

ART. XIII.—*The Senhouses, Stewards of Holme.* By E. T. TYSON, Maryport.

*Read at Seascale Hall, August 30th, 1881.*

A FEW months ago an old document was discovered by Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., and the Rev. A. P. Shepherd (the present Vicar of Holme Cultram, in this county), at the old Abbey Church, in the parish of that name. It was found in the Vestry in a huge oaken chest, fastened by three fetter-locks. On being unlocked, for the first time probably within this century, the chest was found to contain a mass of mouldering papers, and amongst them was the one in question. In the last century the contents of the chest, together with other papers, appear to have been examined and sorted, and such of the documents as were thought to be valuable were, it is said, taken to Oxford, where they probably are to this day; whilst the refuse, consisting mainly or altogether of old law papers, was thrust again into the chest.

The document in question is entitled, “John Senhouse his patent for the Steward and Stewardship of the Lordshipp of Holme Cultram, with the leadinge and government of the tenantes against Scotland.” At first sight it was taken to be the original patent, but Mr. Ferguson having allowed me to inspect the writing, I made a minute examination of it. It is an old case for the opinion of counsel touching certain matters then in dispute between the Steward of the Manor or Lordship of Holme Cultram, and the Clerk of the Manor Court, with counsel’s opinion thereon.

This old document is very interesting upon two accounts—first, as bearing upon the history of the Manor of Holme Cultram; and secondly, as throwing some light upon the family

family history of two leading and much respected ancient families in this county, namely, the Dykes of Dovenby Hall, and the Senhouses of Netherhall. It runs as follows:—

JOHN SENHOUSE his Patent for the Steward and Stewardship of the lordshipp of Holme Cultram with the leadinge and gouernment of the tenantes against Scotland.

A<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>o</sup> Eliz:

George Lamplughe  
Steward of the pre-  
mises who surrendered  
*ut postea.*

Año p<sup>o</sup>mo Eliz. George Lamplughe esquier by bill signed and l<sup>res</sup> patentes vnder the greate seale of England had grannted vnto him viz<sup>t</sup> Officiū Senescalli et Senescalsie omiū Dññorum Maneriorz terrarz tenemtorz et hereditam<sup>i</sup> nrorū quorūcumq; tam in com<sup>i</sup> n<sup>ro</sup> Cumbr<sup>o</sup> qm̄ alibi que nup Monaster de Holme Cultram in dō com Cumbr<sup>o</sup> quondam spectabant et ptinebant vnacū Regimine gubernacōe et conducōne hominū et tenen<sup>i</sup> nrorz dcorz Dominorz Maneriorz terrarz tenemtorz et hereditamen<sup>o</sup> ad seruiend nobis et successor<sup>o</sup> nris sub Custod sive Gardiano Occidentā Marcharū nrarū ver<sup>o</sup> Scotiam quandocuq; ad id requisit<sup>i</sup> fuer<sup>o</sup> &<sup>ca</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> l<sup>res</sup> patentes the said George Lamplugh did afterward Surrend<sup>r</sup> and give vp to be cancelled.

A<sup>o</sup> 16 Eliz:

John Senhouse there-  
vpon by patent is ste-  
warde of ye premises  
vizt. of the Landes and  
gouernor and conduc-  
tor of the tenantes  
against Scotland for  
seruice there which be  
twoe seuerall offices.

Afterward viz: Ano. 16 Eliz. the Queene's Ma<sup>tie</sup> by lyke l<sup>res</sup> patentes vnder the greate seale of England recyting therein the said former l<sup>res</sup> patentes granted the said office vnto John Senhouse in hec verba Regina &<sup>a</sup> Sciatis igitur q<sup>d</sup> nos in consideracone sursū reddic<sup>i</sup> predic<sup>i</sup> Necnon boni veri et fidelis Seruitii p<sup>r</sup> pdēm Joñem Senhouse nobis antehac impensi et imposter durant<sup>i</sup> vita sua impendent<sup>i</sup> de grā n<sup>ra</sup> spiali

spiali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu n̄ris Dedimus et concessimus ac p̄ p̄ntes pro nobis heredibꝫ et successorꝫ n̄ris Damus et concessimus prefatꝫ Johi Senhouse predcū officiū Senescalli et Senescalsie d̄corū omniū Dñiorū manerꝫ terrꝫ tenemtorꝫ et hereditamꝫ nrorū quorucuqꝫ tam in d̄co com n̄ro Cumbrꝫ qm̄ alibique d̄co nup Monaster de Holme Cultram in d̄co comꝫ Cumbrꝫ quondam spectabant et p̄tinebant Vnacū Regimine gubernacōe et conducōne hominū et teneñ n̄ror d̄coru Dñiorū Manerꝫ terrꝫ tenñ et hereditamꝫ ad ūiend nobis heredibꝫ et successorꝫ n̄ris sub custod siue Gardiano Occidentat Marchiarū nraru versꝫ Scotiā quandocuqꝫ ad id requisitꝫ fuerint Ac ip̄m Joñem Senhouse Senescallu n̄rm Omniu Dñioru Manerꝫ tenemtorꝫ terrꝫ et hereditamꝫ predcorꝫ Necnon Gubernatorꝫ et conductorꝫ hominu et teneñ nrorꝫ predcoru facimus Ordinamus et constituimus p̄ p̄ntes Habend tenend gaudend occupand et exercend officiū predcū prefato Johi Senhouse per se vel per sufficientꝫ deputatꝫ suu siue deputatꝫ suos sufficientes duranꝫ vita sua naturali vnacū omibꝫ comoditatibꝫ et prehemincijs quibuscūqꝫ d̄co officio quoquo modo spectanñ siue incumbenꝫ adeo plene libere et integre put aliquis alias siue aliqui alij predcū officiū antehac heñs siue heñtes vnquā hūerit vel gavisi fuerꝫ in excercōe eiusdem; Vnacu Feod &c

THOMAS DYKES his Pattent for the Clarkshipp of the courtes of the said lordship.

Aº 32º Eliz.

The Clarks patent granted vpon a false surrender of a former patent madeto Richard Barwis Aº 13 Eliz. which office was never granted before by Patent.

Regina &c cu nos p̄ l̄ras n̄ras patentes sub sigillo Curꝫ Sāccij n̄ri confertꝫ gerend datū apud Westm̄ vltimo die Novembr Año regni n̄ri xiiº assignaverimꝫ et constituimus ditcum nobis Ricū Barwis ad officiū Ctici Curꝫ et viꝫ Francꝫ plegꝫ omniu et singulorꝫ dñiorꝫ Maneriorꝫ terrꝫ tenemtorꝫ libtatꝫ possessionu et hereditamꝫ quorucuqꝫ in Comꝫ Cumbrꝫ cu eorum membris

membris et ptinen vniūsis nup Monaster de Holme Cultram in predco com quondam spectan et ptinen Ac pcell possessionū inde nup existeñ: Ac ipm Ricu Barwis Cficum Cur Lete et viſ Franc pleg premissor fecerime ordinauime et constituime adtunc ad omia exercend faciend psequend pagend et exequend dcm officiū quoquo modo tangen sive concernen Habend gaudend exercend et occupand predcū officiū prefato Rico Barwis tam p se quam p sufficien deputat suū sive deputat suos sufficien quamdiu nobis placuerit Cuius quidem Riçi Barwis ius statū titlū et interesse de et in officio predco dilcūs subditus n̄r Thomas Dykes modo hēns ac p debitū iuris exigen possidens et tenens nobis sursum redd et restituit cancelland ea tamen intencoe quod nos alias l̄ras n̄ras paten et dimission nram de predco officio eidem Thome Dykes duran beneflito nro in forma sequen facere et concedere dignaremur. Quam quidem sursu redd acceptamus p pn̄tes. Sciatis igitur qd nos tam in consideracone sursu redd predce qm p alijs causis et consideraõibus nos ad p̄ns movent de avisamen dilci et fidelis Consiliari n̄ri Willm̄i Baron de Burghley Thesaur nri Anglie assignavime et constituime prefatū Thomā Dykes ad officiū predcū Cfici Cur et viſ Franc pleg omniū et singlorz diñorz Manerz terrz tenemt Libtat possessionū et hereditam quorūcūq; in com pred cū eorz membr et ptinen vniūsis nup Monaster de Holme Cultram in dco com n̄ro quondam spectan et ptinen ac pcell possessionū inde nup existeñ. Ac ipm Thomā Dykes Clicū Cur Let et viſ franc pleg premissor facimus ordinamus et constituime p p̄ntes ad omia exercend faciend psequend pagend et exequend dcm officiū quoquo modo tangen et concernen. Habend gaudend exercend et occupand predcm officiū prefato Thome Dykes tam p se quam per sufficien deputat suū siue Deputat suos sufficien quamdiu nobis placuerit Et capiend ānuatim p dco officio exercend et occupand vad et Feod xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> \* \* e exit &c vnacū omibus pficiis comōditat advantag allocac libtat dict aucthoritat Locis et

et preheminent<sup>9</sup> quibuscūq; dō officio debīt spectanī sine incumbenī in tam amplius modo et forma put aliquīs Cīcus ant aliqui Cīci cur<sup>9</sup> pred<sup>9</sup> antehac hurer<sup>9</sup> pciper<sup>9</sup> et gavisī fuer<sup>9</sup> &c.

Question 1.—Whither the said John Senhouse Steward or Thomas Dykes Clerk be learned steward of the lands and tenements \* \* \* of the premises.

To the first what is mnt by this word learned Steward I see not nor can vnderstand: for Dykes is but Clark of the Courts and no Steward but Mr. Senhouse is Steward of the Manno<sup>rs</sup> landes &c and not Dykes.

2.—Whither the said Steward or Clarke ought to appointe the time and place for the Courtes and kepe the same and call them that owe sute and fyne them that appeare not: appoint Juries and desallowe of such as are not meete: to give the charge to the Juries receive their verdict and presentm<sup>t</sup> and take surrend<sup>rs</sup> admytt tennts make them copies and signe the same: Make out estreates for levyinge fynes and Amercyam<sup>ts</sup> coste and signeinge the same and myttigating of fynes and Amercyam<sup>ts</sup> And for makinge and signeing of estreates for answeringe Fynes and Amercyam<sup>ts</sup> at the Audytt And to have the custodie of the Estreates Court rolls and recordes of the said courte without the w<sup>ch</sup> the Steward cannot heare and determyne causes in Controuersie amongst the tennts there. And therefore desireth to knowe the lawe, what belongeth to the Steward and what to the Clarke.

To the 2. Senhouse the Steward is to appoint the tyme & place for the courtes & kepe the same & to cause them that owe sute to be called & for such fynes as are to be assessed by the Steward are to be assessed by him vpon them that appeare nott. He is to allowe & disallowe the Jurors, to give the charge, to receive the verdict & p<sup>r</sup>sentm<sup>te</sup> to take surrend<sup>rs</sup> to admytt tennts gr<sup>t</sup> out copies & signe the same give dyrecons for makeinge thestreats & to signe the same; he is to myttigate fynes & Amercyam<sup>ts</sup>  
w<sup>th</sup>

w<sup>ch</sup> are assessed by him; but some Amercyam<sup>ts</sup> are to be assessed by the Asserers & therew<sup>th</sup> hath not the Steward nor Clark to doe; in qualyfyinge but onely to see them estreated. But it seemeth y<sup>t</sup> the wrytinge of copies & of thestreates & wrytinge of all pcesse should belonge to the Clarke who hath a fee for doinge thereof & the signeinge & allowance & disallowance therof doth belonge to the Steward & not to the Clarke and all the Court bookes are to be p<sup>u</sup>sed by the Steward & he may correct any default done in y<sup>e</sup> pceedinge by the clarke. It seemeth that the Court bookes doth appteine to the Clarke but they are to be p<sup>u</sup>ced for any necessarye occasion to the Steward at his commandment.

- 3.—Item may the said Clarke lawfullie take a surrend<sup>r</sup> of a tenemte and admytt another tenant therof wythout the knowledge and consent of the said Steward, yea or no.

To the 3. the Clarke may not take a Surrend<sup>r</sup> of a tenemt nor admytt an other tennte therof w<sup>th</sup> out the consent and agrement of the steward and y<sup>t</sup> must be entered as the Stewardes acte or els y<sup>t</sup> is voyd.

The steward by pclamacon accordinge to the custome of the lo: appointes a daie and houre to kepe a Courte there: All men appeares savinge the Clarke who refuseth to come.

- Question 4.—Whither the said Steward maie appoint one in the said Clark's place for the tyme and procede to kepe the said Courte or no.

If the Clarke have notice of the Court daie and shall obstinatly absent himself y<sup>t</sup> is a forfeiture of his office And I am of opinion that the Clarke not appearinge the Steward may w<sup>th</sup>out him proceed the Courte and appointe another Clarke or execute the place himself.

ANDR. BLUNDEY.

The original document is beautifully written in clear distinct and well formed characters of the period, the difference

ference in the styles of the handwriting of the respective clerks of the counsel and the attorney being readily recognizable. The signature, "Alexr. Blundey," who advised upon the case, is written in a bold legible hand. That Blundey was a counsel of eminence, and well read in real property and manorial law, may be taken for granted, but it is not he with whom we are now concerned.

I need not review the purely legal matter contained in the case, as it sufficiently explains itself, but some account should be given of the John Senhouse and Thomas Dykes therein referred to, and of the Manor with which they were both honourably connected. Prior to the dissolution of the religious houses, the Manor had long been vested in the Abbots and Monks of Holme Cultram, but from the year 1540 until 1693 it remained the property of the Crown. It was during a portion of that period that we trace the connection of the Senhouses with the Manor. On two occasions it served as a Royal jointure, being granted first to Henrietta Maria on her marriage with Charles I. in 1625; and secondly, to Catherine of Portugal on her marriage with Charles II. in 1662. In 1693 it was alienated by the Crown, and is now, and for many years past has been, the property of the Standish family.

Its proximity to the border necessitated the tenants to be always on the alert for forays and incursions by the Scots, and it was obligatory upon them to serve in peace and war on the borders with horse and armour. The Stewards of the Lordship had confided to them the "leadinge" of the tenants in this border service, and this office, as well as the Stewardship proper—which a marginal note to the case points out—are "twoe seuerall offices," were both conferred upon John Senhouse. As steward, he was judge of the court baron and court leet, and his office was one both of emolument and honour.

He was the third son of John Senhouse, of Alneburgh (now Nether) Hall, who was descended from Walter de Sewynhouse,

Sewynhouse, de Sevenhouse, or de Senhouse, who had a fifth part of the township of Bolton, in the parish of Gosforth, granted to him by Alan de Copeland, and likewise other lands in the same parish by William de Wayberthwaite. Neither of these grants is dated, but both are witnessed by Sir Adam de Lamplugh, Kt., who lived in the times of King Richard and King John. His oldest brother Thomas was ancestor of the Senhouses of Seascalle, now extinct, in the male line. He was the John Senhouse mentioned by Camden in the "Britannica," and succeeded on his father's death to the estate and manor of Ellenborough, which had come to the Senhouses by his father's intermarriage in 1528 with Elizabeth, elder sister and co-heiress of Richard Eglesfield, son of Gawen Eglesfield, of Alneburgh Hall, High Sheriff of this county in the 9th Henry VIII., which Gawen was the descendant in a right line from John de Eglesfield, the elder brother of Robert de Eglesfield, the founder of Queen's College, Oxford. He died in 1604, and was succeeded in his estates by his eldest son Peter, by his marriage with Anne, daughter of John Ponsonby, Esq., of Haile Hall. Peter Senhouse was appointed escheator for the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland by letters patent (20 James I.), and was High Sheriff for the former shire 3d Charles I.\* He also held the stewardship of the lordship of Holme Cultram. Subjoined is a copy of a "letter" or warrant from the latter king, addressed to him as steward. It is taken from an old manuscript book relating to the manor. The original probably has been destroyed, or it may be at Oxford, or mouldering in the old oak chest at the Abbey Church:—

CHARLES REX.

Our will and pleasure is that presently upon sight hereof you deliver or cause to be delivered unto our servant Sir Richard Graham Kn<sup>t</sup> and Baronet Fourscore & ten Timber trees or such as he shall make choice of in our Woods of Wedholm wood in y<sup>e</sup> Holme Cultram within

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\* Burke's "Landed Gentry." E. T. T.

our



our County of Cumberland for which this shall be your sufficient warrant Given at our Manor\* at St. Jameses under our Signet the last day of June in the 6th year of our reign.

TO PETER SENHOUSE Steward  
of our Manor of Holme Cultram

The name of "Peter Senhouse" frequently occurs in the manorial records. In the seventh year of King Charles I. he was nominated with other "persons of quality" a commissioner "for the discovery of certain enclosures and encroachments by the customary tenants within the Manor." The other commissioners were Christopher Richmond, Esq., Henry Toulson, Esq., Robert Highmoor, Esq., Richard Kirkbride, Gent: and Edmund Bateman. The inquiry, as might be expected, aroused much hostility and ill-will amongst the tenants, as plainly appears by the following spiteful memorandum appended to a copy of the proceedings recorded in the book before referred to:—

"This commission was procured by William Brisco; he made Richard Tickle acquainted therewith and they both joined to make the King's attorney do for them. The King's Attorney & Richard Tickle being sisters' children; he procured the Commission & put in M<sup>r</sup> Senhouse a Commissioner, he being brother [in-law] to William Brisco, and the Commissioners made John Eglesfield foreman of the Jury he being brother to Richard Tickle so they turned what they chused with many untruths."

Peter Senhouse died 1654. By his marriage with Frances, daughter of Lancelot Skelton, Esq., of Armathwaite Castle, in this county, he had a son John, who succeeded him. He married Elizabeth, third daughter of Humphrey Wharton, Esq., of Gillingwood, county York, and had with other children two sons, Humphrey and John. The former died young without issue; the latter, who was a staunch Royalist and a captain in Charles I. army, succeeded his father on the latter's death in 1667. He died the same year, and was succeeded by his eldest

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\* *sic*. E. T. T.

son John.\* Whether all these John Senhouses succeeded to or held the stewardship of Holme Cultram, it is at present impossible for me to say with confidence. I think, however, that one or more of them did hold the office. In an old Court Roll of the Manor of Ellenborough there is a copy of a letter which greatly favours this presumption. It reads thus:—

S<sup>r</sup>

Ye Lr I rec<sup>d</sup> concernnige the Court Bokes of Holm Cultra I doe nott know either by what Law or Justice or for what offence I must Loose my place onely I p<sup>c</sup>ceive it is Mr. Chislet's pleasure: I doe nott doubt butt to live without it or his favours and enjoy a place where he is nott to Controul me: nevertheless the bookes shall be ready that there may be noe neglect of theire Ma<sup>is</sup> Consens by me: and I hoope yu will have them ere longe ready to deliver againe to

S<sup>r</sup>

Y<sup>o</sup> affectionate friend & Servt

JOHN SENHOUSE.

Neatherhall

Octobr 3 (68)

An inspection of the Holme Cultram Court Rolls of that period would settle the point conclusively. At the Restoration a John Senhouse petitioned the Crown for the appointment. In the calendar of State Papers is an abstract of his petition.

There is a romantic story connected with Captain John Senhouse, which I may here introduce. He was serving in the army of Charles I. when his elder brother died. His parents naturally became anxious that he should no longer expose himself to danger in the war, but suspecting that he might disregard their wishes unless urged with personal earnestness, they sent a young man, the son of a tenant at Ellenborough, who had been his playmate, to bring him

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\* Burke's "Landed Gentry." By his second wife, Mary, daughter of Andrew Huddleston, Esq., of Hutton John—(his first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Jerome Tolhurst, Lieut.-Governor and M.P. of Carlisle, but he had no issue by her)—This John Senhouse married Jane, daughter of Richard Lamplugh, Esq., of Dovenby Hall, and had issue, and died in 1694. After him came four Humphreys in regular succession, the last being the father of the present Mrs. Senhouse, of Netherhall.—E. T. T.

home

home. The messenger arrived on the eve of the battle of Marston Moor, and the result was that instead of bringing back his young master, the latter induced him to remain, and to share the danger with him. They were together at Marston Moor and at Naseby, at which latter place John Senhouse was left for dead on the field. His faithful companion went after the battle was over to look for the body, and to give it christian burial, and amongst a heap of the dead he succeeded in finding him severely wounded, but still breathing. In this condition he carried him away on his back, and so by timely assistance John Senhouse's life was preserved, and he lived to continue the race. As a reward, the land of the tenant was enfranchised.\* There is a portrait of this John at Netherhall, and also the sword and breastplate that he is said to have worn. The sword has a buckhorn handle, and the back of it is notched like a saw, and was probably intended to be used as such.

The Thomas Dykes named in the case as being clerk of the Holme Cultram Manor Court is described by Camden as "a gentleman of great note." He was escheator of Westmorland, temp. Elizabeth, and married Jane, daughter of Lancelot Lancaster, of Sockbridge. His sister Catherine married Gawen Eglesfield (19th Elizabeth.) Thomas Dykes was succeeded by his son Leonard Dykes, who was sheriff for Cumberland (19 Charles I.), and warrant treasurer for the King's forces for the county and garrison of Carlisle.† Thomas Dykes, his successor, was a devoted Royalist. After the defeat of the party, he is said to have concealed himself for some time in a large mulberry tree near Warthole (which I believe is still growing), where food was conveyed to him by his wife and daughter. The Republicans, however, found him out, and imprisoned him in Cockermouth Castle. The words, "*prius frangitur*

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\* *Vide* Correspondence of Robert Southey, edited by his son-in-law, the Rev. John Moore Warter. E. T. T.

† For him, see ante p 10 n. Editor.

quam

quam flectitur," is said to be the answer (in Latin) which he gave when offered his liberty and property provided he would acknowledge the Protector. These words have been adopted as the family motto ever since by the Dykes, the present head of whose house is Lamplugh Frecheville Ballantine Dykes, Esq., of Dovenby Hall.

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