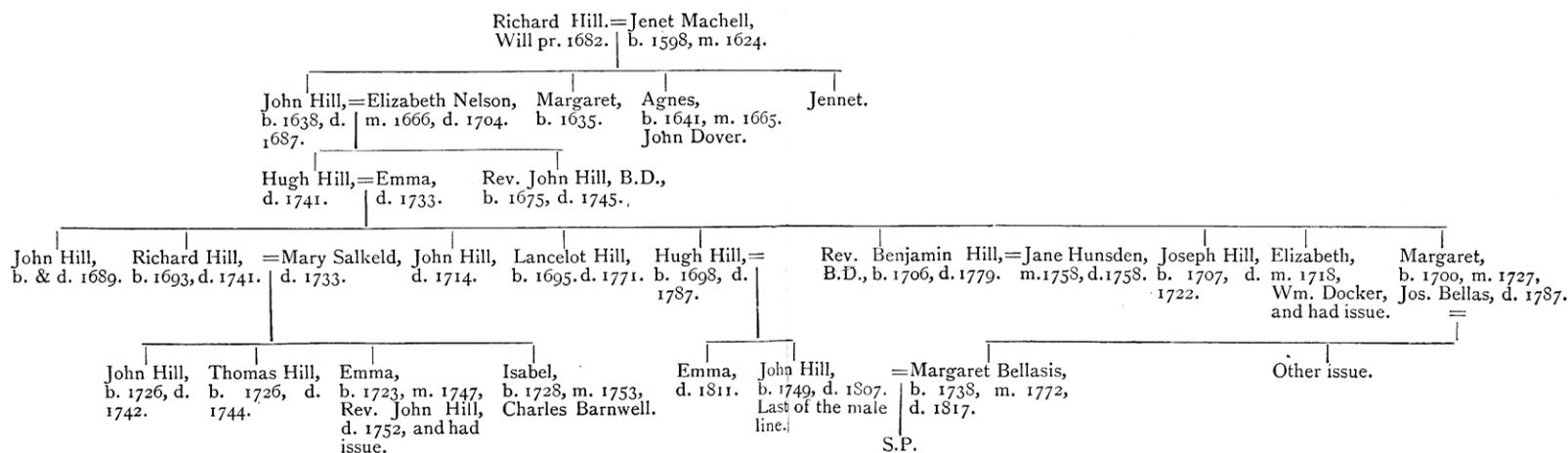


PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF HILL OF CRACKENTHORPE.



ART. XX.—*Hill, of Crackenthorpe*. By EDWARD BELLASIS,  
Esq., Bluemantle Pursuivant of Arms.

*Read at Appleby, July 28th, 1875.*

THE family of Hill appear to have been settled for a considerable period in Bongate, and the registers there are full of the name. Some persons, to support their theory as to the antiquity of the race, say that the expression "old as the hills," originally referred to the clan of Hill, wherever found. However that may be, it is certain that amidst the number of Hughs and Johns in the adjoining hamlet, all bearing a name by no means uncommon, the genealogist may discover the descent of some Hills of Crackenthorpe, now extinct in the male line, whose history may not be deemed altogether unworthy of a record.\*

Richard Hill of Crackenthorpe, married 13 May, 1624, Jenet Machell, who is possibly identical with the Jenet, daughter of John Machell, who was baptized 10 Dec., 1598. By her, Richard had one son, John, of whom hereafter, and three daughters, Jenet, Margaret, (baptized 6 Dec., 1635,) and Agnes, (baptized 17 Oct., 1643,) who married 8 June, 1665, John Dover. There is a bond extant of Hugh Machell to Thomas Hill, of the year 1603, and it is surmised that Richard had a brother Thomas, for by an indenture of 1616, a Thomas Hill demises to his brother Richard his mansion and new dwelling house in Crackenthorpe, and house at the back called the malt-house, for 1000 years. But as a Richard Hill, senior, appears in the registers, our Richard being styled junior, it is difficult to say to which Richard Hill, Thomas refers.

The will of Richard Hill of Crackenthorpe, yeoman, is

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\* Unless otherwise stated it must be understood that all dates of baptism, marriage, and burial that are given, are taken from the Bongate registers.

dated

dated 1 Nov. 1681, and was proved at Carlisle, 18 Jan., 1681-2. He desires to be buried in Bongate churchyard. To his daughter, Margaret Hill, he leaves 40s.; to his daughter Jennet, the same, and also "one fether bed with cloathes there is belonging to it, and one chist"; to his daughter Agnes, 40s. and a "chist"; to his grandchild Eleanor Dover, "one cupboard w<sup>ch</sup> stands in the Bower," and the residue he bequeaths to his son John Hill, whom he appoints sole executor.

John Hill of Crackenthorpe, only son and heir of Richard, was baptized 1 Nov., 1638. He married 26 May, 1666, Elizabeth Nelson, who bore him two sons, Hugh and John, of whom hereafter. Elizabeth was buried at Bongate, and to her and her husband, whose burial is not recorded there, there is a monumental inscription on a tomb outside the church, and to the right, as you enter by the priest's door:—"In memory of John Hill, of Crackenthorpe who died July 8th 1687 in the year of his age 49. And also Elizabeth his wife who died April 24th 1704, in the year of her age 66." The will of John Hill of Crackenthorpe, husbandman, is dated 26 June, 1687, and was proved at Carlisle, 27 July following. To his son Hugh he leaves one bay mare and ten sheep, to Eliner Dover one lamb, and the residue to his wife and son John, whom he appoints executrix and executor respectfully. John and Hugh Hill are two of the witnesses.

Hugh Hill of Crackenthorpe, gentleman, was, I believe, the elder of John's two sons, and is said to have made over what freehold lands he possessed to his brother John Hill. His wife Emma (I have not discovered her maiden name, nor where she was married) predeceased him, and was buried 22 July, 1733. He was buried 31 Oct., 1741, leaving four sons (three others died in infancy), Richard, Lancelot, Hugh, and Benjamin, of whom hereafter, and two daughters, Elizabeth, baptized 15 March, 1690, and married 17 July, 1718, to William Docker; and Margaret, born 2 and baptized 13 Feb., 1700, who married 31 Dec., 1727,  
Joseph

Joseph Bellas', of Marton, gentleman, an only son and heir, and bore him three sons, viz., George Bellasis who entered Queen's College, Oxford, took his degrees of M.A. and D.D., and became rector of Yattendon and vicar of Basilden and Ashampstead, all in Co. Berks.; Hugh; and John, who became colonel of Artillery, major general and commander of the forces at Bombay.\* There were also four daughters (a fifth, Agnes, must, I think, have died in infancy), Elizabeth, married to Rev. William Kilner, Rector of Dufton; Emma, married to Nathaniel Springett, B.A., of Brazenose College, Oxford; Hannah, married to Thomas Crosby, of Kirkby Thore; and Margaret, who married her first cousin, John Hill, of whom hereafter. Margaret Hill, mother of all these children, died 21 and was buried 27 of June, 1787, aged 87, at Marton, where there is an inscription to her memory. By all accounts she was a woman of masculine energy and decision of character.

John Hill, younger brother of Hugh Hill, of Crackenthorpe, was baptized 1 July, 1675, and entered Queen's College as Bateller, 26 Jan., 1694. Against his name in the entry is put in a later hand, "Crackanthorpiensis, Westmorlandiensis." He matriculated 7 Feb., 1693-4, at the age of 18, graduated B.A. 20 May, 1694, M.A. 24 March, 1701-2. He was elected chaplain in Lent Term, 1702, which post he held till he was elected Fellow in Michaelmas Term, 1704. During the years 1712-14, he was Camerarius, *i.e.* the officer whose duty it is to assign college chambers, to receive their rents and keep them in proper repair. In 1715 he was Bursar. This office he held until 1719. He took part in the election of Provost Gibson in 1716. He took his degree of Bachelor of Divinity 6 March, 1718, and was senior fellow in 1720-1, and part of 1722, in which latter year he was presented by the College to the Rectory of Charlton-on-Otmere, Co. Oxon, which living he held up to his death. He did not leave off all connection with his

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\* He married Anne Martha, only child and heir of the Rev. John Hutchins, M.A., Rector of Holy Trinity, Wareham, the well-known Historian of Dorset.

native

native place. In the 10th year of Queen Anne's reign he purchased land of one Nelson of Crackenthorpe, now in the possession of the granddaughter of his great-niece Emma. On the breaking out of the rebellion he received a commission as major of the Oxford University Volunteers, and was familiarly alluded to as the "Major." On this point the Rev. John Barnabas Maude, Fellow of Queen's, wrote in 1844 to Miss Hill of Castlebank:—"You perhaps are not aware that your father, when Fellow and Incumbent, was always called 'Major,' in the Fellow's Common Room. In those days almost everyone had what the what the French call a 'sobriquet' applied to them, perhaps the Doctor had frequently alluded to his relative 'the Major,' and thus acquired the name, as it were, by inheritance." The warlike rector of Charlton, however, did not survive the suppression of the rebellion.—He was buried at Bongate, 25 August, 1745.

No less than four wills of his are extant. In the first one, dated 29th June, 1721, he leaves £200 to his nephew Richard, £100 to Ben. Hill, £100 to Hugh, £100 to their sister Margaret, and in a codicil dated 15th March, 1722-3, he says, "Whereas I have given £200 to my nephew Joseph Hill, he being since dead, I give £100 of it to John, son of Richard Hill, and the other £100 to my nephew Hugh, Rem<sup>r</sup> to my nephew Lancelot," whom he makes executor.

In the 2nd will, dated 25th Dec. 1725, he gives £200 a-piece to Richard Hill, Lancelot Hill, and Ben. Hill, and to his niece Docker, £10. His nephew Lancelot is left trustee for Lancelot's nephew John.

The 3rd will is dated 1732; he leaves his real and personal estate to his "dear brother Hugh," but by codicil dated 4th July 1734, bequeaths £100 to each of his "kinsmen," John Hill, John's brother Thomas, and sisters Emma and Isabel, and £20 to each of his nieces Docker and Margaret Bellas, as well as £30 to his god-son Lancelot Docker.

The 4th will, dated 9th Feb. 1744-5, was proved at Carlisle, 23 Oct., 1745. He describes himself as "John Hill,  
Rector

Rector of Charlton upon Otmere, Co. Oxon." He leaves his nephew, Benjamin Hill, Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, £40, "on the day he shall be inducted into a vicarage or parsonage," and also all his books in print and MS. "excepting all such sermons or sermon notes in my handwriting as are, have been, or may be in his custody or any ways in his power to come at, all which sermons or sermon notes, I strictly require him the said Benjamin to burn or destroy." He leaves to his nephew, Hugh Hill, £160, to his neices, Elizabeth Docker and Margaret Bellas, £100 each, of which legacies, that to his nephew Hugh is to be payed on St. Martin's day next, after the date of his will, the others within a year of his death. To Emma, daughter of his nephew, Richard Hill, he gives £20, payable within three months of his death. To her sister, Isabel Hill, £100 "which I leave with her uncle Lancelot Hill," "in trust for her desiring him to take her and this small legacy under his care." Lastly, to his nephew and executor, Lancelot Hill, all houses, out-houses, and ground appertaining to the same, about or in Oxford, and all his right to the houses and estate of Christopher Sheers, in the Manor of Charlton upon Otmere, and all other houses, lands, leaseholdings, or possessions therein, or in the manor of Tencot, or Murcot Township. To Lancelot Hill also, he bequeaths all those houses and lands, "which I purchased of my dear brother, his father," and free land bought of Mr. Dobson, both in the manor of Crackenthorpe, and fell-gate, sheep-gate, or cattle-gate, "even all the right and liberty I have on Burton Fell," as well as the furniture, etc., at Charlton and Crackenthorpe, monies, etc., etc.

Richard Hill, of Crackenthorpe, eldest surviving son of Hugh Hill, and nephew to the "Major," was baptised 13 Aug., 1693. Tradition says that his wife was a Salkeld. Her christian name was Mary, as we know from the record of her burial at Bongate, 15 Dec., 1733. Richard was buried 7 Nov., 1741, leaving two sons,—John, buried

21 Nov., 1742, and Thomas, who died two years later, neither of them of age; and two daughters, who, on the early death of their father, lived with their great-uncle, the "Major," till his death. The younger, Isabell, was baptized 8 Dec., 1728, and married 11 July, 1753, where I know not, to Charles Barnwell, of Co. Berks. The elder Emma, baptized 26 Oct., 1723, married at Marton, 30 March, 1747, the Rev. John Hill, M.A., who was for fifty years Vicar of Bongate. By this marriage there was issue, two sons,—Rev. Hugh Hill, D.D., Fellow of Queen's, Vicar of Holy Rhood, Southampton, and Rector of Church Oakley, Hampshire, father of the present Miss Hill, of Castlebank, Appleby; and John Hill, Esq., of Castlebank, father of the late John Hill, Esq., M.A., of Castlebank, Recorder of Appleby, who devoted the labours of a lifetime to collecting materials for a history of his county.\* Emma Hill died 12 July, 1752, at the early age of 29, and there is an inscription to her memory at Bongate.

But to return to the other sons of Hugh Hill, of Crackenthorpe, brother of the "Major."

Lancelot Hill, of Crackenthorpe, who was the "Major's" favourite nephew, if we are to judge by the latter's will, already noticed, was baptized 10 Nov., 1695; he died unmarried, and was buried 17 Oct., 1771. The will of Lancelot Hill, of Crackenthorpe, deceased, is dated 10 March, 1772. He leaves all his real estate whatsoever to the Rev. William Kilner, of Dufton, in trust for the testator's nephew, John Hill, "during his minority, possession to be delivered up on John's coming of age, together with all the rents unapplied for his maintenance, together with the residue of his personal estate. In case of John Hill's death, Lancelot bequeaths all his estate to his brother, Benjamin Hill.

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\* His valuable manuscripts, forming several large volumes, are in the possession of one of this Society's original members, Miss Hill, formerly of Castlebank, Appleby, but now of Asby Lodge, Putney. Their ultimate destination is at present, (August 1875) uncertain.

Hugh

Hugh Hill of Crackenthorpe, third son of Hugh Hill, of the same place was baptized 13 Oct., 1698, and buried 20 Dec., 1787, aged 89. It is not known whom he married, but he had a daughter Emma who died unmarried in 1811, and a son John Hill, mentioned in the above will of Lancelot, and of whom hereafter. Hugh, and his brother Lancelot used to spend a few days with Sir Richard Hill at Hawkestone, as they passed between Oxford and Crackenthorpe, every year at Midsummer and Michaelmas, and Dr. Kilner, Rector of Weyhill, Co. Southampton, and grandson of Margaret Hill, relates a curious fact about Hugh. Writing in 1843, he says: "I once went to Clayton's meeting-house in London, along with an important dissenter, who took me into the vestry room, where very many, perhaps all, the dissenting preachers in London were assembled, at a charity service for one of their schools, when I saw one who exactly resembled Hugh Hill in person and face, the most exact likeness possible, and I immediately asked the gent's name, and was told it was Rowland Hill!"

Benjamin, fourth son of Hugh Hill, of Crackenthorpe, or, as his numerous nephews more familiarly called him, "Uncle Ben," was baptized 7 July, 1706, at Bongate. He matriculated at Queen's, 11 July, 1721, at the age of 15; graduated B.A., 20 March, 1720; M.A., 8 July, 1730. He took his degree of Bachelor of Divinity, 20 Ap., 1744. He was elected Fellow of his college, and became Rector of Monk Sherborne, in Hampshire. He was married there by license, dated 13 Feb., 1758, to Jane Hunsden. She died in less than a year, as the following epitaph at Monk Sherborne shews:—"Near this place are deposited the Remains of Jane, wife of the Rev. Mr. Hill, Vicar of this parish, and daughter of Thomas Hunsdon of Sparsholt, in the County of Berks, gentleman. In Her, Religion has lost a Model of true piety and virtue, her Husband an affectionate and tender Wife, And her Friends a most  
cc cheerful

cheerful and amiable companion. She was of a Disposition equally to be admired And esteemed by all Ranks of People. Though Her Life was one continued Scene of Illness yet in every Attack She preserved great Presence of Mind And Her Resignation and Accomplishments were such As are seldom equalled, but never excelled. She was charitably disposed and excelled in Goodness.

She dyed December 17, 1758  
In the 49th Year of Her Age  
Universally Lamented,"

She was buried 31 December, at Monk Sherborne. The Vicar was buried at Bongate, 31 Dec., 1779, aged 75.

We now come to the last of the Hills of Crackenthorpe, in John Hill, the only son of Hugh, and nephew to the Vicar of Monk Sherborne. He was born 24 Nov., 1749, and married 2 Jan., 1772, his first cousin Margaret Bellasis, already mentioned. The entry at the College of Arms, London, says she was without issue in 1792. She died in 1817. Her husband predeceased her, and there is a tombstone to his memory, against the outer wall of Bongate Church "In memory of Mr. John Hill, gent, of the village of Crackenthorpe, in this parish. He died June 16th, 1807 and his remains are deposited near to this monument." The will of "John Hill of Crackenthorpe in the Parsh of St. Michael's, Appleby (otherwise Bongate) Co. Westmorland gentleman" is dated 10 June, 1807. To his nephew, the Rev. Robert Crosby, of the parish of St. Magnus the Martyr, London, he leaves all his estates in the townships of Crackenthorpe and Brampton, or elsewhere in Westmorland, to his heirs and assigns for ever, but chargeable with an annuity of £60 to his "beloved wife Margaret Hill" for her life or during widowhood, payable in two instalments at Lady Day and Michaelmas; an annuity of £30 to his sister Emma for life; and he leaves the dwelling house, garden, and orchard at Crackenthorpe, "which I now inhabit," to his wife for life, or during widowhood; and £100 to Nanny, daughter

daughter of his nephew John Crosby of Powis House. The family estate thus acquired by the Rev. Robert Crosby, was sold far below its value, and with some feeling of regret at its not having been offered first for sale to any of those connected with the family. Dr. Kilner wrote :—"I would without the least hesitation have given Robert Crosby £9,000 for what Mr. John Hill died possessed of." So ended the freehold estate, with mansion, of Hill, at Crackenthorpe. The "Major" had left it to his nephew, Lancelot Hill; Lancelot to his nephew, John Hill; John to his nephew, the Rev. Robert Crosby, and Robert sold it.

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ART. XXI. *Crosby Ravensworth*. By the Rev. G. F. WESTON, Vicar of that place.

*Read in the Vicarage gardens, July 28th, 1875.*

I HOPE none of you have been deluded here under false pretences—I mean under the illusion of a rather romantic name. Crosby Ravensworth sounds well, and I often think would make a good name for a novel: but I think the place bears out its name. It is a pretty spot; and approaching it as you go, on three sides, from wild moorland scenery, you drop upon the richly-wooded valley by surprise, and the surprise removes any disappointment you may have felt at the bleakness of the first approach, and serves but to enhance the picturesque charms of the place, by putting you in good humour for enjoying them. So it was with me when I came over for the first time to see the place, some twenty-seven years ago. And should you approach it from the remaining direction, after following the sweet windings of the Lyvennet, the church and village among our loved old sycamore trees will be deemed a satisfactory ending to the walk, if indeed the walk should end