

ART. XXV.—*Senhouse of Seascale Hall, in Cumberland.*

By R. M. le F. (Miss) Senhouse.

Read at Seascale, September 21st, 1892.



See p. 259 infra.

HALL Sevenhouse, or Senhouse (now called Hall Senna), is a small hamlet in the parish of Gosforth, Cumberland. It was the ancient seat and patrimony of the family of de Sewynhous, whose ancestor seems to have come from the village of Sevenhuysse, near Rotterdam, in Holland.

I.—Walter de Sewynhous, is the first of the family whose name is on record. Alan de Coupland granted a fifth part of the ville de Bolton to Walter de Sewynhouse.* Willielm de Wabyrthwayte (Waberthwaite) granted a tract of land and moor lying betwixt Laykwylgram and Sumerholm, thence extending within the arable land as far as Toddbrigholm.† These two deeds without date are witnessed by the same five persons, whence it may be fairly concluded that they are exactly the same age. Amongst the five witnesses are the names of Adam de

* Copy of the deed at Netherhall.

† Deed at Netherhall.

Lamplogh

Lamplogh and Robert de Wylton,* who were also witnesses to the Charter of Laws, Liberties, and Customs, which was given and confirmed to the burgesses (de Acrimonti) of Egremont and their heirs, by Richard de Lucy, who died in the fifteenth year of King John (1214). Adam de Lamplugh, according to the pedigree of that family, lived in the reign of King Richard I. and of King John.

The portions of the Hall Bolton Estate, in the manor and township of Bolton, in the parish of Gosforth, Cumberland, which were assigned to Walter de Sewynhouse, continued in the possession of the family for upwards of 500 years. The hamlet of Hall Senna, in the township of Bolton Low, Gosforth, also belonged to the Senhouse family.

About 30 years ago I was shown a sketch of a shield with the original Senhouse arms, which were on a stone at a farmhouse at the southern end of Hall Senna, supposed to have been the dwelling-house of the Senhouses before they removed to Seascale Hall. There is a tradition in the family that it was at Hall Senna that King John was entertained. I was told by the late owner of Hall Bolton that the supposed Roman encampment near this farmhouse was called King's Camp, because King John is said to have rested there. That King John was twice in Cumberland is proved by *The Itinerary* in vol. xxii. of the *Archæologia*. In 1201 King John was at Erdington (Irthington), February 20th; Carlisle, February 21st; Kirkoswald, February 25th; and at Ravenswaite (Crosby Ravensworth), February 26th, 27th; and in 1206 he was in Carlisle on February 18th, but in that year no other place is mentioned until Chester, March 6th.

II.—The second Walter de Sewynhouse, son of the

* The names are in the following order.—Adamâ de Lamplogh, Radulpho et Reginaldo filiis Adame, Roberto de Wyltona Richardi filio, Benedicto clerico.

first

first Walter, witnessed a deed * without date, in company with Alan de Coupland, Richard Flandrensis, Thomas de Cleter, Peter Rector Ecclesiae de Waburthwayte (Waberthwaite), Roger filius Roberti filii Adame, and many others, for a grant of land in Bothelton, from Ada, daughter of Adam, son of Matilda, to her daughter Syhrith del Hewet and to Adam, son of Hutred, husband of the same Syhrith. This Richard Flandrensis (Richard le Fleming) married Elizabeth, sister and heiress of Adam de Urswick and John de Urswick, her brother. † He died in the reign of Henry III. (West's *History of Furness*, p. 273).

Sir Richard le Fleming witnessed a deed dated thirty-eight Henry III., made by Adam de Tynemore with Thomas de Multon, son of Lambert de Multon, of land in Distington and of the advowson of the church there. The other witnesses were Sir Richard de Cleter, Sir Robert de Lamplow, Michael de Harrington, Nicholas de Moriceby, Jo Falcon, Jo de Hale, &c. Beckermett MS., 5.

III.—Nicolas de Sewenhouis, son of the second Walter, witnessed a deed together with Willielm de Wayburthwayt, “nunc dominus ejusdem feodi, Nicolas de Irton, Robert de Goseford, Willielm de Punsonby, Willielm del Hale, Benedict de Mortibus, Roger de Mortibus, clericus,” and others, without date, whereby Annabilla, the daughter of Thomas, son of Gilbert de Sewenhouis, gave, granted, and confirmed to William, her brother, and to his heirs, and assigns one acre of land situated in the vill of Bothelton, and divided into an eastern and western moiety by the highway near the moor (mire) of Brigerpeten, with a provision for grinding at the mill of Bothelton, corn growing upon the said acre

* Deed at Netherhall.

† Sir D. le Fleming's *Description of Cumberland* (Tract Series of this Society, p. 7.)

to the amount of thirty "vasa."* The only mills now in Gosforth parish are one near Seascall Hall in Seascall township, one called Rowend in Gosforth township, and one at Blengdale in Boonwood township; but as traces of a mill dam were found above Gosforth Hall, the idea that there was a mill formerly there may be correct. Two fields, Nos. 1290 and 1207 in the Ordnance Survey, belonging to Bridge Petton (now called Low Petton) estate, answer to the description of the above acre. The form of the deed proves it to have been antecedent to the Statute of *Quia emptores*, which was enacted in the first year of Edward I. (1289). The acre of land was to be holden of the fee by the yearly payment of two pennies of silver in two equal half-yearly parts.

Robert de Sevenhowes witnessed a deed, together with Johannes le Ffleming, Eustace de . . . Johnnes de Irton, Roger de Irton, Willielmus de Bromfield, and others, dated January 30th 1284-85.

Willielmus de Punzunby, Robertus de Gosford, Rogerus de Mortibus, Willielmus de Turrybus, Johannes Niger de Ranglas confirmed a grant witnessed by Robert de Gosford, Benedict de Mortibus, Alexander de Sevenhouys, Richard Ward, Henricus frater ejus, Robert, son of Einine; and Simon Flinte, to Warinus, Abbot of Calder, dated Thursday, November 1st, 1286, and confirmed November 11th, 1286.

Robert and Alexander de Sevenhouys must have been contemporaries of Nicholas, the third in descent, and from the fact of the same names appearing amongst the witnesses of the grant signed by Nicholas, and that dated November 1st, 1206, it may be inferred that the two grants are about the same date.

* From a copy of a deed in possession of Sir M. le Fleming.

IV.—Nicholas de Sevenhous, son and heir of the first Nicholas (the third in descent), married an heiress of de Ponsonby. He was seized of the hamlet of Newton, and resided at the capital mansion of Seascale Hall. In an inquisition which was taken at Egremont, in the eighth year of King Edward III. (1335), upon the death of John de Multon of Egremont, it was found by the jurors that Nicolas de Sevenhous had holden of him the hamlet of Newton by homage and fealty and suit to the court at Egremont, and by the service of five shillings yearly for cornage at Pentecost, and of fivepence yearly for Seawake at Easter, and by the puture of two sergeants, and that the yearly value thereof was forty shillings.

Also in the Survey eighth May, 20th Elizabeth, 1577.

Egremonte intr. Ehen and Dudhen.

Thomas Sevenhous holdeth the manor of Newton by homage fealty and suit of Court &c. and by Knight service and payeth by year for cornage Vs.— for Seawake iij et putur servient which wholie belongeth or is due to the Lord de dni de Lucie. Thomas Sevenhouse holdeth freelie a parcel of land in Dalelousps fidelit et ced per annum ijd. Idem Thomas holdeth there one parcel of land called Whylekeld by the like service and — per annum vjd.

It is not known by the writer at what time, or by what means, the family of de Sevenhous became possessors of the Seascale Hall estate, but it is almost certain that the original family of de Seascale was not extinct in the reign of King Henry II.

Roger (who was advanced to the Archbishoprick of York in the nineteenth year of King Stephen, and held it until his death in the twenty-eighth year of King Henry II.), was a witness to a deed without date, together with Aschetil and Aldwin de Seascale; a copy of this is in the Wetheral Register.

A coat-of-arms, with the Senhouse and Ponsonby arms quartered is carved on a stone built into a wall at Seascale Hall, which formerly was over a door. The initials however

however are J. and M., and the date 1606, when John Senhouse and Mary (*née* Fleming) resided at Seascale Hall. I can find no trace in the papers, that I have, of any mention of the house or property at Hallsenna, except that of the tradition of King John's visit there to Walter de Sewenhous, and Hall Senna is mentioned as one of the customary tenants of Seascale in the time of John Senhouse, who mortgaged the estates to Mr. Blacklock. Brigerpetin and Hall Senna are both in the same township of Bolton Low.

V.—Nicholas, son and heir of Nicholas second of this name, married a daughter and heiress of Alan de Coupland of Seaton Hall in the parish of Bootle, Cumberland.

In the sixth year of King Richard II., Monday, September 29th, 1382, James de Waybyrthwayte, by a deed* which was dated at Bolton, gave, granted, and confirmed to Nicolas de Sewynhous and to his heirs and assigns a tenement called Gardynland, and in the fourteenth year of the same reign Sunday, June 18th, 1391, Willielm de Waybyrthwayte, formerly rector of Wayburthwayte, by several deeds which were dated on the same day at Newton, gave, granted, and confirmed to Nicholas de Seynhous and to his heirs and assigns a tenement called the Byssopgarth with two agistments on the Bolton Fell as it lieth from Stockdalebeck as far as Bleynxut on the northern part, and as the water runneth.

About that time the surname of the family began to be occasionally contracted from three to two syllables. This Nicholas was indifferently styled de Sewynhous and de Seynhous.

VI.—His son and heir William married a daughter and co-heiress of de Lucie: their marriage is recorded at the College of Heralds. Amongst the archives at

* Deed at Netherhall.

Netherhall is still preserved a deed of conveyance from Alice de Lucy to her son John de Lucy and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten. Sir Thomas de Lucy her son and heir was a witness of the deed, which is without date, but in the eighteenth year of King Edward I., Thomas de Lucy, doing his fealty, had livery of the lands which were an inheritance of Alice his mother. He died in the thirty-third year of the same reign. John de Lucy was Sheriff of Cumberland and Westmorland in the thirty-first and thirty-second years of King Edward I. The first John de Lucy was knight of the shire during the thirty-fourth year of the same reign. He died in the reign of King Edward II., and from his wife Christian it is presumed that the wife of William de Sewynhous was descended.

VII.—His son and heir Thomas Seynhouse lived in the reign of King Henry VI. He married a daughter of Sir Richard Hudleston of Millum Castle, Cumberland. He witnessed a deed dated sixth year of the reign of King Henry VI. (1428). The other witnesses were Christofer de Curwen Miles tunc Vicecomes Cumbrie, Richard de Hudilston magister de Millum, John de Coupland, Thomas de Sevenhous, Richard Braistanestone, etc., dated Auysthwaite, Friday, August 27th, 1421. It is between Elizabeth late wife of Richard de Stanley (de Stanlawe) and Nicholas de Stanlawe father of the said Richard de Stanlawe.

Thomas Seynhouse's name appears in a catalogue of the gentlemen of the county of Cumberland which was taken in the twelfth year of the reign of King Henry VI., by Marmaduke Lumley, Bishop of Carlisle, and other commissioners appointed for that purpose. His possessions seem to have been considerable, and his temper hot. It is said that in a warm altercation with a monk of the Abbey of Calder, relative to his claim of a right to fish in the river Calder, Thomas was so exasperated that he
caught

caught the monk in his arms and heaved him over the battlements of the bridge. It is further said that he was obliged to compound for this summary act of extrajudicial process by a grievous fine imposed upon his property. In the course of his days the *de* (the *Particule Nobiliare*) was totally dropped from the surname, which was almost universally contracted from three to two syllables.

VIII.—He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who married Eleanor daughter of John Lamplugh Esq., of Lamplugh Hall, Cumberland. He lived in the reigns of Kings Henry VII. and VIII.

Sir Simon Senos Prior of Carlisle and others were arbitrators in a controversy betwixt Richard Hudleston and Thomas Senhouse of Seascale Hall, relative to certain lands and tenements lying in Coupland called Gibson's lands, of the yearly value of five marks, claimed by the said Thomas as by right of inheritance, and holden of the said Richard. For the observance of this award each of the said parties was previously bound in the penal sum of one hundred pounds sterling of good and lawful money of England. The arbitrators by an award dated at Pentith in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Henry VII. (March 5th, 1500), demised to the said Richard and to his heirs a main place called Heninghouse, and to the said Thomas and to his heirs all other lands and tenements, which formerly belonged to Thomlyn Gibson, and were lately in the possession of Margaret, the daughter and heir of Richard Gibson.

William Severn, Bishop of Carlisle (1496 to 1502), was sole arbitrator in a controversy betwixt Thomas Senhouse of Seascale Hall and William Stanley of Dalegarth, relative to divers lands and tenements lying in Coupland called Lezfforce, Skalgarth Barn, the Lady Holme, and Acrelay, and claimed by each of the said parties as his own proper inheritance. For the due observance of his
lordship's

lordship's award each of the said parties was previously bound by recognizance in pain of forfeiture of forty pounds. The Right Reverend Prelate, with the advice of his learned council, ordained by an award dated York, September 11th, 1501, in the seventeenth year of King Henry VII., that the said Thomas should occupy Lezforce, Skalgarth Barn, and Lady Holm, and that the said William should occupy Acrelay, until such time as further direction thereof should be taken.

The controversies betwixt Richard Hudleston of Millum Castle and Thomas Senhouse (the younger) of Seascale Hall, and betwixt Thomas Senhouse (the younger) and William Stanley of Dalegarth, whose mother was a daughter of Sir Richard Hudleston of Millum Castle, knight, concerning lands and tenements within the seigniorship of Millum, which were claimed in both cases by right of inheritance, affords a prescriptive evidence the wife of Thomas the elder was a daughter of the same Sir Richard who was created a knight banneret.

As will be seen above, Thomas Senhouse, or de Sevenhouse, the elder, was witness to a deed of conveyance dated August 27th, 1428, from Elizabeth, late wife of Richard de Stanlawe.

IX.—His son and heir Thomas was living in the twentieth year of King Henry VIII., December 17th, 1528. Thomas the father and Thomas the son therefore possessed the family estate for more than one hundred years.*

Simon Senhouse or Senos, supposed to be brother of Thomas the younger, lies interred under a marble tomb in the north transept of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle. The date of his appointment, the time of his decease, and

* Note.—Sir John Lowther and Sir James Lowther, Baronets, father and son, held the Whitehaven estate from 1644 to 1754, and Sir W. Blackstone in his Commentaries upon the Laws of England has quoted a case of a rectory which was holden for above a century by two successive incumbents.

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his relative station in the pedigree are now unknown. He caused the principal apartments in the tower of the Priory to be handsomely fitted up. Dr. Todd in his *Notitia Cathedralis Carleoliensis* * says, "Simon Senos, or Senhouse, of the family of Senoses of Seascale, in the county of Cumberland. He fitted up the refectory in the Dean's lodgings, and carved on it various verses and sentences. I have found him signing his name beneath the following verses :—

Vulnera quinque Dei sunt medecina mei,
May the five wounds of God be my medicine."

Simon Senos, or Senhouse, Prior, also caused the story of St. Augustine to be painted in the Cathedral Church along with the legend of St. Cuthbert.†

Thomas Senhouse the younger was party to an indenture ‡ with Mabel, late wife of Gawen Eggesfield, 17th December, 1528 (20th Henry VIII.), a covenant of marriage betwixt John Senhouse, heir apparent of the said Thomas, and Elizabeth Eggesfield, daughter of the said Gawen and Mabel his wife. Thomas the younger died between 1520-30, and was succeeded by his son.

X.—John Senhouse, who married 1529, Elizabeth, eventually co-heiress with her sister Ann (wife of John Bardsey of Bardsey, county of Lancashire) of her brother Richard Eggesfield. John Senhows, otherwise Senhouse,

* This Society's Tract Series, p. 6.

† Humphrey Senhouse, Esquire, of Netherhall, son of Humphrey Senhouse of Netherhall and Mary, daughter of Sir George Fleming, says: "The arms of the Priory impaling the arms of the family of de Sevenhouse were taken from a window of the above mentioned apartments in the tower of the Priory by the Reverend Thomas Wilson, Doctor of Divinity, then dean of Carlisle, and were given (in the year 1777) to the writer of these lines, to whom as the chief of his family he conceived them to be justly due. In the remembrance of the donor (his friend and relation) and in respect to his own ancient family, the transcriber of these evidences has caused them to be fixed in a window of the principal apartments in the tower of his venerable mansion, which during a period of more than three hundred years has been demonstrably known and distinguished by the two several names of Alneburgh Hall and Netherhall."

‡ Deed at Netherhall.

of Seascale, Esquire, by letter patent dated at Westminster on the 10th November, 1553, in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, received an ample and specific pardon for all such crimes of high treason and rebellion, insurrection and conspiracy against the said Queen, her crown, and dignity, and for all such other crimes of a treasonable nature as had been committed by him before the first of October in the aforesaid year of her reign. He was also, by letters patent dated seventh of Elizabeth, appointed escheator of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. [His name therein is spelt Senouse]. Other letters patent bearing the same date were addressed to Archbishops, Bishops, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Knights, Freemen, and to all others in the said counties, reciting the appointment of "John Senouse," Esquire, to the office of escheator in the said counties, and commands them to be assistant to him in all matters appertaining to that office. His will is dated 3rd September, 1568. He was succeeded by his eldest son.

XI.—Thomas Senhouse, who inherited the family estates of Seascale Hall and Hall Bolton. He purchased the advowson and presentation to the Rectory of Gosforth, sixth Elizabeth (22nd March, 1563). He is mentioned in the Survey of Cumberland, twentieth Elizabeth (May 8th, 1577). He married Dorothy, daughter of John Vaux, of Catterlen Hall. He was succeeded by his son.

XII.—John Senhouse, who was aged four years, 16th August, 1575. He married Mary, daughter of William Fleming Esquire, of Rydal Hall, county of Westmorland. He was buried at Gosforth, September 25th, 1637, and he was succeeded by his second son, the eldest son William having died young.

XIII.—John Senhouse was born 6th April, 1599, and married at Standish November 30th, 1634, Ann, daughter and co-heiress of John Bimpson, of Shevington Esquire, in Lancashire, and co-heiress on her mother's side of Sir Edward

Edward Wrightington, of Wrightington, knight, in the same county. John Senhouse's name was inserted the 2nd October, 1652, in the additional bill for the sale of lands and estates forfeited to the commonwealth, by the designation of John Senhouse, of Eccleston, Esquire, county Lancashire, where his wife's property was situated. His eldest son John died in his father's lifetime, leaving a widow with issue. John was buried at Gosforth, 22nd January, 1669, and was succeeded in the Seascale Hall estate by his second son.

XIV.—Wrightington Senhouse, born Tuesday, January 2nd, baptized January 8th, 1639; whilst Joseph, his third son, inherited the estate of Hall Bolton which his grandson Joseph, fourth son of Laneelot, left at his death to his wife Alice, daughter of John Dobinson, of Wheelbarrow Hall, Cumberland; this last Joseph Senhouse was alive in 1724. Wrightington Senhouse married Dorothy, daughter of John Aynesworth Esquire, of Pleasington, county of Lancashire. His name is in the list of those who were to be invested with the Order of the Royal Oak. He was buried at Gosforth, 25th November, 1667, and was succeeded by his son.

XV.—John Senhouse, born at Pleasington, county Lancashire, 16th March, 1660, married Elizabeth, daughter of Alan Bellingham Esquire, of Levens, county Westmorland. He was High Sheriff of the county of Cumberland third Anne, 1704. From him the ancient patrimonial estates, which must have been considerably augmented by marriage with different co-heiresses, were destined to fall into the hands of strangers. After 1694 John Senhouse mortgaged his estates. The mortgage was bought up by Mr. Robert Blacklock, a merchant of Whitehaven, and after a Chancery suit, which increased the embarrassments of the ancient proprietor, the whole estate passed into the hands of Blacklock in 1707 (when John Senhouse must have been 47), with the exception of
Hall

Hall Bolton, where John's great uncle Joseph had been settled by his father John, who married Mary, daughter of William Fleming Esquire, of Rydal Hall, Westmorland.

John Senhouse would seem to have no children when the mortgage was made, as the only parties were himself, his wife, and William Senhouse, of Cockermouth, who must have been his brother; but in the Gosforth Register mention is made of a son John, bapt: 7th October, 1685; a John was buried 1690, who might have been this son: Wrightington bapt: 1689, and William bapt: Nov. 1691. Another son Allan was at Winchester and Eton aged 14, 3rd August, 1730, but who died in the lifetime of his parents. Two other sons have been spoken of, but without any names or designation whatever.

In 1730 a translation of the Satires of Persius was published by Cane "At the sign of the Bible and Pope's Head Alley Cornhill" for the author, Mr. John Senhouse, late of Seascale, in the county of Cumberland, now of Penzance, in the county of Cornwall. This could be none other than John Senhouse, the late proprietor of Seascale Hall. A vignette heads the preface: in the background are two halls with their irregular accumulations of buildings; a cross stands in front of one, and on the left hand is a large tree torn up by its roots. A parrot, or popinjay (the well-known Senhouse crest), sits on its branches: a label proceeds from its mouth, on which is written *Omnium vicissitudo*. On the right is another tree with a table under it, furnished with a table cloth, bottle, and glass, at which a gentleman sits at his ease with a book, and smoking a pipe.*

John Senhouse died in 1737, and a general fine was received by the lord of the manor of Seascale in that year,

* Reproduced at the head of this paper. The two halls are, no doubt, Seascale and Hall Bolton, and the gentleman taking his ease—John Senhouse.

in consequence thereof, John being the last general admitting lord.

The estate of Seascale and Manor of Newton and Seascale passed from the Blacklocks to Augustus Earle Esquire, and Charles Lutwidge, of Whitehaven, Esquire, sold it to Samson Senhouse (nephew of the then owner of Netherhall, Humphrey Senhouse, Esquire) in 1800. Samson Senhouse Esquire, and his uncle, were descended from John Senhouse, son of John Senhouse and Elizabeth Egglesfield, who inherited his mother's property at Alneburgh Hall, or Netherhall, on the death of his brother Peter without issue. After the Seascale Hall and Hall Bolton families died out, the Alneburgh or Netherhall family became the senior branch of the Seascale Senhouses. Samson Senhouse sold Seascale Hall to his mother, Mrs. William Senhouse, and at her death her second surviving son, Sir Humphrey le Fleming Senhouse, K.C.H., purchased it, and after his death, it was sold to Anthony Benn Steward, Esquire.