

ART. X.—*The Old Statesman Families of Irton, Cumberland.* By the Rev. C. MOOR, D.D., formerly Vicar of Gainsborough and Canon of Lincoln.

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THE object of the following pages is twofold. They are an inquiry into the actual conditions of the life of the Cumberland yeomen or estatesmen during the period of their prosperity, and they are an attempt to trace the several statesman families of one particular parish for about two centuries—viz., from 1575, when the records may be said to commence, down to 1775, when changes were beginning which in the end brought about the decay and almost the extinction of the yeomen as such.

The parish of Irton, consisting almost entirely of scattered farms, and lying neither upon the sea coast nor among the mountains, though very near to both, offers a good opportunity for such an inquiry, and may be taken as fairly representative of many other parishes, whose conditions might easily be examined in the same way. There was one ancient manor, the manor of Irton, and apparently almost all the yeoman estates in the parish were held by customary tenure of its lord, though some few may have been dependent upon manors lying just beyond the parish. I have found no mention of freehold estates at Irton, other than the manor itself, and on the other hand, I do not think there was in the parish much monasterial property, so that I do not enter upon the question of how the yeoman estates arose.

My inquiry is therefore practically confined to an examination of wills and inventories, parish registers, and the lay subsidy rolls. More might be learned from other

sources, and the estate books of the manor of Irton, which I think date from 1684, would probably elucidate the later descent of some of the statesman families, but it seems likely that for about a century from 1575 there are few sources of information available for the purpose in hand other than the wills and inventories. The parish registers and bishops' transcripts only date from 1676.\*

Concerning the social origin of the statesman families the records have little to tell us. In some few instances perhaps they may have been younger branches of knightly and gentle families, but out of forty-five at Irton during the period named, only one can be definitely connected with an armigerous family whose pedigree was recorded at the visitations. Gentle names appear from time to time in the registers, but with that one exception they do not seem to have held yeoman estates.

The decay of the statesmen did not, of course, lead to the extinction of their families, but rather the reverse. Younger sons migrated to the growing towns, and lent their sturdy independence and enterprise to increase the prosperity of Liverpool and Manchester. They passed beyond the seas, and helped to build up the younger nations which have become the pride of the empire. And the value of our inquiry is increased by the knowledge that the increasing interest which men take in genealogy leads many in very distant places to wish that the descent of the yeoman as well as of the gentle families of every county might be traced, so far as it is possible to trace it.

As regards their actual social condition, there does not appear to have been much difference between the more successful of the statesmen and the country gentry. All but the richer gentry farmed their own land, just as the yeomen did, and in many cases their education was alike. Macaulay's description of the former might without much

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\* The registers from 1697, the transcripts from 1689, together with that for 1676. There are great discrepancies between them.

alteration have been applied to the latter. The country gentleman "spoke with the broadest accent of his province. . . . The litter of the farmyard gathered under the windows of his bedchamber, and the cabbages and gooseberry bushes grew close to his hall door. . . . His wife and daughters stitched and spun, brewed gooseberry wine, cured marigolds, and made the crust for the venison pasty." The one point of real difference between the two classes was the possession of armorial bearings, for the gentleman's "family pride was great, and he knew the genealogies and coats of arms of all his neighbours" (Macaulay's *History of England*, chap. iii.). At Irton the inventories shew that the widow and younger sons of the squire had just the same possessions as the statesmen—cattle, sheep, domestic goods, and the like—and that the sum of their personalty was not larger than the average. There was also, I think, intermarriage between the two classes of landholders.

The original wills of Irton folk from 1575 to 1748 are in Somerset House,\* and in most cases have inventories attached. I have examined and made abstracts of the whole of these, about 200 in number. Their wills from 1748 to 1858 are in the Lancaster Probate Registry, where I have noted the Irton names in the Act books down to 1790. Later ones are of course in Somerset House, registered with those of the rest of England. These I have not examined.

The earlier Subsidy Rolls for Cumberland are so imperfect that they afford little detailed information. A fragmentary roll of 6 Edward III. mentions Bolton, Calder, Gosforth, and Santon, but not Irton itself. In 1605-6 John Irton, gent., Richard Troughton, and Christopher Lewthwaite paid a subsidy at Irton. In 1625, 1626, and 1628-9 John Irton, Christopher Moore, and Christopher Lewthwaite did so. In 1661 John Irton, Esq., Henry

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\* Richmond Archdeaconry, Copeland Deanery.

(? Moore), and John Kitchin paid it. There are two lists of persons assessed for the Hearth Tax in 1673 and 1674, and it may be taken that these comprise all but the poorest householders of Irton. They give, in fact, the names of all parishioners of the yeoman class who were householders, and of some few above and below that class. These two lists, which contain twelve names common to both, include altogether 55 separate householders, representing perhaps a population of some 275 souls. Amalgamating the two lists, and arranging the names alphabetically, we find that the householders of Irton assessed to the Hearth Tax in 1673-4 were the following:—William Bibbie, James Braithwaite, Christopher Caddy, Henry Caddy, William Caddy, William Caddy deceased, Widow Coupland, John Dixon, Nicholas Dixon, John Eilbeck, Nicholas Eilbeck, Robert Eilbeck, John Fisher, William Gaitskell, Edward Haill, William Hellon, Christopher Hunter, Nicholas Hunter, Widow Hunter, John Ilebeck, John Irton Esq., Richard Irton gent., John Jackson, Richard Jackson, John Kitchin, John Kitching, William Loucas, John Mawson, John Mawson, Widow Mawson, Jane Moore deceased, John Moore, John Moore, Widow Moore, Widow Moore, William Moore, William Moore, William Myre, John Nicholson, John Nicholson, Lancelott Porter gent., William Rosby, Stephen Sandwith, John Smith, Edward Steele, Richard Thompson, John Tubman, Widow Tubman, William Tyson, Edward Walker, Nicholas Walker, Richard Walker, John Winder, and Robinson Winder. Of these John Irton, Esq., had six hearths, Lancelot Porter three hearths, John Winder two hearths, and the rest one hearth each.

The earliest inventory attached to the Irton wills was that of Roger Smyth, made on September 6th, 1583, "by four sworn men, viz. John Eilbeke, Xpofer Moore, Nycholas bebe, and Richard Kychyng," as follows:—"2 calves 6s. 8d., 16 hole sheepe 53s. 8d., 4 hoges 6s. 8d., a lytell hog swyn 16d., corne and hay 26s. 8d., beding and

household stufe 10s., debts to me by Richard Mawson senr. £7 16s. 8d. Sum £13 1s. 4d. Debts owing by me . . . . sum 10s. 11½d."

The number of animals is not always mentioned, but during the seventeenth century it would seem that an Irton yeoman might be expected to have two to six or more kine, one or two oxen, a couple of heifers, and the same number of calves, a horse and a mare or two, perhaps a dozen to twenty sheep, and a sow. The value of his live stock during this period might be expected to be anything from £5 to £50, the average value of those mentioned in forty-five inventories being £20 10s. 7d. The largest flock of sheep mentioned in these inventories numbered 193, the next largest 110, and the largest herd of kine 18. There is occasional mention of hens, pullen, bees, geese, &c., but these were valued very low. Sheep seem to have been worth about 4s. each, sometimes less. Richard Walker, 1665, had 75 sheep worth £15; Bridget Caddy, 1671, had 37 sheep worth £6; Elizabeth Nicholson, 1699, had 5 sheep worth 15s.; William Bibye, 1675, had 16 sheep worth £3 4s.; Nic. Lucas, 1647, had 5 sheep worth 20s. Taking forty-five inventories down to about 1700, and reckoning at about 3s. 6d. per sheep, it is found that the average number held by each testator was about 35. Many had under 10, a few had 70 or 80, and one had as many as 193. Some of those who had no sheep had many beasts or horses.

The beasts are sometimes reckoned with the horses, no doubt because the valuers viewed them together in the yard or outhouses. Sometimes they are particularised as kine, oxen, steers, stirks, stots, heifers, or calves, and taking them all round, young and old, the average value during the seventeenth century appears to have been about 22s. At this value the average number of beasts of all ages possessed by the seventeenth century yeoman of Irton was 11. A few had more than 20, a good many had half a dozen, and some who had many sheep had no beasts.

As of course was to be expected, the yeomen seem invariably to have possessed one or two horses or gallo-ways, or a horse and a mare, seldom more than two, and of the value of perhaps £2 apiece. Saddles are mentioned in most inventories, and sometimes "rideing furniture" is coupled with "apparrell" as part of their personal property.

The earlier inventories are more interesting, because more detailed than the later ones. As a late example we may take that of John Sandwith, 1741, made as usual by four sworn men, neighbouring yeomen (Abraham Stephenson, Henry Bragg, Christopher Moor, and Jonathan Walker). It reads thus:—"Purse, wearing apparel, and sadle £5, all household goods in the mansion house £5, household goods in the new loft £1 10s., more household goods, £1, goods in the little house £1 5s., corn and hay in the barn £3 10s., cattle and husbandry gear £9 10s., money at interest £24 8s. Total £51 3s." In this case we learn nothing about the number of sheep and beasts, of household utensils or clothing, though we do learn that the establishment consisted of the mansion house, new loft, little house, and barn, and that John had capital lying out at interest.

As an earlier example we may take the inventory of Nicholas Bibie, 1632, which reads thus:—"18 cattell £20 10s., 1 horse and 2 mares £4 13s. 4d., sheep upon the tenement £26, sheep at Hollinghead £6 4s. 8d., corne and hay £11, the heriott £2 6s. 8d, swine and pullen 12s., hemp and line 10s., yarne 5s., apparrell £1 6s. 8d., chists, bedstocks, and wooden vessels £1 13s. 3d., brasse and pewter £1 12s., wooden vessels 15s., implements of household stuff £1 12s., bedding £1 2s., webloomes, arckes, and plowgeare, and some other husbandry geare £2 7s. Total £85 15s. 10d." There were also debts to him by certain persons named, amounting to £30 1s. 4d., so that Nicholas was a man of considerable substance.

The debts thus included in the yeomen's property seem

to have been money lent out at interest to their neighbours. There were no banks at that time available for the deposit of their money, and still less were there any stocks or shares to purchase, but the yeomen accommodated each other by loans on note of hand, or, as it is sometimes expressed, "on specialities." In the following century we hear of regular mortgages laid upon particular properties. The ready money, or "money in his purse," mentioned in an inventory was not usually more than a few shillings.

It is interesting in the earlier inventories to read of "the heriot" or "the heriot kowe." The lord of the manor had by ancient custom a right to the best jewel, beast, or chattel of a deceased copyhold tenant, and this no doubt after the funeral was led off to the manor house, if it was not redeemed by a money payment.

The "apparrell" of an Irton yeoman was valued during the seventeenth century at sums varying from 6s. 8d. to £4 6s. 6d., the average of some thirty inventories being £1 10s. Sometimes the testator gave specific legacies of his clothing. Christopher Kitchen, 1651, left "to my son Kitchin a webb of green cloth and a green cloake, to my son in law John Dickson my best apparrell, to my godson Nicholas Mason my suit of apparrell next unto my best, viz. a green girkin, a paire of blacke briches, a paire of stockings, and a paire of new shoos, to John Kitchin beyond the Moore my dubblet y<sup>t</sup> was William Benson's, a paire of gray briches, a paire of olde hoose, and a paire of clogge shoos." Elizabeth Nicholson, 1699, left to her five daughters and daughters-in-law "all my linige apparrall to be divided equally among them." John Moore of Cragg, 1704, left "to my daughter in law all my apparrell except 4 capps, which I give—the satton capp to my son Christopher Moore, another capp to John Hodgkin, another to Christopher Caddy, and the quilted capp to John Nicholson." One would have supposed that to his

daughter-in-law, who was a widow, the four "capps" \* might be more useful than some other of his garments. All accounts seem to testify that the yeomen were well dressed, in substantial and picturesque attire, woven and made up at home, and of excellent materials. The inventories of Mary Irton, 1646, and of Roger Irton, her son, 1673, are among those preserved. They were of the leading gentle family of the place, and their apparel was valued at £3 and £2 respectively. That of John Foxe, miller, 1646, was worth £4 6s. 6d. He must have been the local dandy.

Among the possessions of the yeomen was almost invariably to be found a certain quantity of pewter and brass. These are sometimes coupled with iron pots or wooden vessels, but in thirty inventories in which "pewther and brasse" are thus entered the highest value assigned to them was £4 14s., and the lowest 5s. 6d. The average value was £1 7s. 4d.

Chests and arks were another possession, mentioned in most inventories, and often bequeathed as specific legacies. Bedding and "pairs of bedstocks," or as they were afterwards called bedsteads, occur with great regularity, wooden vessels, chairs, forms, and stools, iron potts, "cubberts," tables, sheets, curtains, and occasionally "quishions," these also are found. Iron geare, wheele and cards, evidently for spinning yarn and wool, covercloths, hemp and yarn, wool, weblooms, pokes, sacks, "brandreth and girdle" for baking cakes, linen and line yarne, "two silver spoons," and many other things are found within the house. Thomas Moore, 1612, left "one old jingle and a pair of skattenwoke (?)," William Moore, 1620, left "one swocrd," John Moore of Cragg, 1704, left to a grandchild his "grete Bible and a part of the remainder of his bookes," to another grandchild his "sillver seale and a third part of his bookes," and to a

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\* But were they capes ?

third grandchild "the remainder of his bookes," but his whole library was valued at 2s. 6d. Richard Irton, gent., 1673, left books of the same value.

Out of doors we read almost invariably of "plugs, plugh geare, and all kinds of husbandrie geare," loose wood, hay and corne, and we find occasional mention of such things as studdles, hotts, barrowes, harrowes, panyers, ropes, pelf, ladders, sigthes, hambers, axeis, wimbles, ridles, seeves, basketts, seedes, arder, and man<sup>or</sup>.

The total value of an Irton yeoman's personalty varied greatly. Down to 1690 the highest figure was £153 6s. 6d., and the lowest £5. In forty-five inventories between 1575 and 1690 the average figure was £42 1s. The average remained about the same till 1748, if we except the goods of Henry Caddy of Gaskow, 1717, which were valued at £843 16s. 8d., besides a bad debt of £60.

There is no mention in any of these Irton wills of freehold estate. The testator often left the title to his land to his sons or others, but usually speaks of it in a way which implies copyhold or customary tenure. Thus Roger Smyth, 1583, says "My wyfe Jenat shall have the occupation of half my farminghold for life, according to my covenant at what time I did make sall of my farminghold unto Richard Mawson." In point of fact almost all the estates, which were seldom, I expect, more than 100 acres, although the acreage is never mentioned, were held under the manor of Irton, at a small annual head rent. In the eighteenth century or later many of the tenants purchased the freehold, but eventually, as I understand, some of the estates were repurchased for the manor.

It was a usual custom to appoint the youngest children as executors, with older relatives as supervisors. But gradually the supervisors ceased to be mentioned, and the number of witnesses, who at first were numerous, was brought down to two.

It need scarcely be said that the idiosyncracies of the various testators are reflected in their wills. They often,

quite literally, "cut off their sons with a shilling," feeling no doubt that the daughters were more in need of pecuniary assistance. An old bachelor left something to large numbers of nephews and other relations, and for genealogical purposes an old bachelor's, and especially an old maid's, will is particularly valuable. There is occasional but quite rare evidence of the existence of illegitimate children.

Some few of the wills, from the last quarter of the seventeenth century onwards, were sealed with an heraldic seal, but as the same seal was used by several different families, I conclude that it was originally the property of some armigerous person, and had come into the possession of others who had no right to the use of arms. One such seal had for arms a chevron between three hammers or picks, and for crest an eagle displayed. These appear to have been the insignia of the Mosleys of Ancoats, Lancs.

The large number of persons mentioned as legatees, witnesses, supervisors, or debtors of small sums, especially in the earlier wills, almost enables us to construct a list of the inhabitants of Irton from 1575 to the close of the following century, and to some extent supplies the place of the missing registers.

Some 203 persons resident in Irton—viz., 158 men and 45 women—had their wills proved or their goods administered by order of the Deanery Court from 1575 to 1748. Of the men 47 were John and 28 William. Of the women 12 were Janet or Jane, and 5 Elizabeth. The others were:—Nicholas 14, Richard and Henry 13, Christopher 12, Thomas 7, Edward 5, George and Robert 3, Roger, Lancelot, and Michael 2, Giles, Anthony, Joseph, James, Peter, Arthur, and Jacob one each; Isabel and Alice 4, Margaret, Ellen, and Bridget 3, Mary and Ellenor 2, Annas, Grace, Agnes, Susanna, Emma, Sarah, and Hannah one each.

The children and immediate relatives mentioned in their wills shew nearly the same proportion of names—viz., John

40, William 35, Richard 22, Nicholas 18, Christopher 15, Thomas 12, Henry 9, Edward 5, George 4, Joseph and Isaac 3, Robert 2, Giles, Edmund, Roger, Francis, James, Samuel, Abraham, and Peter one each; Elizabeth 27, Jane 17, Isabel 15, Dorothy 12, Margaret, Mary, Annas or Agnes 11, Janet 10, Bridget 9, Anne and Alice 7, Susan 5, Barbara 4, Ellen, Ellinor, Emma, Grace, Frances, Sarah, Rachel, and Katharine one each.

The Irton baptism registers and transcripts, 1689 to 1776, shew greater variety, but of the boys John, 118, and William, 53, are still the most numerous. Then follow Isaac 38, Joseph 35, Henry 34, Thomas 23, Daniel 14, Christopher 12, Richard 11, Jonathan 10, Edward, Abraham, and George 9, Matthew or Mathias and Moses 7, Nathan and Robert 6, Lancelot, Samuel, Jacob, and James 5, those of lesser number being Charles, Stephen, Philip, Aaron, Nicholas, Abel, Gerard, David, Job, Mark, Ferdinando, Humphry, Francis, Salathiel, Paul, Benjamin, Clement, Edmund, Hugh, Jeremiah, Reuben, Peter, Zekiel, Lewis, and Simon, with a few surnames used as Christian names.

Of the girls during this period 65 were christened Elizabeth. Next comes Hannah 62, and then Jane 43, Sarah 41, Mary 33, Anne 31, Ruth 15, Frances 14, Barbara 13, Margaret 12, Bridget and Eleanor 11, Dorothy and Susannah 8, Dinah 6, and in lesser numbers Annas, Rebecca, Tamar, Phœbe, Ellen, Nancy, Martha, Katharine, Rachel, Alice, Esther, Lucy, Joyce, Molly, and Lydia.

In the later period old English names like Giles and Roger, and names of mediæval saints, such as Nicholas and Anthony, have largely yielded to that preference for biblical, and especially Old Testament, names which resulted from more complete knowledge of the Scriptures. But we do not find any of the extraordinary Puritanical prenomina that are met with in some parts of England. The Probate Registry at Lewes in Sussex contains the

wills, proved between 1630 and 1640, of Performethyvowes Seires, Godsblessing Bell, Bethankful Gower, Havemercy Cryer, and a hundred others nearly as curious. Their sound commonsense and sweet reasonableness saved the Irton yeomanry from these anomalies.

Certain families, of course, favoured particular names. The Porters regarded Lancelot as their family name, the Russells appropriated Michael, the Caddys, Eilbecks, Kitchins, Moores, and Sherwens usually had a Christopher, and often a Nicholas. But the close relationship that resulted from intermarriage caused the names to be handed from one family to another, although even to the present day the old traditional names are still kept up in certain families. The curious custom of giving to a child several Christian names was introduced at Irton by the squire, Samuel Irton, whose son Edmund Lamplugh Irton was baptised in 1762. But it was a long time before the yeomanry learned to baptise their children in three or four names, and afterwards to bestow nicknames upon them for use in common life. It will be convenient, in giving some account of the several yeoman families at Irton, down to 1776 or in some cases later, to take them in alphabetical order.

#### ASHBURNER.

The name Ashburner is doubtless a surname of occupation, derived from some forefather who, according to the custom of Elizabethan and earlier times, burned the ashes of plants and wood to supply crude potash for the manufacture of glass or soap. Richard Ashburner paid the subsidy at Waberthwaite in 1625 and 1629. Bridget Ashburner was living there in 1673, when also there were persons of the name at Corney, Ponsonby, and St. Bridget's. Thomas Ashburner owed money to an Irton yeoman in 1615, and John Ashburner in 1662 and 1688, but the first who is distinctly described as resident in Irton was William Ashburner of Hall Flatt, who died in 1696. In 1697 John Ashburner of the Parsonage, Irton, yeoman, died leaving a daughter married to John Walker, a younger son William, who had John and Eleanor, and an elder son Richard Ashburner, who succeeded his father at the Parsonage. He married in 1692 Annas Sherwen, and died in 1723, leaving John, Martin,

Henry, and Sarah wife of Henry Vickars. Of these, Henry Ashburner had Sarah, Elizabeth wife of Joseph Penrith, William, Anne wife of Aaron Mawson, Martin, Aaron, Richard and Henry. In 1761 William Ashburner married Martha Smith, and by 1776 had Abel, Lewis, Anne, Martha, Fanny, and Hannah. After this Aaron Ashburner had seven children baptised at Irton, and in 1793 Henry Ashburner married Betty Rothery, so that the family continued at Irton for a long time.

## BEEBY.

There were families of Beeby or Bibbie in several of the neighbouring villages as Drigg, Muncaster, Corney, and Gosforth, and the name is probably derived from some forgotten hamlet. In Irton a substantial yeoman family of that name may be traced in the wills from 1592 to 1737, but it is seldom noticed in the registers. William and Nicholas Byby, who may have been brothers, became supervisors of a will in 1597. William died in 1598, leaving William, Dorothy, John, Bridget, and Mary. Nicholas died in 1608, leaving a son Nicholas. In 1615 William, Nicholas, and Richard Bibbie are spoken of as married men with families, and John Bibbye as married. In 1620 we hear of John Bibye as curate, and in 1632 John Bibie of Irton, yeoman, died, leaving William, Emma, Nicholas, John, Henry, and apparently Thomas, Mary, and Anne. The same year died Nicholas Bibie of Irton, yeoman, leaving a brother and sister William and Agnes, sons William and John, Mary, and a daughter the wife of John Luccas. In 1647 we hear of William Bibbie of Hewrig in Irton, yeoman, and in 1650 Henry Bibby of Irton died. The next year, apparently, died Richard Bibbie of the Parsonage, Irton, for his inventory was made then, though his will was not proved until 1662. He was evidently a yeoman of substance, and left William, Nicholas, Elizabeth wife of John Nicholson, Margaret wife of George Hinkley, Dorothy, Isabel, and Janet, perhaps wife of John Ashburner. Four at least of his children had families. Richard's widow, Ellen Beeby, died in 1662, and in her will mentioned the same children and grandchildren. The Hearth Tax Rolls of 1673-4 mention William Bibbie of Irton, probably Richard's eldest son, and in 1675 we have the will of William Bibye of Moor Yeatt in Irton, no doubt the same yeoman. He left John, William, Richard, Joseph, Anne, Mary, James, and a son-in-law Richard Warring. His funeral expenses were £4, a large sum for those times. In 1679 John Beeby of Crookhurst is spoken of as the husband of Jane, daughter of William and Jane Caddy. He then had Thomas, Jane, and Elizabeth, of whom Thomas in 1717 is spoken of as having three children. In 1729 James Beeby was buried, and finally in 1737 we have mention of Richard Beeby.

No doubt the family disappeared from the parish about this time. Whilst they were in Irton their inventories shew them to have been among the richest of the yeomen.

#### BELL.

The family of Bell does not appear until the commencement of the registers. John Bell of Broom Close in Irton, yeoman, died in 1742, leaving six children, of whom Bridget was baptised 1694, Isaac 1696, Dinah 1698, and Abraham 1701, and Hannah was married 1733 to John Moore of Hall Carleton, Drigg. Bridget died 1775, Abraham, her younger brother, had Elizabeth and John, and Isaac, her elder brother, married in 1727 Elizabeth Eilbeck, who died 1773, and had Isaac, born 1730, Hannah 1734, married in 1762 to George Jackson of Gosforth, and Elizabeth 1740. Of these, Isaac married in 1764 Anne Hodgson, and had John, baptised 1765. John Bell of Broom Close, first mentioned, left his tenement and freehold with appurtenances at Bolton in Gosforth, called Cunning Holes, to his wife Barbara for life, with remainder to his eldest son Isaac, his heirs and assigns for ever. Barbara died in 1749. Isaac Bell of Mainsgate in Irton, yeoman, died in 1779, leaving effects valued at less than £5. It seems likely that more may be learned about the family in the records of the parish of Gosforth.

#### BENSON.

There is mention of Thomas Benson of Gosforth in a Subsidy Roll of 1612, and in 1673 we find the name there and at Waberthwaite. It does not occur frequently at Irton, and though a Robert Benson owed 20s. to Christopher Moore of Irton in 1588, he may have resided elsewhere. In 1646 William Benson of Irton, evidently a yeoman, died, leaving a wife Elizabeth, and two daughters, Barbara and Isabell, under age, to each of whom he left a silver spoon. He had the usual cattle, sheep, corn and hay, a mare, and household furniture, and also "grosserie warre within the shoppe," valued at £4 5s., the whole personalty being nearly the average, viz. £40 15s. 6d. But the Bensons do not seem to have been regularly established as an Irton family down to 1776. In 1730 Thomas Benson, clerk, son of William Benson, clerk, was buried at Irton "from Stangends," and in 1776 John Benson of Moorside in Irton, yeoman, was buried, Mary Brocklebank, his sister-in-law, being his executor. There were many Bensons at Little Langdale and Hawkshead.

#### BIRKETT.

The earliest Irton will preserved among those of Richmond Arch-

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deaconry is that of Janat Birkhed of Yrton, 1575. She desired to be buried "in church earthe at Yrton," but mentioned no relatives. After that we have little mention of the name before 1700. George Birkett of Irton died 1705, and his wife Emmy in 1726, and of their three daughters Barbara married Henry Jenkinson of Ennerdale, Mary married Philip Porter of Wasdale, and Jane married Henry Caddy. In 1709 John Birkett married Elizabeth Steele, and had Henry, Elizabeth, and Dinah. Half a century later Daniel Birkett's large family was baptised at Irton, viz. Thomas, William, Daniel, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Mary, Reuben, Allan, and Sarah. Joseph Birkett had four children baptised at Irton, 1767 to 1786, and in 1772 Thomas Birkett, yeoman, married Sarah Rogers, and had a daughter Hannah. After this John and Allan Birkett had children baptised. The connection between these several families is somewhat conjectural. They may perhaps have come from Borrowdale, where Birkheads and Birketts were numerous from Elizabethan times.

#### BORRADELL.

John Borradell occurs in 1583, and Nicholas in 1587. The latter, of Dragghouse in Irton, by his will of 1597, left "to Ellise, daughter of John Borradell, my brother late deceased, the gate or pasturage of all those beastes and sheepe which she hath now going at Dragghouse, *till they be kyne and oxen.*" Nicholas was a yeoman of some position. He had horses and mares, eight kyne, two oxen, one bill [? bull], one stott, two hephers, three styrkes, sheepe and hogges, corne and hay, and silver spoons, his personalty being valued at £64 13s. 4d. He had five children, John, Nicholas, Robert, William, and Elizabeth, wife of John Coate.

During the seventeenth century we find little mention of the Borradells at Irton. Robert Borradale paid a subsidy at Gosforth 1605-6, and 1628-9. Nicholas Borradale made inventories for the Walker family of Garterhow and others 1679 to 1690, had a child baptised at Irton 1676, and died in 1713. In the eighteenth century Robert Borradell of Hollings in Irton, yeoman, had a large family by his wife Anne, viz. John, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Singleton, Bridget, wife of Richard Dixon, Anne, Margaret, Barbara, wife of Daniel Jackson, Sarah, and perhaps Hannah. This Robert died in 1741, leaving personalty valued at £181 3s., of which £160 was lying out at interest. In that year the family would appear to have been afflicted with some contagious disease, for his daughters Sarah and Elizabeth and his only son were buried in May and June, he himself following them to the grave a few days later.

John Borrowdale, the son, had also a large family, viz. John, Hannah, wife of Christopher Thirkell, Abel, Sarah, wife of Isaac

Dickinson, a second John who died in infancy, Elizabeth, perhaps wife of James Stuart of Whitehaven, mariner, and William, The eldest of these, John Borrowdale of Hollings, to whom his grandfather had left a silver spoon, had seven children, viz. Hannah, Susan, John, Nancy, Jane, Mary, and Sarah, the last born in 1779.

Besides these, the registers mention Henry Borrowdale of Irton, yeoman, who had children, viz. Jane, John, Nicholas, Hannah, William, Annas, Henry, Bridget, and Elizabeth, between 1704 and 1725. Nicholas Borrowdale had John and Henry, 1740 and 1742. These Borrowdales were probably all descended from the John or Nicholas Borraddell of 1583.

#### BRAGG.

The family of Bragg appears at St. Bridget's, Gosforth, Drigg, and Ponsonby at an earlier period than we find its members settled at Irton, but towards the close of our period we find them marrying into yeoman families, and perhaps holding a yeoman's estate in the parish. In 1725 Henry Bragg married Jane Nicholson, and had Henry, Matthias, Elizabeth, John, Isaac, and Nathan. From 1737 William Bragg had Joseph, Ruth, William, and Elizabeth. From 1742 Nicholas Bragg had Anne, Jane, Hannah, and Fanny. From 1757 John Bragg of Slaipstones had a large family, and there were Brags in Irton nearly a century later, for in 1848 John Braithwaite married Esther, daughter of John Bragg of Greenlands, yeoman. But the main centre of the family seems to have been St. Bridget's.

#### BRAITHWAITE.

The name Braithwaite, derived from a village of that name near Derwentwater, is distinctively Cumbrian, and marks the northern origin of its holder's family, in whatever part of England they may be settled. There were, naturally enough, large numbers of Braithwaite families in the wide spreading parish of Crosthwaite, where they may be traced in the registers from about 1564. Some of these had wandered over the Sty Head or Black Sail Pass to Wastwater and the sea before the date of the Armada, for John Smyth of Yrton, 1575, made his brother-in-law John Braithwat supervisor of his will, and James Braythwaitt owed a small sum to Thomas Tyson of Irton in 1587. Another James Braithwaite of Irton was assessed for the hearth tax in 1673, and to him and his three youngest children, John Nicholson of Slapestones left a small legacy in 1693. Perhaps Damosel or Damisel Braythwait, buried in 1748, may have been one of those children. Her brother Edward Braythwait of Hallflatt in Santon, in Irton parish, married in 1704 Mary Gunson, and by her had Henry, John, and Edward. Mary died in 1710, after which her

husband married again, and had a fourth son, Thomas. Edward, the father, died 1730, leaving to his sister Damisel for life the house she was living in, and "potaity ground," and peats. To Henry, his eldest son, he left his "messuage and tenement called Halfflatt, he paying the money now owing on it as mortgage," and allowing his stepmother to occupy half the messuage for life. Henry married Margaret Kitchin in 1737, and had John, Anne, Hannah, wife of Thomas Jackson, Mary, Edward, and Henry, and himself died in 1751, being styled pauper in the register. John, his next brother, married Margaret Tyson in 1740. Henry Braithwaite the younger was, I think, parish clerk for some years from about 1756. He was a yeoman, of Hallflatt, Santon, and died in 1771. William and Reginald Braythwaite of Hawkshead married at Irton in 1766 and 1770. John Braithwaite had Henry, Mary, and John from 1771. Henry Braithwaite of Pool's Inn, blacksmith, had a son John in 1776, and also Betty, Hannah, Fanny, Henry, John, and Peggy. He died in 1794.

#### BROWNRIGG.

The Brownriggs must be included among Irton yeomen in virtue of the evidence afforded by Richard Brownrigg's will, but except for this there is but little mention of the name among Irton records. It is found at Waberthwaite and at Carleton in Drigg, but Richard was the only yeoman of the name whom we have found resident at Irton. He was supervisor of a will in 1575, and made his own in 1588, desiring to be buried in church earth at Irton. His will being an interesting early example and very short, we may quote freely. He says:—"I leave to my son-in-law Edward Tyson one great pott, one great pann, all my plowe geare, and all other implements of husbandry geare. I desire my good maister Mr. Ralph Latus of Millom to be good maister unto my son-in-law Edward Tyson, and my daughter his wife. I leave all my goods moveable and not moveable to Richard Tyson, Dorithye Tyson, and Ellyne Brownrige, being my childers' children, of which I make them the whole executors." It is possible that the land which he held under Mr. Latus was at Millom, but he is described as of Irton, and no doubt he was buried there. The name is eminently typical of a Cumbrian family.

#### CADDY.

The name Caddy occurs with great frequency at Irton throughout the period whose records we are examining. James Cadie owed a small sum to Jenet Sharpe in 1594; Elizabeth Caddie, the married daughter of John Wilson, was living in 1597. William Caddye of Garscoue in Irton died in 1614, leaving a son William, and other children. Christopher Caddy of Irton died in 1618, leaving a wife

Isabel and three children, Henry, William, and Ellen. To Henry, who was then of Wasdale, he left "the title and tenant right of a tenement called Kyrkebank, held at a rent of 10s. per annum." In 1667 Henry Caddy of Irton, yeoman, probably the same, died leaving a wife Bridget, a son Christopher, to whom he willed his tenement, and four daughters, Jane, wife of John Moore, Elizabeth, Bridget, and Susanna. His personalty was valued at £51 10s., and when his widow died in 1671 this had increased to £59 8s. 4d. In 1668 William Caddy of Irton, yeoman, died in the lifetime of his father of the same name. He left a wife Annas, and four children, Henry, William, Christopher, and Mary, the two youngest under age.

In 1673-4 Christopher, Henry, William, and William Caddy were assessed for the hearth tax at Irton, and there were others of the name at Drigg, Muncaster, Gosforth, Corney, Waberthwaite, Birkby, and elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

In 1679 William Caddy "of the town and parish of Irton" died, leaving a wife Jane, a daughter Jane, wife of John Beeby, a son Henry, and a son William, who had Christopher, Jane, and other children. His personalty was valued at £80 9s. 10d., and his widow's in 1685 at £53 16s. 4d.

Henry Caddy of Kirkland in Irton, yeoman, died in 1713, leaving personalty valued at £81 15s. 7d. He may perhaps have been a son of the William who died in 1668, and he left a daughter Isabell and four sons, two of them married, viz. William (who had Henry, John, Barbara, George, Sarah, William, Christopher, and Elizabeth) and Henry, who had William. His two younger sons, John Caddy of Whitehaven and Joseph Caddy, were apparently unmarried. They became his executors.

Henry Caddy of Gaskow in Irton, yeoman, died in 1717, apparently a bachelor. He was the elder son of the William who died in 1679, and so well had he used his opportunities that he left the largest fortune of any Irton yeoman of those times, for his personalty was valued at £843 16s. 8d., besides a bad debt of £60. His inventory is worth quoting at length, since it illustrates the condition in which a prosperous yeoman of those times lived:—"Apparrell and rideing furniture £6 10s., bedding, chests, and other things in the entry and house loft £3, in the low room £2 10s., goods in the fire house £6, in the great fire house £2 1s. 6d., in the great house and cellar £1 1s. 4d., in the new house loft £3 1s., husbandry gear and other things 7s. 6d., goods in the worke house and servants' loft £1 4s. 6d., for wool £1 19s., goods in the garner loft £1, sheep £8 0s. 6d., horses £3 13s. 4d., beasts £40 10s., hay and corn £10 5s., plaite and ringes £2 1s., ready money £59 6s. 4d., moneys owing to him £681 5s. 8d. Robert Grey is indebted to the deceased, but it is

looked upon as desperate, the said Gray having absconded for some years: £60."

This Henry Caddy left £5 to the poor of Irton, and numerous legacies to nephews and nieces. He shewed his intimate attachment to the family at the hall by leaving £5 to Mrs. Rebeckah Irton, a young lady of 18, and to Mrs. Frances Irton, her sister of 12, "my gold ringe with the posy in it 'Thy sight is my delight.'" The bulk of his property he left to his kinsman Henry Caddy, son of William Caddy, a boy of seven, made him his executor, and appointed George Irton, Esq., Mr. Joseph Herbert of Muncaster Hall, Mr. John Winder of Irton, and Henry Viccars of Wasdale, yeoman, to act as his feoffees, tutors, and guardians.

Christopher Caddy of Gaskow in Irton, yeoman, died in 1722, leaving Henry, Christopher, Joseph, Moses, Barbara, wife of John Kitchin, Jane, wife of Thomas Tyson, Bridget, wife of Thomas Benn, and Sarah, wife of John Brocklebank. To Henry the eldest he left "some husbandry geare hereafter mentioned, viz. one gaffock, one iron hamer and part of another, one hack, three teams, two yoks, two garth spads, one peat spad, one flaight spad, one iron harrow, one sled team, two wayne bridles, in full satisfaction of his fillial part of my estate, and my wife Jane Caddy shall have the use of them during her life, if she need them."

Henry Caddy of Kirkland, yeoman, died in 1729, leaving personalty valued at £160 12s. By his wife Jane, daughter of George Birkett, whom he married in 1711, and who died in 1753, he had Mary, Hannah, Barbara, Isabel, Ruth, and a son William, who died in infancy.

Another Henry Caddy, of Woodend in Irton, yeoman, married Isabel Wilson in 1709, and died in 1757, having had Christopher, Mary, Sarah, Henry, Hannah, Matthias, Isabel, Nathan, and Ruth. Of these, Nathan had Elizabeth, James, and Phœbe. He died a pauper in 1769. In 1776, when our period closes, another Henry Caddy was having a family in Irton. He died in 1789.

It is probable that all these families of Caddy came from the same stock, but there were so many Henrys, Christophers, and Williams that it seems almost impossible to sort them out, and arrange them in the form of a pedigree. In the time of their prosperity the Caddys were, no doubt, the leading yeoman family at Irton.

#### COUPLAND.

There is mention of George Cowpland in 1575, of Stephen in 1587, and of Richard several times between 1588 and 1618. In 1597 Nicholas Copeland, clerk, witnessed an Irton will, and in 1614 William Coupland, clerk, did so. In 1646 John Cowpland, senr.,

Thomas Cowpland, and Richard Coupland are mentioned in wills, and in 1673-4 Widow Coupland of Irton was assessed for the hearth tax. She, no doubt, was the Isabella Cowpland of Wardwarey in Irton, widow, who died in 1676, leaving 12d. to her eldest son John Coupland, and the residue to George, Janie, and Bridgett Coupland, her younger children. Her husband was presumably the John Coupland, sen., of 1646, but his will has not been preserved. Isabella left personalty valued at £61 8s. 3d., her household goods including "wolling, lining, bedding, and bedstocks, pewther and brasse, arkes and cheists, secks and pocks, cheirs, forms, stols, table, omery, and wooden vessalls of all sorts, girdle, brandrath, speet, with other iron geare," and of other things "sadls, breck, and ste."

Her eldest son, John Coupland of Wardwaray, yeoman, died in 1708, aged 66, leaving Joseph, John, William, and Jonathan, to each of whom he left £10, and a daughter Isabell, married in 1703 to John Kitching. His wife Alice had predeceased him in 1706, and his personalty amounted to £48 2s. 6d. The second son, John Coupland, married Catharine, and had a son John, born 1721. The eldest son, Joseph Coupland of Wardwaray, yeoman, married Catharine, and had Joseph, Isabella, William, Alice, and Anne, married in 1757 to Joseph Haile of Muncaster. Joseph died in 1760, his wife in 1768, and his son Joseph in 1781. John Coupland the younger died in 1789.

#### CUPPAGE.

There is mention of Nicholas Cuppage as supervisor of an Irton will in 1583. John Cuppage occurs in 1586-7, and Walter Cuppage in 1598. During the seventeenth century the name does not appear at Irton, but Mungo Cuppage was assessed to the hearth tax at Carleton in Drigg in 1673-4.

In 1705 Robert Cuppaidge married Sarah Moore. He died in 1733, his will being proved as that of Robert Cubbish of Santon in Irton, yeoman. To his elder son Abraham Cubish he left his clock, disser, table, cubert, two paire of bedstocks, 40 sheep, his husbandry gear, and his estate called Muntons. To his younger son Isaac, baptised 1720, he left 40 sheep, to his daughter Rachel, who afterwards married William Atkinson, he left £75, and to his son-in-law Philip Gaitskell, the husband of his daughter Sarah, he left £5. His whole personalty amounted to £128.

Isaac Cuppage, the younger son, died in 1771. Abraham Cuppage, the elder son, died in 1774. He had Hannah, Isabel, Anne, Elizabeth, Robert, Askew, Abraham, and an eldest son John, born in 1736. Anne Cuppage, widow of Abraham, died at Whitehaven in 1789, her will being executed by Daniel Brocklebank. Abraham,

her son, had, by Mary his wife, Hannah, Isaac, Sarah, Mary, Abraham, John, Elizabeth, and Anne. He is spoken of as of Loming in Irton.

## DIXON.

There are traces of a family called Dickinson in Irton, apparently of yeoman rank, for Janet, widow of Richard Diconsonn of Irton, died in 1618, leaving a son-in-law Richard Walker, a grandson, and great-grandchildren. Also between 1743 and 1775 the baptism of children of Edward, Jonathan, John, and Isaac Dickinson is recorded in the registers. It is quite possible that these may have been of the same stock as the Dixons, who left clearer traces upon public documents, the two surnames being, of course, both diminutives of Richard. The spelling is occasionally Dickolson.

Richard Dicson of Irton died in 1628, leaving seven children, viz. Nicholas, Robert, William, John, Richard, Annas, and Elizabeth, and a wife Jenat. To his eldest son Nicholas he left "one table, one great arcke or chist, and also yockes, teams, plughes, and husbandry geare, and all wombles and axis." During the seventeenth century the Dixons are frequently mentioned in Irton wills. In 1646 we hear of William Dickson of the Cragg, and of William Dixon of Langley Green in Ashdaile. In 1651 John Dickson of Gappe was the husband of Dorothy, daughter of Christopher Kitchin. Nicholas Dickson occurs 1662, and in 1673 was assessed for hearth tax at Drigg. In 1673-4 John Dixon of Santon Bridge in Irton was so assessed.

Nicholas Dixon of Keyhow in Irton, yeoman, died in 1679, leaving a son-in-law William Myre, a daughter Bridget, married to Henry Dixon, and a son Richard, to whom his father left one shilling "in full satisfaction of his filliall part and portion of my goods and chattels." Nicholas had also four grandchildren, Margaret, Edward, Jane, and Nicholas Dixon, presumably the children of Richard.

Nicholas Dixon, of Hallyflatt in Irton, died in 1693, leaving personalty valued at £117 19s. 10d. In his short will he mentioned his brothers John and William, and his sisters. His goods were administered by his father Nicholas Dixon, who may possibly have been son of the Richard Dicson who died in 1628, although in that case he must have been a very old man.

John Dixon, of Santon Bridgend in Irton, died in 1710, leaving personalty valued at £89 8s. 2d. To his eldest son John, born 1694, he left his Bible and one shilling. To his children Henry and Hannah he left one shilling each. To his two younger children, of whom Elizabeth was eleven and Rachel somewhat older, he left certain sums lent out on mortgage, viz. "to Rachell £40 lying in

way of mortgage due from Thomas Bowman of Stargreen, and to Elizabeth £33 with interest due on mortgage on land of Lowerance Brockbank of Annesed." The will was probably quite fair, since the elder children were able to provide for themselves. Their mother Elizabeth was executor.

William Dixon of Santon in Irton, shoowmaker, probably a brother of the last, and perhaps son of Nicholas Dixon of Hallyflatt, made a nuncupative will in 1708, which was proved in 1713. "He said these words following at Carlisle: 'I do give to my brother sone John Dixon my houseis, lands, money, goods, and all that ever is mine. Whatsoever is mine, I do give unto him all that is mine.'" Perhaps William met with an accident at Carlisle. At any rate he was not buried at Irton, and it seems likely that his will was executed several years after his death.

The goods of James Dixon of Irton, "lanarius," perhaps a wool carder, were administered in 1723 for the benefit of his children, and two years later Elizabeth Dixon, the widow of John (1710), died at Santon Bridge, leaving personalty valued at £73 12s. 6d. Her daughter Rachel was then the wife of one Turney, the other daughters had died in 1715, and the eldest son John was a yeoman at Windermere.

Henry Dixon, of Moor Yeat in Irton, died in 1727, leaving personalty valued at £219 2s. His goods were administered for the use of his widow Alice, née Winder, to whom was committed the care of his daughter Ellenor, a child of thirteen. His widow died a few months later.

There are traces of other Dixon families in the registers, but the name is a common one, and they do not all fit into the pedigree.

#### EILBECK.

The name Eilbeck seems to have been variously pronounced, but whether it were spoken as Ealbeck or as Ilebeck it seems likely that the derivation was from some local eel-beck on whose banks the original forefather had his dwelling. John Eialbeck witnessed an Irton will in 1583, and was probably the John Eilebeck whose wife Janne was daughter of Nicholas Moore of Irton, 1601.

Christopher Eilbecke of Irton died in 1619, leaving a wife Margaret, and three children, John, Nicholas, and Elizabeth. He had 6 oxen, of which one was "taken to heriot," 4 keyne, 6 young beastes, 2 meares, 20 sheepe hoges, and old sheepe, worth altogether £8. To his daughter he left 40 marks, three powder dublers, and one brasse pott. To another legatee he left "as much new freer [? frees] as will make him a paire of Briches." He mentions his brother-in-law Nicholas Beibie, his two cosens Richard and John Tubman, and his neighbour Richard Moor.

Nicholas Eilbeck is mentioned several times between 1646 and 1667. John Eilbecke, taylor, received a legacy from John Moore of Parkyeatt in 1666, and made his inventory, wherein his name was spelt Ilebecke. In 1667 John Eylbecke of Irton, yeoman, occurs in connection with the will of Henry Caddy, and again as John Eelebeck, in that of his widow Bridget Caddy. He was apparently son-in-law to William Gaitskall, and, as John Ielbecke of Irton, yeoman, administered the effects of Nicholas Moore in 1672.

In 1673-4 John Ilebecke, Robert and John Ealebecke, and Nicholas Eilbeck of Irton were assessed to the hearth tax.

John Eilbeck of Kirkland in Irton, yeoman, died in 1683, and was a very substantial yeoman. His personalty was valued at £111 9s. 8d., and included "chists, an ark, a cubbard, chairs, stooles, furms, and quosions, sacks, poaks, and winding cloath, books," and the usual livestock and other things. He mentions his brother Nicholas, his wife Ellen, and his children Christopher, Jeane, Meary, and Elizabeth.

John Eelebeck of Eelebeck Ground in Irton, yeoman, was mentioned in connection with the will of Eleanor Sherwen, sister of John Moore of Cragg, in 1692, and during the next thirty years there is mention of Robert, Christopher, and William Eilbeck or Eelebeck.

Christopher Eilbeck of Kirkland in Irton, yeoman, died in 1726, leaving £38, a much smaller personalty than his father. He mentions his wife Joyce, his sons John, born 1692, and William, born 1698, and his daughters Sarah, wife of Richard Dickinson, Hannah, wife of John Moore, and Elizabeth, who soon afterwards married Isaac Bell. His son Christopher had died in infancy. After this the family became poorer, for when Jane Eilbeck died in 1751 and Joyce Eilbeck, the widow, in 1752, they were entered in the burial register as paupers.

#### FISHER.

There was a yeoman family of Fisher at Irton from comparatively early times, but it is not easy to trace its descent. "Thomas Fisher, clarke," owed a small sum to Jenete Sharpe in 1594. In 1597 John Willson of Irton left "the title and tenant right of my farmhold to Thomas Fisher, son of my daughter Jenatt Fisher, according to the custom of the lordship, doing his duty to the lord thereof." Thomas Fisher of Irton was an administrator of the goods of William Moore of Kirkland in Irton, 1615. John Fisher of Irton was mentioned in the Hearth Tax roll of 1673-4, and died 1691, and there is mention of the name at Gosforth about that time.

Agnes Fisher of Miteside in Irton, spinster, died in 1702, leaving

many small legacies. She mentioned her brother John Fisher, and her married sister Isabell, who had four children. Her effects were valued at £26 15s.

Peter Fisher of Cragg in Irton married Jane Beeby in 1718, and died in 1722, after which his widow married Thomas Cook. Peter had two sons, John and Daniel, and a daughter Mary, who died young.

In 1717 Henry Fisher of Miteside, Irton, who died in 1772, married Grace Atkinson, who died in 1752. They had three children, Hannah, John, and Daniel. It seems not unlikely that the family continued to reside in Irton. They seem to have been among the lesser yeomen of the parish.

#### GAITSKELL.

In 1662 William Gaytskell made the inventory of an Irton yeoman. In 1664 two of that name witnessed a yeoman's will at Irton. In 1671 William Gaitskall of Irton died, leaving personalty £20 18s. 4d. By his nuncupative will he gave "his best bay meare and all his goods in the house saving one bed and crosse" to his son William, dividing his pewther among his children. He had two other sons, Richard Gaitskall at Halifax and John Gaitskall in Ireland. Of his daughters, Isabell married John Nicholson, another married John Eilbeck, and there was perhaps a third, Jane.

In 1673-4 William Gaitskaill, no doubt son of the last, was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton, John and Richard Gaitskaill at Carleton in Drigg, and there were others at Ponsonby, and in 1691 at Gosforth. In 1704 William Gaskell was buried at Irton, and in 1733 William Gaitskell of Bridge End in Irton, yeoman, died, leaving a wife Margaret and a son Daniel, born 1692, who administered his effects, valued at £98 17s. 6d. He had also Hannah, Sarah, and Nathan, born 1694 to 1701. Margaret died in 1736, and Daniel in 1768. There were other Gaitskells in Irton, probably of the same family. Philip Gaitskell married Sarah Cuppaidge in 1729, and died in 1763, leaving a son Jacob. His widow died in 1781. Clement Gaitskell died in 1712, and Tamar in 1741. Daniel Gaitskell of Bridge End, Irton, yeoman, died in 1768. Isaac and Jacob Gaitskell had children from 1785 onwards.

#### HELLON.

William Hellon was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton 1673-4. In 1702 John Hellon witnessed an Irton will. He died in 1727, leaving a wife Sarah, and five children, viz. Robert, John, Jane, Elizabeth, afterwards wife of John Wilkinson, and Tamar, wife of John Tideman. His widow Sarah died in 1735. The elder son

Robert married Jane Hunter in 1720, but the family cannot be traced further in Irton. One Joseph Hellon of Egremont, yeoman, married Ruth Bragg at Irton in 1767. The name is sometimes spelt Heelon, Hellund, Helland, and Holland. The Hellons were of yeoman rank, but their personal possessions were small.

#### HODGKIN.

The first mention of the name Hodgkin in connection with Irton appears to be in 1646, when William Hodgkin made an inventory. In 1662 the same William Hodgkin, of Moore End in Irton, died, leaving a wife and two sons. To Christopher, who was perhaps the elder, he left "one paire of weblonnes, one greate chest, and an aumbry which stands in the seller, the table which stands in the fierhouse, and a bedd which stands in the chamber." To John Hodgkin, the other son, he left the residue, after his widow had taken her third part. His personalty included "beastes and horses £14 10s., the harriott cow £2, sheepe, beddinge and bedstockes, brasse and pewter," and the usual household goods, valued in all at £27 18s. 1d.

John Hodgkin married a daughter of John Moore of Cragg, had John, Thomas, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Tamar, and died 1707, aged 63. Christopher Hodgkin of Moor End in Irton died in 1705. Henry Hodgkin of Irton, yeoman, his son, born 1691, married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Kitchin, and died in 1727. They had three children, Hannah, Christopher, and John, of whom the last died in 1744, his widowed mother surviving till 1775, when she must have been of great age.

#### HODGSON.

There is little mention of the name Hodgson at Irton, but in 1583 Roger Smyth of Irton owed a small sum to William Hodshon's wife. Nicholas Hodgson of Holmrook in Irton, yeoman, died in 1647, leaving a wife Jennet, and three children, Thomas, Jennet, and Agnes. To his man William Fisher he left "briches, girkin, a leather dublet, a paire of stockinges, and my best showes." To Ellin Bell he left "halfe of a paire of briches," which seems a little unreasonable.

In 1736 Wilfred Hodgson married Mary, and had a daughter Hannah, but there is scarcely any further mention of the name.

#### HUNTER.

There were Hunters in Irton all through the seventeenth century, although notices of the family occur irregularly. John Hunter made an inventory in 1597, and is mentioned in 1615 and 1620. Elizabeth,

widow of Christopher Hunter, was sister and executor of William Purchase in 1615. Another Christopher occurs in 1620 and 1627, Nicholas is mentioned in 1632 and 1646, and was assessed for the hearth tax in Irton, 1673-4.

William Hunter of Irton died in 1677, his will being executed by his sister, Susanna Hunter of Gosforth, spinster. He had 42 sheepe and hoggs, valued with wool at £6, and these he divided between his sister and the families of Eilbeck and Walker, who were perhaps nearly related. To John Eilbeck he left "my best sutt, lining and wolling, stockings, shoes, and hatts."

Christopher Hunter was assessed to the hearth tax at Santon Bridge in 1673-4, and had made an inventory in 1666. Dying in 1679, he was described in his will as of Cragg House in Melthwaite in Irton, yeoman, and his personalty was valued at £50. He had five children, John, Joseph, Bridget, Elizabeth, and Alice. To John he left "one close called Long Holme on the west side of the River Irt, with a penny free rent to the lord of Irton. Nevertheless my son Joseph Hunter shall have the said close, he paying to John £20. My wife Aliche shall peacefully enjoye half my freehold for life or widowhood. I leave to my executors the aforesaid close, John paying £20 to her for it." His three daughters were executors, but who eventually received Long Holme Close, and who paid the £20 we are not told.

After this John and Bridget Hunter of Irton had several children, viz. Christopher, Barbara, Jane, Abraham, Jacob, Elizabeth, and Hannah. Bridget died in 1723, and John in 1738. There are marriage entries recorded, but no later wills, down to 1790. One of this family, John Hunter, born at Irton 1688, the son of John (? and Bridget), and educated at St. Bees Grammar School, became a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, in 1719, and was afterwards rector of Hampton Poyle, Oxon.

#### IRTON.

There were in the neighbourhood of Irton several families of gentle rank, although not all of them entered their pedigrees and arms at the heralds' visitations. In Sampton [Santon] Adam Senhouse was mentioned so early as 1332, and his family continued to reside at Gosforth or Seascale until a late period, giving a bishop to Carlisle in 1624. At Gosforth and Drigg were sometimes to be found members of the Ponsonby family, derived from Haile and Ponsonby. Their adventurous cousin, Sir John Ponsonby of Haile, became colonel of horse for Cromwell in Ireland, and founded the family of the earls of Bessborough. Connected with these by marriage were the Sands or Sandys of St. Bees, whose connections at Hawkshead

furnished York with an archbishop in 1577. There were also Patricksons from the family of that name at Egremont, and Curwens from the ancient family of Culwen or Curwen at Workington. The yeomen Porters of Irton were an offshoot of the armigerous family at Wery Hall. The Stanleys of Calder, who sprang from the same stock as the earls of Derby, and bore the same arms, and the Penningtons of Muncaster, now ennobled, were perhaps the most highly connected of the gentle families living near. The names of all these are occasionally met with in Irton wills and registers.

At Irton itself was a very ancient family, whose history has not, I think, been systematically traced. The Irtons of Irton Hall gave a bishop to Carlisle in 1280, and the family continued to own property in the parish from which it had taken its name until the middle of the nineteenth century. They bore for arms: Argent, a fess sable, in chief three mullets gules, and intermarried with the Lamplews, Myddeltons of Stokeld, Stapletons of Wighill, and other well-known families.

Not much light is thrown upon the Irton family by the Subsidy Rolls. In 1427-8 Richard de Irton was an assessor. In 1605-6, 1626, and 1628-9 the lands of John Irton, armiger, in the parish were assessed at £4, in 1661 at £3. Among the yeoman wills there is mention of Mr. John Irton, Esq., Richard Irton, gent., and Mrs Dorothy Irton in 1615, of George Irton in 1618, John Irton, gent., and Mr. John Irton, junior, in 1631. In 1647 Mary Irton of Irton, widow, died, leaving personalty valued at £92 5s. 4d., and including "one cowe and two little caulfes, chestes and arckes, ffattes and barells, brasse and pewter, wooden vessells, bedsteedes and cubberts, tables, stooles, chaires, and formes, plowe, plowe geire and other implements, feather beades, boulstars, coverletts, blanketts, curtaines and carpetts, linnen, glasse bottles and lanthorne, silver plate £2, all her apparell £3," money owing for beasts and sheep sold, and rent owing for a certain tenement. To her son Roger Irton she left her grey horse and grey mare, and she mentioned also her grandson John Irton, her daughters Anne and Barbara Irton, and Dorothy Latus, and John, son of Christopher Irton.

Richard Irton of Mill Place in Irton, gentleman, died in 1673, leaving everything to his wife Susanna, and desiring to be buried in Irton Church. He had been assessed for the hearth tax as having one hearth, and his personal possessions, valued at £22 13s., were just those of the yeoman of his time, though he had what is not often noticed in their inventories, silver plate valued at 5s., and books at 2s. 6d.

John Irton of Irton Hall, esquire, died in 1675, but his will and inventory are missing. He had been assessed at six hearths the

year before, when his neighbours William Pennington and William Pennington at Seaton had been assessed at Muncaster as having twelve and eight hearths respectively. Another John Irton, Esq., died in 1700.

Roger Irton of Plumgarth in Irton, gentleman, died in 1677, possessing one mare, two cows, two calves, one steer, a sow, a few sheep, and other things valued in all at £9 2s. 10d. Only his inventory remains, there being no will.

Between 1697 and 1714 eight children were born to George Irton, Esq. He died in 1749, and his son of the same name, who in 1731 married Mrs. Elizabeth Lamplugh, died in 1762, leaving a younger brother Samuel to carry on the family. The Irton pedigree is recorded, somewhat imperfectly, in Nicolson and Burn.

### JACKSON.

In 1587 Robert Jackson of Wallabarray owed a small sum to Thomas Tyson of Irton. In 1632 and 1646 there is mention of John Jackson, and in 1647 of Michael Jackson, senior, of Irton, yeoman. Richard Jackson of Cubboone in Irton, yeoman, died in 1668, leaving a wife Mary, a son John, and four daughters, Margaret, wife of Thomas Troughton, Mary, wife of Richard Lewthwaite, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Gunson, and Annas, wife of Thomas Gunson. To each son and son-in-law he left 5s. "in full satisfaction of his challenge clayme and demaundes of any childes portion or any part of my goods. If he be not content, then he shall have nothing . . . my executor shall not pay these legacies for a whole year." His personalty was valued at £37 14s. 6d.

John Jackson of Cubbon in Irton, yeoman, who was son of the last, and apparently a magistrate, died in 1691, leaving personalty valued at £38 13s. 8d., including books worth £2 2s. He had four children, Christopher, Elizabeth, wife of Henry Wilson of St. Bees, Anne, and Bridget. To his son he left all his "statut books and the chist the are in," and other things. His widow Jenett died in 1721, leaving to her grandchild Mary Wilson her "riding hudd," and mentioning her other grandchildren William, Mary, and Jenett Jackson.

Christopher Jackson died before his mother in 1701. His only son, William Jackson of Cubban, married in 1723 Jane, daughter of William Myrehouse of Santon Bridge in Irton, and died in 1761, having had thirteen children, born between 1724 and 1752, his sons being Christopher, John, Matthias, Joseph, Thomas, Joseph, Robert, and Benjamin. Of these, Christopher Jackson of Cubbon, yeoman, had William and Joseph; John Jackson had John, William, and Charles; Joseph Jackson had Joseph; Thomas Jackson died a

bachelor in 1764; Robert Jackson had John; and Benjamin Jackson had three daughters, so that at the close of the century the family was still flourishing in Irton.

#### KITCHIN.

The surname Kitchin or Kitchen, which is fairly common in Cumberland, may perhaps have the obvious derivation which Bardsley in his "English surnames" assigns to it. Robert del Kitchen may have been the mediæval comrade of John de la Chambre and Ralph le Boteler, dependents upon some feudal baron. But I am inclined to think that it is really a patronymic owing its origin to Kit, short for Christopher, and that as Hutchin meant Little Hugh, so Kitchin meant Little Christopher.

Richard Kychyng made inventories at Irton in 1583, 1588, and 1597. Esabell Kytchyng of Irton died in 1593, desiring to be buried "in the sanctuary of Irton Church yeard." She had four children, John, Nicholas, Jenat, and Elizabeth, and one Christopher Kyching was a supervisor of her will. After this we have mention of Matthew Kitchin, clerk, in 1622 the goods of Christopher Kitchin of Irton, were administered, and those of Elizabeth Kitchin, possibly his widow, in 1623.

Christopher Kitchin of Irton died in 1651, though his will was not proved until 1663. He mentioned his wife, his son John Kitchin, his daughter Dorothy, wife of John Dickson, his granddaughter Elizabeth Kitchin of Santon Bridge, and left £6 13s. 4d. for the use of the poor of Irton for ever, the stock to remain in his son's hands for life, and afterwards "in the hands of some of my next of kindred, according as my son John in his life, and the jurie of the parish of Irton shall think fit." His whole personalty was £83 2s. 3d.

In 1688 we have mention of John Kitchin, senior and junior, of Kitchin Ground in Irton, yeomen. They died within three weeks of each other in 1696, when the will of the elder of these was proved, his personalty being £37 7s. 5d. He mentioned his wife Annas, his sons Richard, William, and Henry, and his grandchildren (sons of William), Henry and Annas. William Kitchin of Kitchin Ground, who died in 1754, had also Isaac, Sarah, William, Dorothy, Ruth, Abraham, and Daniel.

In 1690 Henry Kitchin married Jane, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Walker, who died in 1744. He died in 1746, having had John, Elizabeth, Barbara, Jane, Susanna, Hannah, Anne, and Isaac. His effects were valued at £20.

John Kitchin of Loning, or of Santon, died in 1707, aged, 78, but his will has not been preserved. In 1695 John Kitching married Barbara, daughter of Christopher and Jane Caddy of Gaskow. In

1733 Richard Kitchen of Santon, yeoman, died, leaving a wife Annas (who probably died 1761), a son John, and goods valued at £19 os. 8d.

John Kitching of Santon in Irton, yeoman, evidently the last named, died in 1745, leaving personalty valued at £238 10s., of which £216 was "money at interest." He appears to have been a bachelor, and had two brothers, Jonathan and Henry, both of whom had families.

There are nearly one hundred entries of the name in the Irton registers down to 1776, and many later. Between 1731 and 1757 Isaac Kitchin, yeoman, and Mr. Isaac Kitchin, gentleman, had between them eighteen children. Both died in 1764, leaving personalty £15 15s. and £36 6s. respectively. Twenty years later two other Isaac Kitchins were contemporaries, being married in 1787 and 1788 to Nelly Dickinson and Eleanor Borrowdale respectively. At the close of the century they and John Kitchin were having families in Irton.

#### LEWTHWAITE.

There was a family of Lewthwaite resident at Broadgate in the parish of Millom who rose to sufficient eminence to qualify them for admission to the pages of Burke's *Landed Gentry*, and who still continue to flourish. At Irton the name appears in 1588, when Richard Lutathe made an inventory, and Christopher Lutath witnessed a will. Richard Luthwait of Irton died in 1614, Christopher Luthwayte, yeoman, was still making inventories in 1632, when also we hear of John Lewthat, senior, at Irton.

In 1605-6 Christopher Lewthwaite paid a subsidy of 8s. at Irton, his goods or lands being assessed at £4. In 1625 he is called Luter, but his name is spelt rightly in 1626 and 1628-9, and he is assessed at £3 for goods. In 1667 we hear of Richard Lewthwaite as husband of Mary, daughter of Richard and Mary Jackson of Cubban, but the name does not occur in the Hearth Tax Rolls of 1673-4.

William Lewthwaite of Hanginghowe in Irton, yeoman, died in 1741, leaving a widow Anne, and also children and grandchildren. His children Sarah, May, Henry, and Hannah were baptised 1699 to 1711. After this John Lewthwaite, Daniel Lewthwaite of Kitchin Ground, and William Lewthwaite had families in Irton. Barbara Lewthwaite was married in 1790.

#### LUCAS.

There was in the seventeenth century a family of Lucas or Luccas at Irton, but there is little record left of its history beyond two wills. Nicholas Lucas of Irton died in 1647, leaving a wife Agnes,

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and two daughters, Elizabeth and Isabell, to the former of whom he left one ewe. He made no further bequests, but carefully estimated the debts owing to him by various persons. His personalty was valued at £41 15s. 11d.

In 1673-4 William Loucas had one hearth at Irton. In 1676 John Luccas of Irton died, leaving a wife Elizabeth, a son Thomas, and several daughters, among whom were Jane, Barbara, and Susan, two married daughters Annie and Elizabeth, and two sons-in-law, Answell Rodes and Lancelot Atkinson. His goods, valued at £153 6s. 6d., included twelve pair of sheets, two rugs and a cobde-cloth, bedding, cobrecloth, and blankets, chists, barrells and panyers, beasts £20, sheep £6, a horse £2 10s., a swine 5s., saddells and rope 7s., losewood and a ladder £1, pelfe 4s., and the usual bedstocks, plough gear and the like. In 1693 the registers record the burial of Richard, and in 1694 of Elizabeth Lucas.

#### MAWSON.

There were Mawsons at Irton, of yeoman rank, from an early period, but unfortunately they were very negligent in making their wills, the goods of five who died during the seventeenth century being administered without the proving of a will. They were connected with the Moores, Thompsons, and Sherwens, and in 1775 children were still being born to the family.

Richard Mawson witnessed an Irton will in 1575. William Mawson, bailiff, owed a small sum to Christopher Moore in 1589. Nicholas Mawson made an inventory in 1597. Alice Mawson of Irton died in 1612, and John Mayson of Irton in 1613, and Gyles Mawson of Irton in 1620. In 1647 we hear of Gyles Mawson of Hallfatt, yeoman, and of John Mawson of Sorrowstone, in 1652 of Robert and John Mason, and of Nicholas Mawson of Sorrowstone, son-in-law to Thomas Thompson. John Mawson died in 1667, and Nicholas Mawson in 1669, both of Irton. In 1673-4 John Mawson of Santon Bridge, John, and Widow Mawson were assessed to the hearth tax in Irton, and there were others at Gosforth and Nether Wasdale. In 1693 William Mawson of Loming in Irton died, leaving a wife, and cousins John, William, Richard, and Jane Mawson. After this William, John, Isaac, Moses, Aaron, and Jacob Mawson had children baptised at Irton 1721 to 1775, and there were many burials.

#### MOORE.

There were families of Moore at Drigg, Muncaster, and Gosforth, as well as at Irton, but although it is probable that they came from the same stock, and there are signs that they were distantly related to each other, it does not seem possible to trace the actual connec-

tion. The registers of all four parishes contain large numbers of entries of the name, but there are scarcely any at Eskdale.

Among the Richmond wills in Somerset House are those of Nicholas and Nicholas Moore of Muncaster; John, John, Christopher, Robert, and Richard Moore of Gosforth; Christopher, Henry, William, Christopher, John, Christopher, Elizabeth, Thomas, Christopher, Susannah, Eleanor, and Margaret Moore of Drigg, and there are also separate inventories and administration bonds of other Moores there.

Margaret, widow of Nicholas Moore of Irton, died in 1584, leaving a son John, and apparently also Nicholas and William.

Christopher Moore of Irton witnessed an Irton will in 1576, and died in 1589, leaving personalty valued at £58 16s. 6d. He desired to be buried in the church earthe at Irton, and left "the whole tytle and right which I gote in Gosforth parish" to his sons John and Christopher, "until such tyme as Robert Moor of Boulton doo requite the sum of £5 to the sayd two sons or their designees." He mentioned another son Richard, and a granddaughter Janet Moor, and left to his daughter Elizabeth 20 shepe hoges.

Nicholas Moore of Irton, apparently a son of the former Nicholas, died in 1601, leaving a wife and five children, viz. Janne, wife of John Eilebeck, Margaret, William, Christopher, and Thomas. Of these, Thomas Moore, of Santon in Irton, died in 1612, his brother and sister, Christopher and Janet, being mentioned in his inventory.

William Moore, of Kirkland in Irton, died in 1615, owning one horse, three kine, and "sheepe young and ould," in all goods valued at £24 15s. 8d. In his inventory and administration bond is mention of his brother Christopher, his late brother Thomas, his widow Isabell, and also of Nicholas, John, William, and Richard Moore.

Christopher Moore, of Maynesgate in Irton, died in 1626, leaving a wife Margaret, and a son John. It was apparently another Christopher Moore who was assessed at £3 for the subsidy at Irton in 1625, 1626, and 1628-9.

William Moore of Parke in Irton, milner, apparently son of the former William, died in 1620, leaving personalty valued at £47 7s. 1d. To his son John he left "all my messuage and tenement, according to the custome there used, to him and his heires for ever." He mentioned also his wife Isabell, and his daughter Dorothy, then a child. His livestock consisted of two kine, one calf, four heifers and eight other young beasts, one horse, eighteen ould sheepe and seven lambs. He had also a jewell, two spones, a sword, and the usual brasse and pewter.

John Moore, clarke, witnessed an Irton will in 1632, and in 1646 John Moore of Santon died, leaving three children under age, viz. Elizabeth, William, and Christopher.

Richard Moore, of Irton and Kirkland, died in 1647, leaving a wife Elizabeth. In 1666 John Moore of Parkyeatt in Irton, smith, died leaving personalty valued at £31 16s. 4d., including the usual coves and young beastes, horse and mare, sheepe and woole. He mentioned his sons John and Richard Moore, his son-in-law William Russall, and his grandchild John Moore. To the poor of Irton parish he left 10s. "to be divided by the questmen to the poore on St. Mark's day next after my decease, when the Lord shall be pleased to call me out of this vell of misery." "To Bridget Smith my sarvent, in regard of her care of me," he left 5s.

Nicholas Moore of Irton died in 1672, leaving a wife Bridget. William Moore, of Hurigg in Irton, died in 1686, leaving a wife Dorothy, and three children, Barbara, Isabell, and Jane or Anne. In 1673-4 John, John, William, William, Widow, and Widow Moore were assessed to the hearth tax in Irton.

In 1671 there is mention of John Moore as the husband of Jane, daughter of Henry and Bridget Caddy. He was probably the John Moore of Cragg in Irton, who died in 1705, leaving a daughter the wife of John Hodgkin, a married son Christopher living at Penrith, a son Samuel, and four grandchildren, the children of his eldest son John, who predeceased him. His personalty was valued at £46 16s.

John Moore or Moor, the eldest son of the last, had several children baptised at Irton between 1689 and 1703, when he died. He had the usual possessions of a yeoman, bridle, sadle, husbandry geare, one mare, some sheepe, "black cattel in number five," the whole value being £24 11s. 8d. His widow Elizabeth was remarried to John Walker of Sandbank in Irton, yeoman. His sons John and Thomas are believed to have emigrated to America, and his eldest surviving son, Christopher, continued at Cragg.

Christopher Moor of Cragg in Irton, yeoman, married in 1717 Elizabeth, daughter of Henry and Isabell Nicholson, had a family of nine children, and died in 1774, aged 80. His daughters were Dinah, wife of William Nicholson, Hannah, Elizabeth, wife of Edward Brooke, Susannah, wife of Robert Fletcher, and Jane, wife of John Vicars. His sons were Henry, Christopher, Isaac, and another who died in infancy. Of these, Isaac married Sarah Tyson, lived and died at Ravenglass, and had no children, Christopher went to Oxford, and became a clergyman, and Henry succeeded his father at Cragg.

The subsequent history of this family may be shortly alluded to. Henry Moor of Cragg in Irton, yeoman, married Mary, had four daughters and a son Christopher, and died in 1802. His son, Christopher Moor of Cragg, yeoman, married Anne Lamb, and died without children in 1845, aged 85, leaving Cragg and a small property at Gosforth to cousins living at a distance.

Christopher Moor, the brother of Henry and Isaac, took his degree at Queen's College, Oxford, in 1757, became a master at Rugby School, and incumbent of small parishes in that neighbourhood. He died in 1803, leaving by his two wives three unmarried daughters and two sons, both of whom were clergymen. These in their turn left families, several sons and grandsons being ordained. Some of these married into families of position, and their descendants are found in many countries and in many professions. The family received a grant of arms in 1816.

## MOSCROP.

The family of Moscrop, which subsequently became Mossop, is found more continuously at Gosforth and Seascale than at Irton, but the name occurs from time to time in Irton records, and some few yeomen of the family were settled there.

Jennatt Mossdropp received a small legacy from William Byby of Irton in 1598. Annas Mossdrope of Irton died in 1613. There is mention of Elizabeth Mossdrope of Ponsonby, Dorothy Mosdropp, and John Mosdropp, yeoman, in 1617. Thomas and John Mosdropp occur in 1679. Jane Moscrop was sister of Edward Tyson of Moore End in Irton, yeoman, who died in 1697. Richard and Lanslat Moscrop received small legacies from Agnes Fisher in 1702.

Thomas Moscrop of Bridge End, Santon in Irton, yeoman, died in 1733, leaving personalty valued at £117 16s. He appears to have married Anne Walker in 1706, and had a son Thomas Moscrop of Scaarbrow in Gosforth, yeoman, and three daughters, of whom one married Joseph Crowdson, another married Wilkinson, and Hannah married John Singleton.

Lancelot Moscrop, apparently brother of Thomas of Bridge End, married Jane, who died in 1717, and had Thomas, Joseph, and Lancelot, as well as Miles, John, Elizabeth, wife of William Skelton, Frances, wife of Vicars, and Mary. Miles Moscrop died in 1774, leaving by his wife Bridget, Moses and Jane. John Moscrop or Mossop, yeoman, married Bridget and had a son John, and afterwards married Sarah Moore. George Mossop of Cragg House, Irton, died in 1756, Moses Mossop of Cragg House in 1770, John Moscrop in 1782, Thomas Mossop and his wife Anne in 1784. Another Moses Moscrop of Irton, yeoman, married Hannah Nicholson in 1778, and after this John Moscrop, William and Henry Mossop had families in Irton. But Gosforth was the centre of the clan.

## MYREHOUSE.

The name Myrehouse or Mirehouse, contracted afterwards to Myers, just as Lofthouse was contracted to Loftus, and Bakehouse

to Bacchus, is distinctly Cumbrian. It does not appear at Irton before 1673-4, when William Myre was assessed there to the hearth tax. He was perhaps the William Myer of Key How who was buried at Irton in 1701. Between 1690 and 1709 eight children of Arthur Myres, Myrs, Mire, or Myeras were baptised at Irton. His wife Anne died in 1725, and he himself in 1726, his will being proved as that of Arthur Myers of Irton, yeoman, and his personalty being sworn at £120 19s. His son Edward Myers was executor, but the will itself is missing. Other surviving children were John, Arthur, Annas, Mary, and Elizabeth.

William Myrehouse of Santon Bridge in Irton, butcher, perhaps a brother of Arthur, died in 1738, leaving two daughters, Jane, wife of William Jackson of Cubban, and Sarah, wife of Stephen Sharpe. His wife Susanna died in 1755. The inventory of William Myrehouse is an example of the simpler inventories of the eighteenth century:—"Purse and wearing apparel £2, ale in the seller and vessels in the brewing house £2, goods in the room over the brew-house £2 15s., in the room over the mansion house £3 5s., in the mansion house £5 10s., some hay 5s., moneys at interest £98. Total £113 15s."

Edward Myers of Nether Wasdale, yeoman, son of Arthur, was born in 1697 and died before 1771, when his widow Catharine married again. The family was still represented at Nether Wasdale a century later.

#### NICHOLSON.

The name Nicholas was always a favourite in districts bordering on the seacoast, and the prevalence of the surnames Nicholson and Nixon throughout Cumberland is evidence that the patron saint of sailors had many votaries in that county during the middle ages.

In 1583 we read of Richard Nicholson's wyfe, in 1586 of Margaret, wife of William Nicholson of Mytterdale, and of Jenatt Nicolson, as legatees of Thomas Tyson, to whom they were doubtless related. Thomas Nicholson of Mosthwat owed a small sum to William Purchase of Irton in 1615. Nicholas and Richard Nicholson occur in 1632 and 1646. Elizabeth, wife of John Nicholson, was daughter of Richard Bibbie who died in 1651, and the widow of John Nicholson of Eilbecke Ground in Irton is alluded to in 1662, as is also Clement Nicholson. John Nicholson of Elbecke Ground, William Nicholson of Urton, and Anthony Nicholson's wife of Wasdall occur in 1665. John Nicholson and his wife Isabell, apparently daughter of William Gaitskall, are mentioned in 1671. In 1673-4 there were Clement Nicholson of Carleton in Drigg, Anthony, Robert, Nicholas, and John Nicholson of Nether Wasdale, and three John Nicholsons at Irton.

John Nicholson of Sleepstones in Irton, yeoman, died in 1694, leaving a wife Elizabeth, who died in 1700, six sons, John, Isaac, Nicholas, Henry, Richard, and William, and four daughters, Elizabeth, wife of William Beeby, Jane, wife of Christopher Caddy, Sarah, and another, wife of Powle. He left 20s. "for use in the poor stock of Irton," and also 10s. "to poor widdows and the need-fullest poore of Irton at my funerall," and to mend the highways between here and Santon Bridge 1s. 6d., "his personalty being valued at £139 6s. 8d. His widow left to her daughter Jane Caddy her "best coate and weastcoat in full satisfaction of her fillial part," and to her grandson John Nicholson 10s. "on condition that my son John Nicholson and his son John doe promise, suffer, and leave, and liberty to my son Henry Nicholson to goe and come through their grounds at Slapstones when he hath occasion to go and use to and from Morthwaite durringe his natural life." She died at Burnebouth in Irton.

William Nicholson of Holme Rooke in Irton, yeoman, died in 1706, leaving a wife, a brother Thomas, who had a daughter Isabell, five or six children, and another brother Nicholas. His personalty was valued at £42 13s. 5d.

Henry Nicholson of Parke Yeate in Irton, tanner, a son of John and Elizabeth of Slapstones, died in 1715, leaving three sons, Jonathan, William, and Isaac, and a daughter Elizabeth, who in 1717 married Christopher Moor of Cragg, yeoman. His widow Isabell, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Walker, died in 1748, mentioning the same sons, and also her son-in-law Christopher Moor, and his daughters, Betty, Susan, Hannah, and Dinah. Both Henry and Isabell mention a doubt as to which of their sons Jonathan or William would inherit Henry's two estates, Park Yeate and Murthat, and Isabell says, "If Jonathan be living and come to inherit these two parchells of ground, then £5 to William." Evidently Jonathan had gone far from home.

John Nicholson of Sleepstones in Irton, yeoman, died in 1718, leaving a wife Jane, and two sons, John and Isaac. Of these John Nicholson, of Sleepstones in Irton, died in 1728, leaving a wife Elizabeth, a daughter Jane, born 1702 and married in 1725 to Henry Bragg, and an eldest son John, to whom he left "all my cubards, greats, dressers that I have in both houses, and two tables and frames to them, and two chists standing where I doe lay, and one bedstead standing in the low chamber, and one bedstead standing in my mother loft, and one bedstead standing in the seler where I doe lay, and all my husbandry geare, and one tow year old colt, and one bedding and cloths to furnish a bed with, and all the sheep that belongs to Sleepstones ground, all in full satisfaction of his fillial part of my estate." Total personalty £85 15s. 6d.

John Nicholson of Slapstones, son of the last, seems to have been unfortunate, for in the burial register, 1737, he is called a pauper.

John Nicholson of Eilbeck Ground in Irton, whose relation to the Slapstones family does not appear, married Isabell Wasdale in 1701, and died in 1728, leaving three sons, Jacob, John, and Henry, and three daughters, Barbara, wife of George Knipe, Elizabeth, and Bridget.

Nicholas Nicholson of Burnbooth, yeoman, son of the first John of Slapstones, married in 1690 Sarah, daughter of Edward Steele of Slapwhaite, and died in 1749, having had John, Joseph, Sarah, Rachel, and Henry, of whom the last died in 1762.

Isaac Nicholson, youngest son of Henry of Park Yeate, had six children, of whom four sons had families, and it seems likely that a careful examination of later wills and registers would shew that there are still many descendants of the Nicholsons of Slapstones, Burnbooth, Murthwaite, and Park Yeate.

#### PARKE.

There are traces of a yeoman family of Parke in Irton at various periods, but it is not possible to trace their descent. John Parke of Irton died in 1598, desiring to be buried in the church earth of Irton. He left to Richard Parke, junior, John Sherwen, Dorithi Moore, John Mawson, and Dorithi Walker each a lamb or zod. at the discretion of his executrix, and to his son Richard Parke "a grat arke, a grat pott, and a rekencroke, being earlines at the house." It seems likely that the recipients of lambs were grandchildren. John Parke had two oxen, two kyne, three heifers, catell, an old horse, eighteen sheep, and six lambes.

Another John Parke of Irton died in 1664. In 1671 William Gaitskall left "to Richard Parke childring 12d. a peece of y<sup>e</sup> monies in y<sup>e</sup> coph<sup>r</sup>," and Dorothy Parke witnessed his will. Richard Parke died in 1691, and in 1696 Edward Tyson spoke of his sister Dority Parke, and Bridget Tyson, widow, spoke of her sister Elizabeth Parke. In 1704 John Walker left to Elizabeth and Mary Parke each a gimmer hogge. John Parke, who made an inventory in 1707, died in 1726, and in 1737 Elizabeth Park of Kirklands in Irton, spinster, died, leaving small sums to her cousins Richard Beeby, John Mawson, Mary Walker, and Isabel Lewthwaite, and others at Whitehaven.

#### PURCHASE.

John Purchase was witness or supervisor of an Irton will in 1575, and died in 1592. Nicholas Purchase was supervisor of a will in 1592. William Purchase of Irton died in 1615, desiring to be buried in church earth at Irton. He made a very long will,

in which he mentioned his mother, his wife Elizabeth, his sister Elizabeth, widow of Christopher Hunter, and his sisters at Plumgarth and Drigg. Some of his many legacies were the following:— "To my old mistress Dorothy Irton 9s., to Mr. John Irton, Esquire, 9s., to Richard Irton, gent., 5s., to William Bibbie and his eldest son one gold angell between them, to Richard Tyson's daughter one hogs stirke, to three maides of my sister of Plumgarth a white calf, to Christopher Lutath 8 payer of y<sup>e</sup> best soles in oxhyde. to John Hunter a spurriall, to the children of Richard Walker the cloake I sitt in, to my mother 3 pecks of rye and one cowe milke till Michaelmas, to . . . my barke."

## PORTER.

The Porters of Irton, although in later times spoken of as yeomen, were descended from those of Wery Hall, who were a younger branch of the Porters of Allerby in Cumberland, and bore for arms Sable, three church bells argent. George Porter of Wery Hall had a son Joseph, who died in 1649. He married Anne, daughter of Lancelot Salkeld of Whitehall, Cumberland, and had a large family, his eldest son being George, who continued the elder line, and his younger sons William, Anthony, John, Joseph, Lancelot, and Nicholas. In 1605-6 Joseph Porter, armiger, had lands at Eskdale, Wasdale, or Nether Wasdale assessed at £10. In 1628-9 his lands were assessed at £2. In 1661 the lands of Lancelot Porter were assessed at £1, and in 1673 Lancelot Porter, gent., had three hearths in Irton parish.

In 1673 the will of this Lancelot Porter of Usthwaite in Irton, who was son of Joseph Porter of Wery Hall by his wife Anne Salkeld, was proved, but is now missing. His widow, Margaret Porter of Usthatt, made her will in 1676, leaving to her servant William Nicholson £4 "in recompense of his long and faithful service." She mentioned her brothers Mr. John Cathericke and Mr. Nicholas Porter, her nephews Mr. Henry Skelton of Branthwaite and Mr. Christopher Girlington, all the sums given as legacies to be paid "when the wooll can be sould," her sheep being at Strand and Hole Gill. Joseph Porter of Eskdale and George Porter of Low Holme occur in 1676, and Thomas Porter of Usthat in 1698.

Lancelot Porter of Ewsthwaite in Irton, yeoman, died in 1722, desiring to be buried at Nether Wasdale. To his daughter Elizabeth he left "140 sheep belonging to Foulesyke tenement," and also certain money due out of Condygarthlands. To his son Lancelot he left 80 sheep at Foulgill, and he mentioned also his wife Agnes, his brother Philip, and his children Nicholas, Eleanor and Isabell.

After this another Lancelot Porter of Ewsthwaite, no doubt son

of the last, had five children baptised at Irton, and John Porter of Ewsthwaite, yeoman, had a family from 1772 onwards. The family continued at Ewsthwaite, Lancelot Porter of that estate having been buried at Nether Wasdale in 1841, and it is probable that there are Porters of the ancient stock still resident in the district. If so, they have as much right as most people to be proud of their descent, and they should continue to use the ancient arms, and the name Lancelot, which they derived from that fine old family, the Salkelds.

#### RUSSELL.

There seems to be no mention of the surname Russell in Irton documents until 1651, when Michael Russell made an inventory. He died in 1662, leaving "to my elder son William Russell all my wooling and weblinge geare out at aside for his childe portion, and noe more, according to this my last will under my hand and seale," and "to my younger son Thomas Russell all the rest of my weblinge geare and lining and harden, and half of the workehouse at Mainsgate," and also £10. His widow Susanna was executor.

In 1666 we hear of William Russall as son-in-law of John Moore of Park Yeate, and as making an inventory in 1697. He died in 1715. In 1701 Matthew Russell, yeoman, married Bridget Ponsonby, by whom he had eight children. Between 1708 and 1719 Michael Russell of Hewrigg, yeoman, had by his wife Jane, who died in 1758, seven children, of whom two died young. He himself died in 1747, leaving a wife Jane, and mentioning five children in his will. To his eldest son Isaac he left his "estate of houses and land at Hewrigg in Erton, to descend to him and his heirs according to the custom of the Manner of Santon," and also his sheep and husbandry gear. His second son Philip had already received £150, his daughter Hannah, wife of John Shepherd, received £150 in all, his youngest Esther Sherwen received in all £140, and his eldest Eleanor, wife of James Wilson, received by his will £3 per annum for twenty years. His whole personalty was £347, and he had besides given £260 to his children in his lifetime.

In 1737 Isaac Russell married Mary Askew, by whom he had five daughters. Philip Russell, his brother, of Burnt House, Melthwaite in Irton, had four sons and a daughter, his son Paul, a tailor, who in 1772 married Hannah Mawson, continuing the family. Philip died in 1751, his widow Isabel in 1778.

#### SANDWATH.

Mabell Sandwath was mentioned in an Irton will of 1594. Thomas, Nicholas, and Henry Sandwath were legatees of William Purchase in 1615. Henry Sandwath of Irton died in 1668, but his

will is missing. Stephen Sandwith was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton in 1673-4. His wife Joyce died in 1676, and in 1700 Jane, wife of Stephen Sandwith, perhaps a son, was buried at Irton, as was Stephen himself in 1727.

John Sandwith of Mill Place in Irton, yeoman, had seven children, viz. John, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Sarah, Henry, Henry, and Rachel, baptised between 1701 and 1718, and died in 1741, leaving personalty valued at £51 3s. His widow Mary died in 1747, and his son Jonathan Sandwith had a daughter Elizabeth, and a son John, who had six children born between 1759 and 1773. Jonathan died in 1785, his grandsons John and Jonathan being married a few years later.

#### SHEPHERD.

There is occasional mention of a Shepherd family from early times, as of Christopher Shepherd in 1583, Thomas Shepherd in 1594, Henry Sheaphard and his children in 1615, William Sheepearde in 1666, but we have no allusion to them as yeoman until the eighteenth century.

Henry Sheppard of Sorrowstone in Irton, yeoman, died in 1737, leaving personalty valued at £49. He had a wife Elizabeth, a brother Thomas, and four children, Henry, Elizabeth, Jane, and Mary, with the expectation of a fifth. In 1763 John Shepherd, yeoman, married Dinah Dixon at Irton, and had by her two children, John and Mary. The family seem to have had some connection with Egremont.

#### SHERWEN.

So far back as 1332 the Subsidy Rolls tell us of John and Richard Scherwynd at Bolton in Gosforth. In 1583 we have mention of Richard Sherwynd's wife, in 1587 and 1598 of John Sherwen, and in 1617 of John Sherwen of Sancton. Thomas Sherwen occurs in 1588, 1598, and 1620, Christopher Sherwen in 1588 and 1618.

Christopher Sherwen of Irton died in 1623, desiring to be buried in church earth at Irton, and mentioning seven children in his will, viz. John, Thomas, Margaret, Mary, Agnes, Ellise, and Dorothy. His wife was Dorothy.

Widow Sherwen was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton in 1673-4, at which time the name was also found at Gosforth and Wasdale.

Four children of Robert Sherwen were baptised at Irton between 1689 and 1698. Eleanor Sherwen of Cragg in Irton, spinster, died in 1692, mentioning her cousin Thomas Sherwen, her kinswoman Elizabeth Sherwen, her cousin Christopher Moore, and her brother John Moore of Cragg. Four children of William Sherwen were baptised at Irton between 1723 and 1736, but the family seem rather to have belonged to Gosforth and Wasdale than to Irton.

## SINGLETON.

There is occasional mention of the Singletons at Irton from 1588, when John Syngleton owed a small sum to Christopher Moore. Christopher Singleton occurs in 1632, Nicholas in 1646, Thomas in 1651, and Elizabeth in 1661. Ellinor Singleton of Irton died in 1681, Thomas Singleton of Gillhouse in Irton in 1691, and his wife Annas in 1692. Another Thomas Singleton married Alice Mire in 1696, and had John, Alice, Joseph, Mary, and Matthew. John Singleton of Gillhouse in Irton, yeoman, occurs in 1692, and died in 1698. He had John, Thomas, and Elizabeth.

John Singleton of Gatrighow in Irton, yeoman, died in 1728, his wife Elizabeth being buried on the same day. He left personalty valued at £183 6s. 6d., and in his will mentioned his five children, Thomas, Isaac, Jacob, Hannah, and Elizabeth. Another John Singleton married Hannah Moscrop in 1730, and had a son Salathiel, and a daughter Hannah.

Alice Singleton, of Santon in Irton, widow of Thomas, died in 1730, leaving four children, John, Matthew, Joseph, and Alice.

Jacob Singleton of Moor End in Irton, yeoman, died in 1736, leaving personalty valued at £288 12s. His widow Rebeccah married Andrew Brockbank in 1742, and he had an infant daughter Elizabeth, born 1735.

Thomas Singleton, probably son of John and brother of Jacob, married Elizabeth Borrowdale in 1730, and had John, Jacob, and Hannah. He died in 1750. Isaac Singleton of Gillhouse had a son Isaac baptised in that year. Jane Singleton of Aikbanke, widow, died in 1718, and there are other entries of the name in the registers. At the close of the century Thomas and Betty Singleton (née Borrowdale) were having a family in Irton.

## SMYTH.

It is commonly supposed that the family of Smith or Smyth is ubiquitous; but the name does not occur at Irton so often as might be expected. John Smyth of Yrton died in 1576, leaving "to my son Nicholas the whole title of the tenement which I occupy. He shall occupy half of my tenement after my death, and my wife the other half. He shall do his mother's husbandry during her life, as well as his own." John Smyth had also a wife Margaret, and another son Christopher.

Roger Smyth of Irton died in 1583, desiring to be buried in church earth at Irton. He mentioned his wife Jenat, and his eight children, Gyles, Richard, John, William, Thomas, Margaret, Alice, and Isabell. He had two calves, sixteen hole sheepe, four hoges, a lytell hog swyn, corne and hay, beding and household stufe, his personalty being valued at £13 1s. 4d.

Nicholas Smith was spoken of by William Purchase in 1615 as his brother, no doubt by marriage, and occurs also in 1632. John Smyth of Irton died in 1671, and another John Smith was assessed to the hearth tax there in 1673-4, probably the same who died intestate in 1682. Jane Smith of Irton died in 1715, but after this we have little mention of the name in wills or registers during the period under examination.

#### STEELE.

Edward Steele was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton in 1673-4, and is mentioned frequently during the next few years. Between 1704 and 1709 several children of Edward and Henry Steele were baptised at Irton, Henry's wife Ellen or Eleanor being apparently daughter of John Jackson of Cubban.

Edward Steele of Slapwhaite in Irton, yeoman, died in 1721, leaving personalty valued at £80 16s. 8d., including "brass, pewter, an iron pott, a pann, and all sorts of wood and earthen vessell, grate, crooke, and all sorts of iron geare belonging to the firehouse, chists, chaires, tables, forms, and all sorts of loose wood, woole, yarne, cloath, sacks, poackes, and all other things in y<sup>e</sup> sellar loft, meale, greats, corne threshed and unthreshed and hay, potatoes, peats, poultry, a ladder, a havilick, all sorts of husbandry geare and other things in y<sup>e</sup> little house, sheep and horses, bease and manner, apparrell, purs, and riding furniture." In his will he mentioned his now wife Elizabeth, his sons John, Nathan, Daniel, Isaac, Edward, Henry, and Jacob, his daughters Jane, wife of Thomas Andrews, Mary, wife of William Herbert, and Elizabeth, wife of John Birkett, and his son-in-law Nicholas Nicholson.

Henry Steell of Irton, yeoman, died in 1729, leaving personalty valued at £165 11s. 6d. To his wife Isabell he left £10, "one cow at her choice, three of the best powder dishes, one little brass pan, one iron pan, two chists which came from Heston, and the use of one bedstead in the cotar." He left three sons, viz. John, Henry, a yeoman of Irton, and Isaac, a shearman dyer of Kendall in Westmoreland. His daughters were Mary, wife of Abraham Stephenson, Jane, wife of Richard Sharpe, Elizabeth, wife of Jonathan Walker, and perhaps another, wife of William Jackson. His first wife Ellen or Eleanor, to whom he was married in 1702, died in 1724. His second wife died in 1759, being designated pauper in the registers.

After this there is little mention of the family until 1774, when Betty Steele of Slatwhaite was baptised at Irton.

#### STEPHENSON.

Robert Stephenson of Irton was appointed to administer the goods of Roger Irton of Plumgarth, who died intestate in 1677. He valued

the effects of Bridget Tyson of Plumgarth, widow, who mentioned her sister Dorithy Stephenson, and her nephew Abraham Stephenson in her will of 1696. Robert Stephenson from Esthwaite Field was buried at Irton in 1705, and Dorothy, evidently his widow, in 1726.

Abraham, son of Robert Stevenson, was born in 1676, and died in 1767. His first wife, who died in 1716, was Jane, by whom he had a son, the Rev. Robert Stephenson, buried at Irton in 1737. By his second wife Mary Steele, who died at Plumgarth in 1776, he had Thomas, Jane, John, Isaac, Joseph, Daniel, and Mary, of whom Isaac had four children between 1765 and 1771, viz. Sarah, Abraham and Isaac, twins, and William.

There was also a John Stephenson, of Irton, yeoman or weaver, who had five children baptised between 1718 and 1735, viz. Daniel, Jane, John, Isabel, and William.

#### THOMPSON.

Roger Thompson and the wife of Nicholas Thompson owed money to John Bibie of Irton in 1632. Henry Thompson owed a small sum to Richard Bibbie in 1651. Richard Thompson was assessed to the hearth tax at Irton in 1673-4. Thomas Thompson of Sorrowstone in Irton, "decrepit and infirm" in 1652, died in 1663, leaving personalty, including "the harriot kow," valued at £10 15s. 4d. To his son John Thompson the elder he left "a bed, a great arke, a table, forme, yoake, a teame, a ratten croke and tongs, a board that lieth in the firehouse side, a little chaire, and a peate spade, and this is all that ever he shall challenge either in my lifetime or after my death." He mentioned his wife Dorithy, his daughter Dorithy, and his grandchildren, children of John Gunson, and his goods were administered by his son-in-law Nicholas Mawson of Sorrowstone.

John Thompson, of Sorrowstone in Irton, evidently the son, died intestate in 1701, and another John Thompson, of Hawrigrig in Irton, yeoman, perhaps the grandson of Thomas, died in 1701, leaving personalty valued at £42 5s. 4d. He married in 1676 Mary Birkett, and in his will mentioned also his sister Isabel Fisher. His widow, Mary Thompson, died in 1718, leaving personalty valued at £44 5s. 10d. She mentioned her sister Jeane Boyer, her nephew Alan Birkett, and her nieces Mary, Barbara, and Jane Birkett, who married Philip Porter, Henry Jenkinson, and Henry Caddy respectively.

There was also a John Thompson of Santon Bridge, yeoman, who had children baptised at Irton from 1715 onwards. Roger Thompson, who died in 1712, had a son Roger and other children baptised at Irton from 1689 onwards, and the younger Roger, a yeoman, who

died in 1761, had a daughter Dorothy baptised in 1718. There was also John Thompson, a miller, who had several children baptised from 1721 onwards.

#### TROUGHTON.

In 1625 and 1673-4 there were Troughtons at Waberthwaite, in 1668 and 1673-4 at Muncaster, and the name does not occur frequently at Irton. But in 1605-6 Richard Troughton of Irton had lands assessed at £4, and paid a subsidy of 8s. In 1667 Richard Jackson of Cubban mentioned his son-in-law Thomas Troughton, the husband of his daughter Mary. In 1688 two William Troughtons of Irton appear to have died intestate, in 1689 Elizabeth Troughton married William Asburner, and in 1704 Barbara Troughton was buried at Irton.

#### TUBMAN.

The family of Tubman is to be sought rather at Ulverston than at Irton, but nevertheless there were some of the name, of yeoman rank, living in Irton from Elizabethan times.

In 1584 Richard Tubman of Irton, yeoman, administered the goods of Margaret, widow of Nicholas Moore, and in 1587 Thomas Tubman of Stangend in Irton administered those of Thomas Tyson. John Tubman made an Irton inventory in 1597. Richard and John Tubman were supervisors for their cousin Christopher Eilbecke in 1618.

William Tubman of Moor End in Irton, yeoman, who made an inventory in 1662, died in 1670, leaving personalty at £22 2s. He made his wife Elizabeth "holl executrix," and left 12d. to each of his children, John, William, Elizabeth, Bridget, Mary, Grace, and Isabell.

In 1675 Edward and Thomas Tubman witnessed a will, and there is mention of John Tubman of Morthat, doubtless the same who in 1673-4 was assessed to the hearth tax in Irton.

Between 1697 and 1712 William Tubman of Moor End in Irton, yeoman, had four children baptised at Irton. He died in 1741, leaving personalty valued at £164 12s. To each of his daughters Dorothy Tubman and Rebecca Singleton he left 1s., and to his daughter Elizabeth Clements £20, with "two large chests, cupboard, dresser, bedstocks, grate, crock, scaffolding, and everything that is nailfast and immoveable about my house." His widow Barbara died in 1745. Mr. Samuel Irton married Mrs. Tubman in 1752, and in 1763 Mrs. Tubman of Irton Hall was buried.

#### TYSON.

The name Tyson, which Bardsley believes to be equivalent to

Dyson, a corruption of Dennison (i.e., the son of Dennis or Dyonisius), is to be found widely distributed in the neighbourhood of Irton, and appears fairly continuously in wills and registers.

Thomas Tyson of Irton, evidently one of the leading yeomen, died in 1587, leaving personalty valued at £60 4s. His inventory was as follows: "110 sheep £20, 4 kyne and 2 calves and 2 quyres £8, bedding 20s., 2 chests, one arke, and other household geare 10s., one greate arke, one brasse pott and other yron geare, with the implements of husbandrye geare, which I doe give unto my son William Tyson, 40s., one silver sponne 4s.," and debts to him. In his will he mentioned his brother's daughter Elizabeth Tyson, his sons William, John, Richard of Irton, and Christopher of Nether Wasdale, his daughter, apparently wife of William Nicholson of Mytterdale, and to each of his son's and daughter's children he left 2s.

Edward Tyson was son-in-law of Richard Brownrigg in 1587, and was perhaps the Edward Tyson of Sancton who died in 1629, leaving a wife Margery, sons Richard and George, daughters Agnes, Dorothy, and another married to Foxe, son-in-law William Birckin, and daughter-in-law Bridget. He left to his son Richard "half of my farm geare and two beeds, one in the chamber and the other in the house, also one fether beed. In consideration whereof he shall give to his son Edward three hoges of 3s. 4d. each, and he is to put them to the child's profit, and his father is to put him to scole, and the gift will hoepe him to learning. Also one great pote to remayne at the house as an eyerlume."

Thomas Tyson made inventories in 1627 and 1632, Richard in 1632 and 1647. William Tyson of Santon, yeoman, administered the goods of Nicholas Lucas in 1647, and was probably the William Tyson of Irton who died intestate in 1678. In that year Grace Grigg of Irton, widow (probably of John), left to Grace Tison, apparently her daughter, 10s. per annum, to be paid by the latter's two children Anna and Dorithy. "Further, if they see Greace Tison, their natterall mother, in want I wish them to make her some releaue if they be abbell, over and abofe the said 10s."

Nicholas Tyson, of Kitchinground in Irton, died in 1688, leaving personalty £26 11s., but mentioning no relatives of his own name.

Edward Tyson of Moore End in Irton, yeoman, died in 1697, leaving personalty £35 5s. 4d., mentioning his now wife Jane, his sisters Mary Bartle, Jane Moscrop, Dority Parke, and Bridget, wife of Robert Stainton, and his nevy Richard Tyson. His widow died in 1701.

Bridget Tyson of Plumgarth in Irton, widow, died also in 1697, mentioning her sisters Elizabeth Park, Jenett Nicholson, Annas Irton, and Dorothy Stephenson, and leaving personalty valued at £67 0s. 1d.

Richard Tyson of Hall Santon was the husband of Anne, daughter of Anthony Parker, formerly of Bootle, and in 1710, when Anthony died, had two children, Anne and Jane. The registers shew that he had also William, Richard, and Elizabeth.

Thomas Tyson married Jane, daughter of Christopher Caddy of Gaskow, who died in 1721, but is not mentioned in Irton registers. Henry Tyson, son-in-law of Thomas Leech, had four daughters living in 1730, when Thomas died, but the family seem to have gravitated chiefly to Nether Wasdale. The Irton registers contain many entries of the name.

#### WALKER.

The name Walker occurs with great frequency in Irton wills, and there are many entries in the registers. Nicholas Walker of Sancton was executor of Janat Birkhed's will in 1575, made the inventory of Margaret Moore in 1584, and of Nicholas Moore in 1601, his children receiving under the latter's will "all my apparrell, one paire of short hose excepted," so that perhaps Walker's wife had been daughter of Margaret and sister of Nicholas Moore.

Richard Walker, son-in-law of Jenat, widow of Richard Diconsonn of Irton, was living in 1618, and had a son Nicholas. Janet also mentioned the wife and children of Nicholas Walker.

Richard Walker, of Usteatt in Irton, died in 1665, mentioning in his verbal will his son George, his supposed son Nicholas, and also Francis, Jane, William, and Isabell Walker, who may have been his children. John Walker of Irton died in 1670, and Bridget Walker of Irton in 1672, but their wills are missing. In 1673-4 Richard and Nicholas Walker of Irton, and Edward Walker of Santon Bridge were assessed to the hearth tax.

In 1676 William Hunter of Irton left sheep and hoggs to Isabell, Samuel, and Jane Walker. In 1681 Edward Walker of Garterhow in Irton, yeoman, died, leaving personalty valued at £26 12s. 8d., and desiring to be buried in the parish church of Irton. He left his "best sute to his brother Richard," and "four houges to his four grandchildren," and mentioned his wife Isabel, and his four sons, Richard, William, Nicholas, and Edward. Nicholas Walker of Irton died intestate in 1683.

Another Nicholas Walker, of Gaiterhow in Irton, yeoman, died in 1690, leaving personalty valued at £53 4s. 4d. To his son John he left "one cubert and a chist and a pair of shears after the death of his mother," and he also mentioned his wife Jane, and six other children, Mary, Nicholas, Richard, Edward, Annas, and Joseph.

Richard Walker of Sandbanke in Irton, yeoman, died in 1691, leaving personalty valued at £34 5s. 4d. He mentioned his wife

Elizabeth, and his children John, Anne, wife of Henry Tyson, Isabell, wife of Henry Nicholson, Jane, wife of Henry Kitchin, and Samuel.

John Walker, son-in-law of John Ashburner, had three children, Richard, Elizabeth, and Isabel, in 1698, in which year also George Walker of Usthwaite in Irton died, leaving personalty valued at £41 11s. 8d., including a side saddle, a wheele, a saddle, potts and sythes, a chirne, basketts and roop, and the usual household and farming properties. He left a wife Jane, and four children, Peter, Thomas, William, and Frances, to each of whom he left small legacies, adding "if he be not content, then he shall have nothing." His wife Jane died in 1704. His son Peter married Elizabeth Nicholson in 1702, and had a son John.

John Walker, of Hall Santon in Irton, died in 1705, mentioning his daughters Margaret, Dorothy Benn, and Bridget Runnett, his sons John and William, his daughter-in-law Elizabeth, and her children William, John, Isabel, Frances, Elizabeth, and Bridget Walker. To his daughter Margaret he left "a broad-headed cow, a chist, an iron pann," and also "my now dwelling house, one stale in my cowhouse, half of the grassfolds, the gardian on the backside of the house Newlands, two day worke of peats in the high galds next the Newlands, keeping the house in good repair, the land in good husbandry, for life," and "she shall have ten sheep feeding on my estate at Hal Santon without disturbance of John Walker, my natural son, or his assigns." By "natural" he probably meant legitimate.

John Walker, of Sorowstone in Irton, died in 1710, leaving personalty £32 1s. He mentioned his son John, and his three daughters, Margaret, Annas, and Elizabeth, to the two former of whom he left money "now lying upon the estate of Richard Walker of Irton."

John Walker of Hale Santon in Irton, gentleman, died in 1718, leaving personalty valued at £54 5s. He left to his son John "one gaulin, my mill geare, and my wimbles, in full satisfaction of his filial part of my estate." He also mentioned his now wife Mary and his daughter Elianor Walker.

Margaret Walker of Hall Santon in Irton, spinster, doubtless a sister of the last, died in 1722, mentioning her sisters Dorothy Benn, Mercy Walker, Mary Walker, and Bridget, the four children of her brother William Walker, and her cousins at Muncaster, William, John, and Isabell Walker. To her cousin George Benn she left her "beef fatt."

John Walker of Sandbank in Irton, yeoman, died in 1742, leaving a wife Elizabeth, and four children, Jonathan, Henry, Isabel, wife

of Joseph Danson, and Hannah, wife of Daniel Middleton. His wife, who had previously been the widow of John Moor, jun., of Cragg, appears to have died in 1761.

There are many entries in the registers. Jonathan Walker married Elizabeth Steele in 1724, and had two children. William Walker had six children baptised from 1738 onwards, and in 1713 Richard Walker of Cookstone Place was buried.

It seems very curious that the several yeoman families should have migrated so much as they did from one part of the parish to another. Very few are to be found always in the same place, and if we consider the particular localities mentioned, we find in almost all of them a succession of different names. Certainly in some cases, as Santon, and probably in others, as Kirkland, there was a group of yeoman's houses, so that it is not always the same habitation that is referred to. But still the yeomen must have moved round a good deal, and it is evident that their families cannot be clearly traced through two centuries without reference to the neighbouring parishes. If they moved at all, it is unlikely that they confined their removals within the borders of one parish.

In the wills and registers of Irton down to 1775 the following names of localities, properties, or hamlets are mentioned in connection with the persons whose names immediately follow :—

AIKBANK.—Jane Singleton died 1718. Joseph Penrith of Oakbank, yeoman, 1775.

BROAD LEES.—John Jackson 1723.

BROOM CLOSE.—John Bell, yeoman, died 1742.

BURNBOOTH.—Elizabeth Nicholson died 1700. Nicholas Nicholson 1700. John Nicholson 1722, 1734. Henry Nicholson died 1762.

COOKSTONE PLACE.—Richard Walker died 1713. Jane Walker died 1716.

CUBBAN.—Richard Jackson of Cubboone died 1668. John Jackson of Cubbon died 1691. William Jackson of Cubban died 1761. William Jackson 1765.

**CRAGG.**—William Dickson of the Cragg 1646. John Moore, yeoman, was of Cragg 1684, and died 1705. Eleanor Sherwen died 1692. Peter Fisher died 1723. Cragg was held by customary tenure of the manor of Irton by John Moore's descendants until one of them bought the freehold. It was eventually sold by James Maitland Hoare Moor about the close of the nineteenth century, and is now absorbed in the manor of Irton.

**CRAGG HOUSE IN MELTHWAITE.**—Christopher Hunter died 1679. Henry Borrowdale of Cragg House 1741.

**DRAGGHOUSE.**—Nicholas Borrowdell died 1597.

**EILBECK GROUND.**—John Nicholson's widow 1662. John Eilbeck 1692. John Nicholson died 1728. George Knipe died 1747.

**GAPPE.**—Dorothy Dickson died 1651.

**GARTERHOW.**—Edward Walker died 1681. Nicholas Walker of Gaiterhow died 1690. John Singleton of Gaitrighow died 1728. Thomas Singleton of Gaithrighow 1736.

**GARSTONE.**—William Caddye died 1615.

**GASKETH.**—Henry Caddy of Gaskow or Gasketh died 1717. Christopher Caddy of Gaskow died 1722.

**GILLEREMIRE.**—Ellen Harrison died 1717.

**GILLHOUSE.**—Thomas Singleton died 1692. John Singleton died 1698. Isaac Singleton died 1730.

**GREENGATE.**—John Nicholson died 1718. John Nicholson 1734, 1740.

**HALL SANTON.**—John Walker died 1705. Anthony Parker died 1711. John Walker died 1718. Margaret Walker died 1722.

**HALLFLATT.**—Nicholas Dixon of Hallyflatt died 1694. William Ashburner of Hall Flatt died 1697. Edward Braythwait of Halflatt died 1730.

**HANGING HOW.**—William Lewthwaite died 1741. John Tyson 1776.

**HEWRIGG.**—William Bibbie 1663. William Moore died 1686. John Thompson died 1701. Mary Thompson died 1718. Michael Russell died 1747.

**HOLLINGS.**—Robert Borraddell died 1741. John Borrowdale 1766.

**HOLLOWSTONES.**—Dorothy Dixon died 1708. Richard Dixon died 1712.

**HOLMROOK.**—Nicholas Hodgson died 1647. William Nicholson died 1706.

**KEYHOW.**—Nicholas Dixon died 1679. William Myer died 1701.

**KIRKBANK.**—Christopher Caddy died 1618.

- KIRKLAND.—William Moore 1587, died 1615. Richard Moore died 1647. Richard Dixon 1646. John Eilbeck died 1683. Henry Caddy died 1713. Christopher Eilbeck died 1726. Henry Caddy died 1729. Jane Caddy died 1737. Elizabeth Park died 1738. Hannah Caddy died 1741.
- KITCHIN GROUND.—Nicholas Tyson died 1688. John Kitchin died 1696. Jenet Wilson died 1711. William Kitching 1717. Daniel Lewthwaite 1776.
- LOMING.—William Mawson died 1693. John Kitching died 1707.
- MAINSGATE.—Christopher Moore died 1626. Michael Russell died 1662.
- MELTHWAITE.—Robert Mawson died 1699.
- MILL PLACE.—Richard Irton died 1673. John Sandwith died 1742.
- MITESIDE.—Agnes Fisher died 1702. John Fisher died 1711.
- MOOR END.—William Hodgkin died 1663. William Tubman died 1670. Edward Tyson died 1697. Christopher Hodgkin died 1705. Jacob Singleton died 1736. William Tubman died 1742.
- MOOR SIDE.—John Benson died 1776.
- MOOR YEATT.—William Bibye died 1675. Henry Dixon died 1728.
- MURTHWAITE.—Henry Nicholson 1699.
- PARKE.—William Moore of Parke died 1620. Christopher Potte of Parke House 1646. John Moore of Parke Yeatt died 1666. Henry Nicholson of Parke Yeatt died 1715.
- PARSONAGE.—Richard Bibbie died 1651. John Ashburner died 1698. Richard Ashburner died 1723.
- PLUMGARTH.—William Purchase's sister 1615. Richard Irton died 1677. Bridget Tyson died 1697.
- SANDBANK.—Richard Walker 1666, died 1691. John Walker 1723, died 1742.
- SANTON.—Nicholas Byby died 1608. Thomas Moore died 1612. John Sherwen 1617. Edward Tyson died 1623. William Tyson 1647. Michael Jackson and John Moore 1646. William Moore 1697. John Walker died 1704. John and William Kitchin 1708. John and Edward Dixon and John Singleton 1713. Richard Mawson died 1714. John Thompson 1715. Mary Walker died 1717. John Walker died 1718. Richard Taylor died 1720. Alice Singleton died 1730. Robert Cubish and John Kitching died 1733. John Kitching died 1745. John Jackson died 1748.
- SANTON BRIDGE END.—John Dixon died 1710. Thomas Moscrop and William Gaitskell died 1733.

**SANTON BRIDGE.**—Elizabeth Kitchin 1651. Elizabeth Dixon died 1725. Ellen Viccars died 1733. William Myrehouse died 1739.

**SLAPESTONES.**—John Nicholson died 1694. John Nicholson died 1718. John Nicholson died 1728. John Nicholson 1737 and 1764.

**SLAPWHAITE.**—Edward Steele died 1721. — Steele 1774.

**SORROWSTONE.**—John Thompson died 1663. Nicholas Mawson 1663. John Thompson died 1690. John Walker died 1710. Henry Shepherd died 1737.

**STANGEND.**—Thomas Tubman 1587. Alice Robinson died 1650. Jane Winder died 1675. John Winder, junr., 1698. Bridget Postlethwaite died 1697. Eleanor Barton died 1704. William Winder and Thomas Benson died 1730. John Winder died 1750. Robert Wilkinson 1776.

**USTHWAITE.**—Richard Walker died 1665. Lancelot Porter died 1673. Margaret Porter died 1676. George Walker died 1699. Robert Stephenson from Esthwaite Field died 1705. Lancelot Porter died 1722. Miles Sorrow died 1725. John Tyson 1700, 1734. Lancelot Porter 1736.

**WARDWARROW.**—Robert Jackson of Wallabarray 1587. Isabel Coupland of Wardwarey died 1676. John Kitching 1705. John Coupland of Wardwray died 1708.

**WOODEND.**—John Coate 1597. Henry Caddy 1713.





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