

ART. VIII.—*The Pedigree of Thomlinson of Blencogo.*
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THIS article was originally intended merely as an introduction to the local reader of the pedigree of this family contained in a Surtees Society volume of North Country Diaries (S.S. 118). This pedigree is intended to illustrate the diary of the Rev. John Thomlinson.* But an investigation of some of the references given led to a change of plan. These are 'Memoir of Dr. Thomlinson' and 'Some Further Notices of Dr. Thomlinson,' in *Arch. Aeliana*, X (1885), 59f. and 80f., and 'Researches into the Family Relationships of the Rev. Robert Thomlinson,' in XV (1892), 340f of the same Society.

It should be noted that this article is only concerned with correcting the pedigree. Any one who wishes to read a full account of the family is referred to the articles above and to the references given below.

When, after studying the pedigree with the idea mentioned before, these articles were read a feeling of doubt arose as to its correctness in its earlier generations. This doubt, in fact, was obviously shared by the compiler of the pedigree. It begins with the statement "Edward Thomlinson, stated to have been a younger son of Anthony Thomlinson of Gateshead, purchased property at Blencogo, circa 1624." The reference was to *Arch. Aeliana*, X, 80. There it was stated in addition that this Anthony was bailiff of Gateshead. Elsewhere† it was said of these Thomlinsons of Gateshead that they

* p. 66-167.

† xv, 350.

were "of a level, in the sense of matrimonial eligibility with the first families of the County of Durham." This Thomlinson family was, in fact, of visitation rank, having its pedigree entered in the Durham Visitation of 1615.* The Blencogo family were not of this rank in Cumberland. So the feeling of doubt was deepened. It looked so much like the old story of a family of non-visitation rank fastening itself on to one of that rank of the same name. A look at the visitation pedigree in question settled the doubt to a certainty, because, though Edward Thomlinson was there all right, there was no mention of his marrying or emigrating to Cumberland. His name was given, and nothing else. If then this Edward was not the ancestor of the Blencogo family, it remained to find who was.

The clue was provided by the author of one of the articles mentioned, who, in different places, provided Edward with two fathers; one in Anthony aforesaid, another in a Nicholas Thomlinson of Hawksdale,† whose son Edward was baptized at Dalston on 25 Jan., 1572/3. The truth would seem to be that he did not like to reject the Gateshead tradition, despite the fact that he had found in the Dalston registers in this Nicholas a much more likely father for Edward and had further found that the latter had a son John, baptized on 14 May, 1598. And John had a son Richard, who had been entered as 'filius Johannis filii Edwardi de Hauxdale natus octavo die Maii 1625 apud Ecket infra parochiam de Wigton et baptisatus in Ecclesia de Wigton . . . die ejusdem mensis maii.‡ The reason for this unusual entry should perhaps be mentioned. This Nicholas was also the father of Robert Thomlinson of The Gill, Dalston, for many years parish clerk, who, fortunately for us,

* Durham Visitation Pedigrees, 1575, 1615, 1666, ed. Joseph Foster, 1887, p. 303.

† XV 345 and 346.

‡ XV 345-6.

considered his family of sufficient importance to warrant these extra entries.*

Now to go back to the first certain ancestor of Thomlinson of Blencogo. He also was a Richard, whose first son was born on 21 July, 1646.† So he may well have been the man born at Akehead in 1625. The task still remained to prove it, however. The first clue was provided by an entry in the Diary of 27 Aug. 1717, "Uncle says the house that belonged to our family near Rose Castle, was built of many stones that were fetched from there" [Kelso Abbey]. The uncle was Dr. Thomlinson. So here we have a pointer to Dalston. But we still want one to Akehead, near Wigton. That fortunately also was forthcoming. Because Dr. Thomlinson was friendly with the son of Walter Calverley who owned lands in Cumberland. The son notes in his diary on 23 Aug. 1689 "Mr. Thomlinson and I went for Cumberland and got to Akehead in 4 days,"§ and Walter the father, in his will of 6 Nov. 1691, gives Richard Tomlinson, the elder, of Akehead, in co. Cumberland, gent., and John Tomlinson, his son, clerk, power, together with his executors, to sell these lands.||

Here we have then links connecting the Hawkesdale family with Akehead. Further as it is certain that William Thomlinson of Blencogo was brother of the Mr. Thomlinson referred, they were sons of a Richard Thomlinson,¶ we have in him the third, Blencogo, link to solve our puzzle. It does not seem possible to ask for more conclusive proof.

Can we trace the pedigree any further back? The Dalston registers supply the names of Nicholas Thomlinson's two wives, Mabel, buried on 26 Jan. 1589/90 and Marian on 9 Dec., 1614. Nicholas, himself, described

* *Trans.* o.s. vii, 158f.

† *Ibid.*, 76.

|| *Ibid.*, p. 47.

† S.S. 118, pedigree, p. 66.

§ Yorkshire Diaries, Surtees Society, 77, p. 46.

¶ Pedigree as before in S.S., 118.

as of Stone Hall, was buried 21 Feb. 1615. The name of Nicholas' mother is also known. She was Catherine, who had married secondly a Thomas Peat. She was buried on 1 April, 1587.*

Further than that we cannot be sure, but, of course, only a very superficial search has been made. There was a John Thomlinson of Hawksdale, who is mentioned as a suitor at Dalston manor Court on 6 Aug. 1531,† and much farther back still on 11 Sept., 1407 a John Tomlynson witnesses a grant of lands in Cardewe by John Hure to Nicholas Taillour of Carlisle. John Hure had the land of the gift of John de Pantria.‡ These are presumably the same family as the latter Thomlinson's, that is all that can be safely said. Thus it has been proved, without going to Gateshead this family has a pedigree that they need be by no means ashamed of; rather the reverse.

Just a few more incidental notes:

John Thomlinson, Rector of Rothbury, 1678-1720, was not, as the Surtees volume asserts, Vicar of Bromfield. Full particulars of the benefactions of this John, who was founder of the hospital for clergy widows and of the School at Wigton are given in Nicolson and Burn, ii, 195-197. His brother Robert gave the church at Allonby, (*ibid.*, 162-163). His brother William, who lived at Blencogo, did not, as stated in the Surtees volume, purchase the advowson of Bromfield. The Bishops of Carlisle are, and always have been its patrons.

As to how the false claim to descend from the Gateshead family arose, we have, of course, no actual evidence. But John Thomlinson was Rector of Rothbury and his brother Robert, lecturer of Newcastle on Tyne and Rector of Whickham. Perhaps, being on the East coast, they thought a Gateshead family of visitation rank more genteel as ancestors than a Cumberland family of

* All from the Dalston Registers.

† *Trans.* o.s. xiv, 66.

‡ Archives of the Queen's College, Oxford, 11, in the Bodleian Library.

yeomanry, and so claimed the most likely one and transported one of them to West Cumberland.

At the same time they adopted their coat of arms: party per pale wavy argent and vert three grey-hounds countercharged a chief engrailed azure, merely changing the chief to indented instead of engrailed: though Dr. Thomlinson added three martlets argent to the chief.* But the simpler coat appears on the memorial tablet to William Thomlinson in Bromfield Church. That claimed by the Gateshead family was, in fact, that of the Yorkshire family of Mauléverer of Allerton, of which a variant was claimed by two Yorkshire families named Thomlinson at the 1665 Visitation. But Dugdale demanded a certificate from the head of the Mauleverer's that he recognised them as kin, which doubtless was never forthcoming.†

Robert Thomlinson the parish clerk, claimed for arms azure, a cross moline argent on a chief gules three cinque-foils or. It seems doubtful if these had any authority, except his own, as in the 18th century the family claimed the Gateshead coat, used by the Blencogo family.‡

How did the family attain their position? The social level of a parish clerk is not that of a lord of a manor. There was a John Thomlinson who entered the Merchants Company at Carlisle in 1627, became its clerk in 1655, and Mayor in 1666-7.§ He may be the man born at Dalston in 1598 and have helped on the family fortunes. A Carlisle influence is suggested by John Thomlinson in 1678 obtaining the rich living of Rothbury from the Dean and Chapter.

While this article was printing the writer was sent a copy of an indenture, in the possession of Miss Booker

* XV 343.

† XV, 351.

‡ Field, *Armorial of Cumberland*, 249-50.

§ Municipal Records of the City of Carlisle, R. S. Ferguson, 90, 93, 300.

of Langrigg Hall, by the Rev. F. B. Swift. It is between Edward Thomlinson and his son John, and John Jackson of Leisonhall, yeoman, and sells to the latter "all that moyety & full halfe & parte of their capital messuage called Blencogoe haul & the domaine houses, And the moyety & full halfe parte of all the domaine lands, &c." It is dated 13 Dec. 9 Charles I. (1633). This deed suggests that Nicolson & Burn were wrong in saying that Richard Barwise owned the manor of Blencogo in 1634.* It looks as if the statement given above that Edward Thomlinson bought it about 1624 may be correct.

The descent of the family shewn in the article does not seem to be affected. John, the son, was baptized in 1598 and his father in 1573, so the dates fit satisfactorily. But the deed does shew that the family were then in quite a good position, owning lands in several parishes; and, it will also be noted, takes the family connection with Blencogo beyond Richard mentioned in the article, though a statement in the deed "in the occupation of the said Edward Thomlinson or his assignees" suggests, as does the other evidence cited, that they may not have lived in Blencogo at that time. As they were certainly lords of the manor in 1777† they must have repurchased this half at some unknown date.

* II, 189.

† Nicolson & Burn II, 189.

