.
6. *Dorothy Irton*, baptised 19th Feb., 1703/4.
7. *Frances Irton*, baptised 19th Jan., 1705/6, married at Irton on 2nd March, 1730/1, John Craghill and appears to have afterwards lived at York.
8. *Hannah Irton*, baptised 17th Nov., 1709, who married at Crosthwaite on 24th Sept., 1731, the Rev. Peter Murthwaite, afterwards the Rector of Gosforth. She was buried at Gosforth on 13th March, 1789. She had a numerous family of whom Dr. Parker gives the following names:—
 - a. *Joseph Murthwaite*.
 - b. *Richard Murthwaite*.

- c. *Charles Murthwaite*.
- d. *Irton Murthwaite*, Vicar of Harbling, Lincs., in 1780.
- e. *Samuel Murthwaite*, Vicar of Desborough, near Market Harborough in 1780, who in 1776 was appointed as his guardian by his cousin George Irton (3) of Irton.
- f. *Isabella Murthwaite*, who married — James.
- g. *Mary Murthwaite*.
- h. *Elizabeth Murthwaite*, living at Brigham in 1779.

GEORGE IRTON (2), 1700-1762. HIGH SHERIFF,
1753.

George Irton (2) was the eldest surviving son of George Irton (1) and Elizabeth Poole and succeeded to the estates at the death of his father in 1749. He was baptised at Irton on 27th March, 1700 and on 13th March, 1731 he married at Lamplugh, Elizabeth, the only surviving daughter of Thomas* Lamplugh of Lamplugh and his wife Francis Moline,* and thus in some part heiress of the 1st Lamplughs of Dovenby as well as of the Lamplughs of Lamplugh. George Irton died on 13th May, 1762. His wife Elizabeth Irton was buried at Irton on 9th June, 1775. If she had had male heirs they would not only have inherited the Irton property but also that of Lamplugh and in part that of Dovenby. As it was, Elizabeth Irton died possessed only of part of the Dovenby estates, which she left, not to the Irtons, but to her remote relative, Thomas Lamplugh, great-grandson of Thomas Lamplugh, Archbishop of York and then, in default of his male heirs, to Peter Brougham of Cockermouth, who in fact inherited. His sister, Mary Brougham took them to the Dykes family. George Irton and his wife had one

* These *Trans.* n.s. xxxviii and xxxix, "The Lamplugh Family of Cumberland."

child, Frances Irton, who died in infancy. He was succeeded at Irton by his brother.

Samuel Irton (1).

SAMUEL IRTON (1), 1714-1766. HIGH SHERIFF, 1765.

Samuel Irton was the youngest son of George Irton (1) and Elizabeth Poole, baptised at Irton on 1st Sept., 1714. He became a merchant in London, where he lived in Crown Court, Old Soho, until he succeeded to Irton at his brother's death. He was something of an antiquary, which taste his second son, Edmund Lamplugh Irton, inherited and developed, and he had a large collection of china and other objects, of which even a hundred years later there was a great quantity at the Hall. He was, indeed, so proud of his house and its possessions that he made an inventory, recording carefully what articles each room contained. This list together with the notes and pedigree which we have called the Family Memoir, written in a notebook in his own hand, is still in the family's possession. At the end he has some interesting remarks to make about his purchases of land. "I beautified and repaired the Hall," he says, "and furnished it in an elegant manner . . . I built a very handsome family chapell with a window which I was above 20 years collecting (see Appendix 4, The Irton Chapel Window)—I new built the stables, barns and offices and a wall round the Castle* that I planned largely, taking great pleasure therein. During my lifetime I purchased and added to the property the estates of Grizedale† Hall and Hawkshead† Hall, being together upwards of 1000 acres, nearly 200 acres of which are woodland of great value. Also at Mill Bridge near Kendal in Westmoreland, three freehold

* The parapet round the Tower.

† The house and land at Grizedale Hall was sold by the writer's second son, Edmund Lamplugh Irton, to Mr. Ainslie, while the Hawkshead property was bought by William Fell, Edmund Lamplugh Irton's brother-in-law, in 1792.

farms, Likewise a very good estate at Walton Park. At Boonwood in the parish of Gosforth two estates of land near together, a small estate at Backbarrow in Wastdale. I also purchased Mill Bank and Ravenglass House."

The inventory of his household goods, which is interesting as showing the way an 18th century Lake Country house was furnished, ends with the somewhat pathetic remark considering the changes and chances of this mortal life, "All which being exceeding good, I purchased and I beg may never be parted from the house."

He died in London on the 12th April, 1766 and was buried at Irton on the 28th.

He married at Irton on 13th Nov., 1752, Frances,* only daughter and heiress of Robert Tubman of Cockermouth and Martha, 9th daughter of Ewan Christian of Ewanrigg. They had a large family, some of whom, being born in London and in Soho, died in infancy.

1. *George Irton* (3), his heir, of whom following.
2. *Edmund Lamplugh Irton*, who succeeded his brother and of whom also following.
3. *Samuel Irton*, born at Irton on 12th August,† 1763, of the East India Company, who died a bachelor at the house of his brother-in-law, William Fell on 18th March, 1813.
4. *Elizabeth Irton*, born in Soho on 13th August, 1753, died six days later.
5. Twins, born in Soho on 21st Sept., 1754, died the same day.
6. *Frances Irton*, born in Soho on 12th Nov., 1755, who must have gone with her mother to Hawkshead at the time of that lady's second marriage to the Rev.

* The grandparents of Frances Tubman were Robert Tubman of Cockermouth and Frances Lamplugh, daughter of the Rev. George Lamplugh, Rector of Lamplugh.

† The dates of the births of all these children were recorded by their mother Frances Irton in a prayer book of Queen Anne date, as they appeared. This book is to hand.

Reginald Braithwaite in 1770; for on the 10th Jan., 1778 she married at Hawkshead, Dr. Matthew Hodgson, of Colthouse, Hawkshead and had a large family,* the surviving members of which were:

- a. *Philip Hodgson*, who died unmarried.
- b. *Samuel Hodgson*, a Lt.-Col. in the Indian Army.
- c. *George Hodgson*, died unmarried.
- d. *Gawain Hodgson*, a clergyman.
- e. a daughter who married — Atkinson.
- f. *Martha Hodgson*, who married Mr. Lodge of Hawkshead.

Frances Hodgson died on 10th Jan, 1853, and was buried at Hawkshead, aged 97.

7. *Elizabeth Irton*, born 8th June, 1760 at Irton, who married Edward Kendal of Dawry Park, Abergavenny.

They had two sons, the eldest of whom, *Edward Kendal*, was drowned young at sea, and one daughter, who married Charles Edward Sobieski Stewart and who lived in Florence.

8. *Martha Irton*, born at Irton a few days after her father's death, on 3rd May, 1766, went with her mother to Hawkshead in 1770 and on 3rd Jan., 1787, married William Fell of Scathwaite and Ulverston. Martha and William Fell lived in Market Street, Ulverston. A granddaughter of Martha Irton became possessed of Irton Hall at the death of the last Samuel Irton in 1866. Their children were:—†

- a. *James Fell*, born 22nd Dec., 1789. Supposed to have been coming back from India in 1809 on board

* This information concerning the Hodgson family, which is incomplete and may need correction, is taken from the Irton family bible and from notes made by Samuel Taylor of Ibbotsholme in 1873. His informant was Samuel Irton Fell, 1st cousin of these Hodgsons.

† From the Fell Family Bible, containing entries made at the time of these children's births and from the Ulverston parish registers.

the "Jane, Duchess of Gordon," lost with all on board.

- b. *Elizabeth Fell*, born 16 Sept., 1791, died 31 Oct., 1796.
- c. *William Fell*, born 28th Oct., 1793, married Eleanor Town and died without issue.
- d. *Frances Fell*, born 5th Aug., 1784, died 16th Oct., 1810.
- e. *Martha Fell*, born 16th March, 1796, married Richard Wordsworth Smith and had one son, Richard Wordsworth Smith, born 7th Aug., 1821, who married Catharine Parry and had two sons:—Canon Irton Smith, who married and died without issue, and Emily Irton Smith, who died unmarried.
- f. *Elizabeth Fell*, born 24th Aug., 1799, and married Thomas Alcock Beck of Esthwaite Lodge, Hawkshead, and died without issue.
- g. *Samuel Irton Fell*,* who married Maria Lyon and whose daughter Elizabeth Fell became possessed of Irton Hall by the will of her cousin, Samuel Irton (2), the last of the family.

Four years after the death of Samuel Irton (1) his widow Frances Irton married the Rev. Reginald Braithwaite, Vicar of Hawkshead, at Irton on 7th June, 1770. She had one son by him, Reginald Tubman Braithwaite, born 1st Sept., 1772, who became an officer in the army. His mother died at Belmont, Hawkshead, on 18th July, 1802. aged 70.

GEORGE IRTON (3), 1759-1781.

George Irton (3), eldest son of Samuel Irton (1) and Frances Tubman, was born at Irton on 23rd June, 1759 and succeeded his father at Irton in 1766. In 1776, his mother having married again, he appointed his cousin, the

* For the children of Samuel Irton Fell see Irton pedigree at the end of this article.

Rev. Samuel Murthwaite, the son of the Gosforth Rector and Thomas Murthwaite of Marylebone his guardians and proceeded on his travels about England and to London. A letter from London, written in 1777, contains this entry: "George Irton on horseback at Dr. Dodd's funeral." His portrait shows him a slim, florid but delicate-looking youth. And delicate he proved to be. He died unmarried in London on 8th Oct., 1781 and was buried at Irton on 24th Oct. He was succeeded at Irton by his brother,

Edmund Lamplugh Irton.

EDMUND LAMPLUGH IRTON, 1762-1820.

He was the second son of Samuel Irton (1) and Frances Tubman and succeeded his brother George (3) in 1781. It is more than probable that the name Lamplugh was given to him in the hope (which proved vain) that his aunt Elizabeth Lamplugh would leave the Lamplugh property at Dovenby to him. A handsome extravagant man of many varied interests and a friend of the Prince Regent, he soon squandered the money and the property so patiently gathered by his father and sold all the outlying land with the exception of Boonwood in Gosforth, leaving the remainder heavily mortgaged. He pulled down the Western front of Irton Hall with its two towers and made considerable alterations to the structure. He also built the bridge over Frith Hill. He married first, on 25th Nov., 1782, Dorothy, daughter of Dr. Matthew Hodgson of Colthouse, Hawkshead, by a first wife (Dr. Hodgson's second wife was Edmund Irton's sister Frances) and had by her one daughter:—

- I. *Anne Frances Irton*, born at Irton on 30th Aug., 1783, who married on 22nd Oct., 1816, Joseph Gunson of Ingwell, a company commander in the Peninsula War. They had two daughters:—

- a. *Eliza Ann Gunson*, who married Frecheville L. Ballantine Dykes of Dovenby and had a numerous family.
- b. *Mary Gunson*, who married Robert Turner, son of Lt.-Col. Charles Turner of Swanwick Glen, Hants. Robert Turner took the name of Irton. They had four daughters:—Amy Turner Irton, Muriel Turner Irton, Alice Turner Irton and Beryl Turner Irton.

It is certain that by the strict laws of succession these two daughters of the eldest daughter of Edmund Lamplugh Irton by a first wife should have come into the Irton property at the death of his son Samuel Irton (2) in 1866, childless. But by Samuel's will it was left to his first cousin once removed, Elizabeth Fell, the granddaughter of Martha Irton (Samuel Irton's aunt), and William Fell.

Edward Lamplugh Irton married secondly on 8th Aug., 1787, Harriet, daughter of John Hayne of Ashbourne Green, Derbyshire, by whom he had five children:—

2. *Samuel Irton* (2), his heir, of whom following.
 3. *Richard Irton*, born 5th Dec., 1798, who married on 4th July, 1829, Selina, the daughter of Joseph Sabine. He, as Lt.-Col. commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, died in London on 9th Jan., 1847. His wife died in Nova Scotia in 1843. They had no children.
 4. *Frances Irton*, who married at Bath on 6th Oct., 1842, Sir Edmund Prideaux, Bart., of Netherton, co. Devon. She died without issue at Netherton on 7th Nov., 1852.
 5. *Harriet Irton*, born 26 May, 1789, died unmarried at Bath on 14th July, 1833.
 6. *Mary Irton*, born 22nd Sept., 1791, died unmarried at Bath on 28th July, 1829.
- Two other children, Elizabeth and Edmund, died in infancy.

Edmund Lamplugh Irton's wife died on 8th Nov., 1849, he on 2nd Nov., 1820 and was succeeded at Irton by his son Samuel Irton (2)

SAMUEL IRTON (2), 1796-1866.

Samuel Irton (2), the eldest son of Edmund Lamplugh Irton, succeeded to a heavily mortgaged estate in 1820.

He was born at Irton on 28th Sept., 1796 and four years after his father's death he married on 22nd July, 1825, Eleanor, daughter of Joseph Tiffin Senhouse of Calder Abbey.

He was Deputy-Lieutenant and M.P. for West Cumberland in two Parliaments.

At his death on 10th July, 1866 he left his property to his first cousin once removed, Elizabeth Fell, daughter of Samuel Irton Fell and grand-daughter of Martha Irton, the youngest daughter of Samuel Irton (1), the testator's grandfather. Elizabeth Fell,* who married James Oldham Ryder, of Manchester, sold the house and estate in 1872. Mrs. Irton, who lived at Calder Abbey after her husband's death, was buried beside her husband at Irton in 1883.

Thus the direct line of the Irtons, who had held the manor, Hall and lands of Irton from at least the 12th century, came to an end and henceforward the story of this ancient fortified manor house has been as varied as previously it had been unchanging.

APPENDIX 1.

THE FAMILY MEMOIR.

(Compiled by Samuel Irton (1) in 1764 and now in the possession of the writer of this article).

The family of Irton of Irton Hall in the County of Cumberland is by Several persons well skild in antiquity and Heraldry (More particularly Mr Warburton Somerset Herald and Mr Jones whose field books & papers & notes I purchased In London in 1759.

* See Irton Pedigree at the end of these notes.

Saml Irton) are well ashurd to be seated here long before the Conquest and have been successfull Lords of it ever since in a direct line the first mentiond by Mr Warburton in his notes *Bartram De Yrton* who livd in the beginning of the reign of Henry the first soon after the Conquest as apears by a deed of gift in the Exchequer of lands given to the Abbey at York by Andr. de Morwick to which the said Bartram was evidence. *Adam de Yrton* succeeded and Maryd wth *Joan Stutvill* (Adam de Yrton was a one of ye knights of St John of Jerusalem atended Godfrey of Bologne and ye other Christian princes into ye Holy Land and was at ye sege of ye cyty of Jerusalem Layd buryd under ye Communion Table at Irton in Church where his Jerusalem cross sword and gauntlet are partly desernable)

Hugh de Yrton who marryd wth *Gertrude Tiliol* an antiant and worthy ffamily long posesers of Scalby Castle and a large estate in the Bords. They had issue

Edmund de Yrton son and heir who marryd — *Dudley* daughter of Edmund Dudley of Yanwick in the County of Westmoreland . . .

(Edmund took ye Crusade upon him & atended Richd ye 1st in all his wars abroad. Lost his life in ye journey to Jerusalem by engadging ye Babylonian caravan wh was garded by 10 thousand horse) had issue

Stephen de Yrton son and hèir maryd wth *Jane Dacre* (was surety to King Hen. 3: 40 year of his reign for her brother Thos Dacre for the safe keeping of the Castles of Stafford and Bridge-north in Salop against the incursions of the Welch wh may be seen in the history of the Exchequer. He had issue Roger his eldest son and (Randolfe* who was bred a prest at Roan in Normandy Returning home 1257 was soon after made prior of Gisburn in Yorkshire and being a man of great learning and piety was by King Edward the first in 1280 made Bishop of Carlisle was by his majesty apointed one of the Comishoners to treat of a maridge wth Margaret princess of Scotland wth King Edward's son as apears by an antiant parchment in the Tower of London)

Roger de Yrton marryd — *Bryan*

Had son *William de Yrton* who marryd wth one *Grace Hanmer* of the County of Shropshire a near relations of the Hammers of Hanmer in flintshire.

Roger de Yrton his eldest son in 1292 maryd *Susanah* daughter of Sr Alex *Basenthwaite* Her brother Sr Alex being kild at the

* For Ralph de Irton, Bishop of Carlisle see Appendix 2.

Battle of Dunbar in 1296 Roger became heir in right of his wife to the Manor of Basenthwaite Lawswater Unthank and divers other lands to a great amount wh continued in the ffamily unti King Henry Eight reign

(In an old deed in this ffamily by Waldeve ye son of Gospatrick Earl of Dunbar to Adam (the son of Dolphin) Basthenthwaite wth all its members and apurtinances wth a right to cut wood and turn cattle on ye fforest)

Adam de Yrton son and heir (and James bred a prest)

Adam maryd wth *Eliz*, daughter and sole hair of Sr John *Copeland** by wh. this family became possest of ye manors of Birker Birkby and Santon and divers other lands. Had isue Richd his son and hair (and Alexander who maryd wth a lady of the name of Odingsels a daught of a worthy ffamily of that name seated at Wolverly in Warwickshire Alex: and lady dweld in Hampshire Had John son and hair who maryd *Eliz*. daughter of Richd Bacon of Mickell Marsh Esq. Had 2 sons Richard and John who was bred a soldr Richd maryd and had Joan his heir maryd to Richd Silver of Roaply in the County of Southampton Esqr. wh ends that branch)

Richard the elder brother of the above Alex. maryd *Margt* daughter of John *Broughton* of Broughton in Staffordshire† had Christopher his eldest son wh *Christopher* maryd *Margt* daughter of Richard *Redman* second son of Edward Redman of Harewood Castle Esqr had Nicklas his eldest son

Nicklas de Irton maryd — *Dykes* daughter of William Dykes Esqr of Wardell Returned among the gentry in the Reign of Henry the Sixth Served the office of High Sherife of the County 32 Hen. the 6th left Isue John his eldest son and William who marryd and settled in Sury.

John Irton in 1456 maryd wth *Ann* daughter of Sr Thos. Lamplugh Knight by Elinor his wife daughter of Sr Hen. ffenwick knight had isue *Jos* a son who died wthout heirs and 2 daughts *Eliz*. mryd to William Armorer Esqr and Mary to John Skelton of Armathwaite Castle Esqr

* Samuel Irton here adds a note on the opposite page of his book:—" Sr John Copeland was created Banneret at ye battle of Durham had 500 £ pr annum settld on him for life for taking with his own hands David King of Scotland & 3 Scotch Earls prisoners 20 Edw. 3 at ye said battle." This Sir John Copeland had, of course, no connection with these Lancashire and Cumberland Copelands.

† Samuell Irton had originally written " Broughton Tower in Lancashire " but had crossed this out and put of " Broughton in Staffordshire " in its place.

The estate decended upon *William* his younger brother who marryd a *fleming* daughter of Rydall Hall In 1493 was apointed Receiver Generale to the Duke of Gloster and his deputy levetenant (as apears by an old grant in ye ffamily) left issue Thos Richd and 2 daughters

Sr *Thos* Irton was knighted by the Erle of Sury at ffloeden ffeild and was afterwards killd in a skirmidge at Kelso by the Scots *Richd** Irton succd In 1503 marryd wth *Ann Middleton* daught of Sr William Midleton knight of Stokeld Park in Yorkshire Richd servd the office of Sherife 22. Hen. 8. 1513 this Richd was possesd of a real estate of fiveteen hundrd pound per annum rackd a great estate in those days he left issue Christopher* his son and hair

Christopher† Irton in 1543 maryd *Elizabeth* daughter of Sr Robt *Stapleton* Knight of Wighill by *Eliz.*‡ daught of Sr Wm Malory Knight of Studley Park had issue John Alce and Dor. Alce maryd to John Skelton of Bradford Esqr and Dor. to Raph Swinburn of ffaithwaite

John Irton in 1577 maryd *Ann* daughter of Rich *Kirby* of Kirby Esqr by Mary Belingham daught of Sr Roger Belingham had issue *Christopher* John and Richard Christopher died about 1638 unmaryd *John* Irton maryd wth *Ann Ponsonby* a daughtr of the ffamely at Hale (sister to Sr Harry Ponsonby ancestor to the Lords Duncannon of Ireland) by her had issue John his eldest son Cristr and Richd *John* Irton in 1658 maryd *Eliz. Musgrave* daught of — Musgrave of Meal-rig younger brother to Sir Wm. Musgrave of Crookdale Knigt. Left issue Geo. John and Edward *Eliz.* and Ann. John and Edward died abroad unmarried *Eliz.* maryd to — Haddick of preston in Lancashire attorney at law.

George§ Irton in 1695 maryd *Eliz. poole* daughter of David poole of Knotingley and Sykehouse in the County of York Esqr had issue David lost at sea when young Geo: and Samll bred a merchant in London and five daughtrs Rebr. *Eliz.* Dor: ffran: Hanr.

George Irton the eldest in 1732 maryd *Eliz: Lamplugh* daughter of Thos Lamplugh of Lamplugh Hall Esqr member for the borough of Cockermouth in 2 seven years parliment by her had no issue

* Samuel here adds a note on the opposite page of the book:—" this Richd sold ye Manor of Basenthwaite to Sr Wm Capell the Lord mayor of London."

† " John " has been crossed out in both cases and " Christopher " inserted.

‡ " Ann " has been crossed out and " Eliz." inserted.

§ Samuel Irton has here inserted a note on the opposite page of the book:—" This George sold ye good manor of Unthank to Sr George ffletcher of Hutton Bart."

George served ye office of Sherife of ye County in 1753 He died the thirteenth of May being Thursday 1762 at Irton Hall The estate devolvd upon *Samll* Irton who marryd *ffrances* daughter and sole heir of Robert *Tubman* of Cockermouth Mercht by whom he had issue *ffrancis*: George Elizabeth and Edmund Lamplugh Irton and Samuell all living in 1763.

APPENDIX 2.

RALPH DE IRTON. BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

Ralph de Irton was Bishop of Carlisle from 1280 to 1292. His name has not been put into the main body of this article because there is no means of proving that he was one of the Cumberland Irtons.

The family tradition is in favour of the supposition and Samuel Irton (1) states that he was "bred a Priest" at Rouen, became Prior of Guisboro and after his appointment as Bishop took part in the negotiations for a marriage between the son of Edward I and Princess Margaret of Scotland. (See Family Memoir, Appendix 1).

Dr. Parker, who was the first to examine the history of the family critically, was naturally so disgusted at the wanton inaccuracy of Warburton in concocting material for this family Memoir that he was apt to reject summarily every statement which it makes as unworthy of notice.

But in the case of the Bishop he discovered that there was a numerous family of de Irton, who hailed from a village of that name near Harrogate in Yorkshire, whose signatures to documents are recorded in the Chartulary of the Priory of Guisborough during the 12th and 13th centuries. Dr. Parker argued that a de Irton, Prior of Guisborough was almost certainly a member of this Yorkshire family. It must be admitted that in all probability this was the case.

It is, however, worth while setting out the case for the other side.

In his Introduction to Bishop Halton's Register (*Episcopal Register of Carlisle*), Professor Tout speaks of, "the intensely local character of most of the great religious foundations and notably the Cathedral Church of Carlisle." Later on he remarks on the long and bitter struggle with Edward 1st waged by "the Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral before it succeeded, thanks to Papal support in establishing as its Bishop an Austin Canon of Cumberland stock in Ralph de Irton, who took his name from Irton near

Ravenglass, and who had been Prior of the Canons Regular of Guisborough in Cleveland."

Again, it should be noted that every Cumberland chronicler, from the 17th century onwards has taken it for granted that this Bishop was one of the Cumberland Irtons.

Lastly, there is the evidence from the de Banco Rolls (see main article above (1335)), which proves that there was a Ranulf or Ralph de Irton at about the Bishop's date, whose children and grandchildren held land at Gosforth. It is, of course impossible to say what connection, if any, this man had with the Bishop; but the name itself is significant.

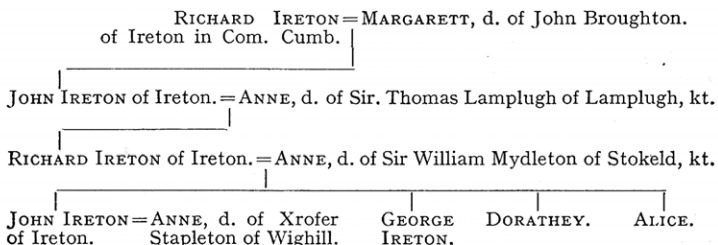
And there the matter must stand, undecided.

APPENDIX 3.

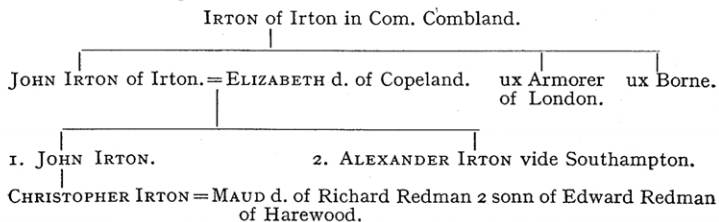
THE IRTON VISITATION PEDIGREE.

In his book "The Visitation of the County of Cumberland in the year 1615 by Richard St. George Norroy," John Fetherston gives two pedigrees of the Irtons of Irton Hall, one of which is labelled Irton and the other Ireton, both showing the same arms, those of Irton quartering those of Copeland.

They are given as follows:—



The other is given thus:—



The information given in the first of these two pedigrees as will be seen by the notes given above, is verified by other evidence.

The only serious omission is that of any mention of the Copeland marriage, which from other evidence we know must have taken place in this Tudor period, not long after 1492, when John Irton abducted the three child heiresses of Copeland. It is difficult to account for this, especially as the arms of Irton quartering Copeland are given.

The other pedigree, on the other hand, which was probably copied from a Hampshire source, if a jumbled up affair, does give the Irton marriage to an Elizabeth Copeland during this period.

APPENDIX 4.

THE IRTON CHAPEL WINDOW AND THE ALTAR FRONTAL.

Where the original Chapel in Irton Hall was it is impossible now to say, but the Chapel which Samuel Irton (1) built between 1762 and 1766 can be clearly seen in photographs taken before the Chapel was done away with by Mr. Burns Lindow in 1875. A description of its East Window given in Dr. Parker's book on the Rural Deanery of Gosforth tells us that it consisted of two lights with a quatrefoil above.

The centre panel of the quatrefoil appeared to represent the good Samaritan and other odd pieces of glass, probably old, showed two stars, five birds, and two coats of arms, those of Irton and Stapleton.

The two lights contained seven coats of arms apiece.

The dexter light gave:—

1. Irton quartering Bassenthwaite:—

Irton: Argent, a fess sable, in chief three mullets gules.

Bassenthwaite: Or, a crescent containing two annulets conjoined gules.

2. Irton quartering Copeland.

Irton as before.

Copeland: Argent, two bars gules, over all a bend or with a canton of the second.

3. Irton impaling Broughton.

Broughton: Argent, two bars gules, on a canton of the second a cross of the first.

4. Irton impaling Dykes.

Dykes: Or, three cinquefoils sable.

5. Irton impaling Redman.

Redman: Gules, three cushions ermine, fringed and tasselled or.

6. Irton impaling Lamplugh.

Lamplugh: Or, a cross fleury sable.

7. Irton impaling Fleming.

Fleming: Gules, a fret argent.

The sinister light contained:—

1. Irton impaling Middleton.

Middleton: Argent fretty sable, with a canton of the second.

2. Irton impaling Stapleton.

Stapleton: Argent, a lion rampant sable.

3. Irton impaling Kirkby.

Kirkby: Argent, two bars gules, on a canton of the second a cross moline or.

4. Irton impaling Ponsonby.

Ponsonby: gules, a chevron between two combs or.

5. Irton impaling Musgrave.

Musgrave: Azure, six annulets, three, two and one or.

6. Irton impaling Poole.

Poole: Azure, a fess between three leopards' heads or.

7. Irton impaling Lamplugh.

Lamplugh: Or, a cross fleury sable.

It should be noted that all these arms appear again in the embroidered altar frontal made about the same time as the chapel was built, which is still in existence. There is one change. The Lamplugh shield is only given once and the arms of Irton containing those of Tubman (which the present writer finds it quite impossible to describe) are given, presumably because the wife of Samuel Irton I, Frances Tubman, who was an heiress, herself embroidered the frontal.

APPENDIX 5.

INQUISITION POST MORTEM.

Inquisition Post Mortem held on 1st May, 31 Henry VIII on John Irton of Irton, Esq.,

John Irton obiit 5th Dec. 30 Henry VIII. He held the manor of Irton, 40 messuages, 2 mills, 200 x 1000 x 120 acres wood x 1000 acres in Irton Dregg and Gosforth.

Will of Richd. Irton, Esq., 9th Sept., 1522.

To be buried in Irton Church. Thos Lord Dacre and his other trustees to hold manor of Irton and property in Drigg and Gosforth in trust for his heir. To his sister Elizabeth £40. Alice his daughter 100 marks. To his daughter Dorothy 100 marks. To his wife Ann £20 per annum. To his son George one third of the manor of Santon.

Richard Irton died on 10th July 25 Henry VIII (1534).

His son and heir is John who held property in 27 Henry VIII.
John Irton died 5th Dec. 30 Henry VIII (1539).

His son and heir is Richard Irton aged at father's death 5 years
and more.

APPENDIX 6.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF MARY IRTON OF IRTON IN THE COUNTY
OF CUMBERLAND, WIDOW.

14 April, 1646.

I make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and
form following—I give my soul to God and my body to be buried
in the churchyard of Irton. I give to my grandchild John Irton
the bedstead in the middle tower. I give to my son Roger Irton
my grey horse and grey mare. I give to John Irton son of
Christopher Irton 20s. I give to my daughter Dorathie Latus £3.
I make my son Roger Irton and my two daughters Anne Irton and
Barbary Irton executors, to whom I give the rest of my goods, and
they shall discharge my debts, legacies and funeral expenses.
Mark of Mary Irton.

Witnesses. John Jackson, John Mawson, John Parker.

Archdeaconry Court of Richmond. Copeland Deanery. Proved
6 March, 1647.

An inventory of the goods and chattels of Mrs. Mary Irton of
Irton within the county of Cumberland, Widow, lately deceased,
valued by these four men. viz. Richard Tyson, William Caddie,
William Moore and John Moore, as follows:—

Impr.	1 cow, 3 heifers and 2 little calves	..	£7	0	0
It.	Corn and hay	.. .. .	3	15	0
It.	One swine	.. .. .		6	8
It.	Chests and Arcks.	.. .. .	3	6	8
It.	Vats and barrels	.. .. .	1	16	0
It.	Brass and pewter	.. .. .	4	14	0
It.	Wooden vessels	.. .. .		6	0
It.	Bedsteads and Cupboards	.. .. .	3	15	0
It.	Tables, stools, chairs, & forms	.. .. .	1	5	0
It.	Plough, plough gear & other implements	.. .. .	1	0	0
It.	Feather beds, bolsters, coverlets, blankets curtains & carpets	.. .. .	11	6	8
It.	Linen	.. .. .	3	10	0
It.	Rackenhoops (query) mortar tangleslead (query) weights	.. .. .	1	6	8
It.	Cushions	.. .. .		8	0

It.	Glass bottles & Lanthorn	..	..	..	3	0	
It.	Silver plate	..	..	..	2	0	0
It.	All her apparel	..	..	..	3	0	0
It.	Moneys owing for beasts sold	..	..	..	20	0	0
It.	Moneys owing for sheep sold	..	..	..	16	0	0
It.	John Moore of Santon owing for his tenement				4	13	4
Sum total ..					£92	5	4

Debts owing by Mrs. Mary Irton deceased.

Imp.	To Mr. William Stanley	..	..	..	£2	0	0
It.	To Emme Bibbie	..	..	..	10	0	0
It.	To John Jackson..	..	..	..	5	5	0
It.	To John Lucas	..	..	..	3	0	0
It.	To Nicholas Hunter	..	..	..	1	0	0
It.	To William Ceddie	..	..	..		11	0
It.	To Edward Bibbie	..	..	..		14	0
Sum total ..					£22	10	0

Bond dated 26 March, 1647.

Barbary Irton bound to administer the property of Mary Irton, her late mother.

Bondsmen. Barbary Irton of Irton and John Parker of Eskdale in the county of Cumberland.

Signed and delivered in presence of Alen Brabin, Notary Public.

APPENDIX 7.

IRTON, JOHN, THE ELDER, LATE OF IRTON HALL DECEASED.

1676. Bond of John Shacklocke of Irton in the county of Cumberland and John Irton of Irton hall, in the county of Cumberland, Esq., sworn on inventory of said John Irton the elder deceased, which is to be exhibited at the Registry of Kyrby Kendall by 24 August next ensuing in order that Letters of Administration may be taken out.

Signed in presence of Stephen Bricketts (query surname) Edmond Guy.

I desire that John Shacklocke of Irton may make administration of all those goods that my late husband died possessed of for I shall not any way meddle in it, and this shall be your discharge.

Witness my hand—Ann Irton.

In presence of Nicho Whitehead—mark.

A declaration of the Account of John Shacklock administrator of all and singular the goods, etc. belonging to John Irton late of Irton-hall in the parish of Irton of the Archdeaconry of Richmond in Diocese of Chester deceased as follows.

Imp. This accountant charges himself with all the goods, rights, credits and chattels of deceased expressed in the inventory thereof, made by this accountant exhibited in the registry of this court, amounting to £41. 9s. 2d.

Out of which the accountant claims allowance of several sums of money disbursed by him for funeral expenses and debts of deceased owing by him at time of his decease.

Paid to Mr. Christo. Irton for a debt owing by deceased at time of his death and discharged by the accountant £52. 0. 0. So it appears by this account that the accountant has paid much more than the deceased goods came to, he therefore prays to be discharged from all further instance of this court.

John Shacklock his mark.

Inventory of goods and chattels of Mr. John Irton of Irton deceased 4 February by us four viz. Henry Caddy, John Mosscrop? John Moore and Ersseck?

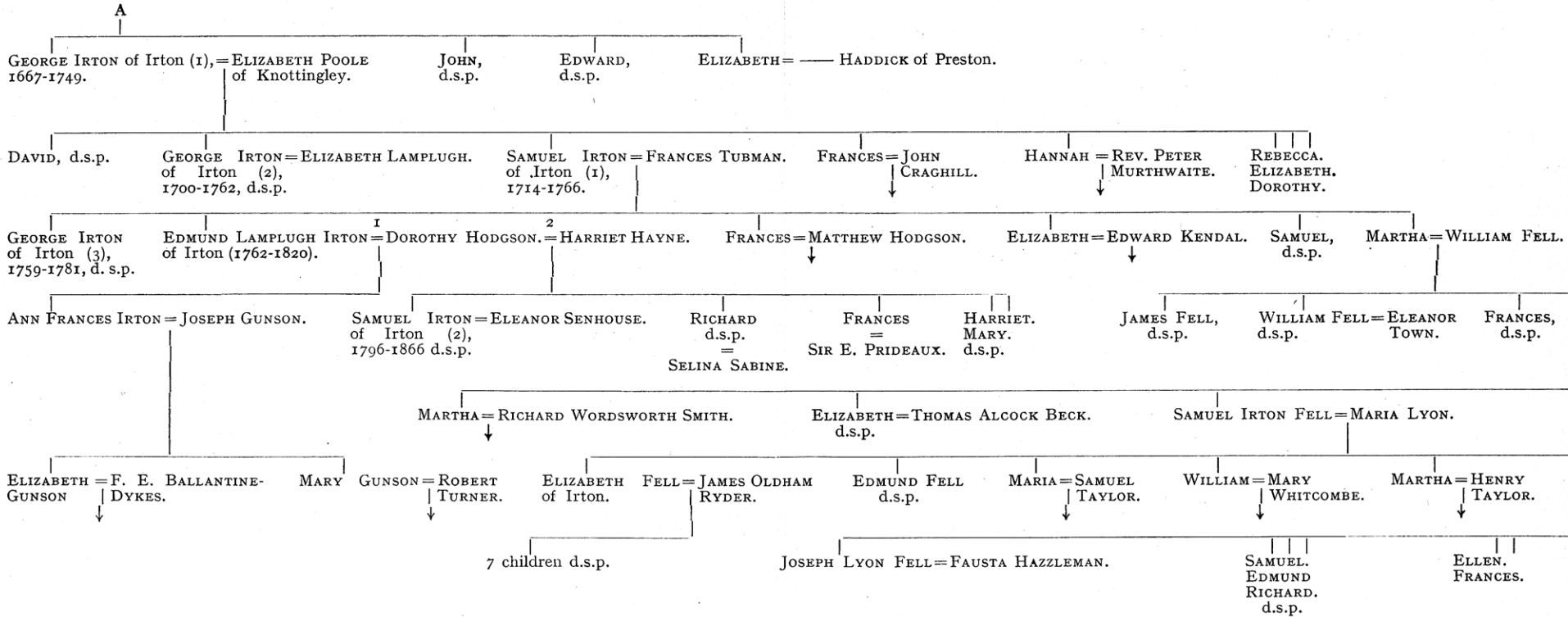
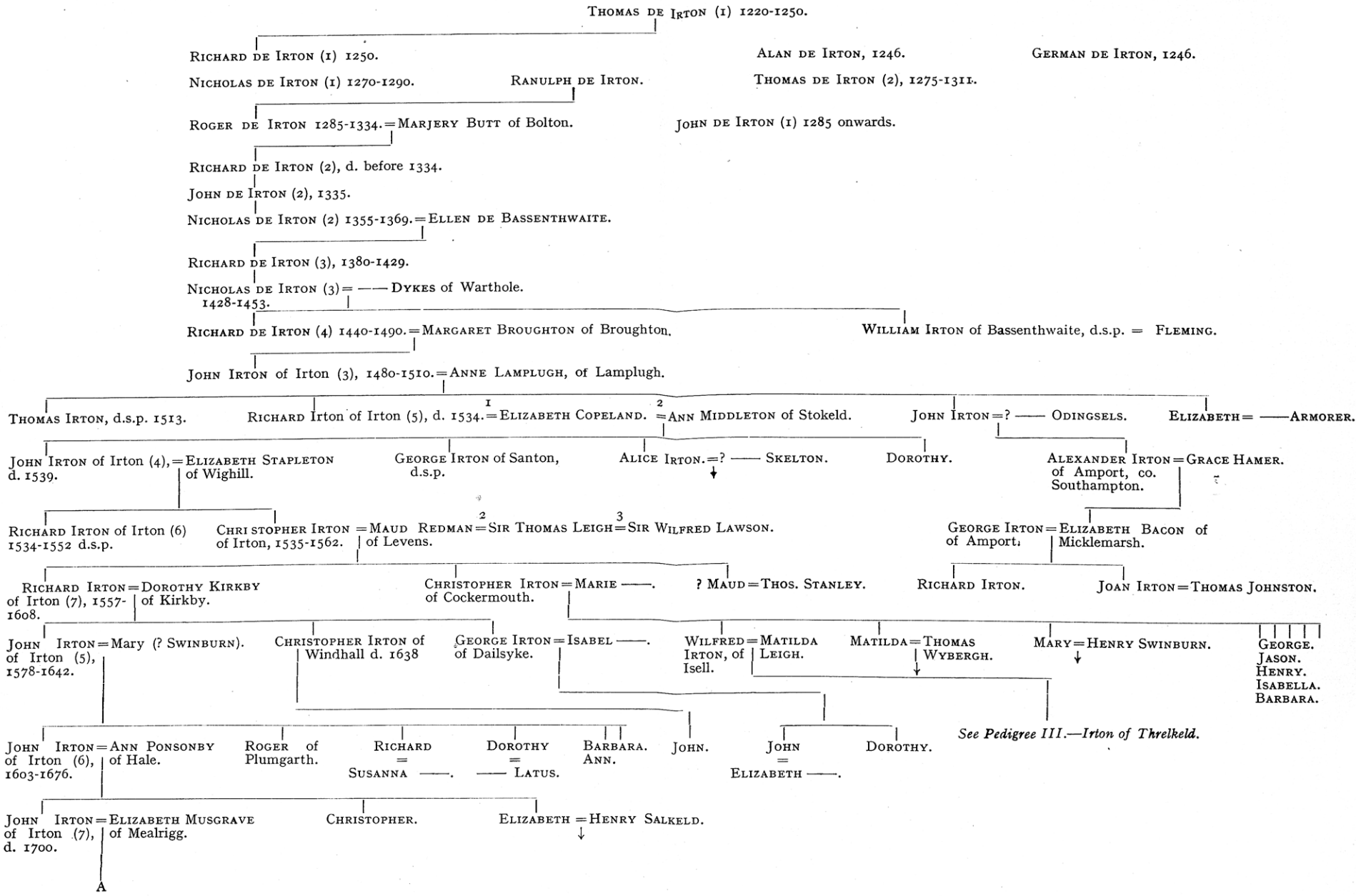
Imp.	His apparel	..	..	..	..	..	£3	6	8
	Bedding, sheets and pillows	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
Itm.	Two feather beds and bolsters	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	0
Itm.	Rugs and blankets	..	..	..	..	..	3	0	0
Itm.	Bedstock	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	0
Itm.	Table linen	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Itm.	Curtains and valons	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	0
Itm.	Cupboards	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	0
Itm.	Tables	..	..	..	..	..	3	10	0
Itm.	Chairs, forms and stools	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	0
Itm.	Trunks and chests	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	0
Itm.	Pewter and brass	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	0
Itm.	Plate	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	8
Itm.	Barrels, vats and wood and (query)	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	8
Itm.	One old brass mortar, pestel, secks and pots	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	6
Itm.	Small wood vessel	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	4
Itm.	Wheel	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	0
Itm.	(query)	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	0
Itm.	Hemp yarn	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0
Itm.	Husbandry gear	..	..	..	..	..	0	13	4
Itm.	Pullen	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	0

Itn.	Losewood shelves	..	..	..	..	0	3	4
Itn.	One Bible	..	..	..	..	0	6	8
Itn.	One horse	..	..	..	..	0	6	8
Itn.	Twenty old sheep and five hogs	..	..	..	..	4	0	0
Itn.	One little pece?	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Itn.	(query)	..	..	..	..	2	11	0

Sum total .. £41 9 2

Archdeaconry Court of Richmond. Copeland. 1676.

PEDIGREE II. IRTON OF IRTON HALL.



PEDIGREE III. IRTON OF THRELKELD.

