

ART. XX.—*Scaleby Castle*. By J. F. CURWEN, F.S.A.

Communicated at Scaleby, 11 September, 1925.

SCALEBY Castle is one of the most interesting feudal sites in Cumberland by reason of its proximity to the Border and the consequent mauling that it frequently received at the hands of the Scots, as also by reason of the important part that it played as a Royalist stronghold during the Civil Wars.

The history of the manor begins before the year 1130 when Henry I enfeoffed it to Richard "the Rider," a suffix which simply meant the Chevalier or Knight. It is said that this Richard was a man of great parts who has left his name in Rickerby, an estate his family held of the Prior of Carlisle* and in Rickergate, where they had a residence and owned burgages from a very early date.

While Cumberland was under David, King of Scots, the history is broken, but with the recovery of the district in 1157 Richard's grandson, Peter de Tilliol, obtained possession after paying a fine of 50s. to the crown for his admission thereto.†

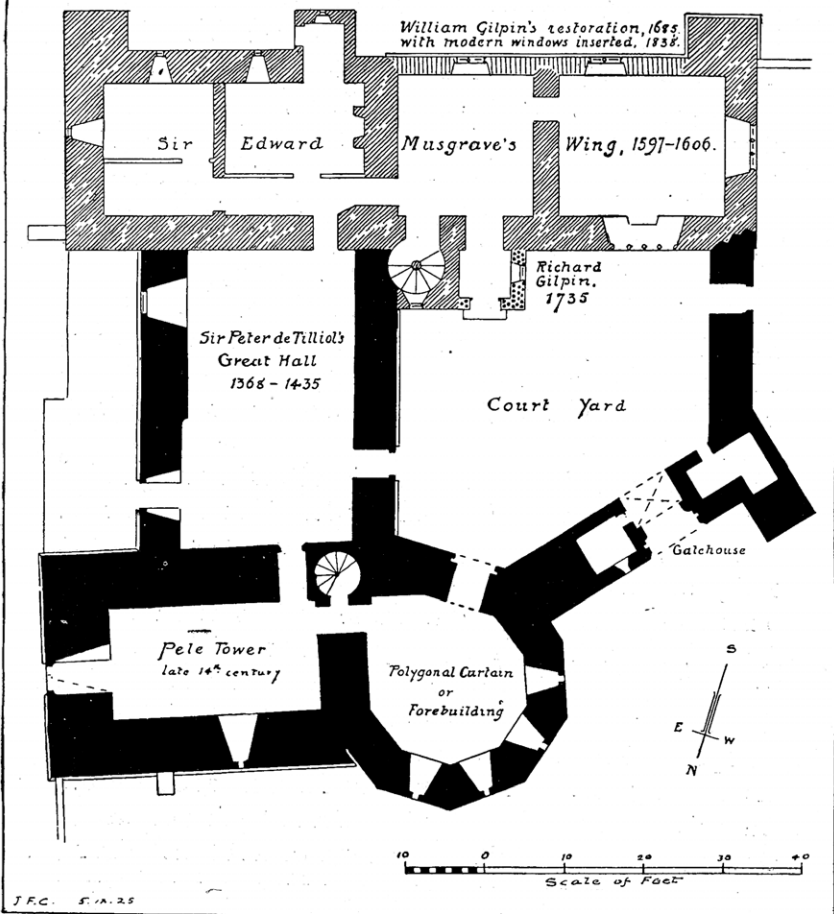
This Peter's grandson, another Peter, died in 1246 and in the 'extent' of his lands made on 5 December the jury stated that he held in the demesne of Scaleby 233 acres of arable land each acre worth 7d. yearly, 20 acres of meadow each worth 12d., a mill worth 7 marks and a capital mesuage with houses and grazing worth 6s. 8d. yearly. They also said that Geoffrey de Tilliol is his son and heir aged sixteen years last Lent and that he lay sick at Cambridge with something broken.‡ This may be an early reference

* He held it for one mark yearly; see *Inq. p.m.*, 31 Henry III, n. 46.

† *Pipe Rolls*, 4 Henry II.

‡ *Inq. p. m.*, 31 Henry III, n. 46; see also *Cal. of Docs. relating to Scotland*, 1108-1272, 314.

SCALEBY CASTLE



to the University but what concerns us for the moment is the fact that the capital messuage is not designated a tower. Considering the flat nature of the site it was most probably a Grange surrounded by a square moat, of which perhaps a short section still remains towards the west. The fact that the excavated earth has been thrown up into the centre confirms the opinion that there was a defensive site here before the erection of any stone buildings.

Geoffrey's son, Sir Robert de Tilliol, at the age of 30 succeeded to the estate in 1295* on the eve of the great rupture between the two Kingdoms. For many years he was actively engaged in the King's service and in raising levies for the army "to repress the increasing malice of the Scots."† In 1301 he made a plucky defence of Lochmaben Castle, where his position was almost hopeless, reporting that 7000 Scots have "burnt for us our town and assailed our pele from the middle of prime until the hour of nones, but by the help of God we are not afraid of them."

A man occupying such a conspicuous military position was bound to be a definite mark for Scottish vengeance and, moreover, his dwelling lay close to the frontier and could easily be reached. We have no definite proof that he built a pele tower; all that we know is that on the 24 August, 1307, i.e. immediately after the death of the great King Edward, when the army was left in confusion and when the Border Knights were forced to look to their own protection, Sir Robert obtained a licence to crenellate his dwelling house of Scaleby in the Marches of Scotland.‡ But this may have been merely a strengthening of the old Grange, for I do not think that any portion of the existing

* *Rot. Originalia*, 23 Edw. I, n. 7.

† In 1299 he was ordered to raise 2,000 foot in Cumberland while Hugh de Multon had to raise 1,000 in Westmorland. See Palsgrave, *Parliamentary Writs*, I, 325 et passim.

‡ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1307-13, 8. He also received the privilege of free warren in his manor.

ruin dates back to that period, nor do we find any mention of a tower or castle in the Inquisition taken after his death in 1320.

We have now to recall the great raids that passed through this district, and more particularly those of the years 1311, 1314 and 1319,* and by so doing we can understand what the jury mean by saying that a portion of his lands in Scaleby, "which divers tenants used to hold, now render nothing because the country is wasted by the Scots." Indeed it would appear that after these severe blows and during the reign of terror that continued his dwelling house also lay waste. Moreover, the inhabitants of Scaleby were excused the collection of the Tenth and Fifteenth taxes on several occasions because their homesteads had been burned and totally destroyed, with their corn, animals and other goods, so that they had nothing with which to cultivate their lands or maintain themselves (see additional notes). As has been said there are no natural defences to the site and I cannot find, what is rather unusual for a stronghold in Cumberland, any further reference to the dwelling during the Wars for Scottish Independence.

The first mention of a castle is found in the Inquisition taken after the death of Robert's grandson, another Robert. He possessed a most militant nature and appears to have found his chief delight in harassing the Scot at every opportunity. This *unum castrum* can be taken as a pele tower and probably it stood alone at first within the stockaded defences.† In my opinion it was during the occupancy of Sir Peter de Tilliol, Sir Robert's son and the last of the male line, that the present great hall, and the curtain wall were built. This Sir Peter was a man who,

* Curwen, *Castles and Towers*, 159-172.

† The floor of the Hall is above the level of the Pele plinth, so that one cannot see whether or not the Pele has a plinth on its south side. A very slight excavation would at once settle the question.

after the turmoil of past generations, lived "a quite and peaceable life" on the whole and enjoyed the estate for 67 years. He died in 1435.

It is a medium sized pele, measuring 41 by 28 feet with the axis east and west. The walls at the basement are 7 and 8 feet in thickness with a heavy plinth in addition.

The original entrance has evidently been in the short western end now demolished. The stone vaulting over the basement is most unusually high and there are three stories above. Unfortunately there are no architectural details remaining, beyond a small portion of the newel stair and the stone seats in the upper windows, to give us any clue to the actual date of the building. The hall has the same masonry and plinth as the pele; also it has the same high vaulted roof and massive stone corbels. I cannot recall any other hall in our district that is so vaulted, and to my mind it speaks loudly of the necessity for protection against the awful incendiarism of Scottish warfare in these parts. A round headed doorway communicated with the basement of the Pele and by the newel staircase with the apartments above. The hall itself measures internally about 37 by 21 feet with walls $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness. At the further end were the kitchens, now demolished, and it would appear that the curtain wall extended originally around the courtyard from their southwest corner. In other words that the present house was not then in existence.

The entrance to the Court was through a shallow gatehouse defended by a portcullis, with guard chambers on either side and with a vaulted and ribbed portcullis room above. Between the gatehouse and the pele the curtain with its rampart walk took a polygonal shape, in order to form not only a forebuilding to protect the entrance to the pele, but also by its many angled sides to enfilade the entire front. This forebuilding is bonded in and clearly built at the same time as the curtain, but it will be noticed

that it does not carry a plinth and further that on its exterior junction with the pele there is a large open and vertical joint, showing that it was not built exactly at the same time as the pele, yet all the evidence goes to show that it and the curtain were built very soon after. I do not think that this forebuilding was ever roofed in, but that its interior was fully exposed to the men-at-arms, who from the surrounding ramparts above, defended the entrance.

It will be noticed that the forebuilding and consequently the pele were closed in from the courtyard by a secondary gateway and portcullis.

At what period the outer moat was dug I cannot say. It is circular on plan and contains an area of some three-and-a-half acres. The diameter is about 500 feet—a measurement which may have been carelessly transcribed at some time into 500 yards and thus given to subsequent writers the idea that there was a third outer moat measuring nearly “a mile in circumference.”*

On referring to the pedigree it will be seen that Sir Peter left two daughters, co-heiresses, and through them, Scaleby ultimately passed into the hands of the Musgrave and Moresby families. Sir Edward Musgrave, who was knighted in 1604, bought out the Moresby moiety and he is said to have “rebuilt a large portion” of the castle. This would be the shell of the present residence, a work that was destined to be destroyed during the ill-fated Civil Wars.

For Sir Edward's grandson, another Sir Edward, in 1644 garrisoned the castle and sustained a siege for many months. Indeed on the 8 October Sir William Armyne informed Mr. Speaker Lenthall that the Castle of Scaleby was holding out against the Parliament as obstinately as Carlisle.† Five months later, i.e. in the following February, it was obliged to surrender to Gen. Leslie's forces.

* Among other writers see Jefferson, *History of Carlisle*, 386.

† *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep., Portland MSS.*, XIII, App. I, 185-6.

Then in 1648 the castle was again garrisoned and attacked by a detachment of Gen. Lambert's army. On this occasion, however, the building was not capable of sustaining a prolonged siege so that the captain, after firing one shot, surrendered to the Parliamentarians who are said to have immediately set the house on fire.*

After the Restoration poor Sir Edward Musgrave detailed his sufferings in the Royalist cause to Sec. Williamson, saying:—"in 1648 his castle of Scaleby was burnt, his whole personal estate seized, his real estate sequestered and that he suffered hard imprisonments for many months by Sir Arthur Haselrigge's cruelty. In sequestrations, compositions, imprisonments, decimations and losses he has been and still is a sufferer for his loyalty to the value of £10,000 and upwards."†

And it was in consequence of this loyalty that Sir Edward finally had to sell the ruined castle. Dr. Grosart informs us that Richard Gilpin, the Presbyterian incumbent of Greystoke (1652-1660), purchased Scaleby with the help of a mortgage. Thither he retired when ejected at the restoration and there in a "great room" of the old castle he was wont to assemble and preach to his neighbours on the Sabbaths.‡ Scaleby being at just such a distance from Carlisle as to place him beyond the operation of the Conventicle Act. After the Act was amended, i.e. on 5 September, 1672, Richard Gilpin availed himself of the Indulgence Declaration and went before the Court of Quarter Sessions to obtain a license for Scaleby Castle as a Presbyterian preaching place.§

It would appear that this impoverished clergyman could do no more than make the house temporarily habitable. His son William, however, chosen early in

* Kimber, *Baronetage*.

† Dated 9 April, 1672. *Cal. St. Pap. Dom.*, 1671-2, 295.

‡ Rev. A. B. Grosart, *Gilpin's Daemonologia Sacra*.

§ Nightingale, *The Ejected of 1662*, 468.

life as Recorder of Carlisle, married Mary the daughter and coheir of Henry Fletcher of Tallentire, and became a very influential man in the county. I think that we may safely attribute to him the rebuilding of the western half of the south wall of the residence, about the year 1685. Thomas Denton writing three years later says:—"The capital messuage here is an old castle, a place formerly of great strength, and now by its being lately repaired and new modelled hath made it a large and convenient habitation." It will be noticed that the wall is much thinner than that of the northern Tudor façade and how that a plinth has been added, stopping abruptly where it adjoins the older eastern half. His son, Richard Gilpin, entered into possession in 1724 and he seems to have built the present porch, which is dated 1737, with his monogram R G, a flourish being added to the G to make it resemble a reversed R.

From the year 1741 the castle was deserted for a long time and passed into other hands. So dilapidated did it become that in 1772 William Gilpin returning to the house wherein he was born says:—"This venerable pile has now undergone a second ruin. Two wretched families, the only inhabitants of the place, occupy the two ends of the vaulted hall; the fragment of a tattered curtain, reaching half way to the top, being the simple boundary of their respective limits. All the rest is waste; no other part of the house is habitable. The chambers unwindowed and almost unroofed."*

Such then has been the rise and fall of this important outpost to Carlisle; its enlargement and almost immediate destruction again during the Civil Wars; its restoration and decay, and finally to pursue the subject no further, its subsequent rehabilitation.

* Gilpin, *Northern Tour*, II, 124.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

- 1261 9 April. John de Cane appointed to hold an assize of novel disseisin which William fitz Robert arraigns against Geoffrey son of Peter de Tilliol and Robert de Tilliol concerning common pasture in Scaleby. (*Cal. Doc. relating to Scotland*, 1108-1272, 442).
- 1278/9 The Jury say that Geoffrey de Tyllol holds the manor of Scaleby and the barony of Houghton of the King by cornage. (*Ib.* 1272-1307, 37).
- 1295 At the Inquisition taken after the death of Geoffrey de Tilliol, 23 Edw. I, the jury found in Scaleby the capital messuage, 100 a. of land, 10 a. of meadow, 47 shillings rents of tenants at will, and 1 lb. cummin and 4d. rent of a free tenant, held of the King in chief by cornage of $\frac{1}{2}$ mark and by suit at the County Court; also two parts of the town with a water mill held of the lord of Gilsland by homage and suit of his court at Irthington.
- 1320 1 Dec. The King granted to Anthony de Lucy the manor of Penrith and Sowerby to hold until out of the issue of those manors he should be fully repaid the amounts the King was indebted to him, viz. £986 13s. 4d., as well for his wages and those of the men-at-arms in his company for the defence of the Marches of Carlisle, as for the keeping of the peels of Staworth and Scaleby from 29 Nov. in the 10th year of the King to the 28th November following (1317-1318). (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1317-21, 409).
- 1320/1 Inquest taken on Thursday after St. Gregory the Pope, 14 Edward 11 (1320/1). Robert Tilliol died seised of the manor of Scaleby including a sixth part of the hamlet of Hoghton and tenements called 'le Fourhowis' and 'le Heyberys' held of the King in chief by service of 11s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. cornage, which cornage gives wardship and marriage; and 24 a.

land in demesne, 8 a. meadow and 40 a. bovates of land which divers tenants used to hold, but which now render nothing because the country is wasted by the Scots, held of the lord of Gillisland in chief by service of a tenth part of a Knight's fee and suit at his court of Irthington. (Also particulars of Kirkelevington, Ricardby, Solperd, Stubhill and Carlisle given). Peter, his son, aged 22 and more is his next heir. *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. 6, n. 279; also C. Edw. II, file 67, n. 6.

- 1346 10 May. Mandate to the collectors of taxes in co. Cumberland not to levy the tenth and fifteenth from certain manors and towns, (among which we find Scaleby with the parish of that town,) as the greater part of places in the county have been burned and totally destroyed, with the corn, animals and other goods therein, by hostile incursions of the King's Scottish enemies, wherefore they have nothing to cultivate their lands or maintain themselves, and they are distrained for the 10th and 15th for the second year. (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1346-9, 30).
- 1348 18 April. Order to the tax collectors to supersede for this turn the demand for the tenth and fifteenth made upon a number of parishes (including Scaleby) by reason of their goods and chattels being totally burned and destroyed by the Scots. (*Ib.* 449).
- 1350 Inquest taken at Carlisle, 23 December, 23 Edw. III (1350). Peter de Tilliol died seised of the manor of Hoghton held of the King in chief by homage and service, paying to the King yearly 11s. 11½d. for cornage at the Exchequer of the Castle of Carlisle; also a third part of the Town of Kirkelevyngton, held of the King in chief by homage and service of 16s. yearly for cornage and by suit at the county of Cumberland every month; (also burgages in Carlisle, the manor of Richardby held of the Bp. of Carlisle,

a moiety of the hamlet of Newbiggin as parcel of the town of Crogelyn held of Hugh de Querton). He died on Friday, 30 October last and Robert Tilliol is his son and next heir aged 22 years and more. *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vol. 9, n. 189; also C. Edw. III, file 95, n. 19; E. Enrolments of Inq., n. 79.

1350-66 Sir Robert during his occupancy of Scaleby harassed the enemy at every opportunity. Among his many "drives" he forayed in Eskdale the lands of William lord Douglas, in company with Sir Thomas de Lucy, with a great force and robbed the people there in open day of 1000 oxen, 1000 sheep and horses, plundered all the houses and set to ransom many of the people to their damages of £5000 sterling. Bains, *Cal. of Documents*, iii, 1664).

1367 Inquest taken at Carlisle on Monday in the Eve of St. Matthew the Apostle, 20 September, 41 Edw. III (1367), before John de Scotherskelf, chivaler, escheator, by the oath of William Lengleys, Hugh de Louthre, Adam Parryng, Thomas de Qwyteris, John de Warewyk, chivalers, William de Mulcastre, Robert de Hampton, Ralph de Querton, John de Ecclesfeld, Walter de Mulcastre, John Brome, and Thomas Howett, who say that Robert Tilliol, chivaler, died seised of the manor of Hoghton with the appurtenances and two parts of Scaleby as parcel of the manor. There are at Hoghton *inter alia* the site of a capital messuage, wasted, and 40 a. of demesne land, in the hands of tenants at will rendering 19s. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ d. at Pentecost and St. Martin in Winter by equal portions. And there are in the two parts of Scaleby a castle, 140 a. of lands in demesne, whereof 40 a. are arable and worth 20s. per annum, and 100 a. lie waste and worth nothing yearly; a market or fair worth 26s. yearly; a water mill in the hands of tenants at will

worth yearly £4. He also died seised of the third part of the manor of Kirkeleuyngton, and there is the site of a manor which is waste and worth nothing.

The jurors say that the said manor of Hoghton with two parts of the vill of Scaleby are held of the King in chief by homage and the service of rendering yearly to the exchequer at Carlisle 11s. 11d., and the third part of Scaleby is held of Sir Ranulph de Dacre by suit of court at Irthington. The third part of the manor of Kirkleuyngton is held of the King in chief by homage and the service of rendering yearly 16s. for cornage at the Exchequer by the hand of the sheriff of Cumberland. Peter de Tilliol is his son and next heir of the age of 11 years at the feast of SS. Peter and Paul the Apostles last past. Chancery Inq. p. m., file 196, n. 58.

1367 1 October. Order to the Escheator in co. Cumberland to deliver in dower to Felicia who was the wife of Robert Tilliol, Knt., a third part of the manor of Kirklevyngton and *inter alia* a water mill in Scaleby at £4, the park of Scaleby at 26s. 8d. which the King has assigned to her of the lands of her said husband in the king's hand by his death and by reason of the nonage of his heir. (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1364-68, 354).

1399 10 June. Protection for one year going on the King's service to Ireland in the company of John, Duke of Exeter, to Peter Tilliol, Knt., of Scaleby co. Cumberland. (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1396-99, 573).

1434/5 Inquest taken at Carlisle on Saturday after the Conversion of St. Paul, 13 Henry VI (1434/5), before William Laton, escheator, by the oath of Thomas Parre, Christopher Curwen, Nicholas Raddecliff, Christopher Moresby, chivalers, Thomas Appleby, John Newby, Robert Hoton, Robert Alanby, John Southark, Richard Warcopp, Thomas

Beauchamp and Robert Wylton, jurors, who say that Peter Tilliol, Knt., died seised of the manor of Houghton and of the Castle of Scaleby with the appurtenances, the which manor and castle are held of the King in chief by homage and fealty and rendering 11s. 11½d. to the King yearly for cornage at the exchequer of Carlisle in the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, and they are worth yearly in all issues 10 marks clear. He also died seised of the third part of the manor of Kirkelevyngton with the appurtenances which are held of the King in chief by homage and fealty and are worth nothing yearly for that they are totally wasted by the Scots, the King's enemies. The said Peter died on Sunday, 2 January, 13 Henry VI, and Robert Tilliol is his son and heir and of the age of 30 years and more. Chancery Inq. p. m., file 69, n. 24.

1499 Christopher Moresby, Knt., on the day of his death was seised *inter alia* of the castle and manor of Scaleby and a moiety of the manor of Houghton held of the King in chief by payment for cornage at the Exchequer of Carlisle 8s. 11½d. There are in the said castle and manor the site of the castle and 48 messuages, six score acres of demesne land, 80 acres meadow and they are worth nothing yearly beyond outgoings inasmuch as they lie next the parts of Scotland and are wasted by the Scots. (*Cal. Inquis. Henry VII*, vol. 2, 192).

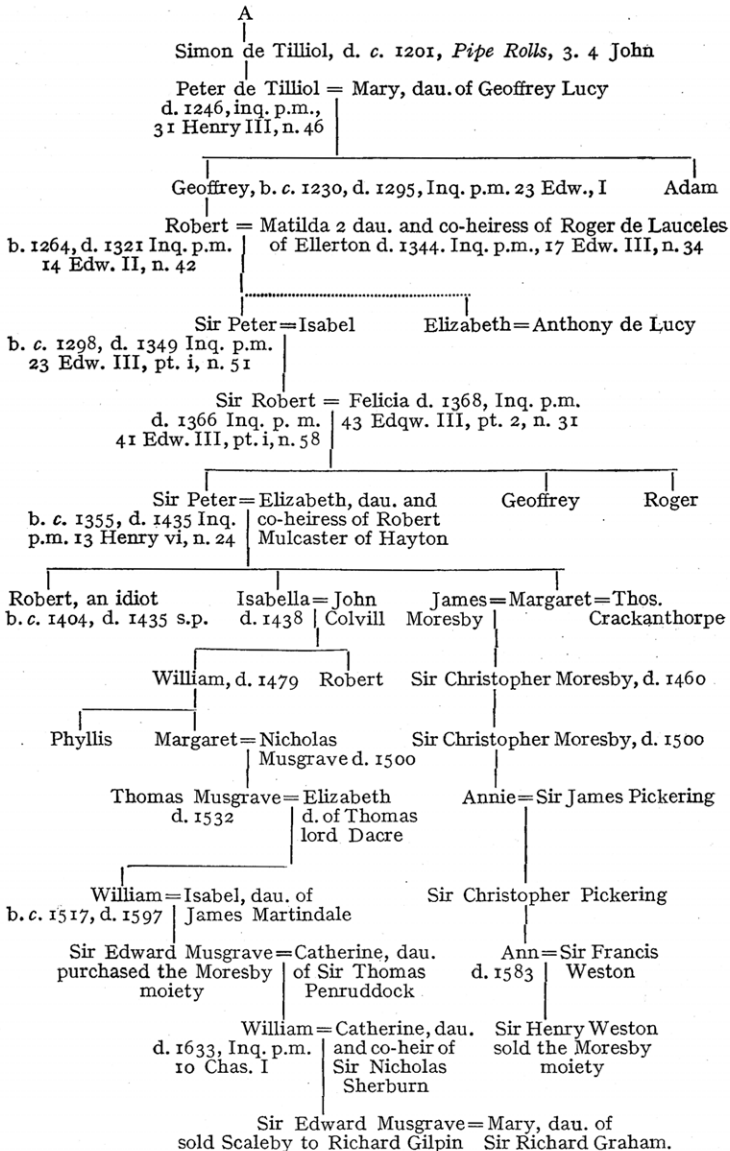
1580 "The estates and title of this house or castell standeth in some question between S^r Henry Weston, Knt., and Christopher Dacre, Esq., and standeth about fower miles west by south from Askerton and six miles frō Scotland, partly decayed, the repairing whereof is esteemed to three score pounds beside new castings of the moote, which hath bin used to be

- don by the tenants of that manor as is aleadged." (Christopher Dacre's Survey, *Cal. St. Pap. Dom. Add.*, 1580, Vol. 27, n. 44).
- 1580/1 9 February. At a muster taken of the Eskdale Ward it was shown that Scaleby furnished men with 7 jacks, 23 steel caps, 46 spears. (*Cal. Border Papers*, i, 41).
- 1583 Thomas Musgrave to Burghley writing on the Border riders says, "Skalby-castell, a strong howse and a fayre, very well set for a captayne to lye in, yet it is not kept by anie souldyars, not skantly anie dweller in it. (*Cal. Border Papers*, i, 124).
- 1600 23 October. Scrope to Cecil. About 4 days since 30 Scottish thieves came to Scaileby, killed one man and wounded another in peril of death, but the goods were rescued. In revenge "we have taken one principal Scott out of his bed in Scotland that was at that deed." (*Cal. Border Papers*, ii, 700).
- 1814 The castle was again restored by Rowland Fawcett, a farmer upon an improving lease, and by 1814 it is described as consisting "of a very ancient octagon tower, now much decayed, a high square tower, also in ruins; and a more modern castellated building, a comfortable residence. (Scott, *Border Antiq.*, ii, 117).
- 1838 Some of the more modern portion of the venerable structure, is at present being rebuilt in the Gothic style. (Jefferson, *Carlisle*, 385).
- 1853-5 A large portion was rebuilt by James Fawcett. (Bulmer, *Hist. Cumb.* 264).

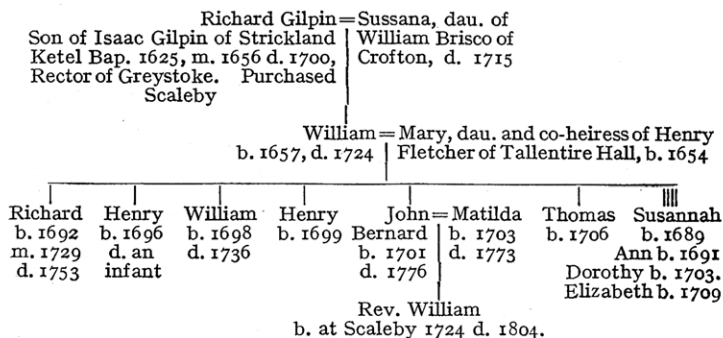
THE TILLIOLS OF SCALEBY.

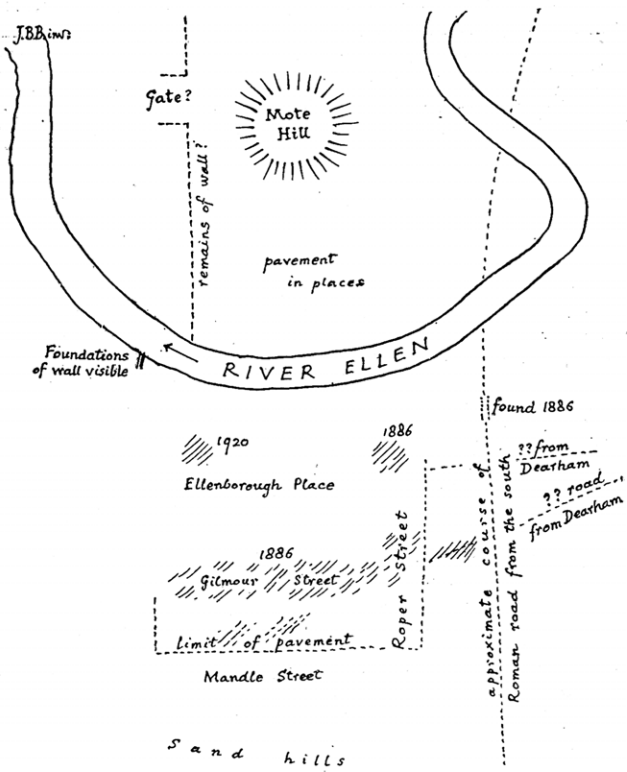
Richard "the Rider," c. 1100-1135
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 Peter de Tilliol, d. 1183, *Pipe Rolls*, 29 Henry II
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 A

SCALEBY CASTLE.



THE GILPINS OF SCALEBY.





Sketch Plan of remains near the river Ellen, Maryport.