APPENDIX.

Sketch Pedigree of six generations of the Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth.

Sir Richard Kirkby = Isabella.
of Kirkby, Knight, Temp.
Ric. II. & Hen. IV.

Alexander ob. vitæ patris.

Sir Roger Kirkby = Isabel Lawrence.
of Kirkby, Knight, received seizin of the estate, 9 Hen. VI. (1430)
(West).

John a quo.
Kirkby of Uprawcliffe.

Rowland Kirkby = Margaret Coupland.
of Crosshouse [Flower’s visit.
Lancs. 1567] His descendants became extinct in male line
temp. Hen. VIII.

Richard Kirkby = Anne Bellingham.
of Kirkby, Lord of Kirkby, living 35 Hen. VI. (1459)

Alexander Thomas ob. s. p.

Roger Kirkby = Elizabeth Richardson.
of Crosshouse.

Henry Kirkby of Kirkby, ob. s. p.
16 Hen. VIII.
(1524).

Richard Kirkby = Dorothy Fleming
(or Catherine, Tonge’s visit. Cumb.) married
C. 1509, see West.

John Kirkby only son, ob. 5 Ed. VI.
(1551) aet. 8, therefore b. 1543. Not born till about 24 years after his sister’s marriage. Query was he the issue of a second and unrecorded marriage?

Anne Could not be b. prior to 1510, but married to Henry Kirkby in 1519, i.e. 9 years of age. Her eldest son Roger b. when she was about 20.

Henry Kirkby of Crosshouse, found heir to his cousin John, Inq. p.m. 5 Ed. VI. (1552). He by deed 1 Hen. VIII. (1519) settled his manor of Kirkby and Crosshouse to the use of himself, his wife Anne, and brother Richard. Act 50 years on death of his cousin John, therefore born c. 1501, and about 19 years old at his marriage with Anne.

Roger Kirkby of Kirkby, aet. 36 at death of his father 9
Eliz. 1566 (Inq. p.m.)

Note. (1)—Henry Kirkby, to consolidate the estates, m. Anne (who was then only a child), long before the birth of the male heir, but his father was living till long after this date; how then could Henry settle his manor of Kirkby as stated by West?

(2)—John, the male heir, was born 24 years after the marriage of his sister. Was he by an unrecorded second marriage?

(3)—Had the sudden death of John anything to do with the tradition of skulls at Kirkby Crosshouse?
ART. XXIII.—The Homes of the Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth.

By H. S. Cowper, F.S.A.

Read at Kirkby Hall, June 14th, 1894.

The two old houses of which this paper treats, were both residences of the ancient and knightly family of Kirkby of Kirkby in Furness, or Kirkby Ireleth as it is sometimes called to distinguish it from the numerous other Kirkbys which exist in the North of England. Of the history of this family it is not the place here to enter into detail, for all who are acquainted with the history of Furness must know the part they played in it. Of all the families once dwelling within the peninsula, who, settled on the land from remote antiquity, had received their name from their estates, the Kirkbys alone remained to modern times as residential lords. The Broughtons, the Lowicks, the Urswicks and the Sawreys, their neighbours of the same standing in early days, have long disappeared. But of the Kirkbys the reader of West's "Antiquities of Furness" will find the chronicles of no less than twenty-two generations ending but a hundred years ago, and land was still held within the manor by members of the family at a later date.

The family pedigree commences with a Roger de Kirkby who in the time of Richard I. was Lord of Kirkby and married a daughter of Gilbert, son of Roger Fitz Reinfred. John, one of his sons, was a famous lawyer of the time of Henry III., being at different times a Justice Itinerant, a Judge of the Kings' Bench, Lord Keeper, and a Baron of the Exchequer. He was the author of the "Inquest of Yorkshire," named after him, which was taken in 1284. Among the ensuing generations we find many benefactors of the neighbouring Abbey of Furness, from which institution
tion indeed the manor was held by the family by knights’ service. The seventh Lord, as given by West, was Sir Richard Kirkby, who lived in the reign of Richard II., and the fourth, fifth, and sixth Henrys. He had a younger son, Rowland, who appears in the Lancashire visitations of Flower and St. George, and is styled by West “of Crosshouse.” The descendants of this Rowland became extinct in the direct line four generations later, in the time of Henry VIII. Rowland’s elder brother Sir Roger Kirkby of Kirkby received seizin of the manor in 9 Henry VI. (1430) and of him we find a younger son named Roger, who, like his uncle Rowland, was of Crosshouse. Henry, the son of this Roger of Crosshouse, married his cousin Anne (or Agnes), who becoming the heiress of the Kirkby estates on the death of her only brother, the whole of the family estates became united and in possession of the descendants of this lady and her husband Henry Kirkby of Crosshouse.* There is every reason to believe that at this time Henry Kirkby added to the Crosshouse and gave it its present form. For not only do the details of the building point to this, but West states that by a deed in Hen. VIII. (1519), he settled his estate of the manor of Kirkby and a messuage called Crosshouse to the use of himself and Anne his wife, and Richard his brother.†

In the seventeenth generation of the pedigree as given by West, we find Roger Kirkby of Kirkby aged 12 at St. Georges’ Visitation (1613). His eldest son Richard, afterwards Colonel Kirkby, was the relentless persecutor of Margaret Fell and George Fox. A younger son was William Kirkby of Ashlack, who was surveyor general of all her Majesty’s Customs in all the Northern ports of

* This Crosshouse is the old building now called Kirkby Hall, and it therefore appears that the original home of the family was elsewhere in the manor. From this date, however, Crosshouse became Kirkby Hall and the manor house.
† There is, however, a genealogical difficulty here which is discussed in the Appendix (which see).
England. This William, who was aged 29 at Dugdale’s Visitation (1664-5) married for a first wife Anne daughter of Anthony Locke of the Isle of Wight, and of this couple we have record in an inscription and some architectural features at Ashlack Hall. Beyond this, it is unnecessary to go into the pedigree. The family suffered by its loyalty in the time of Charles I., and the estates became so encumbered that they were never able to be cleared. The manor was mortgaged to a banker in 1719, who being the agent of the Duchess of Buckingham, and becoming bankrupt, the manor passed to that lady in part payment. She left it to Constantine Phipps, Lord Mulgrave, who sold it in 1771 to the Cavendishes, in which family it now is.

An estate, however, remained for several generations in the hands of the descendants of William of Ashlack. It was, however, sold off bit by bit, and as far as I can now learn by enquiries, the ancient stock of Kirkby of Kirkby has at last entirely disappeared from among the landowners of Furness.

KIRKBY HALL OR CROSS HOUSE.

Kirkby Hall is situated on the summit of a gentle eminence at the base of that long range of ling capped fells which form such a conspicuous feature in the landscape on the left hand of the traveller who journeys by train from Foxfield to Barrow. At Broughton-in-Furness about a mile above the former station the river Duddon having coursed through Seathwaite and Dunnerdale enters the broad estuary which forms one of the chief gaps in the outlying fells of the Lake District. The Duddon is crossed by a viaduct just before arriving at Foxfield, and on leaving that station the train makes a straight run of two miles till it reaches a smaller stream called Steers Pool or Kirkby Pool, which drains a small valley nearly parallel with the Duddon, which it eventually joins off Millom. It is near the spot where the railway crosses this
this stream that the old house we are about to describe is situated.

The site of Kirkby Hall is not, perhaps, the typical one for an old manor house. It is neither low, retired, nor particularly romantic in any way. But as the visitor makes his way up the short avenue, shaded with old oaks and other trees, he cannot fail to be at once struck with the massive formality of the old place with its arched door, its low mullioned windows, and its great cylindrical chimney stacks. The whole place looks what it was,—the residence of a family of powerful North Country squires.

Let us examine it in detail. The front we are looking at presents a range about 80 feet in length, broken on the ground floor by four windows, one of which is a bay, and a flat arched door which is the front entrance. The east end of this frontage is set back at an angle from the rest, the reason for which I hope presently to make plain. In the second story there are four other windows of the same character as those on the ground floor. On the spectators' left there is an outlying, squarish building, unconnected with the main block and facing to a different aspect. The main entrance is through a depressed four-centred arch of red sandstone, the quoins of which are splayed externally and bear mouldings. There is no square head or drip moulding above the arch. This door gives entrance to a straight through passage leading to a great newel staircase, and on the left of which partitioned off is the hall measuring up to the partition about 25 feet by 24 feet. The partition appears to be modern, but not improbably replaces an older screen shutting off the passage and kitchen wing from the hall.

It will be noticed that the passage is narrower at the staircase end than at the entrance. This is due to the fact that the west wing is not at right angles with the remainder of the block.

The great hall is a fine apartment lighted by two windows
windows to the front, that at the dais end being a bay thrown out 5½ feet. This bay is not, as is the case often, carried up to the floor above. Another window now blocked has been in the north-east corner. The windows to the front of the house are of the same character all over the house. They are plain square-headed, with drip mouldings and scooped mullions. The lesser window in

the hall has three lights and the bay six. Opposite to these windows is the great hall fireplace about 9 feet wide, crossed by a segmental arch rounded off at the junction with the impost, and with a cavetto at the angle. The details of this hall, with its bay at the dais end, no doubt give us the date of this part of the house, namely, about the beginning of the 16th century.

From the hall a door opens into the chief parlour or withdrawing room, which is now cut across by a partition, but originally was 24 feet long and 12½ feet wide. Its front
front window, of the same character as those of the hall, was of four lights. Another in the west wall has now no dressings and is more widely splayed. From the north-west corner of the hall a diagonal passage, with a door with a hollow chamfer, leads to a small room 9\(\frac{3}{4}\) by 13\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet. It has been lighted by at least two windows, one only of which (in the north-west corner) retains its dressings. It is a single narrow aperture and is now blocked. This room is now the dairy, and was formerly in all probability the lord's private room. The walls throughout these parts of the building are from 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches in width.

The east wing is carried back to a length of about 69 feet, and contains on the ground floor three rooms and an L shaped passage connecting them with the entrance lobby.

The biggest of these rooms, which since the erection of the hall and west wing has been the kitchen, is a fine apartment 22 feet by 16\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet. Its great chimney, 11 feet wide at the north end, is now blocked with modern ranges and cannot be measured as to depth, but it seems to have been at least four feet deep. It has no mouldings. In the west face of this recess a small door opens into a curious closet, or hiding place 5 feet long by 3 feet wide, in the thickness of the wall beside the chimney. A small window, now blocked, has served to light this curious place.* There is also a blocked window in the west wall, and there was formerly a door near the fireplace leading into the added building, which abuts against this corner. Neither the existing door nor window of this kitchen have any dressings, but outside there can be seen in the north-west corner of this wing some red sandstone quoins with a plain round moulding at the angle.

* The room above has also a straight closet about 9 feet long in the thickness of the wall immediately above this.

Besides
KIRKBY HALL.
Besides the small room (now called the coal cellar *) shown in this wing on the plan, there is an irregular shaped room at the front of the house measuring 13½ by 18½ feet, and lighted by a three-light window of the same character as those before mentioned. This was probably the buttery of the reformed house of the time of Henry VIII., that is to say, of the house as we now see it. The walls throughout this wing are four feet thick.

Having now the ground plan of the house before us, we are in a position to understand better its history. We have noticed that the east wing is not set straight with the main block. It seems probable that this wing is the original hall house almost complete probably of 15th century date, with which period its plan well accords. In this form it may have been erected by Rowland or by his brother Sir Roger for him, and my opinion is that the hall and west wing were added two generations later by Henry Kirkby of Crosshouse, who eventually succeeded to the lordship of Kirkby by his marriage with his cousin. They were probably built at an irregular angle with the old part in order to front the high road, and to secure a better aspect. The complete plan of the old Crosshouse may have been like what is shown here. The great well staircase which still remains was probably contained in a projection or tower, and the only alterations which were found necessary when the new part was added were the slicing away of part of the west wall to get as good an entrance lobby as possible, and the paring away of two sides of the staircase turret so that they did not project into the hall. The well stair, an

* This has two windows, one high up in the wall and oblique as if to cover the door.

unusual
unusual feature in houses of the date of the newer part, was thus left to do duty for the whole house. The hall of the old house then became the kitchen of the new one, and the old kitchen (of the fireplace of which the recess can be traced) became the "buttery," while the little intermediate room, which was probably the old buttery, perhaps dropped out of any very special function. The building attached to the north end of this older building was of two stories, and was at one time accessible both from the kitchen and room over. It appears, however, to be a later addition. The upper room has a fireplace. Large barns and offices are again attached to this.

The only other feature of the ground plan which requires notice is the outlying building at the southwest. It is now cut up for farm purposes, and is too modernised to make much of. It has, however, a dripstone of a wide window remaining on its east front of the same character as the others. Its walls are only 2 feet 6 inches in thickness. It is not easy to conjecture its special use now, unless it was for holding the manor courts in.

The well stair, 8 feet in diameter, consists of broad steps of solid oak winding round a very plain wooden newel. It is lighted from the outside and there is, at the completion of its first half turn, a squint or narrow window opening into the old hall (or present kitchen) by which the lord could unseen observe what was going on. The first floor is at different levels because the new hall is loftier than the rooms in the adjoining wings. Near the staircase head, and over the coal cellar, is a small apartment called the skull room, and some niches are pointed out in the wall in which some human skulls, of which the legend is now forgotten, are said to have formerly stood.

From this passage is entered a bedroom above the room I have suggested was the old kitchen. It contains a depressed four-centre arched fireplace, over which is an ornate plaster panel, once containing among floral ornamentation
mentation of vines and grape clusters, the atchievement of the Kirkbys. The mantling crest and cap of maintenance remain, but the shield (hung cornerwise) and the helmet placed full faced or affronté have disappeared, and possibly were made of carved wood. It should be noted that the helmet put thus signifies that the atchievement was that of a knight or baronet. Now the last of the family who held such a title was Sir Roger (knight) who received seizin of Kirkby in 1431, and who I have already suggested may have built this the older part of Crosshouse. I cannot, however, think that the work of this panel is as early as the time of Sir Roger, and I am inclined to think that when Henry Kirkby added to the house he put up this atchievement as a posthumous memorial of his grandfather, and to show who built the older part. Mr. Holme Nicholson, however, suggests that it might be an error of ignorance, copied from some older work about the place. If the shield itself had been extant and had borne quarterings it might have settled the difficulty.

The space above the hall and entrance lobby is now occupied by two rooms and a passage from the stairs. These are divided by partitions now papered and plastered, but probably ancient, as fireplaces exist in both of the rooms. It is said also that some oak paneling formerly covered the partition between the rooms." The fireplaces in these rooms are of the three-centred form, which is practically a segmental arch, rounded off at the junction with the impost, and all have the usual hollow at the angle. In the corner of this room, above the passage from the hall to the present dairy, was formerly the doorway to the upper floor of the west wing, which contains the chapel. This door is now blocked, and the only means of access to

* Some of the oak carvings taken from Kirkby to Holker perished, it has been suggested, in the fire of 1871. See Tweddell, Furness Past and Present, l. p. 153.
this room and that adjoining, is through a trap door in
the ceiling of the passage mentioned, or out of the attic
above the adjoining bedrooms. The chapel floor is now
disused.

The chapel, which is above the withdrawing room, is a
fine apartment 26 feet by 14 feet. The floor is now
removed, and, in examining it, it is necessary to walk
on the joists. It is in two bays, the truss or framing of
beams dividing them, consisting of tie beam and king
post. Similar trusses fixed against either end of the chapel
serve to support the roof. At the south end there is a
three-light freestone window of the usual character, and
another small window in the west wall lighted the opposite
end of the chapel. In the same wall, but near the south
end, is a fireplace like those in the rooms over the hall.
There are two doors which have been framed with oak,
one of which led to the rooms over the hall, as before
mentioned, and the other in the north wall leading to a
room over what is now the dairy. There is also a curious
mural chamber in the west end of this north wall, which
now contains a seat, and the use of which is obscure. It
may have been appropriated in some way to the accessories
of private worship, or, as the wall here has plenty of room,
it may be the head of a small blocked newel or private
stair from the withdrawing room below.

But the most remarkable feature of this room, if not of
the whole place, is the peculiar mural decoration, con-
sisting of panels with birds and animals, and texts and
inscriptions, all of which were painted on plaster, and
which will not be described here, as they form the subject
of a separate paper.

The room behind the chapel is dark and floorless.
There does not seem to be any noticeable feature in it.

This chapel has, as the roof shows, originally finished
in a gable fronting down the avenue. Within quite
modern times, however, it has (probably owing to damp)
been
CARVED STONE AT KIRKBY HALL.
CARVED STONE AT KIRKBY HALL.
been re-roofed, so that its western slope is continued straight up till it joins the roof above the hall, thus giving the front of the house an unsightly lop-sided appearance, and much marring the true proportions of the building.

The traditional and doubtless true site of the cross from which the house took the name by which it was formerly generally known, is about forty-six yards straight in front of the main entrance. It is said to have been partly demolished by the order of Archbishop Edwin Sandys. In the yard outside the east wing is to be seen, placed over a water trough, a lion’s head rudely carved in freestone. This has probably been at one time a gargoyle or water spout in some part of the older house. Another curiosity consists in a small square carved stone, standing now on the wall in front of the house. It bears on two of its sides coats of arms. 1st, 2 bars, and on a canton a cross moline, (Kirkby.) 2nd, 6 annulets 3, 2 and 1 (Lowther.) The two shields are joined together at the angle by clasped hands. The third side is inscribed

\[
\begin{align*}
K \\
R \cdot A \\
1639.
\end{align*}
\]

and on the fourth we find

\[
\begin{align*}
I \cdot K & \quad R \cdot K & \quad E \cdot K \\
\dagger \circ \cdot K & \quad A \cdot K & \quad A L \cdot K \\
R \circ \cdot K F \cdot K & \quad W \cdot K \\
M \cdot K & \quad D \cdot K
\end{align*}
\]

These sides show the match between Roger Kirkby and Agnes, daughter of Sir John Lowther, and the initials of five of their sons and six of their daughters.

Roger
The first initial in the second line is somewhat faint, but appears to be \( \mathbf{O} \). In Baines's History of Lancashire, it is given \( \mathbf{O} \). As the four sons, John, Richard, Roger, and William are all represented in the inscription, and of the daughters the initials of Jane and Mary are alone omitted, this letter probably stands for Christopher, the fifth son. This stone, which is said to have been found in the farmyard, probably formed at one time part of a sundial.

Since writing the above, an account of Kirkby Hall of some length has appeared in "Furness and Cartmel Notes," by Henry Barber, M.D., just published. The author therein states that the house "originally stood within a quadrangular court, three sides of which consisted of brew-house, barns, stables, slaughter-house, outbuildings, and other offices, the entrance being by a gateway in the south side." What Dr. Barber's authority is for this statement I do not know, for I have never heard any tradition to that effect, nor when planning the hall did I notice anything to lead me to suspect that such had ever been the case. The offices at Kirkby are all in rear of the house.

In the same account Dr. Barber tells us that the floor of the present chapel is not at its original level "because the place is reduced to meanness in size, and the heraldic devices on the side walls representing the arms of the Kirkbys in the various quarterings are nearly divided horizontally by the joists and plaster." With reference to this, I would only ask the reader to examine the photographs of the paintings, which accompany my descriptive paper on that subject, and he will scarcely find any difficulty in deciding if the designs are armorial and if they are cut in two by the floor.

* IV, 604. In the same work it is stated that "carvings in cement with arms of Kirkby ornament one of the chambers, many of which are wainscoated."

In
THE HOMES OF THE KIRKBYS.

In another part of the same account we are told that in the upper apartments are the remains of oak carvings. For these, visitors to Kirkby Hall may search in vain, for they do not exist.

Dr. Barber is further of opinion that the house was "built for defence rather than comfort," and that the bay window to the hall "probably may have been added during the time of the Stuarts." It need scarcely be pointed out that the house has nothing defensive about it, and that the bay window was a characteristic feature in the halls of houses of the time of Henry VIII.

Most of the above statements are also to be found in Tweddell's "Furness, Past and Present," published in 1870, but who is originally responsible for them I am unaware. It is to be regretted that most of these misstatements have just been perpetuated in the North Lonsdale Magazine, Vol. I, No. 3, edited by the Rev. L. R. Ayre, and published at Ulverston.

ASHLACK HALL.

Ashlack Hall is situated something over a mile north-east of the Crosshouse, on higher ground, and nestles snugly in a hollow in a base of the fells, which, rising almost immediately behind the house, extend up to and bound the western margin of Coniston Lake. It has been suggested that the name bears evidence of the existence of one of the numerous old iron smelting forges or "bloomeries," which are known to have existed from early times in Furness. I am, however, informed that there are no heaps of iron scoriæ in the immediate vicinity of the hall, and it appears more probable that the true derivation is the "slack" or hollow among the ash trees. The present tenant (Mr. Irving) informs me that there were within a comparatively short time ago many very fine specimens of this tree here.

The house is of a totally different character to Kirkby Crosshouse. So late as the beginning of the 16th century the old plan of a great hall occupying the centre of the house, jostling the parlours and sitting rooms into comparatively small room, still was much adhered to. But
But a hundred years later a great change had taken place. Houses of this period are more varied in plan, and the size of the sitting rooms is more evenly balanced, while in the larger houses a multiplicity of secondary apartments and parlours is found. Ashlack in its original condition is a fair sample of a smaller house of this period, but alterations at a later date make the original arrangement somewhat difficult to follow in its details.

The house as it now stands is cruciform, but the east limb consists of stables and byres, and the top or north limb, which is short and broad, is the result of alterations to the building, which apparently were carried out about the time of Charles II.

The original building is therefore L shaped; the length of the south limb measured to the interior angle being 50½ feet, and that of the west limb 44 feet. All the windows on these two faces, as well as those on the south front of the longer limb, are original, and consist of openings with square heads, plain chamfered mullions, and dripstones coved on the under side. On the inner sides of the L all the windows on the ground floor are of three lights, as are also all those on the upper floor except one above the door in the middle of the south limb, which is of two lights. The south gable has two windows, each of three lights, but the upper one has now no drip moulding.

The original entrance appears to be the one alluded to as in the middle of the south limb. It is a square-headed opening with a drip moulding ending in a square termination, coved like the dripstones. Above is a plaster panel bearing the initials

\[ 16 \quad K \quad 67, \]
\[ W \cdot A \]

a date considerably later than the architecture of this part
part of the house, and put up no doubt by William Kirkby of Ashlack when the additions were made to the back of the house.

To understand the original plan of the house one must first understand the alterations which were made probably in the time of Charles II. These consist of the large kitchen (A) which, with the adjacent staircase, form the short north limb of the cross, and the south end of which with its huge wall containing the chimney occupy the centre. The remainder is probably much as it was before, except that the two inner rooms are abridged to a now unknown extent, and one of them (B) is cut up by thin walls. This was probably the hall, entered directly from the garden by the front door and lighted by only one window, and with the stairs leading straight up between two walls on the opposite side. The kitchen was probably the adjacent room marked C in the west wing, and the room terminating this block, and measuring 17 by 21 feet, is called the "stone parlour," and is now the dairy (D). The wall betwixt these two rooms is eight feet thick.

There
There are two other original rooms in the south block. One, terminating it, is a fine room about 18 feet square, separated from the hall by a 6-foot wall. This was probably the withdrawing room. The other was only 13 feet square, and was probably a small parlour. Beneath this room and the stairs are cellars, lit by original two-light mullioned windows.

It appears that William Kirkby considered that a larger kitchen was required, and to gain this object the Hall was sacrificed. A new front, 45 feet long and projecting about 11 feet from the west block, was thrown out to the north, and thus a new kitchen, 20½ feet by 18½ feet, was formed, and a small chamber containing a new staircase leading out of the old kitchen to the west of it. In doing this an enormous amount of space was lost by the immense 13-foot thick wall which was erected in the centre of the house to carry the great chimney and ovens. There is within this new portion nothing which merits notice except the entrance door pegged with oak studs, the great kitchen chimney, and the staircase, which is characteristic of the period, with its strong balusters of turned oak, and which winds right up to the attics above the second floor.

Externally the projection is finished with a double gable, lit by tall windows with weak wooden mullions and transoms. There are the remains of blocked windows on this side of the west wing which are of this character, but in shape like those on the garden front, shewing that an attempt was made to make this side uniform in character. The additions can be traced by a casual glance at the roof, as they are loftier than the original part. The chimneys are of the usual cylindrical form of the district, adding not a little to the picturesque appearance of the house. In this house they are nearly all double, two joined together. There is one such over the centre of each block, and another over the thick central wall. A single one is over the gable of the small parlour which faces to the east.
The front door, like that leading to the kitchen, is old, of oak, but studded with iron nails. The walls of the original portion are mostly 2 feet 9 inches in thickness, those of the added part less: but a great amount of room is wasted by the thick walls dividing the rooms in the old as well as the new parts. The house is much modernised inside, and no old fireplaces remain. There is some paneling of the last century left in the large room over the kitchen, which is now divided by partitions.

Ashlack is within the manor of Broughton and was the last possession, at anyrate as a residence, of the Kirks. It was bought from them about sixty or seventy years ago, and has passed through the hands of various owners since. Though of less interest than Kirkby Crosshouse, it is externally a very fair example of the residence of a family of smaller gentry of the period.

About a mile south of Kirkby Crosshouse there is an old house called now Low Hall, to distinguish it from Kirkby Hall or Crosshouse, (which is often called High Hall), but which was formerly known by the name of Low Barn. This old house was a farm-house till a few years ago, when a new farm was built close to it, and the old place is now used for lumber and for storing farm implements, etc., in. It is a plain old place, with numerous square-headed windows of two and three lights, somewhat similar in character to those at Ashlack, but the place is too cut up by internal partitions and alterations to see the original plan easily. A stone is fixed in the wall near the front door inscribed

K
R · A
1639

the same initials which are found on the stone at Crosshouse. Another over the adjacent barn door has the same initials and the date 1637, and below, the Kirkby arms, boldly
boldly cut. These dates, no doubt, mark the erection of Low Hall by Roger Kirkby, by whom it must have been built for a junior branch of the family, or else for a farm-house. It is much inferior in size to the Crosshouse or Ashlack.

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APPENDIX.

The difficulty alluded to on page 270 is as follows:—Richard Kirkby of Kirkby (died 1546) whose daughter Anne married Henry Kirkby of Crosshouse, had also a son, John Kirkby, who died 5 Ed. VI. (1551) aged 8, and was therefore born in 1543. But Henry Kirkby of Crosshouse, who married his sister, settled his estates of Kirkby manor and Crosshouse to the use of himself, his wife, and brother as early as 1519, and that lady must therefore have been married at least 24 years before her brother's birth. As Richard Kirkby, the father of John and Anne, was married about 1509 (West), it follows that Anne must have been married about 9 years of age, and as her husband Henry was born about 1501, he was then about 18 years of age. Mr. J. Holme Nicholson has suggested to me that John Kirkby was the issue of a second marriage, which is possible, but the difficulty is, that as Richard Kirkby the father was alive till about 1546, how was Henry in possession of the property in 1519? The best explanation seems to be that Richard's wife Dorothy (Fleming) died soon after the birth of Anne, and that Henry Kirkby married her as a child to consolidate the estates. On the birth of John in 1543, by the presumed second marriage, the entailed estate would have to be surrendered, but the early death of that child left matters as they were. It is not impossible, however, that there are some errors in West's dates. The sketch pedigree will explain the difficulty.
