

ART. VIII – *Millom Families: Part II*

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THE LORDS OF MILLOM

JEFFERSON,¹ says of the Lordship, or Seigniory, of Millom that it is the largest within the Barony of Egremont, containing the parishes of Millom, Bootle, Whicham, Whitbeck, Corney and Waberthwaite. “It is”, he says, “of a triangular form, about eighteen miles in length, and its greatest breadth is about eight miles”. This great estate was given by William Meschines, Lord of Egremont (died c. 1130–35) to Godard de Boyvill, whose descendant Adam de Boyvill or de Millom had an only daughter Joan, a great heiress.² The story moves to Yorkshire, where early in the 12th century, Nigel, provost of the Archbishop of York, flourished as the owner of Huddleston in the parish of Sherburn in Elmet. His descendant Sir Richard Hudleston had two sons – Richard, who succeeded him at Huddleston, and John, who became the husband of Joan Boyvill. It may be wondered how John came to Cumberland and married the heiress. The fact is that the heiress was not in Cumberland but in Lincolnshire, as ward of Walter Bek, Lord of Eresby³ and married to his son Walter.⁴ In 1239 the elder Walter complained in the Curia Regis that Eustace de Pleyham, Adam son of Robert de Everingham, and three other men, went armed at night to his house at Eresby, broke the gates and abducted Joan. He cited also John Hudleston and Philip de Vermeles as participants in the affair, but though summoned to Court, they did not appear. We do not know the outcome of these proceedings, but John and Joan were married and their descendants reigned at Millom for more than five centuries. John died c. 1252 in his thirties, and Joan had remarried Robert de Lathom by 1253. Her son, John Hudleston, was a boy of about twelve at his father’s death. He was a great soldier and was present at the siege of Carlaverock in 1300. He sealed the Baron’s letter to Pope Boniface VIII in 1301 as Lord of Aneys (Annaside), and was with the King in Scotland in 1304, but dead before 1306.

To record the history of the family through five centuries would entail the production of a large book. All that can be attempted here are notes on some of the more important descendants of Sir John. These include Sir Richard Hudleston of Agincourt fame, whose descendant, Sir John Hudleston (died 1493), succeeded to Millom c. 1448, and thereafter led a very busy life as a justice in Cumberland, Sheriff 1454, 1463, 1468, 1472, and 1474, was Knight of the Shire for Cumberland 1467, and served in the commission of the peace for Cambridgeshire 1481. He was a close friend of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III, and acted as one of his trustees. With his sons⁵ he fought for the King at Bosworth, and, after being pardoned in 1486, was in the commission of the peace for Cumberland in 1487 and 1489, and as late as 1491 he was commissioned to collect funds in Cambridgeshire for Henry VII’s expedition to France. He died two years later. Turning to his

domestic life, he married Mary (living 1485), third daughter and co-heiress of Sir Henry Fenwick of Fenwick,⁶ Northumberland, and by her had nine children. Splendid marriages for them were arranged by Sir John. In 1462 Anne married her kinsman Sir Thomas Curwen of Workington, Elizabeth (1) 1475 her cousin Sir William Leigh of Isel, (2) 1486 Edward Redman of Levens, (3) Roger Tempest, and Mary married in 1482 John Pennington of Muncaster. Of the six sons, the heir Sir Richard married in 1465 Margaret, illegitimate daughter of Warwick the King Maker, and so became brother-in-law to Richard III. He led an active life in Cumberland, serving in the commission of the peace, and as escheator. He was at the battle of Hutton Field in Scotland in 1482, and was made a knight banneret there by his brother-in-law the Duke of Gloucester. Next year, when he was described as a Knight of the Body, he was appointed Constable of Beaumaris Castle, Captain of Beaumaris and Anglesey, Sheriff of Anglesey and Master Forester and Keeper of Snowdon Forest. He was killed at Bosworth, leaving three children – Richard (1476–1503), who was abducted in 1493 by Mabel, widow of Humphrey, 2nd Lord Dacre, and married to her daughter Elizabeth. They had no children and Richard was survived by his sister Margaret (born c. 1479), who married Lancelot Salkeld⁷, and Joan (born c. 1480) who married Hugh Fleming of Rydal.⁸ Richard's successor at Millom was his uncle Sir John (died 1512) whose life was passed almost entirely in the South, where he held many offices. He was an usher of the King's Chamber, escheator in Hampshire and Wiltshire, and from 1478 Constable of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire. After Bosworth he was pardoned in 1486 and in 1489 he was sent by Henry VII with the troops to Brittany, being knighted by the King "at the seasyde". He became Constable of Gloucester Castle in 1492, and was Knight of the Shire for Gloucestershire 1500. When Catherine of Arragon came to England in 1501, he was one of the retinue appointed to meet her, and in 1503 accompanied the Princess Margaret when she went to Scotland for her marriage to James IV. He succeeded to Millom in that year, and was Sheriff of Cumberland in 1505. Mr H.S. Cowper suggested, probably correctly, that Sir John contemplated the total abandonment of Millom as a family seat, and it seems that for forty years or so the Castle was deserted. Sir John's wife was Joan, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Miles Stapleton of Ingham, Norfolk, and Bedale, Yorkshire, and widow of Sir Christopher Harcourt. She possessed extensive estates in Yorkshire which her husband persuaded her to give to their son John. In his will Sir John said he had great remorse in his conscience and charged his son that he should take "noon advantage of his mother's gift". The plea fell on deaf ears, and the estate remained in the family for more than two centuries.

The new owner of Millom was twenty-four at his father's death in 1512. He clearly had little or no interest in Cumberland, and declined to serve as Sheriff in 1537. As a large landowner in Gloucestershire, he passed his days there, at Southam, near Cheltenham, in the splendid house he built, and which he bequeathed to his daughter Eleanor de la Bere.

At the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533 he was made a Knight of the Bath. He married (1) 1509 Joan, daughter of Henry, Lord Clifford, (2) 1513 Joan Seymour, aunt of Queen Jane Seymour, and (3) Joyce Prickley of Prickley in Worcestershire. He died in 1547 and was succeeded by Anthony, his son by his second wife (c. 1519–98). By his third wife he was father of Andrew Hudleston, the first of his

family at Hutton John and before that of Whicham Hall, which he rented from Anthony, Bridget Lady Askew (see Sir Hugh Askew) and Anne, wife of Ralph Latus.

Anthony was succeeded (against his will) by his son William (1549–1628), who was Knight of the Shire 1601, and Sheriff of Cumberland 1617.

Sandford says of him:-

“A great Swash buckler in Queen Elizabeth time, and great gamster: lived at a Rate beyond his incomes: a great Countess his frinde: Asking him how he lived so gallantly: quoth he, of my meat and my drink: Quoth She I even Looked for such an answer”.⁹

William’s nine grandsons¹⁰ all fought for the King in the Civil War and three of them – Richard, Ralph and Robert – were killed.

The eldest grandson, William (1603–69), later knighted, married, in 1625, his cousin Bridget, daughter of Joseph Pennington, and succeeded to Millom in 1646, when he had served for four years as Colonel of the Regiment he had raised at his own expense. Fined heavily, he became a ruined man and died in a debtor’s prison, as did his son and heir Ferdinando (1628–87), who was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Civil War. His brother Joseph (c. 1637–1700) succeeded to a heavily encumbered estate, the Castle being in the possession of his sister Joyce Holtby and her husband, because Joyce’s jointure had not been paid. A further problem was the refusal of the customary tenants to pay the general fine due on Ferdinando’s death. By some means or other, including litigation, Joseph was able to survive and ensure that the Lordship remained intact. His friends said he was a quiet man. Clearly his motto was “anything for a quiet life” – a view not shared by Bridget his wife, whom he married in 1669. She was a kinswoman, a daughter of Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John, and a much stronger personality than Joseph. Their son Ferdinando was born, presumably at Hutton John, in 1671. His death at the age of eleven was a grievous blow to his parents, softened no doubt because they had already adopted Bridget’s nephew Humphrey Senhouse, son of Bridget’s sister Mary. When Joseph succeeded to Millom he settled his estates on Bridget for life because she had “had the great affliction of losing her only son and heir”. The settlement was engineered by Bridget’s lawyer brother Andrew Hudleston, and she remained in possession of the Castle and estates for fifteen years, to the mortification of the next heir, Richard Hudleston, whose tenure of the Lordship lasted less than five years. He was the only son of Colonel John Hudleston of Long Garth, Ulpha, (1604–81), next brother of Sir William. Richard married, in 1670, his cousin Isabel (d. 1687), daughter of Thomas Hudleston of Salthouse, Millom, and was succeeded by their son Ferdinando (1673–1730) who died in debt to the tune of nearly £6000. By 1737 his son and heir William (1699–1745), the last of his line, had paid off the debts, and went to London for five or six weeks, where he “got into a set of debauched company”, causing his mother and sister, Mrs Probyn, great anxiety.

William had married in 1725, Gertrude Meredith, daughter of a Cheshire baronet. When he arrived home from London, Gertrude was away, but when she returned she said she had found William in “a very distracted condition and behaving so outrageously that the servants were terrified”. Dr Askew of Kendal was summoned, and said that William’s illness was caused by his intemperate and irregular way of life in London. The treatment was bleeding and medicine, and a

warning that he must stop drinking. According to Gertrude his condition deteriorated, but he was able to go over to Whitbeck to dine with Hudleston Parke, his cousin, who saw that he was depressed and asked what was wrong. William replied that he knew that his wife and her brother were planning to imprison him and take his estate. Sane or insane, William's fear was justified, for after he had, according to Gertrude and her brother, terrified them by threatening them with a gun, they imprisoned him in a garret, where two ruffians hired to guard him treated him with great brutality. This we know because Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John, who insisted on seeing William with their cousin Hudleston Parke, placed on record the appalling facts of the treatment meted out to him. Eventually Gertrude and her brother persuaded the High Sheriff to empanel a jury – lay men – to enquire as to William's mental health. They found that he was of insane mind and he was removed from the Castle and taken to Holt in Denbighshire in August 1739. From there in June 1740 he wrote a perfectly sensible letter to Andrew "to get me from this town as soon as possible". Eventually a petition was presented to the Lord Chancellor, who in October 1740, said he was satisfied that William was of sound mind, and ordered the Commission of Enquiry to be set aside. From London, William's solicitor wrote to Andrew saying he was determined not to live with Gertrude again, and would be very glad if she would leave Millom. He asked Andrew to go to the Castle and tell her, and take the two daughters to Hutton John. In April 1741 William returned to Millom, whence he wrote to Andrew: "I have got safe to my own seat in good health and I hope I shall end my days with satisfaction and pleasure. I have sent for my two daughters and I should be very glad to see you at the same time".

The sky, however, was still clouded. William was deeply in debt, owing over £6500. A private Act of Parliament was obtained, vesting the estates in Andrew, his brother Richard, and their brother-in-law Edmund Gibson, and authorising them to sell enough of the estates to clear the debts. The enfranchisement of the customary estates was one of the ways in which money was raised by the trustees.¹¹ Sadly, though William owed so much to Andrew, at the end he seems to have turned against him. When Andrew paid him a farewell visit, he found William "dropsical". When he asked William to settle his account for legal work done, the former said that he had left Andrew a legacy, which took care of what he owed. "Yes", said Andrew, "but wills can be changed". And indeed William made more than one will in which he made Andrew an executor, but in the last will the executors named were William's widowed sister Anne Elizabeth Wilson, William Gale of Whitehaven, and William Matson of Titup.

William died in 1745, leaving two daughters – Elizabeth (1728–93), who married Sir Hedworth Williamson, and Isabella (1732–1801), who died unmarried.

SIR HUGH ASKEW

Sir Hugh Askew of Seaton was so interesting a character that the story of his life deserves a separate account. An amusing biographical sketch of Sir Hugh was written by Edmund Sandford in his *"Cursory Relation of all the antiquities and families in Cumberland"*.¹² His account of Sir Hugh follows:-

Fflower miles southwards (of Waberthwaite) stands Seaton an estate of £500 p. an: sometimes a Religious house: gott by one Sir Hugo Askew yeoman of the seller unto Queen Catherin in Henry the Eights time and borne in this Contry. And when that Queen was deforced from her husband: this yeoman was destitute: And he aplied himself for help to Lo: Chamberlain for some place or other in the Kings service: The Lord Steward knew him well: because he had helpt him to a cup wine the best but told him he had no place for him: but a charcole carrier: Well quoth this Monsir Askew help me with one foot and let me gett in the other as I can: And upon a great holiday the King looking out at some sports Askew got a cortier a frinde of his to stand before the King and then he got on his vellet cassock and his gold chine: and baskett of chercols on his back, and marched in the Kings sight with it. O said the King now I like yonder fellow well that disdains not to doe his dirty office in his Dainty clothes: what is he: Says his frinde that stood by on purpose It is Mr Askew that was yeoman oth celler to the Late Queens Matie and now glad of this poore place to keep him in yr Maties service which he will not forsake for all the world. The Kinge says: I had the best wine when he was ith celler: he is a gallant wine Taster let him have his place againe and afterwards knighted him and he sold his place and married the daughter of Sir John Huddleston and setled this Seaton upon her: and she afterwards married Monsir Penington Lo: of Montcaster.¹³

How much of this delightful account is accurate – and Sandford was writing a century and more after Sir Hugh's death – it is impossible to tell, but the statements that can be checked have been proved to be true.

Sir Hugh was descended from the Askews of Standing Stones and Lacra, but his father, Walter Askew, was of Blyborough in Lincolnshire, which he acquired by marriage with one of the heiresses of the second and third Dukes of Suffolk, who had owned a messuage and eight acres of land in Millom. As Sandford says he was in the service of Queen Catherine before her divorce in 1533, he cannot have been born later than 1515. Since he obtained a lease of the possessions of Seaton Priory in 1537 he was perhaps born as early as 1500. At the time of the Pilgrimage of Grace an attempt was made to oust him from Seaton but failed, and in 1542 he had a grant of the estate.

He married a daughter (Bridget) of Sir John Hudleston (died 1547). In 1597 she deposed that she was "about 60". Since she married Sir Hugh before her father's death, it seems likely that she was born about 1532 and perhaps fourteen or fifteen at marriage. The Rev Dr Charles Moor,¹⁴ recording Bridget's second marriage in 1563 (see Pennington), says "the bride was probably young, possibly handsome, and certainly rich". It seems likely that she was about thirty, and as to her looks, Jefferson¹⁵ gives a list of portraits in Muncaster Castle which he saw, including one of "Dame Askew, wife of Sir William Pennington, AD 1571". A search in the Castle some years ago failed to find this portrait.

Bridget's father, Sir John Hudleston, bought from William Thornburgh eight messuages and more than a hundred acres in Millom, Whitbeck and Bootle, and this estate he gave to Hugh and Bridget.

Sir Hugh fought at Musselburgh and was knighted on the field in 1547, as is recorded on his brass in Bootle Church, which states that he was late of "the seller to King Edward the VI".

Sir Hugh died on 2 March 1562, having made his will on 1 September 1561. By this he gave Bridget a life interest in his manor house of Seaton, his lands between

the Esk and the Duddon, and the advowsons of Bootle, Whicham, and Corney. The estate included a messuage and eight acres in Millom, seventeen messuages in Bootle, with Bootle Mill, and Kinmont and Buckbarrow in Corney. On Bridget's death this large estate was to pass to Sir Hugh's nephew and namesake, the son of his deceased brother Walter Askew, and in the event of Hugh dying without male issue the estate was to pass to other nephews in turn, with the final remainder to Hugh, son of Anthony Askew of Lacra.

Sir Hugh's inquisition was not taken until 23 August 1571, and revealed that his heir had been his great niece, Joan Hardy, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh's nephew Augustine Askew. Strangely, Joan is not mentioned in Sir Hugh's will. She died without issue on 12 July 1565, and at the inquisition it was found that her heir, and Sir Hugh's, was her first cousin Henry Askew (c. 1535–1601). This Henry, who was not the first mentioned remainderman in Sir Hugh's will, was of Oxborough, Norfolk, and in 1563 he started an action in Chancery against Anthony Hudleston. In his bill he said that John Askew of Standing Stones, Millom, had leased that property in 1557–58 to Sir Hugh, who in his will had bequeathed his interest to Henry. Henry's case clearly failed because Standing Stones is not mentioned in Sir Hugh's will. Sir Hugh's intentions never came into effect. In 1571 Henry, Walter and Edmund Askew sold their reversionary interest in the estate for £172 to Robert Bindloss, who was acting as Bridget's trustee. The estate conveyed consisted of thirty messuages, two water mills, and lands in Bootle, Corney, Seaton, Millom, Holgill, Whitbeck, Hycemoor, with the advowsons of Corney, Bootle, and Whicham. In 1573 Bindloss conveyed the estate to Ralph Latus and George Porter, presumably trustees for Bridget.

Like her brother Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John, Bridget adhered to the old faith, and thus was barred from presenting to the three livings she had acquired. The right was presumably exercised by her husband or sons.

Though Bridget married in 1563 William Pennington, she did not drop her title on remarrying and was always known as Dame Bridget.¹⁶

(This account owes much to Dr Moor's paper.)¹⁷

PENNINGTON

When Bridget, Lady Askew, married in 1563 the widower William Pennington of Muncaster, this was not the first or last alliance between the Hudlestons and Penningtons. Lady Askew granted all the estate she had inherited from Sir Hugh Askew to her second son, John Pennington (died 1613), who married in 1596 Anne (born c. 1576),¹⁸ daughter of Henry Crackanthorpe of Newbiggin (W) and had a son and successor William Pennington (1598–1664), who married Beatrice,¹⁹ daughter of Miles Dodding of Conishead Priory. He was succeeded at Seaton by his son Miles (born c. 1631), who was High Sheriff of Cumberland 1668. He died before 1701 and was succeeded by his son Robert Pennington, of Bishop Auckland, who was High Sheriff 1706. He married, in 1707, Anne Cox of Bishop Auckland and was succeeded by his son George (died 1752), whose heirs were his sisters Margery (born 1712), and Elizabeth (born 1714). The former married, in 1753, Myles Sandys of Graythwaite (L), and Elizabeth married in 1757 Farrer Wren of

Binchester (D) (died 1794). Mrs Sandys died before 1777, the year in which her widower, with Mr and Mrs Wren, sold Seaton, and Sir Hugh's lands to John Pennington of Muncaster, who in turn sold in 1802 to John Wakefield the Younger of Kendal.²⁰

SENHOUSE

Humphrey Senhouse (c. 1669–1738) was the fifth son of John Senhouse of Netherhall by his wife Mary Hudleston of Hutton John. When very young he was adopted by his uncle and aunt, Joseph and Bridget Hudleston of Millom Castle, as companion for their only son Ferdinando (1671–82). It was perhaps the wisest thing Joseph and Bridget ever did. For many years Humphrey managed their affairs with great efficiency. He was an excellent man of business²¹ and was clearly as devoted to his adopted parents as they were to him. Before his uncle's death Humphrey bought Great Langthwaite in Millom for £550 in 1696, and Little Langthwaite in 1700 for £96 from George Parke. He also owned Foreslack in Whicham. His farming activities seem to have been concentrated on his sheep – usually a flock of about 150. Humphrey was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant for Cumberland. He married Eleanor, daughter of William Kirkby of Ashlack Hall. Their five children were born in Millom Castle – Bridget (1697–1749), Joseph Richard (1699–1718), Johanna (1701–71), Humphrey (1705–70), and William John (1709–27). Humphrey's elder brother John Senhouse (born 1660), who had succeeded their father as squire of Netherhall in 1677, died in 1694, survived by his six daughters and co-heiresses, who sold Netherhall to their uncle Humphrey in 1716. This was the year after Aunt Bridget's death, and in her will Humphrey, his wife and their children were all remembered, and Humphrey was her executor and residuary legatee.

So, after many years, the time had come to leave Millom for Netherhall, whither the family went in 1716. In that year Humphrey arranged for Thomas Lamb, Master of the *Ann* to come to Duddon to take their household goods to Netherhall. In the vessel went portraits of Uncle Joseph and Aunt Bridget, and the four poster, with the arms of Hudleston impaling Grey, which had belonged to Ferdinando Hudleston, the father of Sir William and his eight brothers of Civil War fame.²²

Humphrey's story after 1716 belongs to Netherhall and not to Millom, and here there is only space to mention briefly the later careers of his five children. Bridget married, 1717, John Christian of Unerigg in Cumberland and Milntown, Isle of Man. Their daughter Mary married in 1740, Edmund Law, who was to become Bishop of Carlisle.

Humphrey's eldest son Joseph Richard went up to The Queen's College, Oxford in 1716, and died there in 1718. His sister Johanna married in 1720, Gustavus Thompson of Arkleby Hall, Cumberland, and in her widowhood (1756–71) lived in Fisher Street, Carlisle. Her brother Humphrey²³ succeeded to Netherhall and was Sheriff of Cumberland in 1744. He went up to The Queen's College, Oxford in 1724, where he was followed later that year by his brother, William John, at the age of fifteen, but, alas, he died three years later.

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 Caine²⁴ 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 was his son by his second wife, Anthony Hudleston (c. 1519–98). 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”.²⁵ 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 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, in 1614, William Hudleston’s daughter Margaret (died 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, in 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 (died 1733) son of the above Richard and (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 (died 1769 aged 55) and took Lowick Hall to him.

Arms (CFH, 198)

GIBSON, post GIBSON-ATHERLEY

Edmund Gibson of Parkhouse, Dalton-in-Furness and later of Whitbeck Hall (died 1709) married secondly,²⁶ in 1702, Dorothy (1664–1731) daughter of Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John and widow of John Parke of Whitbeck Hall.²⁷ Their only

son Edmund Gibson (1705–1780) was a busy attorney of Workington and Whitehaven and was steward to his kinsman William Hudleston of Millom Castle. In 1738 he bought Monkfoss, Whitbeck, and in 1741, Scogarbar, now called Barfield, where he lived and which remained with his descendants until sold in 1876. He married firstly, in 1731, his first cousin Isabel (1707–1752), daughter of Wilfred Hudleston of Hutton John and secondly in 1753²⁸ Eleanor (1726–1807), daughter of William Watters of Whitehaven, and widow of John Littleedale. His son by his first wife, Robert Gibson (died 1831, aged 97), was a magistrate and was of Barfield and Ulverston. He was gazetted cornet in the 1st Dragoon Guards 1762, was placed on half pay 1763, and so continued until his death when he was the oldest officer in the Army List. In 1776 he married Mary (died 1817, aged 62), only child and heiress of the Rev Thomas Atherley. Their son Edmund Gibson, barrister-at-law, born 1778, assumed the additional name of Atherley. He married, in 1817, Jane (born 1794), daughter of George Edward Stanley of Ponsonby Hall. His kinsman Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John employed him in his business affairs. His only child Jane, married Ernest Charles Jones (1819–1869) barrister-at-law, novelist, poet, and Chartist, who left little money at his death, and a public fund was raised for the benefit of his children, one of whom was Llewellyn Archer Atherley-Jones K.C., B.A. (1851–1929) of Barfield, Braywick, Berks, who was a County Court Judge, Recorder of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and M.P. for North-West Durham.

Portraits of Edmund Gibson and his wife Isabel were in the Judge's possession, and after his death were acquired by Col. Ivor Hudleston. They were unfortunately later destroyed in a fire.

Arms See *CFH*, 128.

MYERS OF DUNNINGWELL

John Myers, farmer and grazier of Rally Green,²⁹ was father of the Rev John Myers (1739–1821), “a man, who from a low beginning, had amassed an immense fortune.”³⁰ After three years at St Bees School he taught at Gosforth and later said prayers at Haile and Ponsonby in the absence of Mr Reay. He was ordained to the curacy of the two parishes in 1763, and in 1770 he entered himself at St John's College Cambridge as “a Ten-year man”. He went to Lincolnshire in 1771 as vicar of Swinstead and was also rector of Somerby With Humby until 1789, when he presented himself to the living of Wyberton, which was bought for him by Stanley Marshall of Calderbridge and later of Friestone, Lincs. He was of Dunningwell and acquired Shipley Hall, Yorkshire, by his marriage in 1803 to his fourth wife Alice (died April 1821), daughter of Jessop Thorold and widow of Anthony Wrightson of Shipley Hall. He became D.L. and J.P. for Yorkshire. In his convivial hours when the number of his wives was mentioned, he used jocularly to say “if I survive, I will have five”. Death, however, prevented his fulfilling his wish “. . . as he survived his fourth wife only a few days”.³¹ He was living in Cumberland when his fourth wife died and went to Yorkshire for the funeral. He was taken ill on the way and died as soon as he reached Shipley Hall. His son, the Rev John Myers (1704–1831), succeeded him as rector of Somerby with Humby in 1789 and in 1794 was granted a

dispensation to hold the livings with the rectory of Ruskington, where he was succeeded in 1832 by the Rev Charles John Myers (1801–1870) son of David Myers. He succeeded as rector of the first mediety of Ruskington, and also inherited the Dunningwell estate. His son, Charles John Myers D.L., J.P., who was born at Flintham Notts in 1843, during his father's tenure of the living, succeeded to Dunningwell. He was gazetted ensign 39th Foot in 1863, but retired in 1870 on his father's death. He later served in the Royal Cumberland Militia, and in the Lincolnshire regiment, retiring as honorary major in 1886. He was lord of the manor of Wilsford, Lincs, and patron of the living of Ruskington.³² He died in 1910 leaving a widow Clara Belasye neé Mason (1855–1944). Her brother Captain Eric Manson, Second Regiment (1857–1916) died at Dunningwell, and on his gravestone in Thwaites Churchyard he is described as “a cheerful giver”.

WILLIAMSON

Although this is not a Cumberland family, it is included here because from 1748 until 1775 it played an important part in the history of the Lordship of Millom. When William Hudleston, the last Lord, died in 1745, he was succeeded by his sixteen year old elder daughter Elizabeth. He appointed as guardians for her and Isabella (Bell), his younger daughter, then thirteen, his sister Anne Elizabeth Wilson, widow (1700–1777), Samuel Burroughs, a Master in Chancery, William Whinfield, his kinsman, Edward Woodcock of the Inner Temple, Kenelm Faulkner, another kinsman, and Dr Robert Benn of Oxford. The choice as guardian of Whinfield (died 1763, aged 61), who was a grandson of Major Edward Hudleston, undoubtedly led to Elizabeth's marriage, for he was married to Anne, youngest daughter of a Durham baronet, Sir William Williamson. Whinfield lived at Cleadon Tower, Sunderland, and also had a house in the Bailey in Durham City, and Elizabeth, now nineteen, was living there in 1748 when a marriage licence was granted to her, described as a ward of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke and Sir Hedworth Williamson baronet. Sir Hedworth (1710–1788) was brother of Anne, William Whinfield's wife. The marriage took place from Sir Hedworth's house, Whitburn Hall, Co. Durham, and from then until 1774, the Williamsons were Lord and Lady of the Lordship of Millom. Their eldest son, William Hudleston Williamson, was born at Whitburn in 1749. It is often said that it was to pay off his gambling debts that his parents sold the Lordship to Sir James Lowther in 1774. This may be true, but it is only fair to point out that within a few years of their marriage the Williamsons sold considerable parts of the estate.³³ Even as late as 1795 a meeting of the creditors of Sir Hedworth and William was announced to take place at the George Inn in Sunderland. This was thirteen years after William's death at Matlock Bath “of a lingering consumption” at the age of thirty-two. It has been said,³⁴ that he was engaged to his cousin Anne St Aubyn,³⁵ granddaughter of William Whinfield, and was going with his mother by coach to marry her in Cornwall, when he broke a blood vessel at Matlock and died. No doubt part of this story is true, but it is to be supposed that he was at Matlock – a spa since 1698 – for his health. His father died in 1788. In his will of 1786 he left £100 for a marble monument in Millom Church in memory of his father-in-law William Hudleston. If one was ever set up, it disappeared long ago.

His widow died at her lodgings in York in 1793 and was buried at Monkwearmouth a fortnight later. Her second son,³⁶ Sir Hedworth Williamson (1751–1810), succeeded his father as 6th Bart. He is remembered as having twice won the Derby. His descendant Sir Nicholas Williamson, of Mortimer, Berks., is the 11th and present baronet.

Arms, *CFH*, 368.

Notes and References

- ¹ S. Jefferson, *The history and antiquities of Allerdale Ward, above Derwent, in the County of Cumberland* (1842), 149.
- ² *CW2*, xxiv, 200, 204, 207; xli, 27.
- ³ *Cal. Curia Regis Rolls*, xvi.
- ⁴ His brothers included John (d. 1303–4), summoned to Parliament in 1295 and 1296, *The Complete Peerage* (1910–59); Thomas, bishop of St David's; and Anthony, bishop of Durham, *DNB*; C. Roy Hudleston and R.S. Boumphrey, *Cumberland Families and Heraldry*, *CW Extra Series* xxiii (1978), 20.
- ⁵ They included William, who married Isabel Nevill, niece of the King Maker; Henry, Gentleman of the King's Chamber (died 1489) who was at Bosworth; Thomas, killed in the Wars of the Roses; and Christopher, priest at Sudeley, Gloucestershire.
- ⁶ A farm in Millom is called Fenwick.
- ⁷ Margaret's descendants include the Charlton family of Hesleyside, Northumberland.
- ⁸ Joan's descendants include the Le Fleming Baronets, Lord Lonsdale, the Wilson's of Dallam Tower, the Lords de Tabley, the Leicester Baronets, the Senhouses, Stanleys and Parkers of Brownholme.
- ⁹ R.S. Ferguson (ed.), *Sandford's History of Cumberland*, *CW Tract Series* iv (Kendal, 1890).
- ¹⁰ John, the second grandson, was ancestor of William the last Lord of Millom. Edward, the sixth grandson (1620–1707) was several times wounded in the Civil War, losing the use of his right arm. He married Katherine (c. 1632–95), daughter of Thomas Towers of Bleansley, Broughton-in-Furness. From them the Wingfield-Digby family descends.
- ¹¹ What remained of the Yorkshire estate was sold in 1742 to George Bowes, ancestor of H.M. The Queen.
- ¹² R.S. Ferguson, *op.cit.*
- ¹³ "and purchased this religious place of Seaton nye wher he was borne of an ancient freehold family" – Note in the margin of Machell's copy.
- ¹⁴ *CW2*, xi, 174.
- ¹⁵ S. Jefferson, *op.cit.*, 218.
- ¹⁶ This was improper, but Bridget was not the first or the last woman to keep their title after remarriage to a commoner. In our own time when Brenda, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, married secondly Mr Henry Somerset, heir presumptive to the Dukedom of Beaufort, she did not take that name, and Court news often announced that Mr Henry Somerset and Brenda, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava were leaving or staying at this or that place, which caused a little amusement.
- ¹⁷ *CW2*, xi, 167–84.
- ¹⁸ She married, secondly, Sir Richard Sandford of Howgill Castle.
- ¹⁹ Her sister Margaret (1606–78) married the Reverend Richard Hutton, rector of Bootle (1660–1704).
- ²⁰ *CW2*, xxxiii, 87–90 *passim*.
- ²¹ His account books in the Senhouse archive in the Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle) were transcribed by Mr J. Hughes F.S.A., whose excellent transcripts were made full use of by the late Edward Hughes in his *North Country Life in the Eighteenth Century* (1965), Volume 2, xvi, 312–38.
- ²² Bed and portraits are now at Hutton John.
- ²³ Best known as the founder of Maryport, named after his wife Mary, married in 1731, daughter of Sir George Fleming, bishop of Carlisle.
- ²⁴ Caesar Caine, *A history of the churches of the rural deanery of Whitehaven* (1916), 158.
- ²⁵ PRO STAC 2 Addenda 2/22.

- ²⁶ He married (1) in 1678 Ann (1651–1701) daughter of John Wilson of Stank, Dalton. Their son, Robert Gibson (1679–1731), was Recorder of Lancaster. He died at Appleby and was buried there.
- ²⁷ Dorothy married thirdly, and unhappily, John Warburton *D.N.B.*
- ²⁸ When he applied for a marriage he declared he was 40, though he was 48.
- ²⁹ This place-name does not occur in *The Place Names of Cumberland*.
- ³⁰ *North Lonsdale Magazine* (1821), ii, 470f.
- ³¹ *Ibid.*
- ³² The present house at Dunningwell was built in 1876, the architects being Paley and Austin.
- ³³ Including the manors of Bootle and Ulpha to William Ingleton.
- ³⁴ Eric Watts Moses, *The Williamsons of East Markham, Notts and Monkswearmouth Co. Durham*. William died on 27 April, but was not buried until 11 May, so it is clear that he died at Matlock. The *Newcastle Courant* says that he was buried “with very affecting solemnities in the family vault at Monkswearmouth”.
- ³⁵ Anne married Robert White.
- ³⁶ The 3rd son, Thomas Williamson (1753–1828), was ordained in 1790 and in the following year was presented to the living of Stoke Damerel, Devon, by his cousin Sir John St Aubyn Bart. . . . In 1794 he went to Lisbon for his health, and returning to England, the packet was taken by a French privateer.