

ART. VIII.—*The Guys of Kendal and Watercrock.* By
ERIC BIRLEY, F.S.A.

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WHILE I was preparing my paper on the Roman fort at Watercrock, in readiness for the Society's visit there tomorrow,¹ I found myself almost against my will diverging into an investigation of the Guy family, who owned the estate for a time in the 17th and 18th centuries, and who seem to me to deserve a more thorough study than I have been able to attempt. I hope that the present short paper may lead someone with better qualifications for the task to undertake such a study.

The Kendal parish registers² record the marriage, on 29 January 1598, of "Henrye Gye and Margrett Warriner Kendal", and the baptism exactly one year later of "Will s. of Henrie Gwie Higate." A brass in the parish church, once on the fourth pillar in the second aisle from the south, later on the floor and now on the east wall of the Bellingham chapel, records the life and the death, in ripe old age, of this issue of the marriage. An incorrect transcription of its text was printed by Nicolson & Burn (i 78) and reproduced by Cornelius Nicholson in the first edition of his *Annals of Kendal* (1832), p. 59 f.; but in his second edition (1861) he gave at p. 67 a careful transcription of it, here reproduced:

TO THE MEMORY
OF THE

*Most Religious, and Orthodox Christian
The most Loyall Subject, and most ancient &
Serviceable Member of this Corporation, wherof
He was once Alderman, and thrice, MAIOR:
WILLIAM GUY of Water Crook Gentleman*

¹ CW2 lvii 13-17.

² Part iii, transcribed by R. N. Birley (Parish Register series no. 36, 1952).

Who dyed the twenty fifth day of December
In the Year of { *Our Lord* } MDCLXXXIII
 { *His Age* } LXXXVI
Had Loyalty been Life, Brave Guy thou'd'st Than
Stood Kendall's Everlasting Alderman
Nay could the joynte united force of All
That's good or vert'ous over death prevaile
Thy life's pure thre'd noe Time or Fate could sever
And thou'dst still Liv'd to pray; KING live for Ever
But thou art gone: A proof such Vertue is
Too Good for Earth, And onely fit for Bliss,
And blissfull Seats; Where, If blest Spirits doe
Concerne themselves with any thing below
Thy pray'r's the same, Thou still do'st Supplicate,
For Charles his Life For England's Church, & State
Whil'st to Thy just Eternal Memory
Envy and Malice must in this Agree
None better Lov'd, or Serv'd, his Prince then Thee

There is clearly a story behind this record, quite apart from the fact that it connects William Guy with Watercrook; but Cornelius Nicholson made no comment on the subject, nor does it seem to have attracted the attention of later historians, except that J. F. Curwen included a fairly accurate transcription in his *Kirkbie-Kendall* (1900), p. 249 f., in the course of describing the monuments in the church — yet although he calls it especially interesting, Curwen has nothing more to say about Guy. The following brief outline is drawn for the most part from the *Boke off Recorde* of Kendal, edited by Chancellor Ferguson (Extra Series vii, 1892), whence most of the details were presently extracted by J. R. Magrath for a footnote to *The Flemings in Oxford* i (1904), p. 491, in commenting on Daniel Fleming's record of spending 2/6 at Kendal "at Mr Guy's Feast" on 23 September 1678: though Magrath seems to have known nothing of the memorial brass and its evidence.

In 1611, at the age of twelve, William Guy was apprenticed to Miles Dawson, mercer, of Kendal (*Boke off Recorde*, 268), and on 26 August 1621 he took the oath on admission to the Mercers' Company (*ibid.*, 60); in

1627 he served as chamberlain of Kendal and in 1633 as alderman (*ibid.*, 38, 24) — this last office being the chief magistracy of the borough under the charter of Elizabeth I. In 1637, Kendal was granted a new charter by Charles I, which gave it a mayor and twelve aldermen: William Guy's name comes last of the twelve named for the charter year (*ibid.*, 315), and in 1643 we have the entry: "William Guy, Mercer, Maior." The events of the Civil War can only be glimpsed fitfully in the *Boke off Recorde*, but Guy's loyalty to his king is reflected in an entry of 9 October 1650, recording that he — and eight fellow-aldermen with him — was "dislocat p ordi' Parl'ti", ejected from office by order of Parliament (*ibid.*, 18).

At this point, further details can be added from the *Records relating to the Barony of Kendale* i (= this Society's Record Series iv, 1923): among those "compounding for their delinquency in Westmorland" in 1649 we find "William Guy, Kendal, £18" (p. 115), and in December 1650 a list of offers made for estates of delinquents and Papists for "one year's tenancy from 2 February next, and for six years thereafter" includes: "Anthony Preston of Kendal, for William Guy's estate at Watercroeke, £20. 5s." (*ibid.*); the most loyal subject was suffering more than the loss of office. But the Restoration brought him back into the centre of the Kendal stage. In 1662 he served a second term as mayor, and in 1677 a third (*Boke off Recorde*, 25), his "Feast" in September 1678 marking the end of his year of office: the charter of 1637 enjoins the choice of a mayor on the Monday "immediately preceding the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel" (*ibid.*, 319). His standing is well attested by two casual mentions in other sources: Daniel Fleming in his *Description of the County of Westmorland*, written in 1671, notes that William Guy is one of the corporation by which Kendal "is now prudently governed" (Tract Series i, 1882, p. 9); and in the Countess of Pembroke's accounts for October 1673 comes the entry:

“Sent then to Mr William Guy of Watercrook for some Quinces and Apples he now sent mee Two Pounds” (CW2 v 195). That, however, is all that I have been able to find about William Guy so far; but there is something more to be said about his father, and his descendants.

His father, whose marriage in 1598 has been noted above, is presumably to be equated with the “Henrye Gywe” of Sowtergate (later known as Highgate) — then the wealthiest part of the town, as Ferguson observed — who contributed three shillings in a house to house collection made in Kendal in 1588, for what purpose does not appear (*Boke off Recorde*, 226). William’s son, another Henry, lived to earn an entry in Nightingale’s *The Ejected of 1662 in Cumberland and Westmorland*, whence I take the following details of his career:³

Henry Guy entered Queen’s College, Oxford, on the foundation as son of William of Kendal, Westmorland, matriculating on 20 May 1664, aged 17; he will therefore have been born *circa* 1647. He graduated B.A. in 1667, took his M.A. in 1670 and in 1671 was incorporated at Christ’s College, Cambridge; on 1 April 1674 he was one of the clergy taking part in the induction of Michael Stanford to Kendal. The registers of Boltongate, Cumberland, record the baptism of his daughter Phillis on 1 January 1677, and her burial a few months later. In August 1677 he was instituted into the rectory of Uldale, where his son Henry was baptized on 20 June 1680 and another son, John, was baptized on 1 October and buried on 27 October 1682. He ceded the living in 1684, and Nightingale has only one further reference to him, which I shall give from another source.

Canon Bouch mentions Henry Guy as a curate of Kendal, among the clergy deposed after the accession of William and Mary because of their refusal to take the oath of allegiance (*Prelates and People*, 285, citing Canon Overton’s *The Non-Jurors*). In 1692 he was one of the “Papists and disaffected persons” for whose arrest a warrant was issued (*Barony of Kendale* iii = Record Series vi, p. 45); and he is mentioned, as “Hen. Guy of

³ i 556 f., and cf. ii 954.

Watercrock, clerk", as one of the "Protestants and suspected to be disaffected to the present government" in custody in Carlisle on 24 April 1696 (*ibid.*, 163). Details of his later history, including the date and place of his death, will be given presently, the Roman attractions of Watercrock proving the vital connecting link.

For a time, the property was not occupied by the Guy family, for in 1719-21 Christopher Wilson and his aged father were living at Watercrock (Tract Series xii, p. 36), but "by 1731 a Thomas Guy was raising a family there", as R. Percival Browne noted from the Kendal registers (*ibid.*), and that is unquestionably the "Mr Guy" who showed Horsley some of the finds from Watercrock, a few years before the publication of the *Britannia Romana* (1732):⁴

"Several *Roman* coins and seals have been found here, some of which are yet in the possession of Mr *Guy*, the present proprietor . . . There is also a medal of *Faustina* in the same gentleman's hands."

The identification is clinched by Stukeley, who visited Watercrock in 1725, on his northern tour with Roger Gale; I ought to have taken particular note of his account in my paper on the Roman fort (CW2 lvii 13-17), for he included details of finds made there which supplement Horsley, besides giving us an invaluable clue to the later history of the rev. Henry Guy. I quote him at length:⁵

"Mr Tho. Guy is the possessor of it. As soon as I came into the yard I saw a large altar placed by some steps: I believe it dedicate to Bacchus, because of grapes and festoons on it: it is above 3 ft. high: the festoons are on three sides; the back is plain. All the house and outhouses are built of Roman stone, dug up in the old city. The top of an altar is put into a corner of that stable where the altar stands. At the end of the house is a large statue or bas relief of Cupid: the gavel end fell down

⁴ *Brit. Rom.* 484: for its period and time-table of composition, see my "John Horsley and John Hodgson", AA4 xxxvi 1-46, especially p. 5 f.; Horsley's visit cannot be dated closely, but it was presumably earlier than September 1729, when his book was virtually completed (*ibid.*, p. 22).

⁵ *Iter Boreale* 39 f. (in *Itinerarium Curiosum*, 2nd ed., 1776, ii); I cannot help wondering whether Stukeley may not have shown his MS. to Horsley, in view of various similarities between their two accounts of the finds.

some time ago, and knocked off his head and arms; but it is well cut. In the garden, at the end of an outhouse, is a very long inscription on a stone. He showed me a little portable altar but $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. high: the dedicatory inscription is obliterated by using it as a whetstone; but it is prettily adorned, has two scrolls and the *discus* at top. Innumerable antiquities have been found here: great arches and ruins of buildings: they never plough but somewhat is found. The father of Mr Guy saved many, which are since lost: this gentleman found many brass, silver, and gold coins here but all are dispersed, except a large brass Faustina: he showed me an intaglia (*sic*) of Mercury set in gold for a ring: another with three faces to a head; the foremost, Mars with a helmet on; a woman's face on each side: a paste of light onyx colour, with a head: a sepulchral lamp. He told me of a large brass urn with bones in it found here; it had two ears to it, and was used forty years ago, in the family, as a kettle, and is now at his sister's, Mrs Herring, at Wall, near Hexam (*sic*)."⁶

At first sight, Stukeley's account seemed to do no more than confirm that Thomas Guy was in residence at Watercrook by 1725 and that he was a member of the family which owned it forty years previously, except that it mentions that Thomas Guy had a married sister living at Wall, near Hexham. As soon as I mentioned the point to Mr C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A., however, he was able to show me that it offered a decisive link in two or three intermingled chains, with one of which (the Herons of Birtley) he had already been concerned: for the following paragraphs, and for the appendix to this paper, I am deeply in Mr Hudleston's debt.

Stukeley evidently mis-heard the lady's name: his "Mrs Herring" is without question the wife of John Heron, whose marriage on 30 March 1709 to Phillis Guy is recorded in Corbridge parish register:⁷

⁶ The large altar is Horsley's *Westm.* ix (illustrated, from a photograph by Mrs T. H. Hodgson, CW2 viii, facing p. 107), the mutilated statue and the "very long inscription" his *Westm.* xii and viii (cf. my discussion of the inscription in CW2 lv 46-53). The "little portable altar" might, I suppose, be Horsley's *Westm.* x, though he put forward a partial reading of its inscription, and his drawing does not show it as "prettily adorned."

⁷ *The Registers of Corbridge* (D. & N. P. R. Soc., 1911) 150; further details about John Heron, and their children, are given in *Northumberland County History* iv (1897), cited as NCH.

John Heron was of Birtley hall (parish of Chollerton, Northumberland), baptized 13 August 1681; in 1739 he and his wife are recorded as living at Wall, of which their son John Heron was in 1748; a son Cuthbert, baptized 7 July 1714, was dead before 1739; a daughter Phillis (*alias* Esther), baptized 1 August 1711, married William Shafto of Little Bavington on 5 December 1734 and died two years later after giving him a son and heir, Cuthbert Shafto (b. at Birtley hall and baptized at Birtley 4 September 1736, knighted 1795, d. 1812): cf. NCH iv 361 f. and 419. PSAN₂ iv 105 incorrectly calls Esther Heron "the last of the Herons of Birtley", for her brother John Heron made his will on 31 May 1805, almost seventy years after her death (NCH iv 362).

The Corbridge connection at once brings us to the Henry Guy recorded in the parish register as vicar in succession to Robert Troutbeck (buried 19 May 1706), himself buried at Corbridge on 31 August 1708 (NCH x, 1914, 201; *Corbridge Reg.*, p. 229), of whom hitherto nothing more had been learnt — and the conjunction of names had not been rare enough to justify us in assuming identity with the son of William Guy: ⁸ Henry Guy, the Nonjuror, as we have seen above, had a daughter Phillis who died in infancy in 1677, and it would not be unusual for the same name to be given to a daughter born subsequently — presumably, after 1684, when he left Uldale. One more piece of evidence might clinch the matter: and a search in the Prior's Kitchen, Durham, where the wills formerly in Durham Probate Registry are now preserved, enabled Mr Hudleston to produce it — the will of the vicar of Corbridge. I print it in full as an appendix to this paper, with one or two notes on the supervisors named in it; here it will be enough to point out that it confirms the identification, and offers a useful basis for the further investigations which I myself must leave to others to undertake.⁹

⁸ DNB xxiii 388 *et seq.* records a contemporary Henry Guy (1631-1710, a politician) and a Thomas Guy (? 1645-1724, the founder of Guy's Hospital), neither of them related to our Westmorland family.

⁹ Corbridge, it will be recalled, was a living in the gift of the dean and chapter of Carlisle (cf. NCH x 198: "after the Restoration the Dean and Chapter, finding it to be of so small a value as not to be a suitable

Lastly, a word about Watercrook house itself. It has never been described to our Society, whose visits to Watercrook have not unnaturally been directed to the Roman fort; but it receives a brief paragraph in the Royal Commission's Westmorland *Inventory*¹⁰ as being of L-shaped plan, its W. wing being perhaps of the 16th century and the S. wing probably an early 17th-century addition, while the block between them is of later date. Reference is also made to a chimney-stack with twin cylindrical shafts and, inside the building, two late 17th-century staircases with turned balusters and grip-handrails, some 17th-century panelling, and a small cupboard with the initials and date I. and E. S. 1631. This last item indicates that the house had not yet passed into the possession of William Guy in 1631, but it remains to be discovered when he acquired the estate, and from whom. Mr R. N. Birley tells me that the title-deeds in the possession of the present owner of Watercrook, Mr William Dobson, go back only to an abstract of about 1900, and throw no light on the period when it belonged to the Guys; but I hope that the publication of the present short paper may serve to stimulate further investigations. The history of Kendal during the Civil Wars surely calls for attention; so do its merchant companies, of whose archives one cannot but hope that more can be discovered and published; so do William Guy in particular and his

maintenance for the minister, granted an augmentation of £20 per annum" — raising its income to between £70 and £90): one wonders whether their records, or Bishop Nicolson's MSS., may not contain something relevant. Entries relating to Guy from the published diaries of Nicolson give us the following:

- (1) 22 July 1702: with Dr Todd, visits Nicolson after dinner (CW2 ii 173).
- (2) 22 April 1703: with Ed. Wilson, both of Kendal, stopping the night — cf. next day's entry (which should read: "The Kendalers gone yt morning", as my collation of the MS. showed) (CW2, xlvi 194).
- (3) 1 October 1703: visits Nicolson with others, including Dr Todd (*ibid.*, 206).
- (4) 11 October 1704: with "Mr Dean of Wells", Dr Todd and others (CW2 ii 210).
- (5) 26 April 1706: dining at Aglionby, with "Mr Dean Grahme" and AD. Fleming — and Nicolson (CW2 iii 48).

It is not without significance that Guy owed his presentation to Corbridge to a chapter at the head of which was Dean Atterbury.

¹⁰ *RCHM Westmorland* 181a.

son Henry the Nonjuror; and so does their house at Watercrock, of which measured drawings and a fuller account than the Royal Commission could give would be a welcome contribution to our *Transactions*.

If justification were needed for printing an incomplete collection of materials for the study of the Guy family, my list of subjects calling for attention would provide it. The more one looks into the history of our Society's territory (in whatever period), the more subjects one finds which still call for active investigation. John Hodgson, the Westmorland man whom we remember with pride as the Historian of Northumberland, observed in the course of a long footnote devoted to discoveries of Roman remains in Carlisle (*Hist. Northumb.* II iii, 1840, 221) that the history of Cumberland "offers a wide and rich, but ill-cultivated field to work in." The foundation of our Society in 1866 has led to a wide and rich series of studies in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands, such as Hodgson would have been delighted to see appearing in print; but let none of us, however advanced a specialist in some particular part of that field, be content to suppose that there is no more work to be done. Cultivation is an unending cycle; we must not allow our field to revert to a state that would not have satisfied John Hodgson, or Chancellor Ferguson, or W. G. Collingwood.

APPENDIX: *The will of the Rev. Henry Guy,
vicar of Corbridge.*

In nomine Deo Amen I Henry Guy vicar of Corbridge being of perfect memory praised be to God for it Doe make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following Imprimis I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker, hoping through the meritorious death of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to receive pardon of all my sins; Item I give my Body to be Buryed in Christian Buriall at the discretion of my Loving wife (one of my executrices) Item I give to my Loving wife Phillis Guy the sum of two hundred and

fifty pounds during her naturall life, and after her decease to be divided amongst my Children viz.: my son Thomas Guy, and my daughters Mary Guy Phillis Guy and Margaret Guy in equall parts; Item I give to my son Henry Guy the sum of thirty pounds to be paid him twelve months after my decease (if he be then Living) Item I give to my Grandson Henry Johnson the sum of ten pounds to be paid him when he comes to the age of one and twenty years; I make my Loveing wife Phillis Guy my son Thomas Guy my daughters Mary Guy Phillis Guy Margaret Guy joint executor and executrix's of this my Last will and Testamt. and I doe appoint Mr Henry Pearson and my son John Johnson and Mr Crosby vicar of Kendall supervisors of this my will and I doe revoke all former wills and Testamts by me made formerly, and doe declare this to be my last will and Testamt. In witness whereof I have sett to my hand and seale this 24th day of May 1708

Henry Guy

Witnesses:

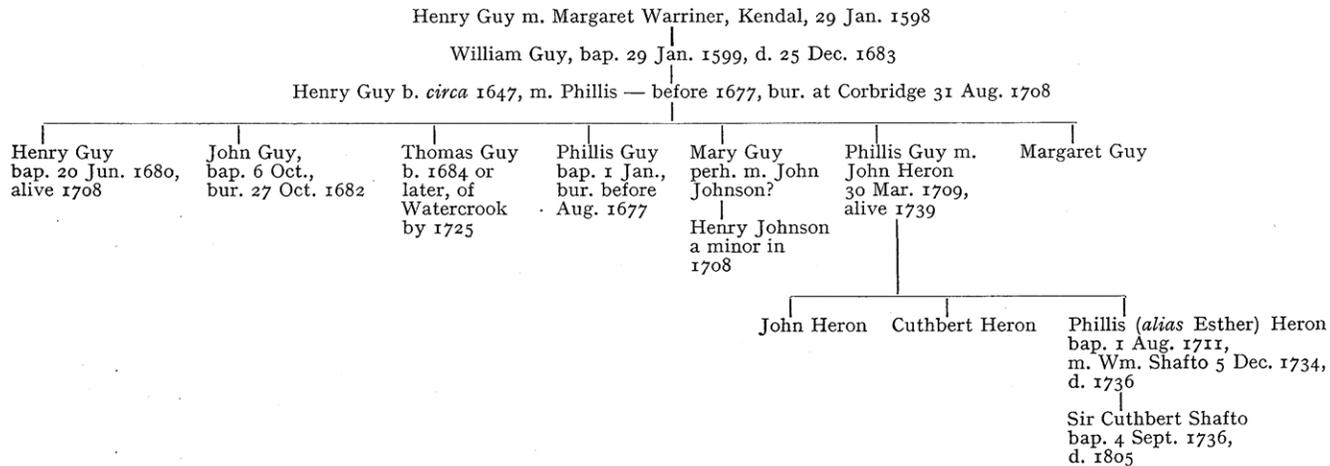
Phillip Usher	(Seal armorial, but almost impossible to
John Armstrong	identify the charges on it: there <i>seem</i>
Nich. Greenwell	to be birds on the shield. C.R.H.)

Bond 9 Aug. 1709 of Phillis Guy (*she makes her cross*) of Newcastle widow Thomas Guy of do. gen. Margaret Guy of do. spinster, that they will execute the will of Henry Guy late of Corbridge, clerk, decd. Bondsman John Johnson of Newcastle Fullon' (*i.e. fuller*).

NOTES: Henry Pearson, the first of the three supervisors, remains to be studied; "my son" John Johnson is of course Henry Guy's son-in-law, whose wife, unless she was "my daughter Mary Guy", was presumably another daughter, born after 1684 and dead before 1708: he was perhaps the "Mr *John Johnson*" recorded by Bourne (*History of Newcastle*, 1736, 102) as one of the founding subscribers to the All Saints' charity school in 1709. But the third supervisor confirms the link with Kendal, and reminds us of a man of whom Nicolson & Burn record that he "left behind him an extraordinary character of sanctity, charity, and other amiable qualities" (N. & B. i 77); Cornelius Nicolson reproduces his memorial tablet in Kendal parish church (*Annals of Kendal*, 1832, 55; and 2nd ed., 1861, 61) — William Crosby was of Durham, fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1690, vicar of Kendal from 1699 until his death on 7 December 1733, aged 70 — and gives details of his bequests,

which included "his library, and all his books therein" to the vicar of Kendal for the time being, the library consisting of "about 600 volumes, and amongst them were some good books" (fuller details in *Annals of Kendal*, 1832, 189 f. than in 2nd ed.; 223 f., but the two versions supplement one another).

With the aid of Henry Guy's will, and the information available from other sources, the following pedigree can be constructed:



Note the recurrence of family names — Henry, Margaret and Phillis; I wonder why not *William*?