

ART. XVII.—*The Early History of the Stricklands of Sizergh.* By S. H. LEE WASHINGTON, M.A., F.I.A.G.

THE history of the time-honoured Westmorland house of Strickland of Sizergh is one of very special interest; for not only can the Stricklands themselves boast as a distinguished member of their family the late Lord Strickland, a former Governor of New South Wales, but Sizergh, which they acquired by marriage with a d'Eyncourt heiress in the thirteenth century, continues to this day to be the principal seat of the family. I should add that it is only with the greatest diffidence that I am venturing to present another paper on the Strickland pedigree; and my sole excuse is that the various genealogists who have dealt with this subject in the past* have perforce neglected the resources of the London Public Record Office, on account of the extraordinarily rich collection of family archives which is preserved at Sizergh Castle. I thus hope that my own researches amongst the Plea Rolls and other unpublished material

* Curiously enough, the Stricklands were omitted from all the Visitations: and the first coherent account of them is that contained in Nicolson and Burn's *History of Westmorland and Cumberland* (1777), vol. I, pp. 87 *et seq.*, which is based almost entirely on the MS. pedigree and abstracts of Sizergh documents prepared *circa* 1770, at the request of Mrs. Cecilia Strickland, by the Rev. Thomas West, S.J. In 1887 an elaborate article, entitled "Genealogy of the Stricklands of Sizergh," was contributed by Edward Bellasis, of the College of Arms, to these *Transactions*, o.s., x, 75 *et seq.* More recently, two separate publications dealing in detail with the family descent have appeared in England, viz., Daniel Scott's *The Stricklands of Sizergh Castle* (1908) and H. Hornyold-Strickland's *Stricklands of Sizergh* (1928). Plantagenet-Harrison's *History of Yorkshire* (1878) includes a partial genealogy (*ibid.*, p. 375), which, like the other products of its learned but misguided author, is a curious blend of fact and fiction: and shorter references will also be found in Archdeacon Prescott's *Register of the Priory of Wetherhal* (1897) and in Canon Wilson's *Register of the Priory of St. Bees* (Surtees Society, 1915).

at the Record Office and elsewhere, may help to supplement the existing information;* since, despite the attention of scholars, there is much in the early generations that has remained obscure, whilst the descent of the original lords of Sizergh—the d'Eyncourts—has never been properly investigated. In the first half of this paper I shall therefore attempt to contribute some *addenda et corrigenda* to the Strickland pedigree prior to the reign of Edward III; and the second section I shall devote to the ancestry of Elizabeth d' Eyncourt, the heiress who brought Sizergh in marriage to Sir William de Strickland, and who was descended (as will presently appear) not only from such distinguished feudal houses as Stuteville, Fleming and Greystoke, but even from the great Gospatric, Earl of Northumberland, and hence from the ancient Scottish and English kings.

PART I. THE STRICKLANDS.

It has long been established that the founder of the Strickland family was Walter de Strickland, living in the first quarter of the thirteenth century, who has been rightly placed by Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (in his admirable work, *Stricklands of Sizergh* [1928], p. 10) as a younger son of Adam, lord of Castlecarrock in Cumberland.† This identification of Walter's parentage leads

* I have likewise at various times enjoyed access to the Sizergh muniments (not all of which have been previously made use of), as well as to the great mass of private charters and evidences at Levens Hall, Rydal Hall and Lowther Castle: and my best thanks are hereby tendered to Henry Hornyold-Strickland, Esq., F.S.A. and the late John F. Curwen, Esq., F.S.A., also to the Trustees of the Lowther Estates and the late Stanley Hughes Le Fleming, Esq., of Rydal Hall, for their courteous assistance in facilitating my enquiries during the past few years.

† Adam's eldest son and successor, Robert of Castlecarrock, is called "brother" of Walter de Strickland in the latter's charter to the monks of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, *ibid*). This disposes of the absurd legend, fostered by Agnes Strickland, the historian, that the Stricklands descended from an imaginary Sir Adam "Stryke-land," so called from being the first Norman to reach the English shore during William the Conqueror's invasion of 1066!

to a still more interesting possibility; for, although Mr. Hornyold-Strickland carries his pedigree no further, there seems a reasonable presumption that Adam's father was none other than Eustace de Vaux, who had been enfeoffed of Castlecarrock *circa* 1160 by Hubert de Vaux, baron of Gilsland—in which case the Stricklands themselves can claim direct male descent from Robert de Vaux, the Domesday tenant of Pentney under Roger Bigod.* Eustace de "Vallibus" is duly mentioned by

* The family of Vaux derived their surname from the *terram et feodum de Vallibus* in Normandy, which King John, on 14 July, 1199, confirmed to the abbey of St. Jean de Falaise (*Rot. Chart.* [Record Com.], p. 5). Robert de Vaux (of Pentney) and Aitard de Vaux (of Surlingham), who were apparently brothers, appear in the Domesday Survey as holding of the fee of Bigod extensive lands in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. In 1246 Maud, daughter and heiress of the last Hubert de Vaux of Gilsland, claimed Aitard de Vaux as her "ancestor" (Assize Roll, Norfolk and Suffolk, no. 818, m. 19 d.); but he was presumably only a collateral progenitor, since the direct descent was unquestionably from his brother, Robert de Vaux of Pentney (see R. S. Ferguson, "The Barony of Gilsland and its Owners," these *Transactions*, o.s. iv, 446 *et seq.*). This Robert, who in 1086 gave part of his tithes of Bernières in Normandy to St. Evroult, left issue four sons (cp. R. S. Ferguson, *ibid.*): (1) Robert, the founder of Pentney priory and a benefactor of the monks of Castleacre, Norfolk (Dugdale, *Monasticon* [1st edit.], I, 628 b; II, 19). He rendered the sum of £4 6s. 8d. in 1131 for having the inheritance of his wife (Agnes) at "Hocton" [Houghton], co. Norfolk (*Pipe Roll*, 31 Henry I [Rec. Com.], p. 92); (2) Robert, surnamed *pinguis* ('the fat'); (3) Gilbert; (4) Hubert, afterwards the 1st Norman lord of Gilsland. A fifth son, called Ranulf de Vaux, is traditionally stated to have been enfeoffed by Ranulf 'le Meschin' (lord of Carlisle and subsequently Earl of Chester) of the three Cumberland townships of Castle Sowerby, Upperby and Carlatton (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], p. 492). But the second Robert de Vaux (the founder of Pentney), in his charter to Castleacre, gives the names of his brothers as Robert *pinguis*, Gilbert, and Hubert, without any mention of Ranulf (Dugdale, *Monasticon*, I, 628 b); and not improbably there is simply a confusion here with Hubert de Vaux's younger son, Ranulf (afterwards 3rd lord of Gilsland)—especially as Hubert's eldest son, Robert (2nd lord of Gilsland), was undoubtedly in possession of Castle Sowerby in 1186 (*Pipe Roll*). Hubert de Vaux himself was at the Court of the Empress Maud before the accession of Henry II. (Round, *Cal. Docs. France*, pp. 72, 208), and received the barony of Gilsland, co. Cumb., from the latter monarch in November, 1158 (*Victoria County History of Cumberland*, I, 306). The story that he and his brother Robert [Robert *pinguis*?] had been in possession respectively of Gilsland and Dalston some thirty years earlier, as feoffees of Ranulf 'le Meschin' (Wilson, *St. Bees*, p. 492), is probably apochryphal. Hubert died in 1165, leaving by Grace, his wife, at least two sons:—Robert, who *d. s. p.* 1195, and Ranulf, who became his brother's successor and from whom the later lords of Gilsland

Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (*op. cit.*, p. 6) who does not, however, definitely affiliate him to Adam of Castlecarrock; but that the christian name "Adam" was in use amongst the Vauxes at this period is evidenced by the occurrence of an Adam de Vaux as mesne-lord of Torcrossoc in Gilsland *circa* 1200.* Moreover, if this view of Adam of Castlecarrock's parentage be accepted (and there can be no question that, at least territorially speaking, he was Eustace de Vaux's successor), an equally noteworthy descent would be involved on the maternal side; since, according to the antiquary Denton (*Accompt of Cumberland*, ed. Ferguson, pp. 195-6), Eustace had married one of the two sisters and co-heiresses of Robert son of Bueth, who was the last direct male descendant of a native chieftain, Gilles son of Bueth, the original owner of Gilsland (Gilles-land) in the days of Henry I.†

derived (see G. E. C's. *Complete Peerage* [ed. Gibbs], IX, 397). Very likely Eustace de Vaux, who held Castlecarrock and Hayton of the fee of Gilsland (Denton, *Accompt*, pp. 103, 139), was a third son of Hubert: he, at all events, must have been a near relative. Incidentally, it is interesting to observe that the Vauxes of Gilsland continued to maintain their East Anglian associations, despite their acquisition of a Cumbrian barony; since Hubert II de Vaux (died 1234) was in possession of Surlingham, co. Norfolk, and Denham, co. Suffolk, both of which had belonged to Aitard de Vaux in 1086 (Assize Roll, no. 818, m. 19 d.). The christian name "Hubert" perhaps points to some ancestral connection of the Vauxes in Norfolk and Suffolk with the neighbouring families of Walter and Munchensy. Archbishop Hubert Walter was the guardian of Robert son of Ranulf de Vaux (grandson of the first Hubert of Gilsland) in 1199 (*Pipe Roll*, 1 John); and *circa* 1150 Hubert III de Munchensy confirmed to William de Vaux land in Stratford [co. Essex ?] which the latter's father, William de Vaux, Senior, had formerly held (*Cal. Ancient Deeds*, C. 2421). The original Hubert de Munchensy was a tenant-in-chief in East Anglia at the time of Domesday Book.

* It seems not altogether impossible that this Adam de Vaux and Adam of Castlecarrock were identical. Nothing is known of Adam de Vaux's connection with Torcrossoc, beyond the statement of Denton (*Accompt*, p. 163) that he alienated the property to Robert son of William [de Corby], by a charter issued in the presence of Archbishop Hubert Walter and Robert de "Vallibus" (evidently Robert son of Ranulf de Vaux of Gilsland). The names of these two witnesses date the charter itself as having been granted between 1199 and 1205.

† Eustace de Vaux's posterity could thus boast the blood of both the native and the Norman lords of Gilsland—a circumstance made more romantic by the fact that a fierce rivalry long existed between them (cp. *Victoria County History*

The outstanding problem in the early Strickland genealogy, however, is not so much the descent of Walter de Strickland as that of his wife Christian, about whose origin nothing definite has ever been ascertained, beyond the fact that a Fine of 120s. (quoted in a succeeding paragraph) proves that she was actually the heiress of the manor of Great Strickland, co. Westmorland, from which the family surname was derived (Scott, *Stricklands of Sizergh Castle*, p. 10). Two rival theories as to her identity have, it is true, long held the field; but neither of them appears to rest on a sufficiently substantial foundation.

Thus, theory number one is based on the circumstance that Great Strickland itself, although situated in the parish of Morland a few miles from Appleby, was a 'member' not of the barony of Appleby but of the barony of Kendal;* and hence it has been argued that

of Cumberland, I, 306, 310). Gilles son of Bueth, only actually occurs twice in contemporary records—first, amongst the *judices Cumbrenses* who officiated at David of Scotland's inquest concerning the lands of the See of Glasgow circa 1124 (Lawrie, *Early Scottish Charters*, p. 46), and, secondly, as a witness to the perambulation of the bounds of Stobo, co. Galloway, circa 1150 (*Scottish Antiquary*, XVII, pp. 105-11). There are other indications, however, that he and his family long remained a thorn in the side of the Norman invaders (*V.C.H. Cumberland*, loc. cit.; these *Transactions*, o.s., iv, 450). By one means or another, he himself seems to have retained possession of Gilsland right up till the date of Henry II's recovery of the northern counties from Scottish domination in 1156; and, though his death is expressly referred to in Henry's transfer of Gilsland to Hubert de Vaux two years later, his son, Bueth barn (i.e. 'the younger'), and grandson, Robert son of Bueth, evidently made desperate attempts to recover their lost inheritance (cp. these *Transactions*, n.s., xxvi, 285 *et seq.*). This last-mentioned Robert son of Bueth was an adherent of King William the Lion of Scotland in his invasion of England in 1174, but in 1177 procured a pardon from the English Crown on payment of a fine (Pipe Roll). He appears to have died without issue, and to have left two sisters as his co-heirs (cp. Denton, *Accompt*, pp. 103, 195-6), married respectively to Eustace de Vaux of Castlecarrock and to Robert son of Asketill of Over Denton. (The latter's son, John de Denton, confirmed in 1214 to the monks of Wetheral a gift previously made to them by "Robert son of Bueth, my uncle.")

* The service owed was one-fourth of a knight's fee (*Cal. Inqs.*, IX, p. 202; *ibid.*, X, pp. 467-8). It seems worth while to point out that Mr. Hornyold-Strickland, in his remarks upon the early history of Great Strickland (*op. cit.*, p. 15), has been misled into confusing it with the manor of Strickland in south Westmorland, which was afterwards represented by the two townships of

Christian was a sister of the contemporary baron of Kendal, Gilbert fitz Renfrid, and that she received the manor of Great Strickland as her *maritagium** (Hornyard-Strickland, *op. cit.*, pp. 10-12). This hypothesis, however, seems to me entirely inadmissible. For, quite apart from there being no vestige of proof of any such relationship between Christian and Gilbert, we must remember that Gilbert's own title to the barony of Kendal was merely derived through his marriage to Helewise de Lancaster,†

Strickland Roger and Strickland Ketel. He has also identified a native thegn called Gillemichael, who is mentioned in Domesday as having held this same manor of Strickland under Edward the Confessor, with the Gilles son of Bueth who was lord of Gilsland *circa* 1150 (*ibid.*, p. 4). The latter statement has since found its way into Burke's *Peerage* and other publications, although Gilles and Gillemichael not only lived in different centuries but were actually unconnected with each other. Moreover, Great Strickland near Appleby (*i.e.* in north Westmorland)—with which we are concerned in the present article—is not even mentioned in the Domesday Survey, being at that period part of a district that had not yet been effectually brought under Norman control.

* Mr. Hornyard-Strickland sets great store by the fact that the early Stricklands, in place of their ordinary arms, *Sable three escallops Argent*, occasionally used an alternative coat based on that borne by the lords of Kendal (*op. cit.*, pp. 12, 214). But a similar practice can be observed in the arms of several other fiefholders of the same barony (e.g. de Preston, Bardsley, and de Derwentwater); and clearly no inferences can be drawn from the case of the Stricklands, which merely affords one example of the exceedingly widespread custom of a family 'differencing' the coat of his feudal superiors. (For a further discussion of the Strickland arms, see p. 228).

† Helewise was the daughter and heiress of the second William de Lancaster, lord of Kendal (died 1184), and granddaughter of the first William de Lancaster (who died 1170). Mr. Hornyard-Strickland devotes considerable space to the ancestry of Helewise's husband, Gilbert fitz Renfrid, whom he represents (*op. cit.*, pp. 2-3) as son of Roger fitz Renfrid by Rohese, widow of Gilbert de Gant, Earl of Lincoln, and daughter and heiress of William de "Romare," Earl of Lincoln, son of Roger fitz Gerold (de "Romare") by Lucy, daughter and heiress of Ivo de [sic] Taillebois by Lucy, sister of Earls Edwin and Morcar and granddaughter of no less a personage than the celebrated Lady Godiva. The real object of this pedigree—apart from the splendour of the actual descent involved—is apparently to affiliate Gilbert fitz Renfrid, the alleged brother of Christian, wife of Walter de Strickland, with Ivo Taillebois [his surname of 'Taillebois' was not territorial, but simply a nickname], who is known to have received a grant of the manor of Strickland *circa* 1090. As we have seen, however, it can be demonstrated that Ivo's estate was not Great Strickland near Appleby, but the south Westmorland Strickland previously owned by Gillemichael (see footnote * p. 192); and, moreover, Gilbert fitz Renfrid was not really descended from Ivo Taillebois at all. Indeed, the actual marriage of his father, Roger fitz Renfrid, with Earl Gilbert de Gant's widow, Rohese, has still to be established; and, apart from that, it has long ago been proved

so that he would be unlikely to enfeoff his sister and her descendants of land which he himself could only claim to hold *jure uxoris*.

The second, and rival, theory—which was originally propounded by the late Dr. William Farrer*—seeks to identify Christian as the daughter and co-heiress of a certain Uctred; but here, too, the arguments fall to the ground for lack of proof, nor, indeed, did Dr. Farrer ever intend this supposition as anything save an interesting possibility. He founded his conjecture solely and simply on the Westmorland Fine of 1208 (previously mentioned), which records that Walter de “Stircland” and Christian his wife made an agreement with “Sigrid daughter of Uctred” regarding a carucate of land in “Stircland” [Great Strickland], whereby Walter and Christian acknowledged the said property to be the right of Sigrid to hold of them and of the heirs of Christian by the free

that Rohese, so far from being the daughter of William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln, was actually the daughter of the latter's maternal cousin, Richard de Clare. True, in either case she would have derived from Lucy, the wife of Ivo Taillebois and the grandchild (as Mr. Hornyold-Strickland has it) of the immortal Maid of Coventry [*vide infra*]. But it can be shown that Lucy and Ivo's marriage was childless and, furthermore, that there were not two Lucys (mother and daughter) but only one (cp. G.E.C.'s *Complete Peerage* [ed. Gibbs], IX). In other words, Lucy herself was married thrice—first to Ivo Taillebois (by whom she had no issue), secondly to Roger fitz Gerold (by whom she became the mother of William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln), and thirdly to Ranulf ‘le Meschin,’ Earl of Chester (by whom she left *inter alia* a daughter, Alice, wife of Richard de Clare and mother of the Rohese who espoused Earl Gilbert de Gant). Another feature of Mr. Hornyold-Strickland's pedigree that requires mention is the resurrection of the long-exploded theory which places Lucy as the sister of Earls Edwin and Morcar. On the contrary, nothing whatever can be proved about Lucy's parentage except that she was, maternally, the niece of Robert Malet of Eye. After a prolonged study of the question, however, I have become convinced of the soundness of the hypothesis which identifies her father with Turolde the Sheriff (of Lincoln). But Turolde's own origin and ancestry remain wrapped in mystery; and certainly neither he nor Robert Malet could boast the faintest relationship to Lady Godiva.

In all this I do not mean to cavil unduly at Mr. Hornyold-Strickland's statements, my principal aim being merely to demonstrate once and for all that Gilbert fitz Renfrid was *not* a descendant of Ivo Taillebois and that Ivo himself was totally unconnected with the manor of Great Strickland.

* Quoted in Scott, *The Stricklands of Sizergh Castle*, pp. 12-13.

service of a two shilling render yearly. Thereupon, Sigrid granted to them all her land "from Aspelgile to Groshousic and from Groshousic to Bounwath," with remainder to Christian and her issue; and it was specified that Sigrid and her heirs were not to be amerced in the Court of the said Walter and Christian above an amercement of two shillings (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 10 John, No. 28). On the basis of the above document, Dr. Farrer proceeded to infer that Christian wife of Walter de Strickland and Sigrid daughter of Uctred were sisters, and that Uctred must have been mesne-lord of Great Strickland under the barons of Kendal.* But such a supposition is scarcely warranted by the language of the Fine. In the first place Christian is nowhere described, either in the Fine or in any other record, as Uctred's daughter; and in the second place there is nothing to show that this Uctred had ever possessed the *manor* of Great Strickland at all. That his daughter Sigrid (who was probably his sole heiress)† did succeed him in the tenure of a carucate of ploughland there, is apparent from the Fine itself; but this assuredly does not imply that Uctred's own status had been anything more than that of a freeholder or an under-tenant of Christian's actual father. Indeed, a somewhat analogous position would seem to have been occupied by another native landowner

* "This Ughtred had two daughters—I suppose—Christiana, married to Walter de Stirkland, and Siegrid, a widow or unmarried in 1208" (cp. Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 12). Dr. Farrer also placed Robert of Castlecarrock as brother of Sigrid and son of Uctred, which is unquestionably at variance with the facts (see footnote † p. 189).

† As a matter of interest, I might mention that a Final Concord of 1200 shows that Sigrid had married a certain Maldred, who is described as *quondam viri sui* in a claim which she then brought against Walter, son of Durand [of Great Asby] for dower in her deceased husband's property at "Werfton," co. Westmorland (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 2 John). Another Fine of the year 1208 refers to an agreement touching two bovates of land in "Stirkeland," made between "Sigrith" daughter of Uctred and Gilbert de Lancaster (*ibid.*, 10 John). Incidentally, the names 'Maldred' and 'Uctred' are curiously reminiscent of those borne by the early paternal ancestors of the historic house of Neville.

called Dolfin, whose daughter Eve occurs in 1246 as claiming various lands in "Stirkland" against Adam, son of the said Christian and Walter—the lands in question having previously been held by the plaintiff's father (Dolfin) "*in dominico ut de feodo et iure tempore domini Johannis regis, patris domini regis qui nunc est*" (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 31 Henry III, no 454).

Meanwhile, although far from being able myself to provide a complete solution to Christian's origin, I can at least offer a partial key to the mystery. For in the following hitherto undiscovered extract from the Westmorland Assize Rolls, Sir William de Strickland—who is known to have been Walter and Christian's great-grandson†—explicitly refers to the latter as his "great-grandmother, Christian *de Leteham*."

Michaelmas Term, 1291: "Alan son of Thomas son of Bernard de Midelton, seeks against William de Burgh of Lonesdale one messuage and eight acres of land and three acres of meadow in Midelton in Lonesdale [in the parish of Kirkby Lonsdale, co. Westmorland], which he claims by a grant from Ralph de Berburne. And William de Stirklaund [Strickland] seeks against the said William de Burgh one messuage and sixteen acres of land, which his great-grandmother Christian de Leteham (*Cristiana de Leteham proavia praedicti Willelmi de Stirklaund*), whose heir he is, held on the day of her death. And William de

* A further example may be cited in the case of the "Thomas Long of Stirkland" who evidently possessed a freehold in Great Strickland at about the same date (see page 225 and footnote * p. 225). At a slightly later period (*circa* 1260-80), Henry de Lynacre and Christian, his daughter, and John Gudeberd and Margery, his wife, occur as resident landowners there (Sizergh MSS.).

† In February, 1292-3 Sir William confirmed to the monks of Wetheral the charter previously granted them by Walter de Strickland, *proavi sui* (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, pp. 326-7; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 18). There is also recorded a release from John de Reygate, curate of Morland, to Sir William de Stirkelände of an annual rent of four pounds of wax for having a chantry in his chapel of Stirkelände, etc., the said chantry having been originally founded by Walter de Stirkelände, "great-grandfather of the said Sir William" (*Hist. MSS. Com., Various Collections* [1903], II, p. 339).

Burgh comes and calls to warrant Matthew de Burgh and Avice his wife, who come and say that they hold the said land in right of the said Avice—along with Gregory de Thornton and Agnes his wife, John de Bolton and Eve his wife, and Gilbert de Burnolfsheved [Burneshead] and Christian his wife—of the inheritance of Ralph de Berburne, father of the aforesaid Avice, Agnes, Eve and Christian. . But all the above-named lands and tenements are now in the King's hands for felony owing to the imprisonment of the said Gilbert (de Burnolfsheved); wherefore the said Alan (de Midelton) and William (de Stirklaund) are without a day," etc. (Assize Roll, Westmorland, No. 985, m. 23).

This document is incidentally of value as establishing for the first time the identity of the wife of Gilbert de Burneshead, or Burneside (a prominent figure in Westmorland *temp.* Edward I), as one of the four daughters and co-heiresses of Ralph de Berburne; and we further learn that another daughter had married Sir Gregory de Thornton, who served as Knight of the Shire for Yorkshire on no less than eleven different occasions between 1313 and 1333. The Berburnes had had possessions at Middleton-in-Lonsdale from a very early period. In 1280 Ralph de Berburne was defendant in an asize of novel disseisin regarding a tenement in "Midelton" brought by Adam del Eskes (Dep. Keeper's Report, XLIX, Appendix, p. 119); and about the same date, as "Ralph son of Gilbert de Bereburn," he acquired property there from William son of Gilbert de Layfite (Farrer MSS.). Moreover, nearly a century beforehand, Richard de Berburne, lord of Berburne (*alias* Barbon in Kendal), granted land at Middleton in frank-almoign to the canons of Cockersand (*Cockersand Chartulary* [Chetham Society], p. 926).*

* Ralph de Berburne, father of the four co-heiresses, held Whitwell and Godwinscales (in Kendal), co. Westmorland, of William de Lindsay in 1283

But our interest naturally centres chiefly in Christian "de Leteham," wife of Walter de Strickland and great-grandmother of Sir William de Strickland, the claimant in the above suit against Ralph de Berburne's co-heirs; and it thus becomes apparent that her own inheritance—in addition to the manor of Great Strickland near Appleby—had likewise included holdings in south Westmorland at Middleton-in-Lonsdale, where her great-grandson still retained an interest in 1291. Nevertheless, in spite of this fresh information and of the vital new fact regarding Christian's previous surname, we are not even yet entirely out of the wood. The very name 'de Leteham,' for instance, presents difficulty; for there are no place-names in Westmorland which furnish any corresponding equivalents, though there is a Leatham in northern Northumberland and a Kirkleatham in the North-east Riding of Yorkshire—not to mention Lytham in the Hundred of Amoundness, co. Lancaster, which was not infrequently written 'Liteham' or 'Letham' in records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (cp. Baines, *History of Lancashire*, ed. Harland [1870], II, p. 503). It seems impossible, however, to affiliate Christian herself with any of the families associated with those three localities,* and at present the most that one dare say is

(*Cal. Inqs.*, II, p. 269), and seems to have left a widow named Christian, who in 1298 was the relict of Adam de Layrwatholm (De Banco Roll, no. 122, m. 70; *ibid.*, no. 118, ms. 59 d. and 74 d.). He was the son and heir of Gilbert de Berburne by his wife Joan, the eldest of the three daughters and co-heiresses Roland de Reagill (Levens Hall MSS.; *Excerpt. e Rot. Fin.*, II, 278). This Gilbert was apparently the son of Gilbert, younger brother of Richard, lord of Berburne (already mentioned), whose daughter and heiress, Sybil, married Robert Fossard and became the ancestress of the family of Lascelles of Escrick (Farrer, *Records of Kendale*, II, p. 365; *Cockersand Chartulary* [Chetham Soc.], pp. 927-8; *Plac. de quo Waranto* [Record Com.], p. 787).

* Cp. Hodgson-Hinde, *History of Northumberland*, pt. II; *Victoria County Hist. of Yorks.* [North Riding], II, pp. 103-5; and *Victoria County Hist. of Lancs.*, VII, pp. 214, 285-7. However, the early Lancashire lords of Lytham—the descendants of Roger, son of Ravenkil, thegn of Woodplumpton—had lands (at Whittington, etc.) near Middleton-in-Lonsdale, where part of Christian's own inheritance was situated; and no less than three of the daughters and co-heiresses of the last thegn of Woodplumpton, Richard fitz

that it would appear probable that she was the daughter and heiress of . . . de Leteham [first name unknown], who held the manor of Great Strickland and property at Middleton-in-Lonsdale of the barony of Kendal.*

In the meantime, besides younger sons Robert and William and a daughter Amabel, wife of Richard de Preston,† Walter and Christian de Strickland also left an

Roger (who died in 1200 without male issue), married into families possessing Westmorland or Cumberland connections [e.g. one daughter, Margaret, became the wife of Hugh de Multon of co. Westmorland; another, Avice, married William de Millum of Millum, co. Cumberland; and a third, Amice, married Thomas de Beetham of Beetham in Kendal, great-great-grandfather of the Sir Thomas de Beetham who was M.P. for Westmorland in 1302]. But, unluckily, none of Richard fitz Roger's daughters was called "Christian" (cp. George Ormerod, *Parentalia*, p. 7); and, moreover, they did not even inherit the manor of Lytham, which their father had granted to the Benedictine priory of Durham by charter issued between 1189 and 1194 (Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe Rolls and Early Charters*, p. 346; *Reginald of Durham* [Surtees Society, vol. I], pp. 280-4).

* Conceivably some ancestral relationship with the Berburnes (for whom see footnote * p. 197) lay behind the Middleton-in-Lonsdale lawsuit of 1291; and, moreover, in the twelfth century the Berburnes held considerable property at Lowther, which adjoins Great Strickland (these *Transactions*, n.s., xvi, 114). But, in the absence of more concrete evidence, it is profitless to indulge in further speculations.

† For the son Robert (who was living in 1220 and from whom the later generations of the family descended), see pages 204-207. The son William occurs in a Westmorland Fine of 1246, when William son of Walter [de Strickland] and Amabel his wife were the defendants in a claim for property at "Stirkeland" brought by Roger son of Jordan [de Lancaster] (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 31 Henry III, no. 4). The daughter Amabel (who must not be confused with her sister-in-law Amabel, wife of William son of Walter) can be identified from a charter granted by Walter de Strickland to the priory of St. Bees, in which he confirms a gift made by Richard de Preston and the said Richard's wife Amabel, *filia mea* (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], p. 414. The early Preston pedigree has not hitherto been worked out; but the above Richard de Preston, who was of Preston Richard in Kendal, co. Westmorland, appears to have died before 1256, leaving by Amabel de Strickland (who survived him [cp. Wilson, *St. Bees*, pp. 414-5]), a son and heir, Sir Richard, whose wife was named Alice (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 40 Henry III, no. 30). The latter was father of a third Sir Richard, who married Amabel [? de Burton] and was M.P. for Westmorland in 1290, dying shortly before the year 1315 (see S. H. Lee Washington, *The Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*, 1258-1327). Thanks to this Strickland alliance the Prestons acquired property at Great Strickland (cp. Wilson, *St. Bees*, pp. 412-5), which was considerably increased by later generations. It is interesting to note that the first Richard (husband of Amabel de Strickland) was a cousin-german of Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt of Sizergh (see Part II).

elder son, Adam (who was presumably called after his paternal grandfather, Adam of Castlecarrow). There can be no doubt that this Adam son of Walter was indeed his father's heir, since—along with Robert of Castlecarrow, the grantor's brother—he was witness as a consenting party to Walter de Strickland's charter to the priory of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, pp. 326-7; Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 9; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, pp. 10-11). But, aside from that, practically nothing has been known about him; and the available evidence is both scanty and conflicting. To start with, it is generally assumed that Adam died *vita patris* "about 1230" (cp. Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 12), on the grounds that Walter de Strickland (Adam's father) was still living in September, 1236, when he officiated as a Justice at Appleby (Bain, *Cal. Docs. Scots.*, I, no. 1289), and that Sir Robert de Strickland—who has invariably been regarded as Adam's successor—made a settlement of the manor of Great Strickland in the year 1239. I shall return to the difficulties raised by the last-mentioned settlement in a moment; but first allow me to point out that no less than four separate documents demonstrate that Adam himself—far from dying "about 1230," as alleged—was in reality alive at least twenty years afterwards. The earliest of these documents consists of an entry on the Westmorland Pipe Roll of 26 Henry III (1242-3), showing that Adam son of Walter paid 40s. "quia retraxit se," and that Roger [*recte*, Robert] de Stirkland and Hugh le Despenser paid the sum of one mark by pledge of the same Adam (Parker, *Pipe Rolls of Cumberland and Westmorland*, p. 200). Next, in 1246 we have the claim (*ante*, page 195) brought by Eve daughter of Dolfin against Adam son of Walter for a bovat and two acres of land in "Stirkland," and against Robert son of Robert de Stirkland for another bovat and thirteen acres there "with the appurtenances" (Assize Roll,

Westmorland, No. 454). Moreover, yet a third document vouchsafes us details of a Final Concord levied at Appleby "on the morrow of St. Martin, 31 Henry III" [12 November, 1246], by which Adam son of Walter agreed that a moiety of the manor of "Stirkland" was the right of Robert son of Robert de Stirkland, in return for which the latter gave Adam eight 'bovates' thereof for life and undertook to provide him with seven and a half quarters of oatmeal *per annum*.* The aforesaid lands were to revert to Robert son of Robert de Stirkland at Adam's decease; and we also meet with the names (as interim feoffees) of Ralph d'Eyncourt (of Sizergh) and Rowland de Reagill (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 31 Henry III, No. 14). In 1247, Robert son of Robert de Stirkland was fined half a mark for leave to come to an agreement (Parker, *op. cit.*, p. 205); and finally, in 1250 the same Robert was impleaded by Adam son of Walter for dower at "Stirkeland,"—a claim which was clearly an echo of the Final Concord of four years before (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 35 Henry III).†

There can thus be no question, in the light of the above records, that Adam son of Walter died, not "about 1230" but some time after the year 1250; and the problem which next confronts us is how to reconcile such a fact with Sir Robert de Strickland's settlement of the manor of Great Strickland as early as 1239. I should explain that the settlement itself had been made by Sir Robert upon the

* The document adds that, in the case of the vill of "Stirkeland," sixteen 'carucates' comprised a single knight's fee. Therefore, as the vill itself owed the service of a quarter of a knight's fee (*ante*, footnote * p. 192), it must accordingly have been rated at four carucates. Now one carucate equals eight bovates; from which it is evident that Robert son of Robert de Stirkland was allowing Adam one-fourth of the manor (*i.e.* half of the moiety).

† The last-mentioned entry was known to Plantagenet-Harrison (see his *History of Yorkshire*, p. 373); but, unluckily, he translated the *Adae* of the original record not as "Adam" but as "Ada" and promptly identified this mythical lady as Adam's own widow—a piece of carelessness that has served, not unnaturally, still further to mislead those dealing with the family genealogy (*cp.* Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 12).

occasion of the marriage of his young son William [the Sir William de Strickland of 1291, etc.] with Elizabeth d'Eyncourt of Sizergh—a marriage which, owing to the broad acres that the bride afterwards inherited, was to have a far-reaching effect upon the future destinies of the race. But, although every writer on the Strickland pedigree from Nicolson and Burn onwards has duly mentioned this famous document, not one of them has quoted it *verbatim*; and, moreover, the general chronological difficulties made both Dr. William Farrer and the late Archdeacon Prescott seriously doubt whether 1239 was really the correct date of the settlement at all (Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 12; *Register of Wetherhal*, p. 326, note 3).

I therefore venture to append a full transcription:—

“Sciant omnes presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus de Stirkland, miles, dedi, concessi, et hoc presenti scripto indentato confirmaui Willelmo filio meo et Elisabete filie Radulpho [*sic*] Daincourt militis totum manerium meum de Magna Stirkland in comitatu Westmerland existente una cum seruicio liberorum tenencium ibidem molendino, boscis, pratis, pascuis, pasturis, et omnibus pasturis et omnibus aliis qualitercumquibus et ubiqiubus eidem manerio spectantibus; tenendum et habendum predictum manerium cum pertinenciis una cum seruiciis liberorum tenencium ibidem, molendino, boscis, et omnibus aliis cum pertinenciis predictis ut predictum est prefatis Willelmo de Stirkland filio meo [et] Elisabete, et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete legitime procreatis de capitalibus dominis feodis illius per servicium inde debita et de inde consueta. Et si contingat quod predicti Willelmus et Elisabeta sine heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete exeuntibus obierint quod absit quod tunc omnia predicta manerium una cum seruiciis liberorum [tenencium] molendino, boscis, et omnibus aliis ut predictum est cum pertinenciis prefato Roberto de Stirkland, militi, heredibus suis et assignatis

suis remaneant imperpetuum. Et ego vero Robertus predictum manerium cum pertinenciis una cum serviciis liberorum tenencium ibidem molendino, boscis, ac omnibus aliis ut predictum est dicto manerio de Magna Stirkland spectantibus predictis Willelmo et Elisabete et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmo et Elisabete et heredibus de corporibus ipsorum Willelmi et Elisabete legitime procreatis contra omnes gentes warantizabim et imperpetuum defendem. In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti scripto [inden]tato sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus domino Thoma de Helbek, domino Roberto [de] Enewyth, militibus, Willelmo de Warthcopp, Galfrido de Brantingham, Henrico de Tyrer, et aliis multis. Dat apud manerium meum in Magna Stirkland in vigilia Sancti Johannis Baptisti [23 June] anno regni regis Henrici filii domini regis Johannis vicessimo tercio." [Seal missing].

Of the witnesses, Sir Thomas de " Helbek " (of Hillbeck in Brough) was the predecessor of a second Sir Thomas, deputy-sheriff of Westmorland, 1292-5; and Sir Robert de " Enewyth " (*i.e.* de Yanwath) is mentioned in numerous charters of the period. Henry de " Tyrer " held the township of Tirergh (now Tirrell) in the parish of Barton; while William de " Warcopp " became the grandfather of Henry de Warcop, M.P. for Westmorland 1315 and 1316, from whom descended the Warcops of Warcop and Smardale.* But the really significant clauses to observe are those dealing with the manor of Great Strickland; for

* The mention of this William de Warcop in 1239 supplies us with a missing generation in the early Warcop pedigree, of which a very inaccurate account was given by the late Canon Ragg in these *Transactions*, n.s., xvi, 168. William himself seems to have been still living on 13 September, 1265, when he occurs in company with Henry de Tirergh (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1265, p. 131). Sir Thomas de Helbeck, Sir Robert de Yanwath, and Henry de Tirergh all attested a grant to Thomas Black made by Gilbert Engaine of Clifton, near Appleby, which, from its reference to Ralph de Nottingham as " then sheriff of Westmorland," must have been issued *circa* 1247-8 (*vide* Nicolson and Burn, *Hist. Westd. and Cumb.*, I, p. 416). For additional particulars about Sir Robert de Yanwath, who was related in some way to the d'Eyncourts, see page 52.

here we find Sir Robert de Strickland already a knight,* and in possession of the entire Great Strickland estate (*totum manerium meum de Magna Stirkland*), less than three years after Walter de Strickland's death and over eleven years prior to the death of Walter's son, Adam.† What, then, is the explanation?

Clearly, I think there can be only one—and that is, that Adam, in spite of being Walter's eldest son, never actually succeeded to the Great Strickland heritage. (That he—like his younger brother, William, and his sister, Amabel—possessed certain holdings at Great Strickland,‡ is of course beside the point). Moreover, we must remember that the manor of Great Strickland was actually the inheritance of Adam's mother, Christian; and such maternal possessions were frequently entailed on the second son, whilst the first-born son fell heir to the paternal property.§ It should also be noted that Adam himself, unlike his father Walter, is never once styled “de Stirkland” in contemporary records, but invariably appears simply as *Adam' filius Walteri*.

But in that case, who was Sir Robert de Strickland, the lord of Great Strickland in 1239 and the father of the (Sir) William who married Elizabeth d'Eyncourt? From this last-named Sir William's specific references to Walter and Christian de Strickland as his great-grandparents (*ante*, page 196), we at any rate learn that Sir Robert de Strickland was Walter and Christian's *grandson*; and Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (following Bellasis and

* He is again given the designation of *miles* when attesting (*circa* 1250-60) a charter of John son of William de Thrimby to the priory of Wetheral (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 332).

† As has previously been shown, Walter was alive at least as late as the year 1250 (*ante*, pages 200-201).

‡ Cp. footnote † page 199.

§ Some hint that Walter de Strickland did have lands of his own (apart from what he had obtained *jure uxoris*) is contained in one of his charters to St. Bees, in which he bestows upon that house two acres of arable land “de dominico meo in Crosrig” (Wilson, *St. Bees* [Surtees Soc.], pp. 413-4).

Nicolson and Burn) concludes that he must have been Adam's son and heir (*op. cit.*, p. 12)—an argument based (a) on the fallacious premise that Adam died *vita patris* and (b) on a charter amongst the muniments at Sizergh which has "Robert son of Adam de Stirkeland" as one of its witnesses. But internal indications would assign the charter in question to the period, 1280-90;* and nothing suggests that the "Robert son of Adam de Stirkeland," there mentioned, was identical with Sir Robert de Strickland of 1239 or that he was more than a stray cadet of the main family.† On the contrary, all the accumulated evidence tends to identify Sir Robert himself with

* The deed itself, which no one (including Mr. Hornyold-Strickland) has thus far quoted, records a release by "Alice del Howes, late the wife of Thomas, son of Thomas de Levenes," of the two moieties of "Le Howes" [*i.e.* The Howes in Helsington, co. Westmorland]—one moiety of which she settled upon her son, Thomas, and the second moiety of which she divided between her two younger sons, Benedict and John. The witnesses, in addition to Robert son of Adam de Strickland, included Sir Roger de Burton and Sir Richard de Preston (Sizergh MSS.). As has been said, this release is *sans date*; but it should be compared with three other documents at Sizergh, which obviously form part of a single series and of which the substance is as follows:—(I) General release [undated] from Alice del Howes to "William son of Robert de Stirkeland, knight," of both moieties of Le Howes (previously settled upon her sons Thomas, Benedict, and John). Attested by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, etc. (II) Quitclaim [undated] to the aforesaid Sir William son of Sir Robert de Strickland by John son of Thomas de Levenes, confirming "all my [*i.e.* the grantor's] land in Le Houwes which the said (Sir) William has by gift of Alice, my mother." Attested by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, etc. (III) Grant from Sir William son of Sir Robert de Strickland to John 'de Camera' and Sybil, his wife, of all the land of Le Howys etc., "which Alice del Howys holds for life." Dated "at Great Stirkeland in Westmorland" on the Sunday after Michaelmas, 1288; and witnessed, *inter alia*, by Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, William de Windsor, and Gilbert de Burneshead (Sizergh MSS., *ibid.*). Now although in only one of the above documents is the actual date given, yet all of them are clearly of the same period; since not only do they relate to the same set of transactions, but they even have virtually the same group of witnesses. Moreover, Sir Roger de Burton did not succeed his elder brother (Sir John) until shortly before 1278 (cp. *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1270, p. 500; De Banco Roll, no. 27, m. 119); he was M.P. for Westmorland in 1298, and died in 1302 or 1303 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, I, p. 480; *Cal. Inqs.*, IV, p. 86).

† Very possibly he was the son of an "Adam son of Robert de Stirkland" who attested, *circa* 1245-55, a grant by William de "Schelmergh" to Roger son of Simon of land at "Schelmergh" [Skelsmergh], co. Westmorland (*Cal. Ancient Deeds*, A. 9342). For the probable place of this Adam son of Robert

the "Robert son of Robert de Stirkeland" who made an allowance of land and oatmeal to Adam son of Walter in 1246,* and from whom the said Adam claimed his endowment at Great Strickland in 1250 (*vide supra*, page 200).† Such an identification, moreover, is the only one which provides a solution that is both reasonable and in harmony with all the known facts.‡ A Robert de Strickland served as a juror at Appleby in 1220 (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 312, m. 27); and doubtless the latter was Sir Robert de Strickland's father and, in consequence, a younger son of Walter de Strickland and Christian de Leteham.

In other words, it would appear that the paternal property [? at Crossrigg, co. Westmorland] was settled upon Walter and Christian's eldest son, Adam; whilst the

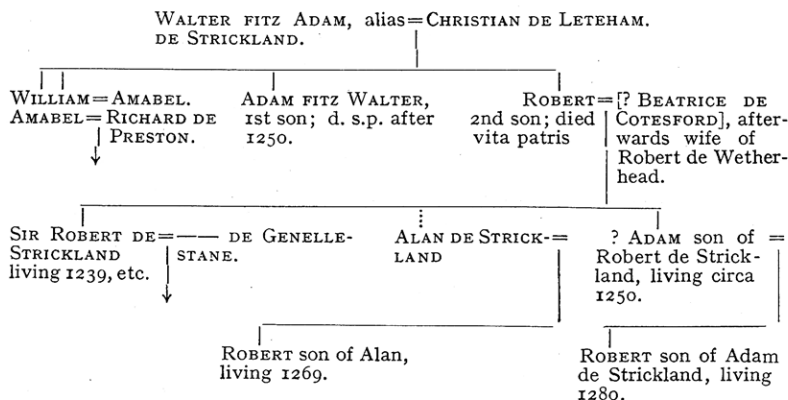
in the Strickland pedigree, see the illustrative chart on page 207. A Robert son of Alan de Stirkeland—who presumably likewise belonged to the same line—obtained a pardon from the Crown at the instance of Sir Roger de Clifford (of Appleby) for the death of Alan son of William Mustel, 25 October, 1269 (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1269, p. 372).

* It is also significant that one of the interim feoffees named in this transaction was Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt of Sizergh, whose daughter had already married Sir Robert de Strickland's son, William.

† See p. 200, also footnote * p. 201. Perhaps the agreement had been designed to compromise some claim brought by Adam son of Walter as heir male. Incidentally, this Final Concord of 1246 did not escape the vigilant eye of Dr. Farrer, who wrote that "Robert son of Robert de Stirkeland, dealing with the manor in 1246, makes it highly improbable, even impossible . . . that Adam [son of Walter] had a son Robert in the line of the lords of Strickland" (cited in Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 13). Dr. Farrer, however, was not aware of the full circumstances of the case, and interpreted the Final Concord as meaning that Adam son of Walter was actually lord of Great Strickland at the time. In addition, he avoided the *chimera* of Sir Robert de Strickland's settlement of some seven years earlier by assuming, like Archdeacon Prescott, that the date "1239" was erroneous (*vide supra*, page 202).

‡ On rather, to speak more accurately, following the decease of Christian; since it was she, and not Walter, who possessed the Great Strickland estate. Indeed, I have come across a charter amongst the muniments at Lowther which records a grant from Thomas de Hastings to the Hospital of St. Peter's at York of certain privileges at Crosby Ravensworth, co. Westmorland, for the use of their grange at Garthorne; the witnesses to which included Walter de Stirkeland and Gilbert de Kirketon, "then sheriff of Appleby" [*i.e.* of Westmorland]. Gilbert de Kirketon was certainly sheriff of the county in 26 Henry III (cp. Parker, *Pipe Rolls of Cumberland and Westmorland*, p. 201), which would date the charter itself as *circa* 1242-3; but of course it is always possible that he had been (deputy) sheriff under the Vieuxponts (the hereditary sheriffs) at some earlier period.

maternal property [at Great Strickland and Middleton-in-Lonsdale] was entailed upon the heirs of their second son, Robert. We must likewise infer that this Robert de Strickland (Senior) died during Walter and Christian's lifetime; for, judging by the dates, his son, Sir Robert (who was Walter and Christian's grandson), succeeded to Great Strickland immediately following the said Walter and Christian's decease.



From the period of Sir Robert de Strickland onwards we are, happily, upon firmer ground; but there are, none the less, still problems connected with Sir Robert's own career that merit attention. For example, the name of his wife is usually given as "Alice del Howes," while Adam son of Walter is credited with having espoused a certain "Alice de Levens" (Scott, *op. cit.*, pp. 10, 13). In point of fact, however, both these ladies are imaginary*—or rather, each of them has been evolved out of a single Alice del Howes (or Hawes), *alias* de Levens, who was the heiress of property called Le Hawes in Helsington (in the parish of Kendal) and occurs as the widow of Thomas son of Thomas de Levens in several deeds during

* Adam son of Walter has, in addition, been supplied (by Plantagenet-Harrison) with an equally fictitious wife named Ada. *Vide* footnote † p. 201.

the last quarter of the thirteenth century.* But needless to say, this real Alice never became the wife of a Strickland at all;† and most likely Adam son of Walter died unmarried. In the case of Sir Robert de Strickland, an entry on the Westmorland Assize Roll of 1256 leads me to suggest that his mother may have been the heiress of half the manor of Melcanthorpe; for in that year Sir Robert was defendant in a claim for dower in a moiety of "Melkinthorp" at the suit of Beatrice, widow of Robert de "Wytheheved"‡ (Assize Roll, 41 Henry III, no. 979), and the moiety reappears at in the possession of Sir William de Strickland (Sir Robert's son and heir) in the Assize Roll of 1291-2 (*ibid.*, 20 Edward I, no. 987). Who Beatrice herself was, is not clear; but this same moiety of the manor of Melcanthorpe had shortly beforehand been in the hands of Geoffrey de Cotesford (or Coatsforth), of Asby Coatsforth, co. Westmorland, who died *circa* 1230 without male issue. His Asby lands were subsequently held by William l'Engleys and Christian his wife, who was Geoffrey's daughter; and it seems to me not unlikely that there was another daughter [? Beatrice, later married to Robert de Wetherhead] who brought the Melcanthorpe

* See footnote * p. 205, where abstracts of the deeds are given. In view of Canon Ragg's wild suggestion that Alice was identical with the daughter of an "Adam, son of Howe," named in a Westmorland document of *circa* 1220 (these *Transactions*, N.S., xvi), I should perhaps add that the Sizergh muniments make it clear that Alice's father was Thomas del Howes, who (along with Thomas de Levens and Ralph de Nottingham, "then sheriff") witnessed a charter from Robert de Kendal to Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt *circa* 1247 (Sizergh MSS.) and is further mentioned in a division of the lands of Peter de Brus and Walter de Lindsay in 1256 (these *Transactions*, N.S., xiii, 69).

† The deeds cited in footnote *, p. 205, however, will show how easy it was for previous writers to be misled regarding Alice's matrimonial career. For example, the third deed records a quitclaim from John son of Thomas de Levens to Sir William son of Sir Robert de Strickland of lands at Le Howes in possession of Alice, his mother (*ibid.*). A careless reading of this passage (as given in the Rev. Thomas West's transcripts), without reference to the original, might well lead one to infer that Alice was the mother of the grantee, and not of the grantor.

‡ *i.e.* Wetherhead. Before 1226 a William de "Wytheheved" witnessed a grant made by Ivo de Vieuxpont of the manor of Garthorne, co. Westmorland, to St. Peter's, York (Lowther MSS.).

property in marriage to Sir Robert de Strickland's father.*

The identity of Sir Robert de Strickland's wife can, fortunately, be virtually established by a deed in the muniment room at Balliol College, Oxford, dated at "Burgh" [Brough, near Appleby] on the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady [25 August], 1271. This document, which is in Norman-French, records an agreement then made between "Sire Johan de Balyels" [*i.e.* Sir John de Balliol, of Barnard Castle, co. Durham] and "Sire Thomas de Musgrave" [of Great Musgrave, co. Westmorland] concerning the imprisonment at Appleby by the said Sir Thomas of Master William de Genellestane and of "la Dame de Stirkeland, sa sore." Sir Thomas agreed to reimburse Master William and his sister, the Lady of Strickland, for the losses which their imprisonment had cost them in money and goods, as well as to present five hundred shillings and two tuns of good wine

* A somewhat confused account of the Cotesfords of Asby Coatsforth and Melcanthorpe, based on the evidences at Lowther Castle, was printed by Canon Ragg in these *Transactions*, n.s., xx, 66-94. Evidently Geoffrey de Cotesford was the nephew of Hugh de Cotesford (*fl.* 1180-1210), and grand-nephew of Richard de Cotesford who was among those fined in 1176 for the treacherous surrender of Appleby Castle to the King of Scots. Perhaps Geoffrey's father was an elder Geoffrey (of Melcanthorpe), who is called "brother" of Hugh de Cotesford in a Lowther charter of *circa* 1200. At all events, the younger Geoffrey de Cotesford was granted "half my manor of Melkinthorpe" *circa* 1190 by his uncle, Hugh, who seems to have divided both the Asby and Melcanthorpe estates between this same Geoffrey and the latter's brother, Robert. One moiety of Melcanthorpe (together with property in Asby) was inherited by Robert's son, Peter, and grandson, Richard (Ragg, *up supra*); and lands at Asby and Melcanthorpe were possessed by another Richard de Cotesford as late as 1362 (*Cal. Inqs.*, XI, no. 312). The second moiety of Melcanthorpe passed to Geoffrey; but Canon Ragg observed (*ibid.*, p. 73) that "It does not appear that the Lengleys family succeeded" to it—although William l'Engleys certainly succeeded *jure uxoris* to Geoffrey's Asby possessions. All of this lends support to my hypothesis that Geoffrey himself must have left two daughters and co-heirs:—(1) Christian (of Asby), wife of William l'Engleys, and (2) Beatrice (of Melcanthorpe), the mother of Sir Robert de Strickland. Sir Robert l'Engleys (grandson and heir of William l'Engleys and Christian) was M.P. for Westmorland in 1295, etc., and was a contemporary and companion in arms of Sir William de Strickland (the grandson, if my theory be correct, of Christian's sister Beatrice).

to Sir John de "Balyels"; and he further secured as pledges Sir John de Morville, Sir Thomas de Helbeck, Sir Henry de Staveley, and Sir Thomas de Hastings, and as mainpernors Sir Peter de Brus and Sir Roger de Lancaster. No reasons for the imprisonment are given; but it should be noted that in 1270-1 Sir Thomas de Musgrave was under-sheriff of Westmorland and constable of Appleby Castle, so that he had doubtless been acting in his official capacity.* Moreover, the chronology leaves little room for doubt that "la Dame de Stirkeland" was wife of the contemporary head of the family, Sir Robert de Strickland, who survived till 1278 (Hornvold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 13); and the latter's son, Sir William de Strickland, was not improbably named for Master William de Genellestane, who would thus have been his maternal uncle.

Entries in the early Close and Patent Rolls show that in August, 1257, "Robert de Stirkeland" was removed from the position of coroner in co. Westmorland; since the King by letters patent had specially exempted the said Robert from acting as sheriff, coroner, or in any other office unless he so desired (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1257, pp. 85-6; *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1257, p. 574). The interesting fact is added that the above exemption had been granted at the instance of Alexander, King of Scotland (*ibid.*). Evidently, however, Sir Robert subsequently consented to be reappointed; for he was again serving as coroner in 1278 at the time of his death (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 7 Edward I, no 982; Sir George Duckett, *Duchetiana*, p. 275). But the most memorable event in Sir Robert's career was undoubtedly his election as one of the four knights to represent Westmorland in the Parliament of 6 October, 1258; his other colleagues being Sir John de

* Another of the Balliol College deeds records the acknowledgment of a debt of 123 marks owed by Sir Thomas de Musgrave to Sir John de Balliol, and payable at Barnard Castle in specified instalments during the years 1265 and 1266.

Morville (of Helton Flecket), Sir Robert de Asby (of Great Asby), and Sir Patrick fitz Thomas (of Preston Patrick), ancestor of the Curwens of Workington (see S. H. Lee Washington, *The Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*, 1258-1327). Curiously enough, this important episode has been ignored without exception by all authorities, although it was to prove the precursor of a notable series of Parliamentary services performed by virtually every generation of Stricklands up until the close of the seventeenth century.

Meanwhile, of Sir William de Strickland—who succeeded his father, Sir Robert, in 1278—there is little further that need be said.* We have already sufficiently enlarged upon the arrangements for his marriage to Elizabeth d'Eyncourt in 1239; and it only remains to add that at the last-named date Sir William himself must have been scarcely more than nine or ten years old—very possibly less. For a *Coram Rege* Roll of 4 Edward I proves that his eldest son by Elizabeth was still under age as late as 1276:—"The King *versus* William de Stirkeland concerning the manor of Strosdermod [Tristermont, co. Westmorland], which is alleged to belong to the Crown as having been an escheat *de terris Normannorum*. But the said William de Stirkeland declares that he holds it by the courtesy of England of the inheritance of Elizabeth, formerly his wife, by whom he has begotten William, his son, without whom he cannot answer. And he [*i.e.* William the son] appears in Court, and is a minor (*de qua suscitavit Willelmum filium suum, sine quo non potest respondere, qui visus [est] in Curia et est infra aetate*). Therefore, the King," etc. (*Coram Rege* Roll, Westmorland, Michaelmas, 4 Edward I, m. 1). Moreover, Sir William de Strickland's only daughter, Joan—the sister of the young William de Strickland of 1276—did not

* His career is dealt with at length in the present writer's *Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland* (*passim*).

marry till 1292, while another son, Sir John, survived until 1352 (*vide postea*, pp. 30, 35). Consequently, Sir William's children by Elizabeth d'Eyncourt cannot have been born before 1256 at the earliest; whilst several of them—including the daughter Joan—doubtless made their appearance at an even later period.*

Elizabeth d'Eyncourt herself died between 1272 and 1274 (see Part II); but her husband outlived her for over thirty years, and was still alive on 1 May, 1305, when he entered into a covenant regarding waste and destruction in the lands of his late wife's inheritance at Barton, Hackthorpe, and Heversham (Hornycold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 19). Along with his cousin Sir Richard de Preston, Sir William de Strickland represented Westmorland in the celebrated Parliament of July, 1290; and amongst some miscellaneous Sheriffs' Accounts at the Public Record Office is preserved a highly interesting return of the revenues of the Strickland estates made in 1295 by the deputy sheriff of Westmorland, Sir Thomas de Helbeck, who was then apparently at Sizergh for the purpose of levying the King's Fifteenth (Exchequer Q.R., Miscellaneous, Sheriffs' Accounts, bdl. 46, m. 2). Like his father Sir Robert, Sir William de Strickland obtained in 1267 a life exemption from serving as sheriff, coroner, etc. (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1267, p. 64); but he, too, subsequently relented, since he acted as deputy sheriff of Westmorland in 1275 and as coroner until 25 November, 1303, at which date he was removed from office as incapacitated by age and infirmity (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1303, p. 113).

By his marriage with the heiress of Sizergh, Sir William left several children. It has hitherto been supposed that

* Aside from the settlement of 1239, Sir William's initial appearance is in 1265, when he received letters of protection (dated September 17th), as being one of the followers of Roger de Clifford (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1265, p. 452). So far as I can discover, he first occurs as a knight in a charter of 1281, which recites a mortgage from Sir Roger de Burton to "William de Stirkeland, miles," of £10 worth of land at Hincaster (Sizergh MSS.).

his eldest son was the Sir Walter de Strickland who succeeded him shortly after 1305 (Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 21; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, pp. 23, 26); but the entry from the Assize Roll of 1276 concerning the manor of Tristermont (*ante*, p. 211) implies that the young William de "Stirkeland," there named, was then his father's actual heir-presumptive. Fortunately, satisfactory confirmation on this point is supplied by a De Banco Roll of 5 Edward II, which specifically states that Elizabeth d'Eyncourt, wife of Sir William de Strickland, had an elder son, William (Junior), who deceased without issue, when his next brother (Sir) Walter, became his successor (*vide infra*, p. 39). Therefore, it may be confidently asserted that William de Strickland, Junior, was the first-born son of the family, and heir to his mother (although still a minor) in 1276. He is again mentioned in a grant made by Margaret de Ros in November, 1281, which speaks of various lands of his mother's inheritance at Stainton-in-Kendal, co. Westmorland, that his father [Sir] William de Strickland, had recently given him (Nichols, *Topographer*, II, 187; and cp. *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1281, pp. 90, 106). Presumably, however, he died *vita patris* prior to 1292, in which year Sir William de Strickland made fresh settlements of the d'Eyncourt properties upon [Sir] Walter de Strickland, William's next brother (Hornyold-Strickland, *ibid.*, p. 18).^{*} But, despite the fact that he thus deceased at an early age and left no descendants,[†] young William de Strickland had evidently

^{*} Walter de Strickland seems actually to have been in possession of the d'Eyncourt holdings at Natland as early as October 1290, when he brought suit against Sir Roger de Burton, Sir Richard de Preston, and others for having lately entered his land of "Natelond," carried away his goods and those of Nicholas de Crakehall, his bondman, abducted the latter, and assaulted his men (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1290, p. 408); and in 1294 Walter impleaded Nicholas de Crakehall to render account of the time when he (Nicholas) was the said Walter's bailiff at Natland, co. Westmorland (De Banco Roll, no. 103, m. 72). See page 214 where evidence is produced to show that William de Strickland, Junior, was already dead by 1288.

[†] John son of William de Stirkeland, "an idiot," died in 1310 leaving property in Strickland Ketel, and was succeeded by a brother and heir,

found time to marry. For one of the Sizergh deeds quoted by Nicolson and Burn (*History of Westmorland and Cumberland*, I, 89) shows that in 1303 Margaret, "late the wife of Hugh de la Vale," quitclaimed in her widowhood to [Sir] Walter de Strickland (young William's brother and heir) her rights in the property at Stainton-inKendal "which William de Stirkeland (Senior) gave to her in free marriage with William de Stirkeland (Junior) her former husband." Margaret's own origin is elusive, though certain evidence in my possession indicates that she may have been born a Washington.* But her second husband, Sir Hugh "de la Vale," *i.e.* de Laval (died 1302), was a well known man in Northumberland, who had acquired large territorial interests through his previous wife, Maud (died 1281), one of the three co-heiresses to the barony of Bolebec. By his later marriage to young William de Strickland's widow Margaret, Sir Hugh left three children:—Sir Robert, Walter and Katherine, wife of the notorious rebel, Sir Walter de Selby.† We also learn from an inquisition that Sir Hugh and Margaret's eldest son, Sir Robert de Laval, was born 5 August, 1289 (*Cal. Inqs.*, V, p. 202)‡—a fact which demonstrates that young William de Strickland (Margaret's first husband) must have been dead at least by the year 1288.

Sir Walter de Strickland—who thereupon succeeded

Thomas son of William de Stirkeland, then aged thirty-five (Roberts, *Cal. Geneal.*, no. 5; *Abbrev. Rot. Original.* [Record Com.], I, p. 175b). But it is plain that he derived his surname from Strickland Ketel itself, and not from Great Strickland, and that he was totally unconnected with the Sizergh family. Indeed, his brother Thomas is specifically described as "son of William de Stirkeland Kettle" in a charter of *circa* 1311 (Add. MS. 32106, fo. 141b; and *cp. ibid.*, 32109, fo. 14b).

* See S. H. Lee Washington, *The English Washingtons* (now in press).

† *Northumberland County History*, IX, pp. 167-8. The name of Sir Hugh de Laval's second wife has not hitherto been known.

‡ This Sir Robert—the ancestor of the Delavals of Seaton Delaval (now represented by Lord Hastings)—was father *inter alia* of a son, Sir William de Laval, who in 1322 espoused Eleanor, daughter of Sir Robert de Leybourne (M.P. for Westmorland in 1315) by Sarah, sister of Andrew de "Harcla," Earl of Carlisle (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1322, pp. 552-3; *ibid.*, 1328, pp. 364, 404).

the latter as heir-presumptive to the family estates—was hence the *second* son of Sir William de Strickland and Elizabeth d'Eyncourt. He is alleged by Mr. Hornyold-Strickland (*op.cit.*, p. 26) to have been already knighted by 1276-7, on the strength of one of the Rev. Thomas West's abstracts at Sizergh, which professes to be dated "5 Edward I" and records a release to "Sir Walter de Stirkland, knight," from Adam Warde of Kendal. The witnesses (whom Mr. Hornyold-Strickland omits) were "Sir Nicholas de Leyburn, Roger de Kernetby [Carnaby] vicar of Kyrkeby in Kendale, John de Wessington [Washington], Thomas d'Aunay, Roland de Patton, Richard de Derley, Thomas de Stirkland, and Alan de Elmed, clerk" (Sizergh MSS.); but these names alone prove that the date "5 Edward I" is impossible. For, to take only two instances, Sir Nicholas de Leybourne (who was M.P. for Westmorland in 1305, 1307, 1313 and 1314) was not knighted till after 1303, while Roger de Carnaby (M.P. for Westmorland in 1318) did not even become vicar of Kendal until 1307 (see Washington, *The Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*, *ibid.*); and an examination of the document itself suffices to show that "5 Edward I" is simply a textual misreading for "5 Edward II"—so that the release would actually have been issued not in 1276-7 but in 1311. Indeed, Sir Walter de Strickland only took up knighthood in 1306 (when he occurs amongst the numerous company dubbed on May 22nd with Edward, Prince of Wales);* and, remembering that his elder brother William was still a minor in 1276, we shall probably not go far wrong in placing his own birth at *circa* 1260.

Sir Walter is supposed to have married Eleanor de Goldington (Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 30; Hornyold-Strickland,

* The story, which apparently originated with Shaw (*Knights of England*, p. 115) that Sir Walter was made a Knight of the Bath on this occasion—or, as one writer puts it, "was created K.C.B." (!)—is, of course, a palpable anachronism.

op. cit., p. 33); but up to the present the sole basis for this belief has been the unsupported assertion of that eccentric antiquary, General Plantagenet-Harrison (*History of Yorkshire*, p. 375). I have, however, found full proof of the Goldington alliance in the Westmorland Assize Rolls; and the following unpublished record hence becomes of unusual importance:

The Friday within Whitsun week, 1301: " The Assize came to enquire if Walter son of [Sir] William de Stirklaund, Robert de Wessington [Washington] and Joan, his wife,* and John Gretason unjustly disseised Eleanor, daughter of William de Goldington, of her free tenement in Nateland and Stanton [Stainton-in-Kendal, co. Westmorland], and whereof she complains that they disseised her of twenty-two messuages, fourteen oxgangs and fifty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, forty acres of wood, and one water-mill The Jurors say that there was talk of a marriage to take place between the said Walter, son of William de Stirklaund, and the said Eleanor, daughter of William de Goldington, and that William de Stirklaund (father of Walter) should enfeof them with the above-named property. The marriage was duly celebrated, whereupon William de Stirklaund enfeofed them and the heirs of their bodies for ever. And they were accordingly seised thereof during the space of two and a half years, until the said Walter withdrew himself from the society of the said Eleanor, and brought a plea into an Ecclesiastical Court for a divorce between them on the grounds of consanguinity. The divorce was granted in the Archbishop's Court at York three years before [1298]. Therefore the said Eleanor has no right in the aforesaid lands " (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 989, m. 2).

* Sister of Walter de " Stirklaund " and daughter of Sir William (see pp. 229-230).

It is thus evident that Eleanor de Goldington married Sir Walter de Strickland in 1295-6, and that he obtained a divorce from her in 1298 on the grounds that the marriage was within the prohibited degrees. This plea of consanguinity is extremely interesting, although it is not clear just in what way the relationship arose. However, Eleanor de Goldington's mother was Christian, daughter and eventually co-heiress of Sir Thomas de Hastings (of Crosby Ravensworth, co. Westmorland) by Christian his wife;* and the latter (whose surname is unknown) may well have been a daughter—or, more probably, a granddaughter—of the original Walter de Strickland and Christian de "Leteham."†

As for Eleanor herself, we are expressly told that she and her husband, Sir Walter, lived together for less than three years—from which it follows that she cannot by any means have been the mother of all of Sir Walter's issue.

* In 1292 Thomas son of Sir Thomas de Hastings and his sisters, Amice wife of Thomas de Goldington and Christian wife of William de Goldington, petitioned at Appleby against the murderers of Nicholas de Hastings, their brother, who had been slain in a ditch at Crosby Ravensworth six years before (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 987, m. 34 d., etc.). The above suit was printed by Canon Ragg in these *Transactions*, n.s., xi, 237, where a certain passage is misquoted as referring to "William de Goldington, and Christian [de Hastings] wife of John de Goldington" (*ibid.*). However, an examination of the original Assize Roll shows that this phrase actually translates "William de Goldington and Christian [de Hastings] his wife, and John de Goldington,"—a correction which obviates the difficulty that would otherwise arise as regards the name of the said Christian's husband.

† She was most likely a sister of Sir Robert de Strickland who died in 1278 (see illustrative chart p. 207). Sir Thomas de Hastings was a younger brother of Nicholas de Hastings, lord of Alverston, co. Yorks., ancestor of the Earls of Huntingdon. By his marriage with Christian (? de Strickland), Sir Thomas de Hastings had three sons—Thomas, Nicholas (murdered at Crosby Ravensworth in 1286), and William—all of whom died *sine prole*. He also appears to have left four daughters, who ultimately became his co-heiresses, viz., Isabel, wife of William de Threlkeld (and mother of Sir Henry de Threlkeld of Yanwath); Amice, wife of Thomas de Goldington; Christian, wife of William de Goldington (and mother *inter alia* of Christian, wife of Sir Walter de Strick and); and Emma (?), wife of Gilbert de Wharton. In 1300 Henry de Threlkeld, William de Goldington and Christian his wife, and Gilbert de Querton [Wharton] and Emma, his wife, succeeded to property in Crosby Ravensworth, co. Westmorland, as the next heirs of William de Hastings, deceased (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 29 Edward I, no. 990).

An entail of 1323 (cp. Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 30) proves that Sir Walter left at least three children—Thomas (his heir), John, and Ralph; and of these it seems probable that Thomas alone was a son of the Goldington marriage—if, indeed, the whole of Sir Walter's issue were not by a later wife.* For in truth it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the divorce itself had been instigated by something more than purely religious scruples, and that sterility—rather than the artificial excuse of consanguinity—was the real cause that lay behind Sir Walter's premature desire to get rid of the unhappy Eleanor.

Be that as it may, the immediate results of such a drastic step were, not unnaturally, to provoke a feud between the Strickland and Goldington families. Not only did the Goldingtons (as we have seen) sue the Stricklands to recover Eleanor's dower, but in 1296 Sir William de Strickland (Sir Walter's father) brought a writ of *scire facias* against Eleanor's father, William de Goldington (Coram Rege Roll, Westmorland, no. 149, m. 24 d), while in 1297 he claimed damages against the said William in the sum of twenty marks, and was still continuing to prosecute in 1304 (Coram Rege Roll, Westmorland, no. 150, m. 10 d.; *ibid.*, no. 178, m. 41 d.). Incidentally, during these proceedings William de Goldington is referred to as "late Mayor of Appleby," a borough which he represented in Parliament both in 1302, 1305 and 1315. In 1307, moreover, he was twice returned as Knight of the Shire for Westmorland, his colleague on the second occasion being none other than Sir Walter de Strickland, his erstwhile son-in-law.†

* Plantagenet-Harrison states, although without quoting his authority, that Sir Walter married secondly a lady named "Matilda" or Maud (*Hist. Yorkshire*, p. 373).

† The Goldingtons (who possibly were a junior branch of the knightly family of Goldington in Bedfordshire) were prominent merchants at Appleby, having become established there towards the middle of the twelfth century as officials and clerics under the baronial house of Vieuxpont (Washington, *Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*, *ibid.*). William de Goldington, Junior—son of

I should add that Sir Walter de Strickland's own career was a long and active one.* He served as M.P. for his native county in 1307, 1312, 1313,† 1322 (May and November, 1324, and 1332; and on 10 February, 1321-2 he succeeded Sir Hugh de Lowther (the younger) as sheriff of Westmorland, being further entrusted nine months later (October 31st) with the custody of Appleby Castle (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1322, pp. 95, 193; cp. also Ministers' Accounts, file 1044).‡ However, on December 30th of that year Sir Hugh de Lowther once more replaced him as sheriff, whilst the castle of Appleby was at the same time transferred to Sir Anthony de Lucy (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1322, pp. 192-3).§ Local historians have invariably

William, above-mentioned, and brother of Christian de Strickland—was M.P. for Appleby in 1322 along with his kinsman, William, son of John de Goldington; and a Cuthbert de Goldington served as M.P. for the same borough in 1313, as did Robert de Goldington in 1315 and 1295 (cp. Washington, *op. cit.*).

* For details, cp. Washington, *Parl. Rep. Westmorland* (*ibid.*).

† Sir Walter de Strickland and Sir Thomas de Beetham were actually elected to the Parliament of July, 1313; but the enrolment of the writ *de expensis* gives the names of Sir Mathew de Redman and Sir Nicholas de Leybourne. Perhaps the two former became unable to serve at the last moment owing to absence in the Scottish wars.

‡ These rewards make it clear that Sir Walter, unlike most of his family and friends, had escaped being implicated in the Earl of Lancaster's rebellion in the summer of 1321 and the spring of 1322. He had, however, been actively engaged in the Earl's previous rising (Palgrave, *Parliamentary Writs*, II, ii, 243); and although he had already obtained a pardon from the Crown in 1318, his former adherence to the Earl was again raked up against him in 1323 (see the next footnote).

§ It is conceivable that Sir Walter was the victim of some intrigue—or possibly the fact that his brother, Sir John de Strickland, and another kinsman, Hugh de Strickland, both fought with Roger de Clifford under the Earl of Lancaster's banner at Boroughbridge in March, 1322 (*postea*, pp. 28-9, 34) may have made him an object of suspicion. At all events, at the beginning of 1323 he was suddenly charged with his old adherence to the Earl five years before, and his previous pardon of 1318 was rescinded (Palgrave, *Parl. Writs*, II, ii, p. 243). Presumably, however, he succeeded in clearing himself; for later in 1323 we find him acting as commissioner of array in Westmorland and Cumberland, and on 5 February, 1323-4 he was empowered to receive into the king's peace the rebel followers of the ill-fated Andrew de "Harcla," Earl of Carlisle (Palgrave, *ibid.*, p. 244). He was still living 1341 (*Cal. Inqs.*, VIII, p. 202), and probably died about 1342. From his eldest son, Sir Thomas de Strickland, who married Cecily, daughter of Sir Robert de Welles, the present Lord Strickland of Sizergh is directly descended.

been misled as to the nature of these appointments, and have inferred that Sir Walter himself was simply serving in 1322 as deputy-sheriff under the Cliffords (cp. Sir George Duckett, "The Sheriffs of Westmorland, with the Early Sheriffs of Cumberland," these *Transactions*, o.s., iv, 285 *et seq.*; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 30, etc.). It is true that the Cliffords were the hereditary sheriffs, and normally nominated deputies to act for them.* But at the period of Sir Walter de Strickland's tenure of the shrievalty, the county was temporarily in the king's hands following the attainder of Roger de Clifford (one of the leaders in the Earl of Lancaster's rebellion during the previous autumn);† and Sir Walter, and his immediate successors and predecessors in office, were thus ministers interposed by the Crown, who occupied positions closely analogous to that of *custos*.

The third son of Sir William de Strickland and Elizabeth d'Eyncourt was Sir John de Strickland,‡ about whom very little appears to be known. Sir William Betham (*Baronetage*, I, p. 412) cited a record that purported to mention an Alice de Strickland as Sir John's widow in 1318; and later writers have accordingly assumed that Sir John's death must have occurred prior to that year (see Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 24). In reality, however, it can be shown that the Alice in question did not even marry Sir John until 1319, and that the latter,

* The Cliffords were the heirs of the Vieuxponts (de Veteriponts), barons of Appleby, who held the hereditary shrievalty by grant of King John.

† Roger de Clifford (Lord Clifford of Appleby) was subsequently captured at the battle of Boroughbridge (16 March, 1321-2), and executed a week afterwards. (His half-sister, Cecily de Welles, was married in 1322-3 to Thomas, son and heir of Sir Walter de Strickland, which may have been another factor that contributed to the latter's temporary fall from favour. Cp. footnote § p. 219).

‡ For some reason it is claimed that Robert de Strickland (for whom see p. 227) was the third son, and Sir John de Strickland the fourth son (Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, pp. 23-4); but the fact that Sir John received the paternal estate of Great Strickland (*vide infra*) is evidence that he was elder than Robert, and next brother to Sir Walter.

so far from having died "before 1318," actually lived until 1352! Indeed, Sir John's career was quite as long and distinguished as that of Sir Walter, his elder brother; and, although there is not space to consider it fully here, yet, in view of the general dearth of information, some details may perhaps prove of interest. At the Assize at Appleby in 1300, Sir William de "Stirkeland" and John de "Stirkeland," his son, were impleaded by John de Camera for four marks' rent from land which the latter occupied as tenant of the defendants. In the course of his reply, Sir William de "Stirkeland" declared that he then held the whole manor of "Stirkeland" [Great Strickland] of Margaret de Ros,* and that another of his sons, Walter, held the townships of Natland and Sizergh, as well as possessions in Stainton worth £20 *per annum*. He added that he himself also held £20 worth of land in Whinfell, Winder and Tristermont as tenant of his son Walter, to whom the said land actually belonged—but that the manor of "Stirkeland" was his (Sir William's) own paternal inheritance (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 29 Edward I, no. 990). In 1302 Sir William formally settled the Great Strickland estate on his son, John de Strickland, and his heirs (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, case 249, file 5, no. 41); and the above records give us a valuable insight into the arrangements that had been effected regarding the distribution of the various ancestral properties. Like the rest of his family at this period, Sir John de Strickland played an active part in the Scottish wars; and in March,

* One of the co-heirs to the barony of Kendal. She was widow of Robert de Ros of Wark (died 1274), and granddaughter and co-heiress of Gilbert fitz Renfrid, baron of Kendal, and his wife Helewise de Lancaster (*vide* footnote † p. 193). She died in 1307 (*Cal. Inqs.*, IV, p. 284), having transferred a considerable portion of her share of the barony to her nephew, Sir Marmaduke de Thweng (1st Lord Thweng, of Thwing and Kilton), between 1297 and 1301 (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1297, p. 304; Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 29 Edward I, no. 62). Included in the transfer of 1301 was the manor of Great Strickland (Levens Hall MSS., vol. II, fo. 12), of which the Thwengs henceforth became the overlords.

1312, he was granted remission of a debt to the crown of £100 (originally incurred by Sir William de Strickland many years previously "in consideration of his good service in Scotland both to the King [Edward II] and to the King's late father" (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1312, p. 408). Sir John was amongst those pardoned, on the testimony of Roger de Clifford, for having been implicated in the Earl of Lancaster's rising in 1321 (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1321, p. 20); and he doubtless fought with Clifford at the disastrous battle of Boroughbridge on 16 March, 1321-2—since on 3 August, 1322 he received restoration of his lands and goods, which had been forfeited for his adherence to Roger de Clifford, a rebel (Palgrave, *Parliamentary Writs*).^{*} He acted as commissioner of array in Westmorland in 1326, represented the county in Parliament in 1326 and 1327, and is described as (deputy) sheriff of Westmorland on 9 July, 1337, when attesting a settlement made by John le Franceys of the manor of Cliburn (cp. Assize Roll, Westmorland, 14 Edward III, no. 1426 b.).[†] His wife Alice[‡] seems to have been previously married to Sir John de Byron of Clayton in Droylsden, Lancs. (ancestor of Lord Byron, the poet), who died shortly before Easter, 1318, leaving Alice as his widow (De Banco Roll, no. 222, m. 229). The latter first appears as the wife of Sir John de Strickland in 1319 (Assize Roll, Lancashire, no. 424, m. 9);[§] and in 1321 and later, Sir John and Alice were prosecuting claims for

^{*} This act of clemency was doubtless facilitated by Sir John's elder brother, Sir Walter de Strickland, who (as we know) had been placed in Roger de Clifford's shoes as sheriff of Westmorland and constable of Appleby Castle (*ante*, p. 219).

[†] He was appointed 12 October, 1335 (MS. List of Sheriffs in the Public Record Office).

[‡] She is alleged to have been one of the heirs of Robert Banaster of Hindley, Lancs. (Betham, *Baronetage*, I, p. 412). Plantagenet-Harrison (*Hist. Yorks.*, p. 373) calls her "daughter and co-heir of William de Stopham, lord of Baildon in Ayrdale."

[§] When Henry de Trafford impleaded John la Warre and his wife, Joan (Grelley), and Sir John de Stirkeland and his wife, Alice, concerning lands in Chorlton, co. Lancs. (Assize Roll, *ut supra*).

dower out of the Byron estates against Sir Richard de Byron, Alice's step-son (De Banco Roll, no 240, m. 192; *ibid.*, no. 276, m. 159). In 1329 Sir John de Strickland settled the manor of Great Strickland on his wife, Alice, and their issue (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 3 Edward III);* but evidently the marriage was childless—for in 1340 Sir John made a fresh entail with remain to [his nephew] John son of Robert de Strickland and his heirs by his wife Joan, daughter of Roland de Vaux (*ibid.*, 14 Edward III). In 1341 Sir John is recorded as holding Great Strickland of the heir of William de Thweng by the service of one-fourth of a knight's fee (*Cal. Inqs.*, IX, p. 202); and in 1342 Richard Warde of Walesby, Lincs., obtained pardon of his outlawry "in the county [Court] of Westmorland for failing to answer the plea of Sir John de Stirkeland, knight, that he [Richard] render an account of the time when he acted as the said Sir John's receiver of monies" (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1342, p. 468). In 1348, we find mention of Sir John and his wife, Alice, as defendants in a claim for property in Lancashire at the suit of Robert de Fallowfield (De Banco Roll, no. 356, m. 140); and four years after this (1352) Sir John was gathered to his fathers, being probably at least eighty at the date of his death.

The *inquisitio post mortem* (which has hitherto been ignored by all authorities) was taken at Appleby on Monday after the Feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist, 34 Edward III [1361], pursuant to a writ addressed to the escheator of Westmorland on the 16th of May. The document itself recites that Sir John de Stirkeland had died on the Thursday following the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 25 Edward III [1352], holding Great Stirkeland manor of Sir John de Thweng by the service of 16s. 'cornage' yearly, and that his heir was his kinsman (*consanguineus*), Robert de Stirkeland,

* Sir Edmund de Neville and John de Lowther, clerk, were named as the two interim feoffees.

"now [*i.e.* in 1361] aged sixteen years and upwards." During his own lifetime, the said Sir John de Stirkeland had settled the aforesaid manor, etc., upon his heirs by his wife, Alice, with remainder to John son of Robert de Stirkeland, Joan his wife, and their issue [cp. the Final Concords already quoted in the text]. John son of Robert de Stirkeland died, leaving Robert de Stirkeland (above-named) "and other sons and daughters"; and his wife, Joan, survived him and married secondly Thomas de Berewys. And since Sir John de Stirkeland and his wife Alice died childless, the said Thomas de Berwys and Joan entered into possession of the manor and enjoyed the profits thereof from the time of the decease of Sir John and Alice until the manor was taken by the escheator into the King's hand (*Cal. Inqs.*, X, pp. 467-8; *Chanc. Inq. P.M.'s*, Edward III, file 150, no. 6).

Along with this same inquisition are included the following writ and inquest, which disclose further interesting particulars. (I) Writ of *plenius certiorari* to the escheator of Westmorland, dated 3 December, 33 Edward III [1359]:—The said escheator had previously answered to a writ of *certiorari super causa capcionis*, regarding the title of Thomas de Berewys and Joan his wife to the manor of (Great) Stirkeland, that he had found by an inquisition taken *ex officio* that Margaret de Ros, tenant-in-chief, alienated an annual rent of 50s. from divers tenements in Stirkeland and two quarters and two bushels of oatmeal from the mill there to Richard de Preston and Amabel, his wife,* who thereupon enfeoffed (Sir) John de

* In 1315 Amabel, widow of Sir Richard de Preston, obtained a pardon for having, in conjunction with her late husband, acquired 50s. rent in "Stirkeland" from Margaret de Ros without licence of the Crown (*Abbrev. Rot. Original.*, I, p. 214; *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1315, p. 302). Sir Richard de Preston (he was the M.P. of 1290, for whom see footnote † p. 199) was still living in 1310, when he witnessed a release to Sir Walter de Strickland from John son of Sir Roger de Burton (Sizergh MSS.). But Margaret de Ros had died in 1307 (cp. footnote * p. 221), so that her grant of the rent to Sir Richard and Amabel must have actually occurred prior to that year.

Stirkeland, who included the same in his settlement upon his wife, Alice; after whose death without heirs the said rent—along with the manor of Stirkeland which (Sir) John de Stirkeland held of Thomas de Thweng by knight's service—was seized into the king's hand by the customary royal prerogative. "But now Thomas de Berewys and Joan his wife petition that the king's hand be removed, since they assert that they hold a messuage, sixty acres of land, and six acres of meadow in Great Stirkeland from which the aforesaid rent used to come and have informed the king that the above premises are held of Thomas de Thweng and not of the king in *capite*."

(II) Inquest taken at Appleby on the Monday after Palm Sunday, 33 Edward III [1359-60]:—One Richard de Laton was seised in demesne as of fee of a messuage, sixty acres, and six acres of meadow in Stirkeland, from which the rent, etc., mentioned in the above writ used to come, and held them of one Thomas Long of Stirkeland, as of a third part of the manor of Stirkeland, by the service of 2s. yearly for 'cornage';* and he alienated the said tenements to Robert de Stirkeland [*i.e.* Sir Robert de Strickland, died 1278], to hold of the chief lords of the fee by the rent aforesaid. Robert de Stirkeland died in possession; and upon his death his son, William de Stirkeland [Sir William de Strickland, husband of Elizabeth d'Eyncourt], entered as his heir, and afterwards gave them to Sir John de Stirkeland and the heirs of his body. But the above-named Richard de Laton, having retained the actual rent by a special reservation, granted it to

* Thomas Long seems to have a freeholder at Great Strickland *temp.* Henry III (cp. footnote * p. 196); while Richard de Laton was possibly some cadet of the Yorkshire Laytons, who from early times held land at East and West Layton of the honour of Richmond. A deed of *circa* 1290 mentions the sale from John Gudeberd to (Sir) Richard de Preston and Amabel his wife of a messuage "lying between 'Latuneland and Richard's land' in Great Stirkeland" (Sizergh MSS.); and "Latuneland in Great Stirkeland" is again referred to in a record of the year 1335 (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1335, p. 378).

Margaret de Ros, who gave it to Richard de Preston and his wife Amabel, who in turn enfeoffed Sir John de Stirkeland (who was already in possession of the tenements on which the rent was charged). Amabel de Preston, after the death of her husband, released to Sir John de Stirkeland all claims, etc., by virtue of which deeds the rent itself became totally extinguished. Consequently, neither Margaret de Ros nor Sir John de Stirkeland nor any other ever held the said rent of the king *in capite*; nor are the tenements from which the rent came held in chief, but of Thomas de Thweng by the service of 2s. yearly for 'cornage' and by homage (Chanc. Inq. P.M.'s, *ibid.*).

From the records just quoted it is evident that Sir John de Strickland's eventual successor in the Great Strickland property was Robert de Strickland, a minor, who was aged sixteen in 1361 and was hence born about 1345; and we are further informed that the latter was the eldest son* of the "John son of Robert de Stirkeland" upon whom Sir John de Strickland had entailed his possessions in 1340. This John son of Robert was apparently born *circa* 1293; for he is described as "aged forty" in 1337, when he volunteered the curious piece of information that a bastard son of his had been killed by mischance "at the schools at Oxford" eighteen years before (*Cal. Inqs.*, IX, pp. 34-5).† His wife Joan, whom he married in 1340, was (as we learn from Sir John de Strickland's entail) the daughter of Roland de Vaux—presumably Roland of Catterlen and Triermain, the representative of an illegitimate branch of the Vauxes of Gilsland. Between 1348 and 1350 John son of Robert de Strickland served as a collector of the subsidy

* The inquisition itself speaks of "other sons and daughters" (*ibid.*), without, however, referring to them by name.

† This bastard son was likewise named Robert (*Cal. Inqs.*, *loc. cit.*); but as he died in youth there is no risk of confusing him with the legitimate heir.

in Westmorland and Cumberland (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1348-50), and was a juror on an inquisition at Kendal in 1354 (Dodsworth MSS., vol. 70, fo. 148b). But it is clear that he was dead before the year 1361, by which date Joan, his widow, had become the wife of Thomas de "Berewys"—doubtless the Thomas de Barwise (of Barwise in Appleby) who was M.P. for Westmorland in 1360. From 1320 onwards, John son of Robert de Strickland's name is frequently associated with that of Sir John de Strickland in attesting charters, etc.;* and it is reasonable to suppose that his father, Robert, was yet another of Sir John de Strickland's brothers—a supposition which is confirmed by the mention of "Robert de Stirkland" as "brother" of (Sir) John de Stirkland and "son" of (Sir) William de Stirkland in a Westmorland Coram Rege Roll of 1302 (*ibid.*, no. 168, m. 45).†

It only remains to add that by the beginning of the reign of Henry VI Great Strickland manor had passed to Nicholas de Fallowfield, against whom Sir Thomas de Strickland—the then head of the Sizergh branch—put in a claim to the estate as heir male (Sizergh MSS.).‡

* e.g. in 1330 Sir John de Stirkeland and John son of Robert de Stirkeland witnessed a settlement of the manor of Sockbridge (these *Transactions*, n.s., x, 456-60); and in 1339 they both witnessed two grants of land in Crosby Ravensworth made to William, son of Sir Henry de Threlkeld (Lowther MSS.). A deed enrolled on the Westmorland Assize Roll of 14 Edward III (1340), and dated at "Clibrun" (Cliburn) 9 July, 1337, was attested by Sir John de Stirkeland [deputy] sheriff of Westmorland, John son of Robert de Stirkeland and Sir Thomas de Stirkeland (eldest son of Sir Walter de Strickland of Sizergh).

† Mr. Hornyold-Strickland follows Bellasis and others in making this Robert the third son of Sir William de Strickland, but gives no proof of his parentage (*op. cit.*, p. 23). There seems little doubt that Robert was really the fourth son, and that Sir John de Strickland was his older brother.

‡ This claim is dated by the Rev. Thomas West (in his MS. abstracts of Sizergh deeds) as *temp.* Edward III; but it quite obviously belongs to later period. For Sir Thomas de Strickland is expressly described as "son of Walter, son of Thomas, son of Walter, son and heir of William de Stirkeland, to whom his father Sir Robert de Stirkeland gave the said manor (of Great Stirkeland) with remainder to his heirs by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Ralph Daincurt" (Sizergh MSS.). The claimant was therefore the second Sir Thomas de Strickland, who succeeded to Sizergh in 1407-8, was knighted in 1425, and died in 1455; and the claim itself may thus be assigned to *circa* 1430.

Nicholas, however, continued to retain possession, as did his descendants up until the close of the seventeenth century (cp. Nicolson and Burn, *History of Westmorland and Cumberland*, I, 360); and since the later Fallowfield arms, *Sable three escallops Or*, are similar to those of Strickland save for a change of tincture, it would seem highly probable that the Fallowfields succeeded to Great Strickland by marriage with the heiress of the young Robert de Strickland who was born in 1345.*

Meanwhile, besides the children whom we have already enumerated (William, Sir Walter, Sir John and Robert), Sir William de Strickland and his wife, Elizabeth d'Eyncourt, are also alleged to have left two additional sons called Hugh and Roger (Bellasis, these *Transactions*, o.s., x, 75; Hornyold-Strickland, *op. cit.*, p. 24). The name of a Hugh de Stirkland does indeed appear in a list of the northern knights captured at the battle of Boroughbridge in 1322 (Palgrave, *Parliamentary Writs*, II, 201); but I have been unable to find any further reference to him and his exact relationship remains unproven, although there seems little doubt that he was more or less closely related.† On the other hand, Roger de Strickland, so far from having been a son or kinsman of Sir William de Strickland, in all probability possessed no connection with

* The latter was plaintiff in a plea concerning property in Great Strickland against Sir Thomas de Strickland (the husband of Cecily de Welles) in 1375 (Assize Roll, Westmorland, 49 Edward III); and on 14 March, 1378-9 he was pardoned for having acquired without licence a tenement called Ravewyk in Appletwhaite (near Great Strickland), co. Westmorland, which Ingram de Coucy, Earl of Bedford, had granted him for life (*Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1379, p. 334). No doubt he was the same Robert de Stirkeland who served as escheator of Northumberland in 1391 (Bain, *Cal. Docs. Scots.*, IV).

† Another relative was presumably the Thomas de "Sterkland" who occurs with Sir William de Strickland in 1299 as witness to a grant of lands in Newby, and who attested a release from Adam Warde to Sir Walter de Strickland in 1311 (Sizergh MSS.). A Duchy of Lancaster Assize Roll of the year 1292 mentions that during the sittings of the Justices at Lancaster "Richard Tothay, sergeant, chattered in the hall and made a great tumult which impeded the Court, and Thomas de Strickland was also in mercy for the same" (Assize Roll, Lancs., no. 416, m. 28).

the Sizergh family whatsoever. The only mention of him which Mr. Hornyold-Strickland adduces (*ibid.*, p. 24) is Plantagenet-Harrison's assertion (unsupported as usual) that in 1311-2 Roger de Stirkeland "was defendant in a suit by Sir Richard de Bermingham . . . for hunting without license on his lands at Berborne," *i.e.* Barbon in Kendal (*Hist. Yorks.*, p. 373). But this Roger de Stirkeland of Barbon was almost certainly the same man who occurs in contemporary records as Roger "de Stirkeland Ketell," *alias* Roger "de Kendale" (cp. *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296, pp. 509-10; De Banco Roll, no. 108, m. 23; *ibid.*, no. 109, m. 21d.); and he would thus have derived his surname from Strickland Ketel in Kendal, and not (like the Sizergh Stricklands) from Great Strickland near Appleby.*

One genuine member of the Sizergh line does, however, yet require to be noticed, viz., Joan de Strickland, who was Sir William de Strickland's only known daughter by his marriage with the Sizergh heiress. She espoused Robert de Washington, who, thanks to the powerful Strickland influence, was returned as M.P. for Westmorland to the Parliament of 20 January, 1301.† This Strickland-Washington alliance took place (as the Sizergh muniments show) in 1292, when (Sir) Walter de Strickland, by a grant dated "on the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle [24 September], 20 Edward I," settled upon his sister, Joan, and Robert de "Wessington," her husband, nine messuages, five bovates, a hundred and fifteen and a half acres, and one rod of land in Natland, also a meadow called Le Quaghe and the land of John Gretason, and a moiety of the land of "Lowkerig" [Loughrigg in Kendal], all in co. Westmorland (Sizergh MSS.). Sir Walter further endowed Joan and her heirs

* Cp. the case of John son of William de Strickland (Ketel), cited in footnote

* p. 213.

† Washington, *Parl. Rep. Westmorland*, *ibid.*

with the manor of Routhworth in Helsington, co. Westmorland (Washington, *Parliamentary Representation of Westmorland*, *ibid.*)—as well as with a moiety of the manor of Carnforth in the parish of Warton, co. Lancs., which Robert de Washington was holding *jure uxoris* at the time of his decease in 1324 (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1324, p. 249; *Cal. Inqs.*, VI, p. 357). Nothing has heretofore been ascertained regarding the manorial history of Carnforth prior to the fourteenth century, beyond the fact that the estate was from early times comprised in the Lancashire fee of the barons of Kendal (see *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, VIII, pp. 168-9). It can be shown, however, that all of the Westmorland properties which Sir Walter de Strickland gave to his sister as her *maritagium* had formerly belonged to his mother, Elizabeth d'Eyncourt; and I conclude that Carnforth must also have been part of the d'Eyncourt inheritance. Such a view is strengthened by the circumstance that Sir William de Strickland—father of Sir Walter and Joan—was still flourishing in 1292 (the year of Joan's marriage); and it would seem extremely unlikely that at that date Sir Walter himself possessed any lands in his own right, other than those to which he had already succeeded *jure matris*. Indeed, a Duchy of Lancaster Assize Roll (to be quoted presently) suggests the possibility that Sir Walter's moiety of Carnforth may have been originally acquired by his maternal grandfather, Sir Ralph d'Eyncourt of Sizergh, through espousing a certain Alice de Boyville; but I shall have to reserve the last-named point for discussion in Part II. Incidentally, a curious feature about the tenure of the Carnforth moiety—and one which entirely escaped the attention of the learned editors of the *Victoria County History*—is that although Robert de Washington was plainly holding it in 1301 under Sir Marmaduke de Thweng, one of the co-heirs to the barony of Kendal (*Lancs. Final Concords* [Rec. Soc. Lancs. and

Cheshire], I, 214), yet before Robert's death this Thweng overlordship had been eliminated; for in 1324 it is recorded that the property had then lately been held by "Robert de Wessington, tenant-in-chief, deceased," directly of the King *in capite* as of the earldom of Lancaster (*Cal. Inqs.*, VI, p. 357). Possibly the explanation lies in the fact that Robert (as my own researches prove) was closely associated throughout his life with Sir Marmaduke de Thweng, whom he attended with great gallantry as personal Esquire in the Scottish campaigns; and Sir Marmaduke may well have released him and his descendants from the feudal obligations due from the manor of Carnforth, as a partial reward for these long and faithful services.