

ART. XV.—*Thornthwaite Hall, Westmorland.* By JOHN F. CURWEN, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Read at Thornthwaite, September 13th, 1906.

IN early times the manor of Bampton was divided into two moieties, one known as Thornthwaite or Bampton Patric with Knipe* Patric, and the other as Bampton Cundale. The first received its name from Patric de Culwen, the son of Thomas de Workington, who founded, in the year 1191, the order of Premonstratenses at Preston Patrick, which afterwards removed to the vale of Magdalene near Shap. Thomas de Workington must have held the manor of Hepp and the forest of Thornthwaite at this time, for we find that he “granted to God and the church of St. Mary Magdalene, of the vale of Magdalene, and the canons of the order of Premonstratenses serving God there, all that his land which was karl (lands held by his carles or farmers).” He granted to them, also, a vale with brushwood and pastures for 60 cows and 20 mares to run in the woods, and 500 sheep with their young, till the age of three years, and for five yoke of oxen and wood also for the abbey, timber and fire, hedging and other necessaries, without the control of his foresters.†

In the year 1315, after the death of Robert de Clifford, the inquisition finds that Sir Gilbert de Culwen, the son and heir of Patric, held of the said Robert on the day of his death Bampton Patric and Gnype Patric, and also the manor of Hepp, which is now called Shap and Rosgill. The wardship, marriage, and relief of Bampton Patric

* The Icelandic word for a hill, *gnipa*.

† Dugdale, *Monasticon*.

was worth £42 yearly, and Gnype Patric £10 yearly; the cornage was 26s. 7d.

Sir Gilbert de Culwen, the grandson of the above-mentioned Gilbert, died in the year 1370, when it was found by a post-mortem inquisition that, amongst other estates, he held of the de Cliffords the manor of Gnype and with the abbot of Shap and Robert de Cliburne the manor of Bampton Patric by homage and fealty and the cornage of 13s. 4d. This was about the time when the tenants of Thornthwaite were excused payment of the tribute due to the Crown, owing to the loss they had sustained by the ravages of the Scots.

His son Sir Gilbert de Curwen and Robert de Cliburne held in 1392 Bampton Patric and Gnype Patric by the cornage of 15s. 10d.

By a charter dated 5 Henry IV. (1404) Robert, the son of John de Curwen, released to Sir Christopher Curwen all his legal rights in the manor of Thornthwaite in Westmorland. This Sir Christopher and John de Cliburne held the manor in the year 1422 by the same amount of cornage.

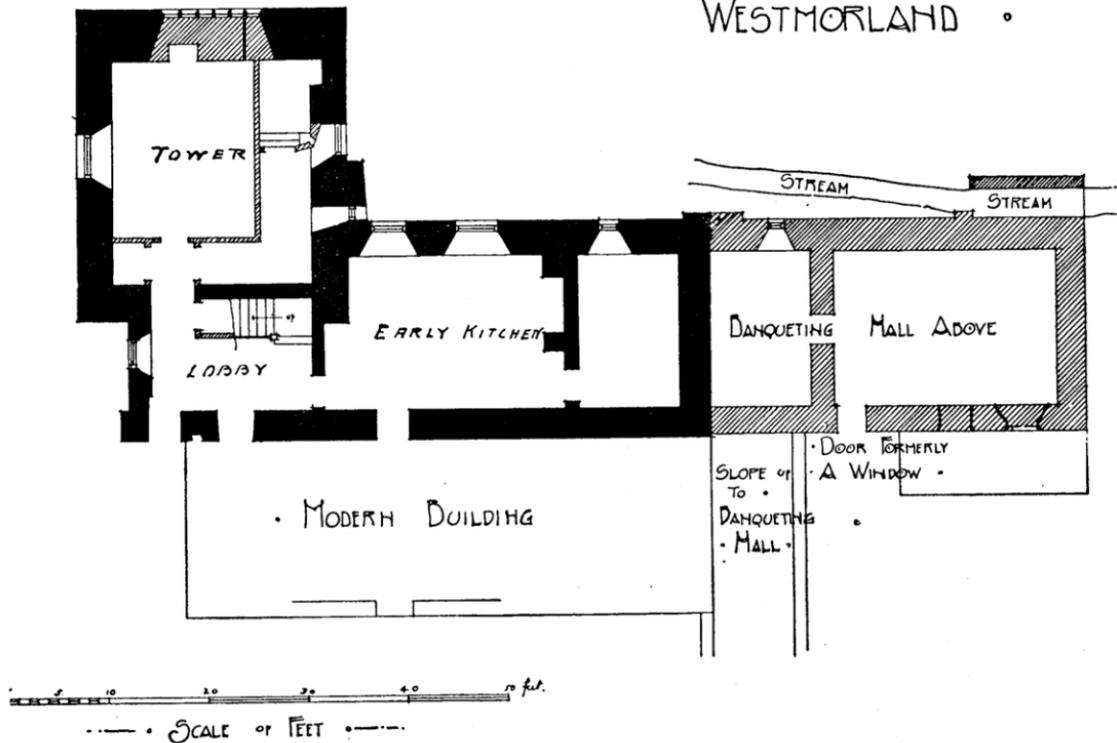
His grandson, another Sir Christopher, died in 1499, and by an inquisition it was found that he held the manor by knight's service, to wit, by homage, fealty and scutage—namely, for Bampton Patric, where scutage runs at £10 10s and cornage at 13s. 4d; for Gnype Patric, where scutage runs at £10 4s. and cornage at 17s.

His grandson, again another Sir Christopher, and Thomas de Cliburne held the same in the year 1527, about which time Miss Noble, in her *History of the Parish of Bampton*, says the manor was sold to Lord William Howard of Naworth. May I be allowed to correct this date to nearly 100 years later?

In the Court of Requests* there is a curious petition, dated the 25th day of May, 1576:—"Thomas Langhorne

* Court of Requests Proceedings, No. 111/24.

• THORNTHWAITTE MALL
WESTMORLAND •



and others shewing that whereas they and their ancestors time out of memory of man have quietly had and enjoyed possession of certain tenements according to ancient custom, in consideration of their service to be in readiness with horse harness and other furniture to serve her majesty the queen at their own cost and charges in defense of the realm against the Scots; but so it is that Sir Henry Curwen, lord of the lordship of Thornthwaite hath expelled twelve tenants and taken their land from them and *hath enclosed it* into his demesne and hath surrendered over the same lordship to Nicholas Curwen, gent., his son and heir, etc. etc."

Now I am inclined to believe that we have in this petition the first record of Thornthwaite Hall—Sir Henry Curwen providing an estate for his son whereon he could build for himself a home. Nicholas was at this time 25 years of age, and was about to take to wife Anne, the daughter of Sir Simon Musgrave of Hartley Castle.

There are no initials, coat of arms, or dated stones about the place to help us, but the windows in the oldest portion of the building accord with this time, and with a little difficulty I think that it will be possible to make out the plan as it was originally built.

First of all the tower, erected in imitation of the Border peles, measures externally 31 × 27 feet, with walls 3½ feet thick; but instead of the vaulted basement of the peles, the ground floor here is occupied with a chamber having a most delightful six-light mullioned window looking out toward the south. There have been two floors above, as can be seen by the now blocked-up Tudor windows. The battlemented roof has disappeared, subsequent alterations having gabled the tower over as many another tower has been, especially the splendid pele at Levens.

Adjoining on the north side is the entrance lobby with a staircase communicating with the rooms above, and from which a door leads into the kitchen wing, built at right angles to the tower, with servants' quarters above.

Such I conceive Nicholas Curwen's habitation until he removed to Workington upon the death of his father in the year 1597. Sir Nicholas died in the year 1604, and it was his son Sir Henry that sold Thornthwaite to Lord William Howard, probably soon after he came into the property, for we find "Belted Will" receiving the rents of, and residing at, Thornthwaite Hall in the year 1612.*

Lord William Howard used Thornthwaite as a convenient house when hunting in the neighbourhood, and I think that we must assign to his time the further extensions. These consisted of a banqueting hall, nearly 35 feet in length, to which was attached a turret garde-robe built out over a small stream. This fine hall was on the first floor, and was most probably reached by a flight of stone steps from the courtyard, as at Catterlen Hall. But unfortunately it is now full of hay, so that we cannot examine its features.

Doubtless the courtyard was enclosed with stables and other outbuildings, which are now all gone with the exception of those standing on either side of the gateway, where many an old walled-up, stone-mullioned window can still be seen.

Miss Noble points out that Francis Howard, the grandson of Lord William, who died in 1702, left the manor in trust to his three daughters, of whom the eldest, Mary, married John Warwick. It would seem that they purchased the other two daughters' shares, and that their son Francis Warwick sold the manor to an Edward Hasell of Dalemain, reserving to himself the hall of which he died seised in the year 1772.

The whole building has been, a few years ago, so pulled to pieces internally and so added to externally, to fit it for a farmhouse, that it has now become impossible to further trace back the appearance of this, at one time, fine old hall of Thornthwaite.

* Surtees Society, vol. lxxviii., p. 5.