

ART. IX – *Millom Families: Part 1.*

Askew, Latus and Thwaites By THE LATE C. ROY HUDLESTON

Cragg and Lewthwaite By TIMOTHY COCKERILL

In the last few months prior to the stroke which sadly led to the death of C. Roy Hudleston, we were working together, compiling “*Millom Families*”. This paper allows the publication of a few. Others are still in manuscript form and I hope to publish them in due course in *Transactions*. I follow the paper with a tribute to Roy.

ASKEW

The Askew family is one of the oldest in Millom. The earliest reference to the family is probably 1275, when William son of Guy de Boyvill granted to John son of John de AKESCOWTH his lands and tenements in Kirksanton in Crosblatho and in the vill of Silecroft, Whitbeck and Prykholme. The Kirksanton land was between the land of Sir John Hudleston called the two standing stones on the east and the water of “le Helpole on the west”. The Askews thus became of Standing Stones, and in 1404 acquired Lacra and Scales in Kirksanton. This estate descended to William Askew (1637–1717), the last of the family whose daughter and heiress Dorothy (born 1675) married (1) 1699 Samuel Poole of Pontefract and (2) 1702 Dr John Archer of Oxenholme.¹ Here it may be noted briefly that William Askew (1593–1641) married 1612 Anne (1588–1670) youngest daughter of Ralph Latus q.v. Their eldest son² Hugh (1613–1698) married Dorothy Ambrose, his brother the Rev. Roger Askew (1616–1669) was vicar of Millom. Hugh was father of William, the last male of the family. Millom registers contain many Askew entries, and Christopher Askew (d.1623) was vicar of Millom. The Askews also held Hyton in Bootle. This estate was settled by William Askew on his son John (living 1394) in 1345 with remainder to his other sons Thomas, Richard, Robert, Simon and Laurence. John’s son James granted the reversion of his father’s life interest to Richard Hudleston of Hyton 1391.³

Arms. CFH

LATUS

The history of this family reveals an unhappy episode in the history of the Hudlestons of Millom Castle. Sir John Hudleston (c. 1488–1547) deserted Cumberland and settled in Gloucestershire where he built the fine mansion known as Southam Delabere near Cheltenham. His bailiff was Richard Latus (will dated 1556) and the Rev. Caesar Caine suggested that his family “was supposed to have come to the North from Gloucestershire”, but it is clear from the registers of St Bees that the family were well

established there in the 16th century. Sir John Hudleston's heir Anthony Hudleston (c. 1519–98) was his son by his second wife. By his third wife he left a young family, including Andrew, (c. 1532–1601) the first of the family at Hutton John and Anne (c. 1537–1606). Presumably this young family was in the care of Anthony and according to Andrew, Anthony brought Anne “forth of the South Countrie before she was married and kept her in his house and there she had a child but who got the child he cannot certainly depose”. Before 1567 Anne married Ralph Latus (1535–1603), son of her father's bailiff, who was in Anthony's service also. The relationship between Anthony and Anne continued and in 1573 he was accused by the ecclesiastical authorities and the Privy Council of incest. Anthony gave Ralph and Anne Latus the properties of Beck and Harrath in Millom and in 1590 conveyed Whicham Hall to them. He was completely dominated by them and, urged by Anne, he tried – unsuccessfully – to disinherit his son William. The rift caused by this was healed and Anne's grandson Anthony Latus (1595–1669) married 1614 William Hudleston's daughter Margaret (d.1631). Their son William (1615–96) was of Whicham Hall and married Agnes, daughter of John Ambrose of Lowick Hall, which was inherited by their son John Latus (1634–1702) who married (1) Catherine Orfeur and (2) Agnes Hudleston of Hutton John. By his first wife he had issue, *inter alia* Ferdinando (1670–1738), John (1674–1702) who married Dorothy, daughter of Joseph Hudleston of the Hutton John family, and Bridget (1666–1737) who married (1) 1689 William Kirkby of Beck, Millom (c. 1658–90) and (2) Richard Hudleston of Millom Castle. Ferdinando Latus was Barrister-at-Law, Bencher of Grays Inn, Deputy Lieutenant and J.P. for Cumberland, Collector of Customs of Whitehaven and steward to Lord Carlisle. He married 1699 Henrietta (c. 1678–1734) younger daughter of Sir John Tempest Bart. of Tong. Their sons predeceased them, as did their daughter Henrietta who married (1) John Hudleston (d.1733) son of the above Richard (2) John Robertson of Cleator. Ferdinando's surviving daughter Elizabeth his heiress, married (1) Thomas Fletcher of Hutton-in-the-Forest by whom she had no issue and (2) 1736 William Blencowe (d.1769 aged 55) and took Lowick Hall to him.

Arms (CFH 198)

THWAITES

In 1275 William de Twaytes sued John son of John de Hudleston in the King's Bench. In one suit he asked that he might have common pasture in Millom, belonging to his free tenement of which John's parents, John and Joan de Hudleston had disseised John de Twaytes, William's father, after the passage of King Henry III into Brittany. In another suit he asked that he might “throw down a pond in Twaytes” which Henry son of Arthur, great grandfather of John de Hudleston had unjustly raised to the nuisance of the tenement of William son of Ketel, grandfather of William the Complainant. The Rev. W.S. Sykes printed a pedigree⁴ showing that Ketel the son of Ulf had a son Alan, from whom the Copeland family descended, and a son William, grandfather of the William Thwaite living in 1275. By 1435 the family had acquired the manor of Unerigg in Dearham parish, and in that year William Thwaites senior and Joan his wife together with William Thwaites junior and Katherine his wife settled the manor. It was perhaps

the latter, with John Thwaites, clerk, and others, who was a trustee in 1486 of the marriage settlement of Elizabeth Lady Leigh (née Hudleston) and Edward Redman. Thwaites and Unerigg were inherited by Anthony Thwaites who died in 1585, and was succeeded by his son Joseph born c. 1572, described by Edmund Sandford in his *Cursory Relation* as "one of the wittiest, brave monsirs for all gentle gallantry, hounds, haukes, horse courses, boules and arrowes and all games whatsoever: play his £100 at cards, dice and shovel boord .. and had not above £200 p. an. yet left his children pretty portions and dyed beloved of all parties." In 1617 he settled Thwaites and Unerigg on William Thwaites of Stainburn and Thomas Sleddall of Kendal for payment of his debts, and provision of portions for his younger children. His son John Thwaites and his trustees sold Thwaites to Sir John Lowther in 1627 and Unerigg to Richard Barwis.

Arms, based on the Hudleston arms, recorded in CFH 340.

CRAGG OF LOWSCALES

The first member of this family to live at High or Upper Lowscalls,⁵ a farm some 400 feet above sea level between Millom and the Whicham Valley, was Anthony Cragg (1667–1728), yeoman, whose father Thomas was of Dunningwell. Anthony Cragg was of Powbanke in 1694, but had moved to High Lowscalls by 1701. His only son, another Anthony Cragg (1694–1741), was also of Lowscalls and in 1724 married Agnes Kirkbank of Whicham. In his will of 1741 he gives "all my sheep about 160 of them" to his elder son Thomas and £20 to his younger son Anthony. The inventory of his goods mentions £40 for sheep, £37 for oxen and cows and £27 for corn and grass making a total, with other items, of £159.15. The third generation to farm High Lowscalls was Thomas Cragg (1726–1793) who married 1759 Mary Caddy of Muncaster (d.1817 aged 87). Of their children Mary married the Rev. John Bolton, Vicar of Millom 1797–1820 and Catharine married in 1813 the Rev. Philip Kitchen of Underhill, Millom, when she was 39 and he was 67; sadly she was drowned while bathing in the River Duddon in 1822. A third sister Aggy married George Ashburner of Holmbank, Urswick, yeoman, was the mother of an only child Mary (known as "the Rose of Furness" on account of her great beauty), who was the wife of the Ulverston solicitor Henry Remington⁶ of Aynsome, Cartmel and died in 1867 in her 100th year. The remaining daughter married William Lewthwaite of Broadgate and the only son of the family, and the last of his line, was Anthony Cragg of Lowscalls (1760–1851). He married 1807 Jane Fox of High House, St Bees, sister of Provost John Fox of the Queen's College, Oxford, but they were childless and on Anthony Cragg's death in 1851, Lowscalls passed under his will to his nephew John Lewthwaite of Broadgate (d.1863).

LEWTHWAITE OF BROADGATE

In 1642 Thomas Lewthwaite (1588–1667) of Groops,⁷ Whicham, yeoman bought Broadgate,⁸ Thwaites from Simon Stanley for £96. In 1619 he had married Frances Toto, a widow, the daughter of Hugh Askew (d.1625) of Graymains, Muncaster, an

estate he acquired through his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Troughton (d.1611) of Graymains. Mrs Lewthwaite's brother William Askew (d.1641) married Anne Latus and they were the parents of the Rev. Roger Askew, Vicar of Millom 1661–68. Thomas Lewthwaite's eldest son, Captain John Lewthwaite, joined the regiment of foot raised by Sir William Hudleston of Millom Castle in the Royalist cause, fought at Edgehill in 1642, but was killed in a skirmish at Lindal-in-Furness in the following year. A century later Broadgate was occupied by Thomas Lewthwaite's grandson, William Lewthwaite (1700–67). He was a cousin and one of the first patrons of George Romney, and an enterprising businessman, as well as a farmer. He moved to Kirkby Hall,⁹ Kirkby Ireleth to be nearer to his iron ore mining interests at Dalton in about 1744, but by 1752 had transferred his energies to Maryport where he joined a partnership to work a furnace. He added to his land at Broadgate by buying Swinside, including the stone circle, in 1755 paying £640 to Sir Hedworth and Lady Williamson. He was a Freeman of Lancaster and in 1764 was the patron of Bootle.¹⁰ He died from a fall from his horse three years later, intestate. His business acumen was inherited by his son John (1730–81) of Check Hall, Dominica, a West Indian merchant, who began his career by being apprenticed to Abraham Rawlinson¹¹ of Lancaster. He acquired plantations in both Dominica and Antigua, married Elizabeth Grice, a widow, but they had no children. He died on his plantations leaving his West Indian estates and Broadgate and Swinside to his brother William Lewthwaite (d.1809) for life and then to his nephew William Lewthwaite (d.1845). His obituary, in an Antigua newspaper, speaks of his "fair and irreproachable reputation . . . and most benevolent heart". The Lewthwaites of Broadgate became involved in a Chancery action in 1791 following the death of another John Lewthwaite (d.1790 aged 89), a Whitehaven merchant of great fortune whose only son Gilfred had been drowned whilst bathing behind the North Pier, Whitehaven in 1779 aged 41. John Lewthwaite's will was defective and was contested by his mother's family, the Lawsons of Brayton. By winning the court case the Broadgate Lewthwaites were able to consolidate their local position as one of the foremost families in the Millom district. Shortly afterwards William Lewthwaite bought from the Gale family The Cupola (now the Town Hall) in Whitehaven, which he used as his town house, and when he died in 1809 he was able to leave his sons and daughters sums ranging from £5,000 to £9,000 each, apart from extensive real property. The family was granted arms in 1816, built Hazel Mount in about 1815 and new Broadgate in 1819 and thereafter used the old farmhouse opposite as a dower house.

The following year John Lewthwaite (1792–1863) married Anne (Nancy) Kirkbank, daughter of William Kirkbank of Beckside, Whigham,¹² and they had three sons, William (1826–67) of Broadgate who only survived his father by four years, Joseph (1834–86), Vicar of Kelstern, Lincs and George (1839–1912) of Littlebank, Settle, W.R. of Yorks, the father of eight sons and three daughters, several of whom settled in Canada. All three sons went up to Cambridge and, like their father, William and George were magistrates on the Millom bench. The most distinguished member of the family was Sir William Lewthwaite (1853–1927) of Broadgate, the only son of William (d.1867), who devoted many years of his life to public service in Cumberland and who was a magistrate, deputy lieutenant, County Alderman and Chairman of the Conservative Association for Whitehaven 1904–24. He was created a baronet in 1927, but died within a few months. He had two sisters, Anne (d.1933) who married Hamlet Riley of Ennism¹³,

Penrith and Mary (d.1946), who married in 1880 the Hon. William Henry Cross MP, (d.1892) eldest son of the first Viscount Cross of Broughton-in-Furness, who lived at Eccleiriggs. Mrs Cross and her daughters lived at Ash House, Thwaites. The baronetcy continues in the person of Sir William Anthony Lewthwaite, 3rd Bart., and, after eleven generations, the Lewthwaites remain seated at Broadgate.

Arms CFH 205

Notes and References

¹ CW2, lxxix, 57–74.

² Their eldest daughter, Bridget, married Miles Postlethwaite, q.v. of Po House.

³ Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle), D/Stan/1/39–41.

⁴ CW2, xli, 137, 144–147.

⁵ *The Place Names of Cumberland*, Part II, 416 says that Low Scales means “shielings with a loft”, mentions the earliest reference to Low scales as Loft scales in 1332 and adds that High Low scales was Upper Loskeles in 1630.

⁶ See Burke’s *Landed Gentry* (1863) for Remington of The Crow Trees, Melling (Lunesdale).

⁷ *The Place Names of Cumberland*, Part II, 446 – Growpas 1588, Gropes 1671, Old Norse greip, “a three or four pronged fork may like grein be used in a topographical sense”. Frank Warriner in *Millom People and Places* says “Groops, an ancient farmstead in Whicham has long ago disappeared”.

⁸ *The Place Names of Cumberland* – Brodyett 1609, Broadgate 1619 v. brad geat.

⁹ The Kirkby family owned Kirkby Hall from the 12th century until the end of the 17th century, but later sold the manor and moved to Ashlack, selling their northern estates in 1827 (AWL, 177–8).

¹⁰ In that year he presented Rev. Miles Wennington, who remained Rector of Bootle until 1771.

¹¹ For the Graythwaite family see Burke’s, *Landed Gentry* 1863.

¹² The present owner Jack Morris-Eyton is Anne Kirkbank’s great-great-grandson.

¹³ Now the home of Viscount Whitelaw.

CHRISTOPHE ROY HUDLESTON (1905–1992)

Roy Hudleston, who died on 8 February 1992, aged 86, devoted almost seventy years of his life to the study of Cumbrian families, their pedigrees and heraldry, of which he possessed an unrivalled knowledge. He played a long and active part in the life of the Society, which he joined in 1930, and was editor of the *Transactions* from 1956 to 1974 and President from 1960 to 1963.

Roy was descended from an ancient and knightly family, which possessed royal connections. He was proud to number amongst his ancestors King Edward III and John of Gaunt. Although the Hudleston family were of Yorkshire origin they settled at Millom, Cumberland, in the thirteenth century and were Lords of Millom for over five hundred years. Their seat, Millom Castle, now a venerable ruin, was fortified and embattled by Sir John Hudleston in 1335 and was anciently surrounded by a park well stocked with deer. Their long reign ended in 1748 when the sole heiress, Elizabeth Hudleston, married Sir Hedworth Williamson. After that the principal seat of the family became Hutton John near Penrith.

However, Roy was born at Stroud, Gloucestershire on the 13 October 1905, the eldest



FIG C. Roy Hudleston outside Millom Castle 1990.

of the four children of Captain Guy Hudleston, Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Elsie Ellen, his wife, daughter of J.W. Hunt of Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset. This cadet branch of the Hudleston family had settled at Kelston, near Bath in the eighteenth century, subsequently moved to Wells and thereafter lived in India. They were either clergymen or served in the H.E.I.C. or in the Indian army.

As a boy Roy was much influenced by his paternal grandmother, herself one of twenty two children and a sister of Dean Bradley of Westminster. She encouraged his interest in local history and genealogy and soon after he went to Wycliffe College, Gloucestershire he was regularly contributing articles to the Stroud News for which he was paid 10/- a time. At the age of 19, in 1924, with a friend, he published a history of the Clutterbuck family.

With his quick mind and interest in people his family felt that the life of a country solicitor would suit him, and it was arranged that he would be articled locally in Stroud. However, at the last moment, his grandmother, who was to pay the premium, became financially embarrassed and so the law lost a promising pupil. Instead Roy took up journalism, beginning his career as a humble reporter on the Bristol Times and Mirror. He married in 1927 and, in 1932 joined his father-in-law, H.W. Hawkins, who had just founded the Bristol Evening Post. Here Roy soon became a member of the editorial team and remained with the paper until after the outbreak of war in 1939. He then

volunteered for service with the RAF, but was rejected on medical grounds. Determined to help the war effort he managed to find himself a job in forestry at Greystoke, Cumberland and continued in this hard physical work for the duration. He was offered and accepted a home by his cousin Ferdinand Hudleston at nearby Hutton John, where the family had been seated since the early seventeenth century.

After the War, in 1945, Roy Hudleston resumed his career in journalism on his appointment as editor of the Penrith Observer. For the next ten years he and his wife Joyce lived at Penrith and played an active role in local affairs. Roy, much to his surprise, became an accomplished amateur actor.

In 1955, however, Roy's career took a new turn when he was appointed Bursar of Hatfield College, Durham during the mastership of Eric Birley, and Lecturer in Palaeography. The move to Durham proved a happy one and Roy threw his prodigious energies into his new life and in 1960 the University awarded him the service degree of MA. Although he retired from the bursarship in 1965 he retained his academic post until he retired in 1970. Thereafter he and his wife made their home first in Ambleside and then in Hove.

Alongside his professional life, Roy vigorously pursued his genealogical, heraldic and local history interests and in 1949 he was elected FSA, in recognition of his significant contributions in these fields. He was also FSA (Scot) and from about 1930 contributed many papers and articles to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, of which he was later President, as well as to our own *Transactions* over a period of more than fifty years. His last full length paper on George Romney's ancestry appeared in *Transactions* 1991 and thereafter, until his final illness, he was collecting material for a study of Millom families, the first part of which appears in this volume.

As if this was not enough, Roy Hudleston, whilst at Durham, catalogued a substantial section of the Howard of Naworth papers and from 1966 until 1979 he was editor of the publications of the Surtees Society. In his retirement he brought together much of his previous researches with the publication in 1975 of *An Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale*, prepared with Robert Boumphrey and Fred Hughes, which was followed in 1978 by *Cumberland Families and Heraldry*.

On the formation of the Cumbria Family History Society in 1976 Roy became its first President and remained so for the rest of his life. He later took on the editorship of the Society's newsletter, which he only relinquished in 1991.

After a busy day of research in Preston Record Office in March of last year Roy suffered a serious stroke from which he never recovered physically, although his remarkable memory remained undimmed until shortly before his death. His last few months were spent in a nursing home at Yanwath, near Penrith, but he was admitted to Carlisle Infirmary earlier this year and died there on 8 February. At his special request he was buried with his three wives, at Kelston, near Bath in a peaceful and tranquil setting beneath an imposing tombstone bearing the arms of the Hudleston family, gules fretty argent. By his will he left all his working papers, including his important collection of biographical information on post Reformation clergy, to Durham University Library.

Roy was married three times and was thrice a widower. He married firstly, in 1927, Winifred, elder daughter of the well known Bristol newspaper proprietor, H.W. Hawkins of Stoke Bishop, who was tragically killed in a car accident in Bristol in 1940. He married, secondly, in the following year, Pat Sealey who died five months later, at the

age of nineteen. In 1943 he married, thirdly, Joyce only daughter of Commander Harold Hodson RN of Stoke Poges, Bucks, who died in 1984. By his first wife he had an only child, Anne, who married in 1956 Francis Robert Cooper of Greystones, Co. Wicklow. She survives him with her two daughters.

Roy's many friends will lament his passing. He was a man full of deep and wide learning who was always more than willing to share his knowledge. His enthusiasm was infectious, he relished the company of others and he possessed a ready wit and a fund of anecdotes. His contribution, over many years, to the work of this Society can rarely have been equalled and is unlikely to be surpassed.