

ART. VI.—*Landed Gentry*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM,
M.A., F.S.A.

Read at Penrith, September 10th, 1931.

THE three families described in this paper are typical of a large class, being of ancient lineage but not possessing a clearly connected history until the era of the Herald's Visitation, when it became the fashion for the Landowner to certify his pedigree and the coat of arms, which he believed himself entitled to bear. The pedigree exhibited on such an occasion sometimes contained the names of a host of collateral relations, who had little indeed to do with the family estate. The evidence in support of the certificate was woefully meagre, nevertheless, it was usually given in good faith and was the best obtainable in the circumstances.

I. KIRKBRIDE OF ELLERTON.

Kirkbride of Kirkbride was an ancient territorial family, which became extinct at the death, in January, 1511, of George Kirkbride, its last male representative. By indenture dated February 1, 1507, he had already settled his manor of Kirkbride* upon his three daughters and their respective husbands, namely (1) Elizabeth, then aged 33, wife of John Dalston (2) Isabel, aged 29, wife of Thomas Beauchamp and (3) Emmotte (called elsewhere Emon and Emma),† aged 21, wife of Robert Cliburn (see Colonel Haswell's article, these *Trans.*, n.s. x, p. 211).

At the Visitation of Yorkshire made in 1564 by William Flower, Norroy King of Arms (*Harleian Society's Publications*, vol. xvi) a scion of the house submitted the

* The Kirkbrides were mesne lords of one moiety only of Kirkbride. The other moiety was outstanding in the hands of the chief lord (*Trans.*, n.s. xv.

† She is named Emma in a deed dated 1505 (*Trans.*, n.s. xxviii, p. 258).

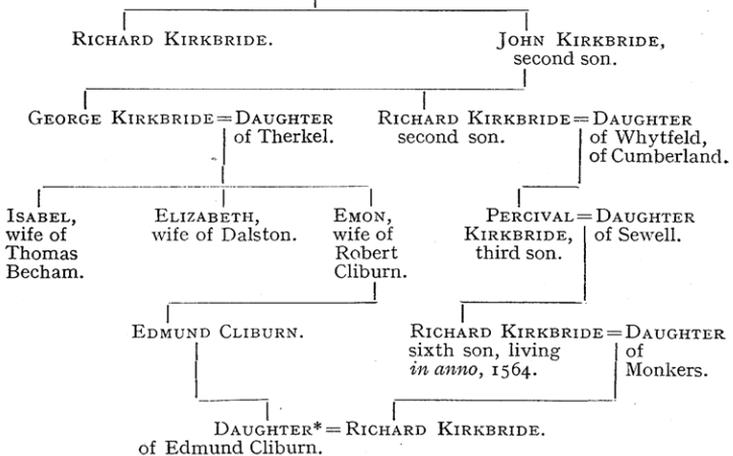
subjoined Pedigree A and established his claim to be a descendant of the Kirkbrides of Kirkbride, whose ancient arms, *argent*, a saltire engrailed *vert* are thereon recorded.* Only the material portion of that document is here reproduced.

PEDIGREE OF KIRKBRIDE.—A.

(*Harl. Soc. Pub.*, vol. xvi).

Arms: *argent*, a saltire engrailed *vert*.

SIR RICHARD KIRKBRIDE, kt.



* Her name was Eleanor.

It does not appear that anyone bearing the surname Kirkbride recorded his genealogy at the Visitation of Cumberland in 1615 (*Harleian Society's Publications*, vol. vii).

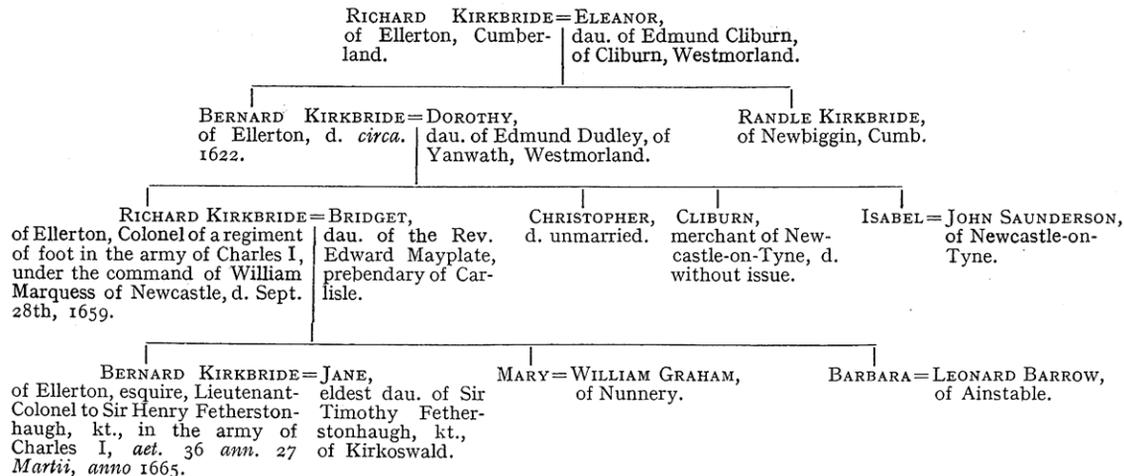
But at the subsequent Visitation of the same county made in 1666 by William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms (edit. Joseph Foster) Bernard Kirkbride of Ellerton certified the following Pedigree B and became entitled to assume the distinctive coat of arms then assigned to him, namely, *argent*, a cross engrailed *sable*, a label of three points for difference.

* "Sire Richard de Kirkebride, de argent a un sautoir engrele de vert" (*Cotton MS. Caligula, A xviii*, date 1308-14, edit. Nicolas, p. 85).

PEDIGREE OF KIRKBRIDE, OF ELLERTON.—B.

Leath Ward. Penrith, 27 *Martii*, 166..

Arms: *Argent*, a cross engrailed *sable*, a label of three points, for difference.



Certified by Bernard Kirkbride, esquire.

LANDED GENTRY.

And it would seem that on the same occasion Bernard Kirkbride exhibited the Yorkshire Pedigree A, in order to prove the lineal descent of his great-grandfather *and* great-grandmother respectively from Kirkbride of Kirkbride, for it is annexed to the Cumberland record of 1666.

It will be observed that Richard Kirkbride, who married Eleanor Cliburn and whose name stands at the head of Pedigree B, is the first to be described as of Ellerton.

Bernard, son of Richard and Eleanor, married Dorothy, daughter of Edmund Dudley of Yanwath, and died about 1622 leaving amongst other issue, a son Richard, who married Bridget, daughter of the Rev. Edward Mayplate, Prebendary of Carlisle Cathedral.

The last-named Richard was colonel of a regiment of foot in the royal army commanded by William, Marquess of Newcastle, and died September 28, 1659.

His son Bernard, born about 1629, married Jane, eldest daughter of Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, kt., of Kirkoswald, and served in the royal army as Lieutenant-Colonel to his brother-in-law Sir Henry Fetherstonhaugh, kt.

Bishop Nicolson notices the monument to Bernard's memory, affixed to the north wall of the church of Hesket-in-the-Forest, over the seat belonging to Ellerton and Hayclose. That monument styles him "of Hows and Ellerton," states that he was a justice of the peace and twice sheriff, and that he died without issue on March 10, 1677 (*Miscellany Accounts*, p. 93).

Over the front door of his residence at Hows appeared, within the present writer's recollection, the letters B.^K.^I. and the date 1660, all within a triangle. The initials are those of himself and his wife Jane. It may be inferred that the mansion of Ellerton had fallen into decay, during the troublous times of the Commonwealth. That mansion has disappeared, but traces of its foundations are visible

near the small cottage known as "Old Ellerton," which stands on the western side of the railway; and the adjacent farm-house, Ellerton Grange, is said to have been built with its material.

There is no evidence to show how and when this junior branch acquired Hows, in or near Braithwaite, and Ellerton, in or near Southwaite; but it is interesting to notice that the "lawn of Braithwaite" formed part of the family possessions in the fourteenth century (*Trans.*, N.S. xv).

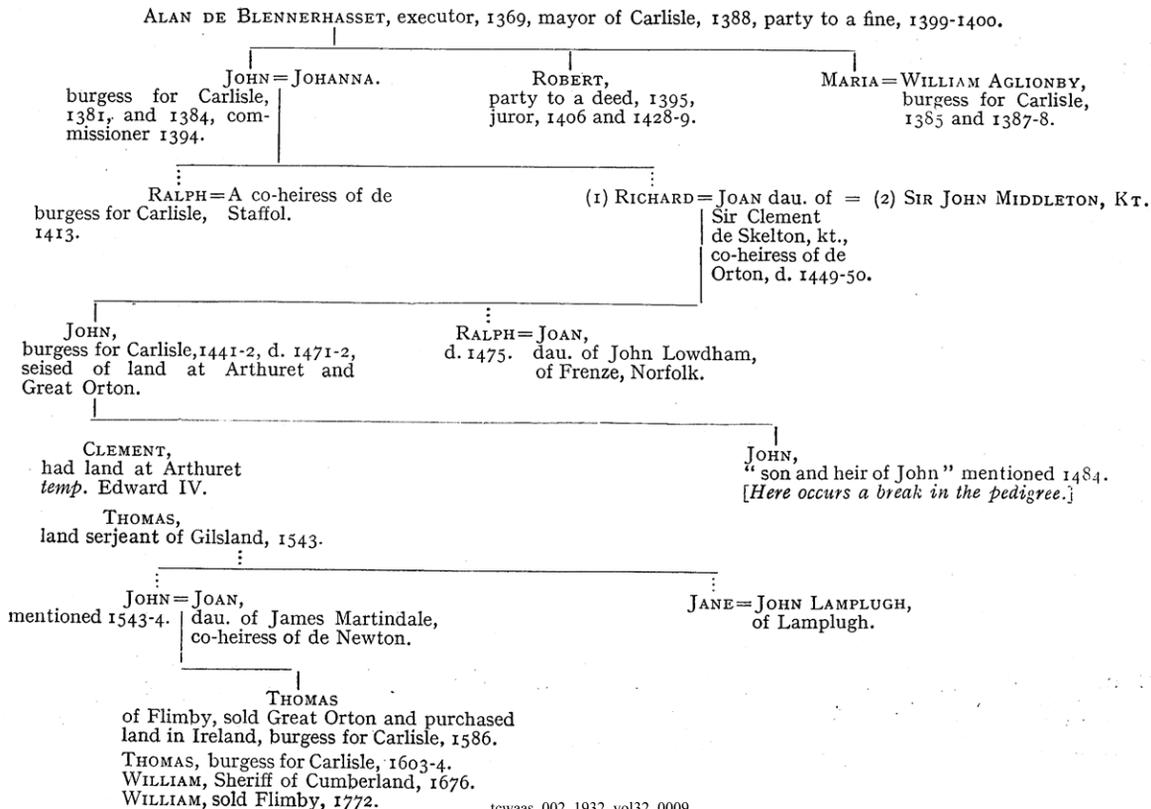
2. BLENNERHASSET OF CARLISLE.

Alan de Blennerhasset was pardoned in 1270, at the instance of Edward the king's son, for causing the death of another, and for any consequent outlawry (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 446). The family seems to have been then resident at Blennerhasset, because in August, 1271, an inquisition was held concerning the death of Henry, son of Baldwin de Blennerhasset, who had been killed by John son of John le Fevre "of Blennerhasset" (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 599) but in December 1271 the same John son of John le Fevre was pardoned for killing Henry, then described as son of Waldeve de Blennerhasset, because he did it in self defence (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 613).

It is natural to suppose that Alan de Blennerhasset of Henry III's reign was ancestor of the Alan whose name appears at the head of the conjectural pedigree which follows.

Richard de London, of Carlisle, complained, in 1365, that he had been appointed by the mayor to collect the king's tolls and had been assaulted in the course of his duty and maimed by Alan de Blennerhasset (see *pedigree*) and others, at Plumpton-in-the-Forest (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 137). Alan de Blennerhasset was appointed executor of the will, proved in 1369, of William de Arthuret, mayor of Carlisle (*Ferguson, Test. Karl.*, p. 89).

PEDIGREE OF BLENNERHASSET.



Alan de Blennerhasset, "citizen of Carlisle," levied a fine in 1375-6, respecting a messuage in the suburb of the city (*Trans.*, N.S. vii, p. 241). On June 12, 1388, he was mayor of Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 454) and on November 19, 1392, he was appointed controller of customs in Cumberland (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 183). Alan de Blennerhasset, *his son John* and Johanna, wife of John, were parties to a fine, in 1399-1400, relating to land at Arthuret, Caldotes, Weryholm, Stubhill, le Dale, Bocherby, Etterby, Cummersdale, Wampool, Anthorn and Solom (*Trans.*, N.S. vii, p. 245).

Jenyn's Roll, compiled or brought up to date in Richard II's reign (see *Genealogist*, vol. v, p. 98) records that John de Blennerhasset bore *gules*, three dolphins embowed *argent* (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*).

Alan is said to have had a younger son Robert, whose seal, bearing the family arms, was affixed to a deed of 1395 (Burke, *Peerage*). Robert de Blennerhasset was juror at the *inquisitio post mortem* of Mary de Stapleton, made in 1406 (*Trans.*, N.S. xiii, p. 220), and juror at an important inquisition made at Carlisle on March 20, 1428-9 (*Cal. Feudal Aids*, Cumb., p. 245). Alan's daughter Maria married William Aglionby of Tarraby, burgess for Carlisle in 1385 and 1387-8 (*Trans.*, N.S. xiii, p. 107). John de Blennerhasset, elder son of Alan, was burgess for Carlisle in 1381 and 1384 and was appointed a commissioner in 1394 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 18 Rich. II, p. 524).

A generation later, in 1413, Ralph de Blennerhasset was burgess for Carlisle, and it is alleged (Burke, *Peerage*) that he was the Blennerhasset who, in Henry V's reign, married one of the co-heiresses of de Staffol and so obtained one-third of the manor of Staffield in Cumberland (Denton, *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 125).

Contemporary with Ralph was Richard Blennerhasset, of Carlisle (see Nicolson and Burn, ii, 208), "who married

one of the co-heiresses of de Orton," namely Joan, daughter of Sir Clement de Skelton, knight. The said Joan inherited one-third of the manor of Great Orton, Cumberland, from her mother Joan, daughter of Sir Giles de Orton, knight (*Trans.*, N.S. i, p. 144). Joan Blennerhasset married, secondly, Sir John Middleton, knight, and, at her death, on March 17, 1449-50, her son by the first marriage, John Blennerhasset *aged 40 and more*, inherited her share of the manor of Great Orton (see *Trans.*, N.S., xii, p. 18). The said John Blennerhasset died in 1471-2, seised of one-third of the manor and advowson of Overton (Orton), lands at Arthuret, Liddel, Solom, Wampool and Etterby and a meadow at Almerholm (*Cal. Esch.*, 11 Ed. IV, p. 354).

He is probably identical with John Blennerhasset, who, in 1434, was ordered to take the oath not to maintain peace-breakers (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 383), and who was burgess for Carlisle in 1441-2.

Ralph Blennerhasset, presumably his younger brother, married Joan, daughter and heiress of John Lowdham, of Frenze (Blomefield, *Norfolk*, i, p. 141); was ancestor of the Blennerhassets of that place; and died in 1475.

In 1484, John Blennerhasset, late of Carlisle, gentleman, son and heir of John Blennerhasset, of Carlisle, gentleman, was pardoned for not appearing before the justices of the bench of Edward IV, to answer Ralph Blennerhasset esquire, concerning a debt of 52 marks (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 357). And then there is a blank in the family history, partly filled by the record that, at the period of John Blennerhasset's death, a certain Clement Blennerhasset had land at Arthuret.

There was a commission to Thomas Blennerhasset and others in 1533, to make enquiry concerning the land and heir of Edward Blennerhasset, of Carlisle, deceased (*L. and P.*, *Hen. VIII*, vol. vi, p. 403). Thomas Blennerhasset was land serjeant of the barony of Gilsland in 1543

(*L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vol. xviii, part i, p. 144) and was in command, under Lord Wharton, of the horse and foot of Gilsland in 1543-4 (Nicolson and Burn, i, xlix). In the same year, he or another Thomas Blennerhasset claimed extensive land at Arthuret as heir of the said Clement Blennerhasset, who held the same in chief, of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the reign of Edward IV (1461-83).

But those lands had escheated to the Duchy and been re-granted, by indenture dated April 13, 1538, to William Graham, of Arthuret, *alias* "Lang Will" (*Cal. Pleadings, D. of L.*, ii, 77; and *Trans.*, n.s. xxx, p. 224).

Thomas Blennerhasset, "the king's highness's servant," was overseer of border watches in 1552 (*Trans.*, n.s. viii, p. 56). In 1543-4, John Blennerhasset (possibly son of Thomas, the land serjeant) was entitled, in right of his wife, daughter and co-heiress of James Martindale, to one-fifth undivided share of the manor of Newton-on-Sea (West Newton, Cumberland) held of the king in chief, by knight-service, cornage, seawake and suit of court (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 163). In 1546, Thomas Dalston, of Carlisle, and Eleanor his wife obtained licence to alienate to Joan Blennerhasset, widow, and Thomas Blennerhasset a moiety of the wood and lands called "Flimby Park," which moiety belonged to the monastery of Holm Cultram (*L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vol. xxi, part ii, p. 167).

Jane Blennerhasset (possibly daughter of Thomas the land serjeant) married John Lamplugh, of Lamplugh (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 38).

In 1578, Thomas Blennerhasset, gentleman, probably of Flimby, entered a *caveat* in claim of the patronage of Great Orton (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 208), and sold his share of that manor to John Brisco, of Crofton, grandfather of John Brisco an infant when John Denton wrote (*Accompt*, p. 83). He was burgess for Carlisle in 1586. Thomas Blennerhasset, of Flimby, acquired, during the same year, lands in Kerry. His son Robert migrated to

Ireland and was ancestor of several branches of the family resident in that country.

Another Thomas Blennerhasset was five times mayor of Carlisle, between 1601 and 1623, and burgess for that city in 1603-4.

William Blennerhasset, of Flimby, was sheriff of Cumberland in 1676.

In 1772, William Blennerhasset sold Flimby Hall to Sir James Lowther, bart. (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 109). The arms attributed to Blennerhasset of Flimby are *gules*, a chevron *ermine* between three dolphins embowed *azure* (Burke, *General Armory*). The Blennerhassets derived their surname from a locality in Cumberland, and the public records prove that, for two centuries and more, they took a leading part in the affairs of the city of Carlisle. An interesting account of the family is given in Burke's *Peerage*, but the identity of individuals there named seems sometimes to depend on tradition or conjecture rather than on positive evidence, and it is difficult to construct an exact pedigree.

It is very likely that Blennerhasset of Flimby was entitled to rank as one of the landed gentry of the county, and to bear arms granted to an ancestor (with appropriate "difference") but he neglected to obtain the herald's approval of his claims at either of the Cumberland Visitations.

3. SCAIFE OF WINTON.

A branch of the Scaife family was long connected with Kirkby Stephen parish, Westmorland, and to that branch probably belonged John Scaife, representing Appleby in the parliaments of 1312-13 and 1327-9, and also Thomas Scaife representing the same borough in 1343-4.

On July 7, 1366, the abbot of Shap complained that Thomas Scaife of Askeby Grange, near Kirkby Stephen, had in company with others broken his park, driven him

from his abbey, and put him in fear of death (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 357).

Another branch of the family was then settled at Wythop, near Bassenthwaite, Cumberland, for, on February 2, 1367, Sir Hugh de Lowther made complaint that John Scaife, the younger, had broken his park at Wythop (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 428).

Some years later, the Scaifes of that place were involved in a blood feud, for on June 23, 1380, William Daudeson (Davidson), was pardoned, at the supplication of the king's uncle, John, duke of Lancaster, for killing Walter Scaife, of Wythop (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 518); on Nov. 29, 1386, John Scaife, the elder, and John Scaife, the younger, were pardoned, at the supplication of the earl of Northumberland, for killing Robert Daudson, of Wythop, in the 5th year, 1381-2 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 241); and on June 4, 1394, Robert Hodgson, of Armathwaite, was pardoned for killing Robert Scaife in self defence, at Penrith, in the 15th year, 1391-2 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 419).

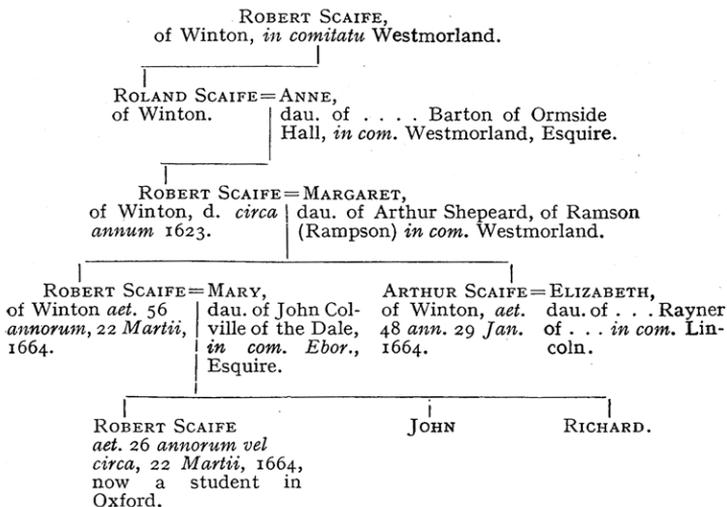
The Westmorland branch of the family was for a long period resident at Winton Hall in Kirkby Stephen parish, parcel of the manor of Brough-under-Stainmore, belonging to the Cliffords, and, in 4 Ed. IV, 1464-5, Thomas Scaife was a juror at the *inquisitio post mortem* of John de Clifford, whose possessions included Winton. It is probable that the said Thomas Scaife was lord of Winton, and that the Hall was the capital mansion of the little manor.

The pedigree of Scaife, of Winton, was certified at the Herald's Visitation of 1666,* when the arms of the family were described as:—*azure* on a chevron *argent*, between as many wolves' heads erased *or*, three trefoils slipped *sable*; and *crest*, a wolf's head erased *or*, holding in the mouth a trefoil as in the arms. Respite was given for proof of those arms, but no proof was made.

* Sir William Dugdale's Visitation of Cumberland and Westmorland is usually so cited.

PEDIGREE OF SCAIFE OF WINTON.

The East Ward. Appleby, 22 Martii, 1664.



Certified by Robert Scaife.

Miles Scaife, one of the first governors of Kirkby Stephen school in 1565-6, and Major Scaife, referee of a local petition in 1653 (*Cal. S.P. Dom.* p. 377) and grantee of a considerable share of property sequestered by Oliver Cromwell, may have been members of the Winton branch. The last Robert Scaife of Winton sold the Hall to Gerard Andrews (Nicolson and Burn, i, 548).

In Walton churchyard, Cumberland, is a tombstone erected to the memory of William Scaife, of Walton (Low) Rigg, who died Nov. 19, 1767, aged 39, and Mary, his wife, who died Apr. 24, 1777, aged 46. It is emblazoned with the above-described shield of Scaife, under an esquire's helmet surmounted by a wreath of the colours and crest an arm embowed, in armour proper, grasping a battle-axe, and bears the motto, *Medio tutissimus ibis*.