

ART. IV.—*The descendants of William Lowther of the Rose.*

II. *The Lowthers of Great Orton.* By the REV.
C. M. LOWTHER BOUCH.

THE first of these two articles on the descendants of William Lowther appeared in the *Transactions* last year (N.S. xxxix, 109) and dealt with the Lowthers of Rose Causey. It seems curious that this family should have existed at Rose for over 300 years, without any record of the younger sons founding cadet branches. It must be acknowledged that there is no entirely conclusive evidence of any, except the short lived Newleathes one, but there is quite strong evidence that the Lowther family of Great Orton was such a cadet branch. This evidence would seem to suggest that John Lowther, the first at Orton, was a younger son of Robert Lowther I of Rose. The evidence can be briefly stated as follows:

- I. (a) That John in 1564 was concerned in a suit at Orton with Christ. Rumpnay of Dalston and presented a relative of Bishop Mey's to the living there: the point of this is, that it seems rather strange that a man of yeoman rank, should have made such an appointment, but if it is supposed that the Orton family were cousins to the bishop's bailiff, then the presentation is quite understandable.
- (b) That his son married a Dalston woman and held land at Oulton of John Dalston.
- (c) That his grandson made his cousin, Hugh Lowther, supervisor of his will; there seems to be no other Hugh, who could be this cousin,

except Hugh of Dalston; and he owed money to Mrs. Lowther of Caldcotes, one of the Dalston family.

2. That no Lowthers occur in the Great Orton manor rolls before 1548.
3. The families are of the same social status; yeomen, but sometimes gentlemen.
4. Of the same occupation; bailiffs and farmers.

On the negative side, despite the most thorough search of wills and parish registers, no evidence has been found of any connection with any other Lowther family, nor indeed is any other family known that would fit the part.

I. John Lowther was probably born between 1520-3. His name first occurs at Great Orton on 24 May, 1548, in the manor rolls as a juryman and tenant of the manor. He is foreman of the jury in 1558.

On 7 Oct., 1560, he is described as bailiff. Among the deeds* in the possession of my cousin, the Revd. J. Lowther Bouch, there is one which recites a deed dated 31 Jany., 1565,† by which Thomas Leigh of Isell appoints John Lowther, yeoman, and John Lowther, his son, bailiff of all his lands in Orton. But the fact that he is already described as bailiff in 1560 shows that he must have been bailiff for either the Ridley or Blennerhasset parts of the manor before that.

His first recorded purchase of land in Orton was also on 7 Oct., 1560, when he is noted as buying a parcell of land called Cowerig.‡ In 1565, by the deed in which he was appointed bailiff, Thomas Leigh also demised to him a tenement already in his occupation. In the next year by an indenture dated 13 May, 1566, Thomas Leigh, Nicholas Ridley and Richard Blennerhasset, demised a parcel of ground called Wolferigmyer.§

* These deeds will be referred to as Lowther Deeds and those belonging to Miss Brisco as Brisco Deeds.

† No. II.

‡ Orton Manor Rolls.

§ Lowther Deeds No. I.

In the Michaelmas term of 13/14 Elizabeth, Leonard Dyckks [Dykes] and John Lowther bought from Thomas Leigh and Matilda his wife, two messuages and land in Wigton, Owton or Owlton, Crosshill Leco and Blencraike for £40.*

Thomas Leigh died not long after this, and left his property to his second wife, who had been a young widow named Maud Redmayn; she remarried Sir Wilfred Lawson and conveyed the Leigh property to him.

John Lowther, the son, died in 1571, and was buried at Orton on the 13 June.

These changes become apparent in the next deed dated 7 July, 1573,† in which Wilfred Lawson in consideration of the former grant of 31 Jany., 1565, and for the good honest, trusty, faithful and deligent service done to him and Maud, his wife, by John Lowther and his son, William, confirmed the grant to John and also demised the land to William on the same terms and appointed him bailiff.

In the Michaelmas term, 16/17 Elizabeth, John Brisko and John Lowther bought from Wilfred Lawson and Matilda, his wife: $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the manor of Orton and land in the manor as well as a part of the advowson.‡

It is a little difficult to see why John Lowther should be included in this transaction, probably the reason was that he had already bought land from the Leighs and Lawsons and his rights had to be safeguarded in the fine.

In the same year the Brisco family of Crofton commenced their purchase of the manor of Orton.§ And in 1577, Nicholas Ridley sold his share to the tenants.||

As a result on 1 May, 1577, John Lowther bought from Nicholas Ridley $\frac{1}{48}$ part of the manor, $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the advowson and $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the tenement already in his

* Feet of Fines, Cumberland. Steel p. 12. A most valuable book and apparently very little known.

† Lowther Deeds No. II.

‡ Feet of Fines, Cumberland. Steel, p. 15.

§ *Trans.* n.s. xl, 50.

|| *Ibid.*, 50.

possession.* And on 1 Nov., 1577, Nicholas Ridley of Willimontsweke, Northumberland, Ralfe Whinfealde of Whinfealde, Northumberland, and William Blenkinsop of Blenkinsop, Northumberland, were bound to John Lowther in the sum of £22 for the performance of an indenture of the same date between Nicholas Ridley and John Lowther.† On 30 Sept., 1577, John Brisco witnesses that he stands bound in covenants assuring to John Lowther and his heirs all lands in his tenure which are of the inheritance of Thomas Blennerhasset; also eight acres of arable land; and agrees to pay Nicholas Ridley £6. 14. 3. besides the £4. 4. 1. payed. And John Lowther sells to John Brisco tenements in the possession of William Adyson, Janet Bayne, Edward Pelle, William Wilson, John Hair and Margaret Twentyman.‡

On 20 July, 1580, Thomas Blennerhasset sold to John Brisco all his part of the manor, except the tenement of John Lowther's mentioned above.§

In 1585 John Lowther used his third share of the advowson and presented William Mey, B.A., probably a relation of the Bishop.

John Lowther, baliffe, died in 1588 and was buried at Great Orton on 21 July. His wife Janet, had been buried three years before, on 16 June, 1585. He had issue.

John, ob. 1571.

William, of whom next.

Maryon, who married William Liddell on 31 July, 1574 and had issue

Agnes or Annes, baptized 25 Dec., 1570, and married to John Liddell on Sunday 16 June, 1588 and had issue.

Thomas Lowther occurs in the Orton Manor Rolls in 1568 and witnesses Mr. Brisco's bond in 1577. And

* Brisco Deeds.

† Brisco Deeds and Lowther Deeds, No. IV.

‡ *Ibid.* No. III.

§ Brisco Deeds.

another Thomas married Sybell Targwell on 17 December, 1599.

The first Thomas may be a brother of John Lowther, since Robert of Dalston had a son of that name: the second one is more likely a son.

II. William Lowther succeeded his father as bailiff by the grant of 1573. During his father's lifetime he had begun the purchase of land. On 30 Sept., 1577, James Blayne mortgaged to him three acres called Cowryg Lowghe.* There is a bond dated 24 Nov., 1579, among the Lowther papers which refer to a transaction between William Johnson and William Lowther.† On 20 Nov., 1582, the manor rolls record William's purchase of a parcel of land in Burgh Lowghe and pasture previously belonging to James Blayne; on the same day he is admitted tenant of a parcell of Orton Lowghe previously belonging to William Johnson. Also among the Lowther deeds there is a bond of 25 March, 1588,‡ for the surrender by John Moore of a meadow called Orton Lowghe, this transaction is entered in the manor rolls. There is a further deed between these parties of 30 Nov., 1593,§ for the sale of a tenement in Orton, which is also recorded in the manor rolls. At the same time William Lowther surrendered to the Lord and the occupation of Thomas Moore, son of John Moore als. Cowy, a garden and croft called Barras in tenure of John, brother of Thomas Moore.|| According to a deed referred to later William Lowther also bought another 1/48 part of the 3rd part of the manor from Nicholas Ridley and a similar part from Thomas Blennerhasset.

* Brisco Deeds.

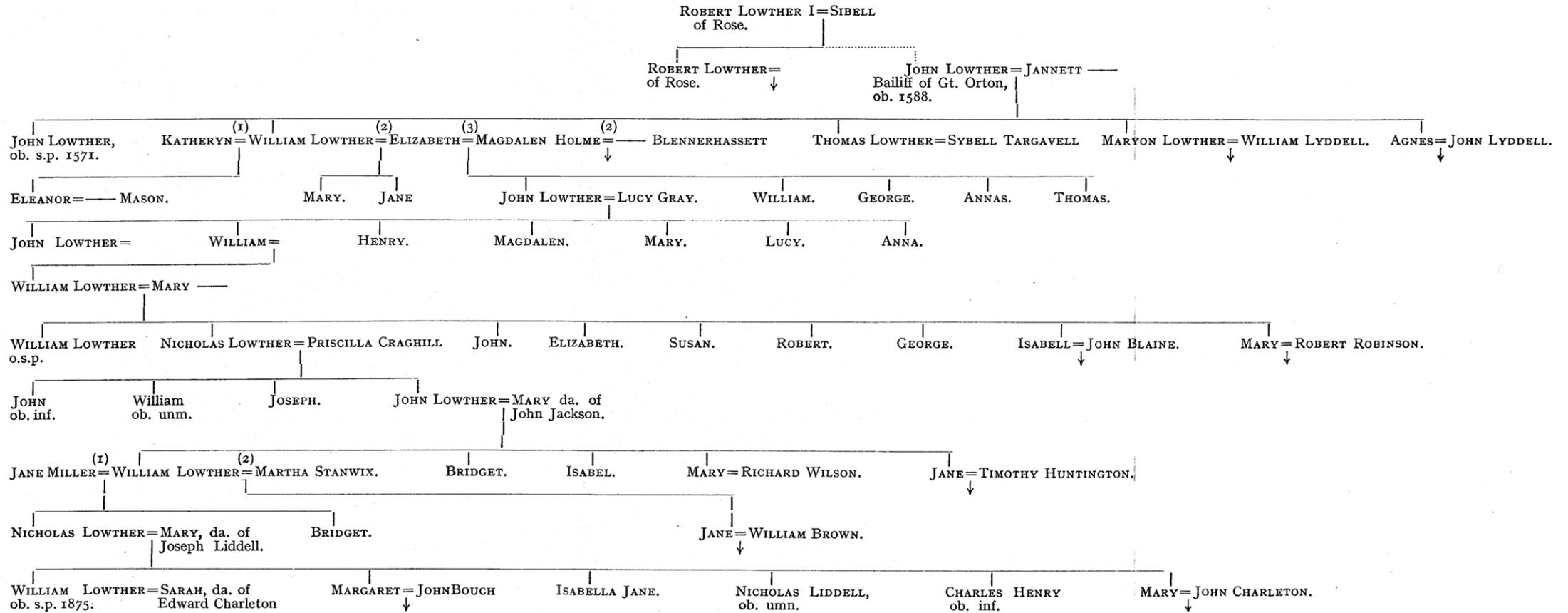
† No. V.

‡ No. VI.

§ No. VII.

|| It is shortly after this, on 2 March, 1598, that the manor rolls contain the very modern looking entry " Robert Hodgson for a fraye on George Kollorie at the footeballe " which cost him 6/8.

PEDIGREE OF LOWTHER OF GREAT ORTON.



William Lowther died in 1594 and was buried at Orton on 13 Nov. His will dated 10 Nov., was proved at Carlisle.* He directed his body to be buried in the "Chancele at Orton" An I.P.M. was held nearly two years after his death.†

He married firstly Katheryn, who was buried 6 August, 1580, by whom he had:

Eleanor, baptized 13 Sept., 1578. Described in her brother's will as Ellin Mason.

By his second wife Elizabeth, who was buried 9 Sept., 1585, he had:

Mary, buried 13 August, 1587.

Jane, baptized 28 April, buried 25 July, 1586.

His third wife was Magdalen Holme of Holme Hill, Dalston, who seems to have been a daughter of George Holme. She survived him and re-married a Blennerhasset, by whom she had a son, Thomas. A bond referring to her dower will be dealt with later. She died in 1623/4 and was buried at Dalston. By her he had four sons and one daughter:

John, of whom next.

William, buried 17 Nov., 1590.

George, baptized 2 March, 1590/1.

Thomas, baptized 22 Sept., 1594.

Annas,

III. John Lowther, eldest son of William, was baptized 13 August, 1588 and so was aged 6½ when his father died.

During his minority Cuthbert Sisson, gentleman, seems to have acted as his guardian. He is presumably the man who was Escheator of Westmorland in 1599‡ and brother of the Eleanor Sisson, daughter of Cuthbert Sisson, who married Joseph Huddleston of Hutton John.§ The Sissons seem to have owned or rented the Hall there later

* Appendix No. VIII.

† Appendix No. IX.

‡ Records of Kendal II, 440.

§ Nicolson and Burn II, 367.

on, because John Lowther was staying there in 1608.* There must have been some relationship between the families of which there is no record.

Among the Brisco papers there is a mutilated one giving a list of the property which Cuthbert Sisson, gentleman, in the name of John Lowther, holdeth. This consisted of a tenement, late in tenure of John More the elder; the moitie of a messuage, late in the tenure of John Hair; a meadow at Cowryg Lowghe, late in tenure of James Blain; a meadow at Orton Lowghe, late in tenure of William Johnson; moss and meadow in Orton Lowghe, late in tenure of Edward Johnson; with parcellis of meadow at Wolferrygmir; moss at the low head and other property, which cannot be deciphered. There is also a bond of 1601,† to which Cuthbert Sisson is a party with Jane Briscoe, but without further evidences, which are lost, it is not apparent to what it refers.

John Lowther was married on 6 June, 1608. The event is described in the printed Greystoke registers thus. "John Lowther wch. dwelt at Mr Sysson's at Hutton Hawle and Lucy Graye, Mr Lowther syst^r daught^r and they were maryjd by a lycence from my lo. bishope of Carlill wthout bannes askinge, maryjd at the churche by Mr Leonard Lowther—Parson—hymselfe."

An entry which has sorely puzzled their descendants.

Lucy Grey was the daughter of Henry Grey of Kyloe, Northumberland, a branch of the great family of Chillingham,‡ by his wife Fortune, daughter of Thomas Manners of Cheswick, Northumberland, a junior branch of the Etal family.

It is clear from this that Lucy Grey was Mr^{rs} Lowther's sister's daughter, not Mr Lowther's.§

On 21 Feby., 1611, the lord of the manor of Great Orton

* Greystoke Registers.

† Lowther Deeds No. X.

‡ Pedigree in Raine's North Durham.

§ For Leonard Lowther see *Trans.* n.s. xl, 56.

was occupied in the settlement of a dispute, which had evidently been going on for some time, between John Lowther and Anthony Moore, son of John Moore als. Cowy, from whom John's father had purchased a tenement in 1593. The dispute was settled by each of the parties surrendering their disputed holdings into the lord's hands, who thereupon regranted them.

This quarrel settled, John Lowther was chosen and sworn as bailiff of Orton by Mr Brisco. On 21 Febry., 1612, John Lowther sold to Mr Brisco the two parts of the manor his father had bought from Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Blennerhasset.*

On 9 Oct., 1619, John Lowther, gentleman, John Addyson and Thomas Liddell bound themselves in the sum of £160 to Percyvel Holme of the Hill, Hauxdale, for the sale to the later of various lands in Dalston, which must have been the dower of John Lowther's mother† and been left to him by his father. In the manor rolls of 28 Oct., 1619, he is entered as a free tenant, the only one in the manor, and the family continued to hold this distinctive position till 1708, when 12 others were added.

John Lowther must have been, for his time, rather a remarkable man. In the days in which he lived, immediately after the union of the two crowns, this border land cannot yet have settled down to peace and quiet, after the violent forays, so fully illustrated in the Elizabethan State Papers. Nor is the picture given in Macauley's famous third chapter of the life of the squirarchy, in which he speaks of their education, differing little from that of their menial servants, one that makes a reading yeoman-gentleman, anything but a remarkable person. So it is very interesting to find among the household goods of this border farmer, not only a bible and a communion book, but Stowe's Chronicles, Dr Carleton's

* Brisco Deeds.

† *Trans.* n.s. xxxviii, 247.

book, the Canons, Erasmus Apotheosis in English. Probably these literary interests were due to Leonard Lowther, who was a scholar of Christ's College. Still whatever the reason, the fact remains. And it may be that, that other England, which produced the great Elizabethan writers, was not without its influence, even in this remote land.

John Lowther died in 1620 in his 32nd year. In his will dated 10 March,* he desired "to be buried in the Quire of Orton, beside my ancestors," the burial took place on 13 March. He appointed as supervisors, "Mr John Briscoe, my cousin Hugh Lowther, John Pattinson and Robert Addison." The original inventory of his goods is with the Lowther papers.† An I.P.M. was held on 23 March, 1623/4.‡ By his wife Lucy he left issue:

1. John, of whom next.
2. William, of whom next.
3. Henry, baptized 16 Nov., 1617.
1. Magdalen, the Greystoke Registers record under 17 Sept., 1609, "Magdaylene daughter of Mr John Lowther and Mrs Lucye Lowther his wiffe bothe at the Pesonage of Greystocke. Godfayther Mr William Whelpdale. Godmothers Mrs Grace Blencow and Mrs Lucye Lowther Mr Person wiffe.
2. Mary, baptized 23 July, 1613.
3. Lucy.
4. Anna, baptized . . June, 1616, and buried 24 Jany., 1617/8.

Mrs Lowther survived her husband. Her name occurs in the manor rolls between 1623 and 30. By the will of Henry Grey of Kyloe, dated 10 Febry., 1635, she is left £5 as "my sister Luce Lowther."§ Nothing more is known of her.

* Appendix No. XI.

† Appendix No. XI.

‡ Appendix No. XII.

§ Wills and Inventories, Surtees Soc., 142, p. 266.

IV. John Lowther, eldest son of John and Lucy, was baptized 23 June, 1611. His name occurs as a free tenant in the manor rolls until 1635; after that date they are missing till 1653, when William Lowther is the tenant. On 16 Febr., 1636, John Lowther, gentleman, sold his $\frac{1}{3}$ share of the advowson to John Brisco.* In December, 1638, his daughter, Madlande, was baptized; nothing more is known of her. In 1640, John Lowther was one of the jury at the riding of the bounds.* That is all that can be discovered about him, except that as negative evidence, he is not mentioned, though his brother William is, in the Grey wills. From 1639-1665 the Orton registers are very defective, so he may have died with no record of his burial. But it is clear that the family's prosperity during these years had much declined. Most of the freehold land mentioned in the I.P.M.'s had been lost. Owing to the absence of the manor rolls, there is no evidence how this happened.

Elizabeth Lowther of Great Orton, widdow, buried 22 August, 1675, was probably his widow.

V. William Lowther, second son of John and Lucy was baptized on 18 Dec., 1614. William Gray of Fenwick, Kyloe, left "my cousin William Lowther one white Stirke" in his will dated 7 March, 1629.† Henry Gray of Kyloe, 'in the County Palitine of Durham,'‡ Gentleman, left "my nephew William Lowther £5" in his will dated 10 Febr., 1635.§ And Anne Graye of Morpeth, Northumberland, spinster, left "my cosen Will. Lowther 5 marks" in her will dated 15 July, 1637.|| His name appears as a freeholder in the list of Orton tenants on 24 Febr., 1653 and in 1661 he gave 6d. as a free gift to the

* Brisco Deeds. *Trans.* n.s. xl, 52.

† Wills and Inventories, Surtees Soc., 142, p. 222.

‡ Kyloe is in the part of the county of Northumberland, which was in those days under the Prince Bishop of Durham, hence the description.

§ Wills and Inventories, Surtees, Soc., 142, p. 266.

|| *Ibid.* p. 272.

King.* Nothing more is known of him until 20 Dec., 1681, when he entered into a bond with his son William, by which the latter was bound to fulfil the conditions of an indenture, now lost, between him and William Robinson of Orton.†

His wife's name is unknown. But among the Lowther papers there is a bond dated 22 March, 1649,‡ by which Mary James of Stanwix, widow, with John Lowry, and Thomas Lowry of Stanwix, yeomen, as executors, with her daughter Elinor, of the last will of Thomas James of Stanwix, lately deceased, binds herself to administer the goods of her late husband and to take care that a competent maintenance and ingenuous education may be afforded to her daughter during her minority.

It is difficult to see how this bond came into the Lowther's possession, except by the fact that Mary James married one of them. She can hardly be the Mary who died in 1699, but she may be the unidentified wife of William Lowther V.

There is no record of his death or burial.

In addition to William, of whom next, he was probably the father of a Thomas Lowther, who married Elinor Wilson on 3 Febry., 1673/4 and who was buried on the 15th of that month. His widow was buried 14 August, 1680.

VI. William Lowther, who is known by the fortunate preservation of the bond of 1681 to have been the son of William Lowther V, was probably born about 1640. Nothing is known of him, except that his wife's name was Mary and that he died in 1695, and was buried on 1 April. His will was dated 26 Dec., 1694.§ The inventory is among the Lowther papers and shews household goods and money owing to a net total of £30. 8. 8., compared to the £78. 7. 0. of his grandfather.

* Subsidy Rolls, E. 179, 90, 73.

† No. XIII.

‡ Lowther Deeds No. XIV.

§ Appendix No. XV.

By his wife, Mary, he had issue:

William, of whom next.

Nicholas, of whom next.

John, Robert and George, who died young.

Mary, baptized 19 Oct., 1665 and married Robert Robinson on 6 Febr., 1695/6 and had issue.

Susan and Elizabeth, who died young.

Isabel, baptized 24 Oct., 1680 and married John Blaine on 13 Jany., 1710/11, and had issue.

His wife survived him, and on 4 July, 1695, leased her widow right lands to James Bell of Little Orton.* She died in 1699, and was buried on 17 May.

VII. William Lowther was baptized on 26 July, 1668, and was admitted at the manor court of 4 Dec., 1695, to a messuage and tenement, as son and heir of William Lowther, deceased. On 16 Febr., 1699, he was one of the tenants, who bought Orton Common from John Brisco.† When Bishop Nicolson surveyed the Glebe lands in 1704, they were bounded by the following lands of William Lowther's: part of the Parson's Thorne, Crosslands Rigg, Crabbtree Dale, Greystoke Butts and part of Orton Moss,‡ which are all still in the possession of his descendants.

By an indenture dated 23 Jany., 1724, he sold his customary messuage and tenement at Great Orton to his nephew, William Lowther, the younger.§ He seems to have kept his freehold lands, which are left to his sister in law in his will.

He never married and died in 1742, and was buried on 6 May.

His will was dated 1 Sept., 1737 and was proved at Carlisle, 22 May, 1742.||

VIII. Nicholas Lowther, the 2nd son of William

* Lowther Deeds No. XVII.

† Brisco Deeds.

‡ Miscellany Accounts, p. 166-7.

§ Lowther Deeds No. XVIII.

|| Appendix No. XXI.

Lowther VI, was baptized on 6 Nov., 1670, and died in 1711, and was buried on 2 Sept. He married Priscella Craghill of Wiggonby, at Aikton on 10 June, 1703.*

They had issue:

1. John, born 21 March and buried 11 Aug, 1705.
2. William, of whom next.
3. John, of whom next.
4. Joseph, son of Priscella Lowther widdow, was buried 9 Nov., 1713.

Priscella Lowther survived her husband and was given a life interest in some of his freehold lands by William Lowther VII, but predeceased him and was buried, 22 Nov., 1739.

IX. William Lowther, the eldest surviving son of Nicholas and Priscella, was born 21 May, 1705. His uncle sold him his customary tenement in 1724. He was churchwarden of Orton in 1729. He died unmarried in 1735, and was buried on 26 Nov.

X. John Lowther, the 3rd son of Nicholas and Priscella, was born in 1708; there is no record of his baptism. He appears to have succeeded his brother in the possession of the tenement the latter bought from his uncle. In September, 1737, he obtained the enfranchisement of his customary tenement as freehold.† In 1742, on the death of his uncle, he would also succeed to the freehold lands, not sold to his brother. In 1748, he was assessed at 7/2 for poor rate; despite their loss of so much land, there were still only seven of the 30 tenants assessed at a

* The Craghills appear from time to time in local records, but it is difficult to trace any connected history. The name is probably from a place in Natland Parish (*Records of Kendal* I, 162) and the family seem to have been tenants of the Stricklands in the 13th century (*Ibid.* I, 168; II, 203). But the records of them are very scanty. The marriage of Thomas Craigill to Alice, daughter of Thomas Hetherington in Walton, is recorded in the 1665 Visitation (p. 58d. and *Trans.* n.s. xxvi, 250-1), and one of the same name was usher of Carlisle Grammar School in 1651 (*Trans.* n.s. xvi, 7). There are several wills of the Aikton family in Carlisle, but it has not been possible to fit them into a pedigree.

† Lowther Deeds, No. XX.

higher rate.* He is described as "blacksmith" in the registers at Greystoke, at the marriage of his daughter. He was churchwarden of Orton in 1748 and 1765.

He married at Thursby on 4 March, 1735, Mary, daughter of Joseph Jackson of Thursby, and owing to this marriage his great-grandson, William Lowther in 1856, inherited lands, still possessed by his descendants, at Evening Hill. He died in 1783 and was buried on 9 Nov. He is described as householder, aged 75. His widow was buried on 27 March, 1790.

They left issue:

1. William, of whom next.
1. Bridget, baptized 20 Jany., 1737.
2. Mary, baptized 8 June, 1744: married Richard Wilson of Greystoke on 25 Nov., 1771.
3. Isabel, baptized 8 June, 1744: married Samuel Stanwix at Wigton on 26 March, 1765.
4. Jane, baptized 13 Nov., 1751: married Timothy Huntington on 24 May, 1786, and had issue.

XI. William, only son of John and Mary, was baptized on 27th Dec., 1740. He has not a good character in the family tradition and was said to have parted with a good deal of the land, which in fact was lost much earlier. Far from parting with any, he appears to have started to mend the family fortunes; the evidence for this being that he made the first purchase of land for over 100 years, when he bought Crabtree dale from John Brisco for £101 on 20 May, 1785. The deeds with reference to this transaction are printed in the appendix.† He was churchwarden of Orton in 1785 and 1800. He died in October, 1812, and was buried on the 15th of that month. His will was dated 2 August, 1812.

He married firstly, Jane Miller of Orton on 25 Dec., 1799. There is no record of her baptism there, but she was

* Lowther Deeds, No. XXII.

† Lowther Deeds No. XXIII.

probably the daughter of Matthew Miller of Great Orton. He is described in the register as smith and yeoman. She died in 1783, and was buried on 18 August.

By her he had issue:

1. Nicholas, of whom next.
2. Bridget, died young.

He married secondly, Martha Stanwix, the daughter of John Stanwix of Woodhouses, farmer, and Frances, his wife.

There is no record of her death.

By her he had issue:

Jane, baptized 23 Octr., 1791 and married on 4 Febr., 1815, William Brown of Orton. Their descendants are still living in and around Great Orton.

XII. Nicholas Lowther, only surviving child of William and Jane, was baptized on 2 April, 1780.

He moved to the south at an early age; a letter from him to his sister, has been preserved among the family papers. It is from Tenterden, Kent, and dated 12 March, 1800. He had evidently been in the south some time then, as he writes of liking Tenterden better than Sutton or Harrusham or any place except "Canny old Worton." He was a schoolmaster and writes of "teaching 50 young ladies" and that he has more than "30 scholars, who are very nice young gentlemen," and was worth £120 a year: which for the age of 20, in those days must have been a good income. He is going to a dance the next night "where there will be such fine ladies as you never saw at Carlisle. . . . and a great many officers."

The letter must be typical of many written in those days, when so many men from the north were going to make their fortune, or hoped to so, in the south. Nicholas is evidently pleased with life and anxious to impress his little sister with his success; at the same time the letter breathes the spirit of a real religion, and exhorts



NICHOLAS LOWTHER OF GREAT ORTON.

To face p. 74.

her to be a "good lass," and "when he comes home he will bring her a fine gown."

Family tradition says he was also a schoolmaster at Tunbridge Wells, but at the time of his marriage in 1813, he was living in the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, London. He was then, or soon after, in business as a custom house agent with William Phillipps. Later he lived at Astey's Row, Islington.

Nicholas Lowther was obviously a well educated man. His library included local books: Nicolson and Burn, Hutchinson, and an unknown history of Cumberland, possibly Lysons: also Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, Border Antiquities and Nithsdale and Galloway songs. so he had plenty of literature to remind him of "Canny old Worton" and its neighbourhood. Greek, Latin and French books, as well as historical works, and books on chemistry show that he must have been well equipped for his work as a schoolmaster.

Where was he educated? Even admitting he may have taught himself some of the languages, yet he must have had a good schooling as a ground work. It was not Carlisle Grammar school, so it was probably Wigton. It is a thousand pities that there are no old records there in existence. There is much to suggest that it must have been a very good school in the 18th century, and have helped many a Cumberland boy to make his mark in the world.

His portrait was painted by Andrew Geddes, A.R.A. (1783-1844). Unfortunately this portrait, and one of his son as well, were burnt in the middle of the last century. But several engravings and other copies are in existence.

He died on 26 March, 1833, and was buried at Norwood Cemetery, where there is a headstone to his memory, on which he is stated to be of "Great Orton, Cumberland." His will was made 10 April, 1827; in it he is described as

Nicholas Lowther, Gentleman: letters of administration were granted to his widow, 2 August, 1833.

He married by licence on 19 June, 1813, at St. James, Piccadilly, Mary Liddell, there described "as of this parish." She was the daughter of Joseph Liddell of Baldwinholme, Great Orton.* She died on 28 Jany., 1859, aged 76 years, and is commemorated in the head stone at Norwood.

Nicholas Lowther and Mary left issue:

1. William Lowther, of whom next.
 2. Nicholas Liddell, born 3 July, 1820. Died at Williamstown, Australia, 12 Febry., 1853.
 3. Charles Henry, born 1824, died at Hastings, Sussex, as a result of catching cold, while his portrait was being painted by Andrew Geddes; buried at Norwood. This portrait was not burnt with the rest of the Lowther pictures.
1. Margaret, born 27 Sept., 1814, married on 5 July, 1838, John Bouch, at Islington and had issue. Her portrait, also painted by Andrew Geddes is now in the possession of the Revrd J. Lowther Bouch.
 2. Isabella Jane, born 9 August, 1816, died unmarried at Hastings, 23 May, 1891, buried at Norwood.
 3. Mary, born 24 August, 1826. Married 11 July, 1848, John Charlton and had issue, died 13 March, 1892, buried at Norwood.

XIII. William Lowther, eldest son of Nicholas and Mary, was born in May, 1818. He married, 11 July, 1848, Sarah, daughter of Edward Charlton, land agent to the

* The family name of Liddell or Liddle was at one time a common one in the country west of Carlisle with branches at Burgh, Kirkandrews and Moorhouse, as well as this one at Baldwinholme. The Great Orton manor rolls suggest that the original home of the family was at Burgh; the first known person of the name there was in 1426; the earliest spelling being Ledale. The Baldwinholme branch started with William Ledale in 1507. They continued there till recent times and were well-to-do yeomen. They had intermarried with the Lowthers in the 16th century. Unfortunately the pedigree is broken, owing to the paucity of records, by one generation in the 17th century. But there seems no reason to doubt the continuity of the family.



MARGARET LOWTHER, WIFE OF JOHN BOUCH.

To face p. 77.

Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick. He succeeded his father in his business and considerably enlarged it, being a shipowner, as well as a custom house agent. In 1856, Jesse Jackson of Evening Hill, Thursby, gentleman, by his will dated 29 March, left his messuage and land there "to my relative William Lowther, shipbroker, Royal Exchange Buildings, London." Mr Lowther died 15 Oct., 1875, aged 57, and was buried at Norwood.

By his will, he left his Cumberland Estates to his sister for life, with remainder to John Bouch, son of his eldest sister Margaret, subject to a life interest of his wife.

Sarah Lowther lived for many years at St. Leonards on Sea, Sussex. She had many tales of the almost feudal splendour of Alnwick Castle and its balls in her early days. She died in Nov., 1918, at the age of 97, and was buried at Norwood.

At her death, the Lowthers of Great Orton became extinct after a period of over 350 years. The family lands passed to her nephew, John Bouch, whose son, the Rev. J. Lowther Bouch, now owns them.

The materials for much of this article were collected and arranged by my cousin several years ago. My grateful thanks are due to him for allowing me to use them and also for copies of the deeds in his possession: my thanks are also due to Miss Brisco and Mr. Anthony Crofton for the loan of the Brisco muniments of the manor of Great Orton.

APPENDIX.

LOWTHER DEEDS, &c.

No. 1. 1566.

This Indenture maid the xiiith day of Maye in the eight yere of the Reigne of our sovrayne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of ynglande france and Ireland quene diffender of the faithe etc. Betwix Thomas leighe nycolas Ridlaye and Richard blanrasset esquiers of the one ptye and Johne lowther of orton wthin the

countye of Cumberlande yoman of the other ptye. Witnesseth that ye sayd Thomas nycolas and Richard for certain good causes them movinge hath demised grantyd and to ferme let unto the sayd Johne Lowther & to his assignes one psell of grounde cawlyd Wolferig myer containinge on estymation sex acres of grounde set lyng and beinge wthin the Lordshipe of Orton. To have & to hold the said psell of grounde cawlyd Wolferig myer wth all & singuler appurtenag to the said Johne Lowther and to his assignes from the daye of the daite hereof unto the end and terme of LX yeres then next & ymmediatlye followinge fullys to be completyd and ended painge therefore yearlye unto the sayd Thomas Nicolas & Ric ther heires or assignes iiis of good and usual monys of yngland at the feastes of Penticost and saint Marten by esey porsions and yf it fortene the said yerlie rent of iiis to be unpaid at other of the sayd feasts at the wich it ought to be payd & lawfullye demanded then it shall be lawfull for the sayd Thomas Nicolas and Richard their heires and assignes into the sayd psell of grounde to henter and dysteryne and the Distress so taken to drive lead or chase awaye unto suche tyme as the sayd rent of iiis with all the orroriges be fullye satisayd contentyd and paid. In witnes whereof the ptes above sayd to these psent indentures interchangeablye haith the putte their seals the day and yeare above written

Thomas leigh Nycolas Rydly Ric ssett

Sealed and delyvered the xiith daie of Maii in the eight yere of queen Elizabeth in the p'sence of

Steven senous Thomas Threlkeld and george

wyttnesses

Deed on parchment 11 x 5 in. All seals destroyed.

No. 2. 1573.

This Indenture made the viiith day of July in the xvth yere of the Reigne of or Sovereigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of Englande france & Ireland defendor of the faithe etc. Betwixte Willfryd Lawson of Isell in the countey of Comberland Esqr. of thone ptey and John Lowder of Orton in the said Countey yeoman and Willm Lowder sonn of the said John of the other ptey Wittneseth that wher's Thom's Leigh late of Isell aforesaid Esqr. disceased by his deed indented dated the last day of Januarij in the viiith yere of the quene's ma'ties reigne that now ys for the consideration of the good and faithfull service done by the said John Lowder did as well demise unto the said John Lowder and to John Lowder then his sonn all that his tente with th appurtenances then in the tenure and occupacon of the said John Lowder the father and also all and singuler lands meadoes pastures kyeats

comons and all other comodities whatsoever with their appurtenances etc to the same tente belonging or with the same before that time used occupied or letten situate lying & beinge w'thin the towne p'ishe and feildes of Orton aforesaid from the date of the said deed for during & untill the term of iiisc. yeares then next insuinge if the said John Lowder the father and John Lowder the sonn of either of them do or doth so long lyve payinge therefore yerely during the said terme unto the said Thomas Leigh his heires or assynes one peny of lawfull English money yf yt be lawfully asked and also dyd therebyve gyve and graunt unto the said John Lowder the father and John Lowder the sonn the office of the Baliwicke of all and singuler his mannors lands tents rents and hereditaments w'thin the said p'ish of Orton and thereof doth make ordain & constitute the said John the father and John the sonn bailifs and either of them bailif by them selves or by their or by either of their sufficient deutey for & during their noremall lifes the longer lyver of them w'th all p'fitts p'heminours comodites unto the said office belonging together with one Annuity or yerely rent of xxs of lawfull englisshe mony for their fee & exercising of the said office for & during their naturall lives & the long'st lyver of them or either of them at the feastes of St Martin and Pentecost by even porconse wth clause of distress contained in the said deed to be taken in & upon the said mannors lands tents & hereditaments for non paimt of the said Annuitey or yerley rent of xxs as by the said deed more plainly appeareth This Indent nowe Witnesseth that the said Willfryd Lawson of Isell for the considerations before expressed as for the good honest trusty faithfull and diligent service by the said John Lowder the father & Wm the sonn heretofore done unto the said Willfryd & Maud his wife & the lyke hereafter to be done unto them hath ratified & confirmed & by these p'nts do ratife and confirm the said deed and lease and grant and every matter clause and article therein contained unto the said John Lowder the father and to his assigns according to the purpot of the said deed lease & grant And further for that the said John the sonn is dead doth also demise and grant by these p'nts unto the said Willm Louder sonn of the said John the said tent farmhold lands tents and office and all the said Annt of xxs yerely to be receved out of the said manner lands and tents To haue and to hould the said ffermehoulds office Ant and all and singuler the p'misies in Orton aforesaid unto the said Wilim Lowder and his assigns from and after the death of the said John Lowder for and during the said number of yeres contened and mentioned in the said deed if the said Willm shall happen so long to lyve in as large and ample a maner as in the said deed is granted

unto the said John Lowder the father and John the sonne if they so long should have lyved And if it happen the said Ant or yerely rent of xxs or any p'te thereof to be behind & unpaid in pt or in all after any of the said feasts at wh yt ought to be paid by the space of xx daies the said beinge lawfully demanded during the said term that then it shall be lawfull to the said Willm Lowder into any p'te of the said manner of Orton to enter and distreine and the distress ther so found to lead dryve chase or carry away and the same to impound deteine and wthould untill the said Ant or yerely rent wth the arrerage thereof if any be lawfully satisfied contented and paid Provided allwaies yet nevertheless that this graunt of the said Ant nor anything therein contened do not nor shall not extend to the charging of the p'son of the said Willfrid Lawson by writt of Annuity during the said term. In witness whereof the p'ties above said to these p'nts have interchangeably sett there handes & seales hereto the day and yere above written

W: Lawson:

Signed sealed & delivred in p'sens
of us whose names here under
written

Wyllyam Adcock clerk
Roland Swynburn
Robert Skelton

Deed on parchment indented 13 x 6 in. Seal removed.

No. 3. 1577.

Novint univsi p p'sentes me Johane Brisco de Crofton in comitatu Cumbr Armiger Teneri et firmiter obligari Johann Lowther de Orton in comitat p'dict yoman in sexaginta libris bone et legalis monete aᅅgli solvendis ad Johanni Lowthero aut suo recto in hac p'te attornato heredi'bus et assignatis suis ad qua quida solutione bene et fideliter facienda obligo me heredes executores et administratores meos firmiter p p'sentes In cujus rei testimoniu huic p'sente scripto meu sigillu mea apposui Datu triginta die mese septembris ao r'ni D'nae n'rae Elizabeth dei grata anglie ffrancie et Hibrnie regina fidei defensore etc decimo nono

John Brisko

Sigillatu et deliberatu
in p'sentum nstu
John barwys Thomas Lowther
Wyllam Jefferson Ryc Pe——
Stephen Skelton wt others
William Lowther

The condesion of this obligacion is such that if the within bounden John Brisco his heires executors administrators and assigns and every of them do well and truly observe p'forme fulfill and keepe all or any such articles clauses graunts covenants and agreements as are upon his and their p'ties well and truly to be observed p'formed fulfilled and kept conteyned and speceyfyed in one payer of Indentures bearing daite of these p'sentes maid betwix the w'thin bounden John Brisco of the one p'ty and the w'thin naymed John Lowther of the other p'ty as by the said Indentures more att large it may and do th'r appeare That then this obligacion is to be void and of none effect or else to stand in full strength and vertew w'th effect

No. 4. 1577. Bond on parchment.

Novint univsi per p'sentes nos Nicholau Ridley de Willimontsweke in com Northumbriae armigeru Randulphum Whinfealde de Whinfealde in com Northumbriae p'dto armigeru et Willm Blenkinsopp de Blenkinsopp in com Northumbriae p'dto genosu teneri et firmiter obligari Johni Lowther de Orton in com Cumbr yeoman in vigint duabus libris bone et legalis monete Anglie Solvend ad Johni Lowther aut suo certo atturnat heredibus vel executoribus suis in festo Omniu Sanctoru proximo futuro post dat p'sentiu Ad quam quidem solutionem bene et fideliter faciend obligamus nos et quemlibet n'rum per se pro toto et in solidis heredes et executores nros per p'sentes sigillis nris sigillat Dat primo die Nov Anno Regni Elizabethae dei gra Anglie francie et Hibine Regine fidei defensoris etc decimonono

Sealed and deliverd in
the p'sence of us

John Middelton
Henry Dentton
Anthony Railton
Wyllm Harding

Nicholas Ridley
Rauffe Whinfealde
Wyllm Blenkinsopp

The condicion of this obligation is suche that if the within bounden Nicholas Ridley his heires executors Administrators and Assignes and euye of them do well and treuly observe kepe fulfill and performe all and singular Articles covenantes grauntes and agreements conteyned expressed written and specified in one pare of Indentures mayd betwixte the said Nicholas Ridley of the one partye and the within namyd John Lowther of the other partye As by the said Indentures being of the dayte hereof are contained and expressed on the p'tye and behalf of the said Nicholas Ridley

his heires executors Administrators and Assigns or either of them are to be observed kept fulfilled and p'formed That then this obligation is to be void and of none effect or else it is to stand in full strength and vertue.

No. 5. 1579.

Bond on paper, seal removed.

Novint universi p p'sentes me Willm Jonson de p'va orton in comitat Cumbrie yoma Teneri et firmiter obligari Willmo Lowther de Orton in dicto comitat yoma in decem libris bone et legalis monet anglie Solvendis dicto Willmo Lowther aut suo certo in hac p'te attornato heredibs executoribs vel assignatis suis ad quid quide solutione bene et fydelliter ffacienda obligo me heredes executores et administratores meos firmiter p p'sentes In cujus rei testimoniu huic p'setu script meo Sigillu meu opposui datu vicessimo quarto die novembris ao regni dna nra Elizabeth dei gra etc. xxi.

The condesion of this obligacion ys such that the yf the within bounden Willm Jonson his heires executors administrators and assignes and euye of them do well and treuly observe performe fulfill and kepe all and every such articles convenantes and agreements as are upon his and their p'ties to be observed p'formed fulfilled and kept contayned and specified in one payer of Indentures bearing daitt of these p'sentes mayd between the above bounden Willm Jonson of the one p'ty and the above naymed Willm Lowther of the other p'ty as by the said Indenture more att large it may and do there appear that then this obligation is to be void and of none effect or else it is to stand in full strength and vertue with effect

Willm Johnson's mk

sealed and delyred the p'sence
of these wytnesses
Wyllm Blayne
Rowland blayne
John bell wth others

No. 6. 1588.

Bond on parchment, seal removed.

Novint universi per presentes me Johannem Moore seniore[m] alias cowp de orton in comitat Cumbrie yeoman Teneri et firmiter obligar Guillielmo Lowther de Orton predicta in Dict comitat yeoman in decem libris bone et legalis monet anglie solvendis

eidem Guilihelmo Lowther aut suo certo in hac parte attornato heredibus executoribus vel assignis suis ad quam quidem Solutionem bene et fideliter faciendam obligo me heres executores et administratores meos firmiter p p'sentes et Sigillo meo sigillat Dat vicessimo quinto die mensis martii ano regni Dnae nrae Elizabethae dei gratia anglie francie et hibernie regina fidei defensoris etc. trigessimio 1558.

John More's mark

Sigillat assignat et deliverat in presentis	
horu testiu vid	Thomas Huntington
	Thomas Blayne
	Thomas Adison
	John Lowther

The condicion of this obligacion is such that if the wthin bounden John Moore eyther in his owne proper p'son or by his sufficient attorney lawfully authorised by him Do in to the next Court holden at orton & ther in open court do surrender up according to the custom of the said court unto the use & behest of the wthin naymed willm Lowther his heires & assignes for ever all that his tyle of tennantwright usur possession claim & interest whatsoever in & upon one p'cell of meadowe grounde called & knowne by the name of Orton lowghe of the yearly rent of two shillinges conteyninge a dayworke & a halfe or ther about with all p'fitts & comodites ther unto belonginge according to one Deade of saile bearinge dait of these p'sentes thereof maid by the w'thin bounden John Moore to the w'thin named Willm Lowther as by the said Dead more at large it may & dothe appeare That then this obligacion to be void and of none effect or els to stande in full and lawfull vertue and effect.

No. 7. 1593.

Bond on parchment, seal removed.

Novint univ'si p p'sentes me Johannem Moore seiore alias cwp de Orton in comitatu Cubria yeoman Teneri et firmiter obligari Willielmo Lowther de eadem in dicto comitatu yeoman In Quadraginta libris bonae et legalis monetae angliae Solvendis eidem Willielmo Lowther aut suo certo in hac p'te attornato heredibus executoribus vel assignatis suis ad quam quid Solutionem Bene et fideliter faciendam obligo me heredes et executores administratores meos firmiter p' presentes Sigillo meo Sigillat Dat Trigessimio die mensis novembris anno regni dnae nrae

Elizabethae dei gratia angliae franciae et hiberninae reginae fidei
defensoris etc Trigessimio Sexto: 1593 John Moore's m'ke

Sigillat et deliverat In

presentia hortestiu

Willm Orfeure

Petter hodgshon

John Grayme

John Jeffrey

francis orfeure

Thomas Addison

The condicion of this obligacion is such that if the w'thin bounden John Moore his heires executors administrators & assignes & every of them doe well & trewly observe p'forme fulfyll obeye and kepe all and every suche artycles covenants grants and agreements as ar upon his & ther p'ties well and trewly to be observed p'formed fulfilled & kepte conteyned & specified in one Indenture bearinge dait of these presents & maid between the w'thin bounden John Moore on the one ptye and the w'thin naymed Willm Lowther on the other pty concerninge the bargayning and Sellenge of one Tenement in orton as by the said Indenture moore at large it may & dothe appere: That then this p'sente obligacion to be void & of none effecte or else to stande in full Strenthe force and vertue wh effecte

No. 8. 1595.

Will of William Lowther.

1594 November 10: By his will of this date William Lowther of Orton in the County of Cumberland:

Directed that his body should be buried in the Chancel of Orton.

He gave:

To John Lowther his son and heir two great arkes etc., his riding gear, one half his ploughs and husbandry gear, 40 bushels of oates to sow his tenement with when he attained 21 years of age, also £5 to buy a horse with when 21.

To Robert Lowther his base begotten son £10.

To Jaine Lowther £3.

To Robert Braithwaite his servant £10 which is due to be paid as his fine or grassome when he cometh to his tenement.

To Magdalen his wife and to George Lowther, Thomas Lowther, Ellinor Lowther, Annas Lowther, his children the rest of his goods and appointed them his Executors.

Witnesses: John Lyddell: Thomas Addison:

Edward Addison.

Proved at Carlisle 3 February 1595.

No. 9. 1597.

I.P.M. of William Lowther.

Writ issued to Gerard Lowther, Esq., John Middleton Esq., feodaries of the County of Cumberland, John Suthake Esq., Thomas Carleton Esq., John Richemonde Esq., escheators of the said County, and Thomas Atkinson gent., to hold an Inquisition on the death of William Lowther yeoman, deceased. Dated at Westminster, 12 February 38 Elizabeth (1596).

Inquisition taken at Heskett, Co. Cumberland 19 January 39 Elizabeth (1597) before Gerard Lowther Esq. and John Mydltou Esq., feodaries of the Queen in the said County, John Richmond Esq. and John Senhouse escheators, and Thomas Atkinson, gent;

The said William Lowther held in demesne as f'fee to him and his lawfull heirs male two messuages and tenements in Orton in the said County one messuage and tenement in Lownthwate in the said County in the occupation of John Bead; three acres of meadow in Ulton in the said County in the occupation of Thomas Addeson, John —oher, and the relict of Robert Stodert and one-third of the advowson and patronage of the Church and rectory of Orton aforesaid; with all and singular the dovescotes, gardens, orchards, lands, meadow, pasture, franchises &c. &c. thereto belonging.

Further that one messuage and tenement in Orton was held by military service; the other messuage and tenement in Orton and the third part of the advowson aforesaid were lately the hereditament of Nicholas Ridley Esq., deceased, and were held in capite by service of — of a knight's fee. The said messuages and tenements in Orton are worth 16 shillings yearly beyond the reprises. The said messuage and tenement called Lownethwate and the three acres of meadow in Ulton were held of John Dalston Esq. in socage by fealty and the payment of 8 pence and they are worth 12 pence beyond reprises.

The said William Lowther died on the 19 November 36 Elizabeth (1594); John his son and heir being 6 years and 9 months old on that day.*

No. 10. 1601.

Bond on parchment, seals removed.

Novint univs per p'sentes nos Cuthbertum Orfeure de Plumland in com Cumbr genosu et Ricm Chambers de Holme Cultram in eodem com genosu Teneri er firmiter obligari Cuthberto Syson de

* I.P.M. Chancery Series II, 250, No. 5.

Hutton John in do com Cumbr genosu in quadragint libris bone et legalis monete Anglie Solvend eadem Cuthberto Syson aut suo certo attornat execut administr vel assignat suis Ad qm quidm soluciem bene et fidelit faciend obligamus nos et ut cumque nrm per se pro toto et in p'tis hered execut et administr nros et alterius nrm per p'sentes Sigillis nros Sigillat Dat vicesimo sexto die maii Anno regni Dne nre Elizabeth dei gra Anglie ffranc et hybine Regine fidei defensor etc. Quadragesimo Tertio 1601.

Sigillat assignat et deliverat in psens
 Edmundi Syson gen Hugonis Wilkinson
 ffletcher et me Johns Clony(?) nori
 Edmund Syson
 Hugonis Wilkinson Signe

The condicion of this obligacon is such that whereas the within named Cuthbert Sisson by his Script or bonde obligatory bering date the daye of the date within written is holden and standeth bounden unto one Jane Briscoe of Crofton in the countie of Cumberland widow in the some of Twentye poundes of lawfull money of England wth condicion thereon indorsed to obeye abeyde p'forme fulfill and kepe the Awarde Arbitrament ordynance Rule Decree and Judgment of the reight rev'ent ffather in God Henrie by G-s Devyne p'vidense Lorde Busshopp of Carlyle Arbitrator indifferently named elected and chosen as well in the p'ts & behalfe of the saide Jane as on the p'tes & behalfe of the saide Cuthbert Sisson To arbitrate awarde order ordayne judge and determyne of and uppon all and every Sewtes streyfe controv'ies Quarrels and contencons and of and uppon all and all manner of matters causes accompts challenges accons debts debates Judgments Executions and Demands whatsoever they be concerning the same had made moved or depending in varyance between the said Cuthbert and Jane and also between the said Cuthbert and one William Orfeure Esquier his sonnes servauntes and ffamelie now or at any time heretofore as in and by the saide obligacion and condicion more at lardge appeareth If therefore the said within bounden Cuthbert Orfeure and Richard Chambers their executors or assignes doe within ffortye dayes next enseuing the date within specified p'cure the said Jane Briscoe to enter into and become bound in leike sorte unto him the saide Cuthbert Sisson in leike penaltie and somme of monneye wth leike condicion in all intents confirmacions and purposes and as her owne p'per parte and deed lawfully in dew forme of lawe before honest witnesses to seale and delyver the

same to the p'te of the saide Cuthbert Sisson and into his hands or his certen attorney to be delyvered wth condicions to leike effect to obeye the Awarde of the saide R'vent ffather wh on her pte the saide Cuthbert Orfeure and Richard Chambers have taken upon them to be well and trewly p'formed fullfyllid and kept and to all intents constructions and purposes as he the saide Cuthbert standeth bownde to the saide Jane That then this obligacion to be voyde and of none effect else to stande remayne and be in full force strengeth and value.

No. 11.

Will and Inventory of John Lowther, 1620.

1619, March 10, By his will of this date John Lowther of Orton Cumberland

Directed that he should be buried in the Quire of Orton beside his ancestors.

He gave:—

To his wife Lucie the 3rd part of all his goods and the use of all his ground until his eldest son and heir attained the age of 21 years.

To his eldest son John 2 great arkes etc., and all his husbandry gear etc., when he came to age.

To his daughter Magdalen Lowther one great brass pot etc.

To his sister Ellin Mason 20s. which she owed him.

To his mother Magdalen Blennerhasset £5.

To his brother Thomas Blennerhasset his best jerkin and £10 which Thomas Graham owed him.

To his wife Lucie 2 silver spoons.

To his three daughters Magdalen Lowther, Mary Lowther, and Lucy Lowther, each a silver spoon.

He gave the rest of his goods to his sons William Lowther and Henry Lowther and his said three daughters and appointed them his executors.

He requested Mr. John Briscoe, his cousin Hugh Lowther and Robert Addison to act as supervisors.

Witnesses: Christopher Peate, John Addison,

John Moore, George Clarke.

Proved at Carlisle 27th May, 1620.

From the original on paper 8 x 12 in.

An Inventorie of all ye goods of John Lowther of Orton, deceased, valued & prised by 4 sworne men, vz.: John Wilson, John Addison, John Moore, & Thomas Liddall, the sixth day of March Anno Domini 1619.

Imprimis his apparell	iii l	vi s	viii d
Item a Jerkin & a payer of drawers w'ch he bequeathed to hys brother Thomas Blenner- hasset		viii s	iiii d
Item fower fether beddes & six bolsters	iiii l		
Item six coverlets six blankets & a happin		l s	
Item seven small sheetes and seven round ones, three bolster covers, three towels, and three table napkins		xxxiii s	iiii d
Item two bedsteads, one chist, two coffers, a round table and a courtaine		xxx s	
Item two trunks		vi s	viii d
Item five chists and two coffers		xxx s	
Item fattes, stands, coagues, & churnes		xii s	
Item two arkes, a cupboard and a frame, a table with formes & husbandrie gear heire- looms		xlvi s	viii d
Item pewder vessell		xxxvi s	
Item one brasse pott & a panne which Mrs. Lowther gave Magdalen another greate brasse pott, a greene bed covering, a pewder bason & ewer a great voyder wch her father bequeathed unto her		lii s	
Item brasse pottes, caldrons, pannes, & other fire vessell	iiii l	vi s	viii d
Item 3 bowes & 3 dozen of arrowes		xxvi s	viii d
Item a bible, a Communion booke, Stowe's Chronicle, Dr. Carleton's booke, the Canons, Erasmus Apothegmes in English		xviii s	
Item three oxen	viii l		
Item three kine	iii l		
Item foure stirkes		xxvi s	viii d
Item one great horse	vi l		
Item two other naggcs	iii l	vi s	viii d
Item thirtie bushels of oates	iii l		
Item twentie bushels of bigge		xl s	
Item hay & straw		xl s	
Item pease & beanes		vi s	viii d
Item five silver spoons		xxv s	
Item wood		viii s	
Item Dung		xx s	
Item two sawes and an axe		iii s	

Item swine		xvi s	
	Summa bonorum 62 l		
	Debts owing unto him		
Imprimis Percivall Holme, Henry Holme, & Rowland Heade owe him		xxii l	
Item Mr. Ralph & Mr. Henry Grey		xii l	
Item John Addison		vi l	
Item Thomas Graham		xl s	
Item Coristofer Nixon		xxx s	
Item Edward Stagge		viii s	vi d
Item George Watson		v s	
Item Robert Barne of Drumleeming		v s	
Item Henry Askew		ii s	vi d
	Summa eris sui 44 l. 11 s.		

Debts w'ch he is owing

Imprimis to Mr. Willyam Mey		iii l	
Item to Willyam Jefferey		iii l	
Item to George Rickarby of Neeles		iii l	xvi s
Item to John Hird		xxxvi s	
Item to Richard Calvert		li s.	
Item to Willyam Jackeson		x iii s	
Item to Mrs. Lowther of Cawdeygate		xx s	
Item to George Graham		v s	
Item to Margaret XXyman		v s	
Item to Richard Denton		xx s	
Item to the nurse		xxiii s	
Item to Thomas Pattyson		x s	
Item to John Hodgson		xxx s	
Item to Margeret Simpson		xvi s	
Item to Janet Moore		vii s	
Item to diverse		xxxii s	
Item funerall expenses		iiii l	x s
Item to John Moore		ix s	
	Summa eris alieni 28 l. 4 s.		

No. 12.

I.P.M. of John Lowther. Held at Keswick on 23 March,
1623/4.

He owned 2 messuages and 18 acres in Orton and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the advowson of Orton, lately Nichs Riddley Esq.

A tenement in Lounthwait and 3 acres, late in tenure of Jn. Riddley Esq^e.

3 tenements in Olton in tenure of Jn. Addyson, Jn. Stoddert, and widow of Robert Stoddert, held under John Dalston Kt. as of his manor of Mirehouse.

He died 20 March, 19 James I.

Jn. Lowther is his son and heir aged 12 years and 9 months at the time of this Inquisition.

Lucy Lowther is his widow.

In Feby., 9 James I, he enfeoffed Jn. Briskoe with two parts in three parts of his lands in trust for his son and heir Jn. Lowther when 21.

I.P.M. C. 142. 735, 107.

No. 13. 1649.

Bond on paper seals removed.

Noverint univsi per presentes nos Mariam James de Stanwix et Johannem Lowry et Thomam Lowry de Stanwix p'd in com Cumb yeomam teneri et firmiter obligari Robert Lowther in legibus Baccalaur Carliolen jurisdiccon Ecclesiae Comissar H'm Constitut in sexaginta libris bonae et legalis monetae Angliae solvend eide Roberto Lowther executors administrators vel successors suis ad qua quida solution bene et fideliter fasciend obligamus nos et quemlibet nrm p se p toto hered exec' res et administr nros firmiter p p'sentes sigillis nostris Sigi lat vicessimo secundo die mensis Martii Annoq dni Millmo sexcen'mo quadragessimono

The condition of this obligation is such that if the abovenamed Mary James widow and executrix (with her daughter Elinor) of the last will of Thomas James of Stanwix lately deceased and Tutrix and guardian unto the sayd Elinor James duringe her minority shall well and truly administer the goods of her late husband Thomas James and shall pay or cause well and truly to be payd all his debt and legacies and shall faythfully execute the last will of the sayd Thomas and shall take care that a competent maintenance and ingenuous education may be afforded to her daughter Elinor duringe her minority and shall endeavour with all the industry of circumspection so to dispose of the remaynder of the goods and chattells of the sayd Thomas due to her daughter Elinor as coexecutrix as shall be most for the profit and benefit of her sayd daughter Ellinor when she shall come to years and shalbe willinge to make a p'fect accompt when she shalbe thereunto lawfully call'd and also to give better or further security when

by the Official it shalbe judged and declar'd expedient that then this obligatio to be void and of no effect otherwise to remayne in full force and vertue.

Mary James her mark Joh Lowry marke

Tho Lowry marke

Sealled and delivered in the p'sence

of us Ric Welchmay

Ambrose (?) Dalton

No. 14. 1681.

Small parchment seals removed.

Noverint univers p p'sentes nos Guilielmus Lowther de Magna Orton in comit Cumbriae et Guilielmus Lowther patre ejus eode comit yeoman teneri et firmiter obligari mie Guilielmo Robinson de eadem villar et comit sutore in decem libris bone et legalis monet Angliae solvenda eidem Guilielmo Robinson aut suo certo in hac parte atturnat heredibs executoribis vel assignatoribis suis ad quam quida solutione bene et fideliter faciendum obligamus nos et quemlibett nostr p se p toto et insolido heredes executores et administratores nrs firmit p p'sentes sigillis nrs sigilat dat vicesimo die Decembris Anno Regni Domn nri Caroli Secundi magna dei gratia ffrancie et Hibernie Regis trisessimo tertio fidei defensoris Annoq Domi milesimo sexentissimo octogessimo et uno

Signat Sigillat er delibrat

in p'sentia nrm

John Lowther

James Harrison

John Moore

Edward Robinson

William Lowther

mark X and seal

Will Lowther

mark X and seal

The condicion of this obligation is such that if ye wthin named William Lowther doe well and truly observe p'form fullfill and keep all and singular the articles covenants and agreements contained comprised and more at large specified and declared in one paire of indentures bearinge dat with these p'sentes made between Will Lowther of ye one partie and ye within named Will Robinson on ye other partie wch on ye part and behalf of ye said William Lowther are to be observed p'formed fulfilled and kept according to ye true intent and meaninge of ye said Indentures that then this obligation to be void and of none effect other wise to stand and remaine in full power and effect according to law.

No. 15. 1695.

Will and Inventory of William Lowther.

1694. Dec. 26. By his will of this date William Lowther senior of Great Orton Cumberland yeoman

Gave:—To his son William all his plough gear etc.

To his daughter Mary he gave one brass pot etc.

The rest of his goods he gave to:—

Mary his wife

His said daughter Mary

His son Nicholas

His daughter Isabell

and appointed them his Executors.

Witnesses:—Edward Blaine, William

Robinson, James Bell.

Proved at Carlisle 13th April 1695.

From the original on paper about 7 x 12 in.

A true & perfect Inventory of all the goods & chattels moveable & immoveable whereof William Lowther late of Orton in the County of Cumberland dyed possessed taken and apprized the ninth day of April Ano Dom 1695 by Mathew Moor, James Bell, Thomas Blaine and Edward Blaine Apprizors.

	l	s	d
Imprimis His apparrel linnen & wollen & rideing furniture	01:	02:	06
Itm Beding & Bedsteads	02:	06:	08
Cows Heifers & Steers	05:	00:	00
Horses & Mares	04:	15:	00
Corn, hay & straw	05:	10:	00
Pewter brass wooden vessels, chests, and other small things Girdle tongs smoothing iron, chairs and stools etc.	01:	15:	00
Cloath and yarn	01:	10:	00
Carts, Pullets, Swine and husbandry geer	01:	10:	00
Manure	00:	10:	00
Plough geer	00:	05:	00
Cow and calf	02:	10:	00
Kettle, cupboard, a brass pot, a chest, table and bink	03:	10:	00
in all	30:	04:	02
Debts owing to the deceased			
Mr. James Bill	20:	00:	00
in all	50:	4:	02

Debts owing by the deceased

To Wm Robinson	07: 12: 06
To James Urwin	06: 07: 00
To Susan Addison	01: 00: 00
To Edward Coultherd	01: 00: 00
To Eliz. Nixon	01: 00: 00
To Frances Wilson	01: 00: 00
To James Bell	01: 11: 00
To Mary Blaine	00: 05: 00
	19: 15: 06

Apprisers

Matthew Moore	50: 4: 02
Thomas Blaine	19: 15: 06
Edward Blaine	rests in all 30 — 8 — 8
James Bell	

No. 16. 1695.

From the original on parchment.

Maner Cur Baron Johis Briscoe Ar, infan p Mercy Brisco
de matr et guardian Tent apud Orton quarto die
Orton Decembris Ano rni dni Willi Tertii dei gra Angl &
Scot Franc et Hibnie Regis fidei Defensor etc. septimo Annoq Dni
1695 coram Carolo Smithson Gen Scall cur ibm

Ad hanc cur venit Willus Lowther filius et heres Willi Lowther
defunct et petit admitti Tenen vid messuag sive Tenementi situat
jacen et existen apud Orton infra maner prd Annual Reddit sex
solid et sex denar Habend et Tenend prmiss prd cum p'tin sibi
prfat Willo Lowther p termino vite n'ralis ipsius Willi Lowther
scdm cons maner prd p Indentur confirmat Reddend Annuaq
Reddit prd et oia aq servitia inde debit et consuet et solvit p Fine
ut in capite et fidelitatem et sic inde Admissus est Tenen Dat sub
man scall Cur prd die et Ano suprd

Char Smithson
Scall ibm

Fine vi s vi d
& r d
Redd vi s vi d

No. 17. 1695.

Bond on paper.

This bill binds me James Bell of Little Orton in the county of
Cumberland yeoman my heires Extors, Administrators and
assignes and every of them firmly by these presents in the penall
sum of Eighteen shillings of good and Lawfull money of England

for the true payment of nine shillings of like lawfull money of England yearly by Equall proportions at Martinmas and Candlemas unto Mary Lowther of Great Orton in the said County widow or to her true and lawfull attourney her heires extors adtors or assignes during her naturall life for and in consideration of all her widowright Title challenge claime and demand whatsoever of in and unto three acres of arrable freeland be the same (more or less) Situate lyeing and being within the precincts of the West field within the Mannor of Orton in the said county viz: one acre and an halfe (more or less) lyeing in the Croft one half acre (more or less) lyeing in the Crosslands and one acre (more or less) called Lime kill Close without any fraude guile drift or further delay in witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and seale the fourth day of July in the yeare of our Lord God 1695.

	James Bell
Signed sealed and delivered	John Wilson
in the presence of us	Robert Robinson mark
	William Lowther mark

No. 18.

Indenture.

Indenture made 23 Jany. 11 George I, 1724, between William Lowther, the elder of Great Orton, bachelor, and William Lowther, the younger, his nephew, also of Great Orton; by which the said William Lowther the elder transfers to his nephew, the customary messuage now in the possession of William Lowther the elder, for £50.

William Lowther the elder's mark.

Seal the Lamb and Flag.

Witnesses: John Craghill, Chris. Henderson, Thomas Craghill,
William Stordy.

Receipt for £50, endorsed, signed, and witnessed.

No. 19. 1726.

William Lowther Junior. Admission as Tenant.

MANERIUM Memorand quod undecimo die Novembris Anno Dni
DE 1726 venit Willielmus Lowther de Orton Senior et
ORTON surtum reddidit in manus Dm unu medietat
Messuag et Tenement jacend in Orton pred cum
pertinents ad usu Williemi Lowther minoris pro termino vite
ipsius Willielmi Lowther et Idem Willielmus Lowther modo
presente petit admitti Tenent medietat Messuag et premissor

pred sic ut presertuo surtum reddit Habend et
 Reddit 6s. 6d. Tenend sibi pro termino vite ipsius Williemi
 Fine Lowther secund consuetud Maner pred per
 15 li oos. ood indenture stabilit reddendo annuales reddit
 customar apportion ad sex solid et sex denar ad
 dies usuales et faciend omnia alia servitia unde debit et jure
 consuet sub et conditione quod ipse Willielmus Lowther non
 vendet nec tabernet premiss pred sine licentia dni et dat dno
 pro fine quindecim librar ut in margine et (respectu fidelitat
 ejus usq' in prox cur) sic inde admissus est tenens
 J. Brisco

No. 20. 1737.

Deed of Enfranchisement.

The top of this Deed has been cut off, and about one third is lost.

The Deed is dated September 1737 and is made between Sir Richard Musgrave Bart., John Brisco and Richard Brisco and John Lowther of Great Orton.

After reciting that the said Sir Richard Musgrave John Brisco and Richard Brisco had agreed in exercise of powers given to them by a Deed of Settlement and by a Fine and Recovery and by an Act of Parliament to sell convey and enfeoff unto the said John Lowther his moiety of a Messuage or Tenement situate in Great Orton and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

It was Witnessed that in exercise of the said powers and for the considerations therein mentioned they the said Sir Richard Musgrave John Brisco and Richard Brisco did thereby grant sell and convey unto the said John Lowther his heirs and assigns All that his said moiety of the said Messuage or Tenement and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging as a freehold estate.

Signed: R. Musgrave, John Brisco

Richd Brisco.

Seals: [Argent] 3 Greyhounds courant [sable]:—Brisco.

Witnesses: John Liddell William Rickerby

John Blaine

Receipt endorsed and signed.

No. 21.

Will of William Lowther of Great Orton, 1742.

To sister-in-law Priscilla Lowther, for life, 2 parcels of freehold land at Crosslands rigg and the Croft.

Brother-in-law: John Blaine 1/-.

Niece: Abigail Williamson 1/-.

Niece: Mary Robinson £1. 1s.

Nephew: John Blaine £1. 1s.

Residue, nephew: John Lowther.

Dated 7 Sept. 1737.

Witnesses: John Moor, Will Wilson, Joseph Thompson.

No. 22. 1748.

Orton Assessment.

Febary ye 4 1748. An asaessment of 3 purveys for the Poor in Orton Quarter.

	£	s	d
Jos Hind	00	06	00
John Hodgson	00	10	02
John Moor	00	07	02
Sarah Blaine	00	04	00
Anthony Barnes	00	00	03
Jos Willson	00	07	02
John Lowther	00	07	02
Joseph Carr	00	07	02
Jonathan Nixon	00	03	00
Joseph Atkinson	00	06	03
John Sturdy	01	00	00
John Moore M: ton	00	05	04
Robart Thomlinson	02	09	00
John Moore De Cross	00	01	02
John Brisco	00	10	02
John Brisco Rector	01	11	01
Jos Willson	00	09	00
John Moore	00	10	02
Will Willson	00	03	03
Jos Tiffin	00	03	03
Thomas Hunting	01	01	02
Sarah Nixson	00	10	02
John Moore fold	00	04	02
John Johnson	00	10	03
John Norman	01	00	02
Will Nixson	01	00	03
John Hodgson	00	01	02
Thomas Sturdy	00	01	02
John Robinson	00	01	02
John Liddle	00	00	03

No. 23.

Deeds relating to Crabtree Dale.

1778 Novr., 24th & 25th. Indentures of Lease and Release made between John Rutrford of Close House in the Parish of Stanwix in the County of Cumberland Farmer of the first part Edward Blaine of Great Orton in the Parish of Orton in the County of Cumberland Yeoman of the second part and Isaac Heslop of Haughton in the said Parish of Stanwix and County aforesaid Yeoman of the third part

After reciting that by Indentures of Lease and Release dated the 22nd & 23rd days of November 1776 between William Wilson the elder of Flatt in the Parish of Kirkbampton Cumberland Gentleman of the first part the said Edward Blaine of the second part and the said John Rutrford of the third part the messuage and tenement lands and closes therein described were duly granted and confirmed to the use of the said John Rutrford and his heirs for ever Subject to a Proviso for redemption on payment by the said Edward Blaine of the sum of £200

It was Witnessed that in consideration of the sum of £200 paid to the said John Rutrford and also of the sum of £50 paid to the said Edward Blaine The said John Rutrford and the said Edward Blaine thereby conveyed unto the said Isaac Heslop All that Messuage or tenement and lands situate in Great Orton with all appurtenances by way of Mortgage.

Signed and sealed by all parties.

Witnesses: John Mitchinson Jacob Stordy.

1779 Novr. 25th. An Indenture made between the above-named Edward Blaine of the one part and the above-named Isaac Heslop of the other part Whereby the above messuage and premises at Orton were charged with the repayment of a further sum of £28.

Signed and sealed by both parties.

Witnesses: John Mitchinson Jacob Stordy.

1780 June 6th & 7th. Indentures of Lease and Release the Release made between the above-named Isaac Heslop of the first part the above-named Edward Blaine of the second part and John Brisco of Crofton Hall in the County of Cumberland Esquire of the third part whereby the messuage lands and hereditaments above-mentioned were granted released and confirmed unto the said John Brisco his heirs and assigns for ever subject to a proviso for redemption on payment by the said Edward Blaine of the sum of £320.

[This deed is not with the Lowther documents.]

1785 May 20th. An Indenture made between the said John Brisco then Sir John Brisco Baronet of the first part the above-named Edward Blaine and Elizabeth his wife of the second part Sarah Moore of Great Orton widow of the third part and William Lowther of the same place Blacksmith of the fourth part.

Reciting the above Mortgage for £320. And reciting that on the 15th day of December then last past the freehold ground thereafter mentioned was put up to auction the said William Lowther being the highest bidder.

It was witnessed that for £101 paid to Sir John Brisco by William Lowther at the request of the said Edward Blaine in full discharge of all monies owing on the said recited security and in consideration of the sum of 5 shillings to the said Edward Blaine paid by the said William Lowther and of the like sum of 5 shillings to him the said Edward Blaine paid by the said Sarah Moore, Sir John Briscoe and Edward Blaine and Elizabeth his wife grant to the said William Lowther his heirs and assigns their freehold close known as Crabtree-Dale situate at Great Orton containing about four acres bounded with the ground belonging to the Rectory of Orton towards the west and the ground of Edward Hunbley Esqr. and Mary his wife towards the east and then in the occupation of the said William Lowther Together with all appurtenances.