

ART. III.—*The family of Denton.* By T. H. B. GRAHAM.
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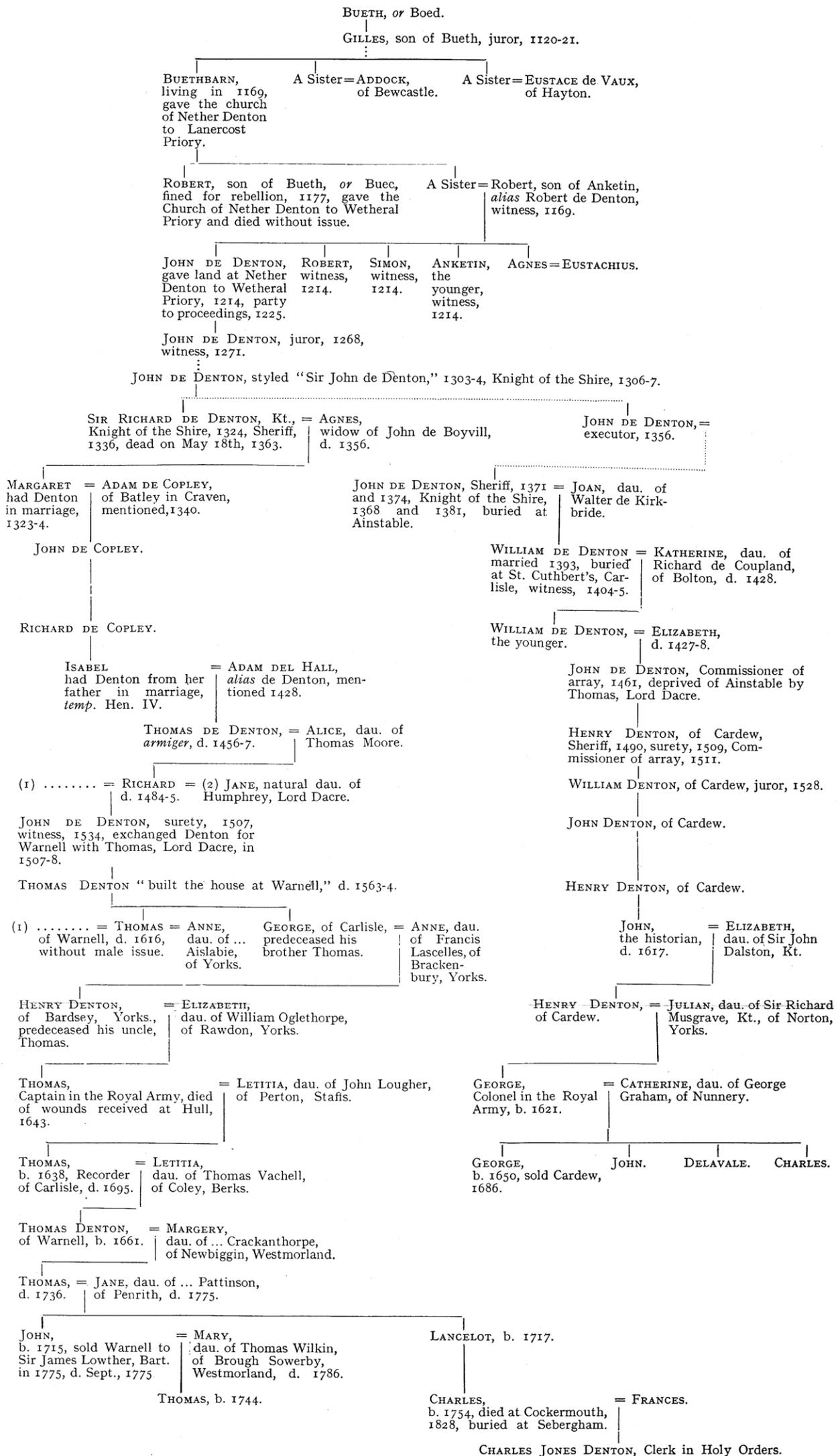
WHEN Henry II. regained possession of Cumberland in 1157, he found that the tract of country, lying between the river Line and the eastern fells and extending southwards towards the Eden Valley, had been under the sway of a certain Gilles, son of Bueth, for such a length of time that it had acquired the name of "Gilles' land." His father's name, Bueth or Boed, has been derived from the Gaelic *buidh*, meaning "yellow-haired," for the names of some of his relations and adherents point to the conclusion that he came of the mixed race of Norsemen and Gaels, which had, at a then comparatively recent period, emigrated from Ireland and the isles of Scotland to the Cumbrian fells (these *Transactions*, N.S., ii., p. 243).

Buchastre (now Bewcastle), undoubtedly takes its name from the patriarch Bueth, because his posterity were connected with that locality and the Roman *castrum* there would furnish him with a ready-made stronghold. The period at which his son lived is ascertained by the fact that Gill' *filius* Boed was a juror at the inquisition held in 1120-1 by David, Earl of Cumbria, concerning church lands (*Register of the Church of Glasgow*, Bannatyne Club, No. 77, vol. i., p. 5). Gilles son of Bueth was therefore a contemporary of Ranulf Meschin, local viceroy of Henry I., and is stated to have lived and died in possession of Gilsland.

His successor (possibly his son), was Buethbarn, that is Bueth "the bairn*" or "the younger" (see Pedigree).

* *Bearn* in Anglo-Saxon, *barn* in Old Norse and Icelandic, "child."

Pedigree of de Denton.



Buethbarn gave the advowson of the church of (Nether) Denton to the Priory of Lanercost (*Reg. Lanercost*,* iii., 1). That proves that he was in possession of Nether Denton at a period subsequent to the foundation, in 1169, of that house. He also gave to the Priory of Wetheral the land at Bewcastle presently mentioned.

Buethbarn, no doubt, expected that Henry II. would confirm him in the overlordship of Gilsland. But the king thought otherwise and interposed a new Norman overlord, Hubert de Vallibus, between himself and the family of Gilles.

Buethbarn was succeeded at Bewcastle and Nether Denton by his son, styled "Robert son of Bueth" (or Buec), whose identity is established by a charter (*Reg. Lanercost*, xii., 26), in which he speaks of "my father Buethbarn." When William the Lion invaded England in 1173-4, Robert son of Bueth sided with him against Henry II. Even then he was not permanently dispossessed of his land, but was only fined one mark, because he had been with the king's enemies (*Pipe Rolls*, 1177). While Robert son of Bueth was in possession of his inheritance, he confirmed to the Priory of Lanercost his father's gift of the advowson of Nether Denton (*Reg. Lanercost*, iii., 2, and xii., 26). A few years later, he gave the advowson of (Nether) Denton and the land belonging to the same church, and eight acres of land which David (de Denton) held, to the Priory of Wetheral in the presence of John de Aschetil, son of Robert, who, as will presently appear, was his sister's son (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 217). This double gift of the advowson of Nether Denton gave rise to a great dispute between the two Priors.

Again, about 1177-8, Robert, son of Buec de Buchastre, confirmed to the Priory of Wetheral "all the land which my father gave them in the *vill* of Buchastre, and I, of

* I follow the citations of the MS. given by Prescott, *Wetherhal*, *passim*.

my own proper gift, have given 4 acres in the said *vill* which lie towards the east, near the sike (*sichetum*), adjoining the land which my father gave them, and pasture for 300 sheep everywhere in the common pasture of Buchastre" (*Wetherhal*, p. 195).

Robert, son of Bueth, did not leave any issue, but he had two sisters, Eda and Sigrida, one or other of whom married Robert, the son of Anketin, or Asketin or Asketil, progenitor of the family styled "de Denton." The same Robert *fil.* Asketil was a witness to the foundation charter of Lanercost Priory about 1169. A very obscure account is given by John Denton, the historian, of the manner in which his ancestors became entitled to their land at Nether Denton:—

The first possessor that I read of was one Wescop, to whom Hubert de Vallibus, Lord of Gilsland, gave Denton in or about Henry II.'s time. Wescop gave it to one Gilles Bueth or Bueth's Barn (otherwise that Gillesbueth and Bueth Barn was but one person). He [Buethbarn] had issue Robert son of Bueth, who died without issue. His [Buethbarn's] sisters were married to Addock, Lord of Bothcastre, and to Eustace Vaux, Lord of Hayton in Gilsland; the one had Over Denton and the other had Nether Denton; which was the two moieties then by partition. Hayton's part [Nether Denton] was given to John, son of Robert, son of Anketin or Asketil de Denton; and Robert, brother to the said John, married the heir to the other part [Over Denton]. The said Robert *fil.* Bueth was their mother's brother. . . . Nether Denton descended from the said John, son of Robert, son of Anketin, to John and to Richard Denton, Knight, his son's son (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 139).

From the above account I gather that John, nephew of the last male representative of the patriarch Bueth, obtained the entire interest in Nether Denton subject only to the over-riding seigniorship of the lord of Gilsland, because, in 1225, he held his land, at fee farm, of Robert de Vallibus (*Archæologia*, xxxix., p. 203).

The Dentons of Cumberland were a numerous family, but I only propose to trace very briefly its two main

branches :—the elder of Nether Denton, subsequently of Warnell, and the younger of Cardew, sometime of Ainstable.

I.—THE DENTONS OF NETHER DENTON.

Robert son of Anketin had issue John de Denton, Robert, Simon, Anketin (the younger), and Agnes. By a charter of the year 1214, John de Denton gave to the monks of Wetheral "8 acres of land in the territory of Denton, in the furlong (*cultura*) called 'Werduthel,' in exchange for those 8 acres which *my uncle*, Robert, son of Bueth, gave to the said monks." Among the witnesses were "Robert, son of Robert de Deñth (Denton), Simon his brother, and Anketin my brother" (*Wetherhal*, p. 220). Again, as "John, son of Robert, son of Anketin," he gave land in Pirihou to his sister Agnes and her husband Eustachius, the witnesses being his brothers Robert and Anketin (*Reg. Lanercost*, v., 26). And again, John de Denton granted the whole land of Pirihou to the Priory of Lanercost (*Ibid.*, iii., 7). In December, 1225, he was party to an assize of novel disseisin (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 10 Henry III., p. 70). This earliest John de Denton, son of Robert, son of Anketin, had a son, John de Denton the second, who confirmed his father's gifts to the Priory of Lanercost (*Reg. Lanercost*, iii., 9). On August 18th, 1268, he was a juror at an *inquisitio ad quod damnum* held at "the castle of the maidens, in the king's forest of Engilwode" (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i., 492), and on June 29th, 1271, he was witness to a grant by Matilidis de Vaux, lady of Gilsland (*Wetherhal*, p. 306).

After the lapse of thirty years, there is mention of a third John de Denton, doubtless the eldest son of the last-named :—

Jan. 9th, 1303-4. The justiciar of Galloway intends to make a foray on the enemy, and has retained, *inter alios*, Sir John de Denton (*Cal. Doc. Scot.* ii., 377).

And on February 20th, 1306-7, a writ was addressed to John de Denton and three others ordering them to levy 140 men from the bailiwicks of Eskdale and Gilsland, bring them to Carlisle, and set out in pursuit of Robert de Brus (*Ibid.*, ii., 506).

His contemporary, Robert de Denton of Lanerton, held £10 of land at Denton of the barony of Gilsland, by service of one-sixth of a knight's fee in 1294-5 (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 23 Edward I., p. 186). Lanerton, from which the late Lord Lanerton derived his title, is not in Nether Denton parish, but on the opposite bank of the Irthing. Cumbrians pronounce Lanertón as they do Pentón, with the accent on the last syllable.

John de Denton the third was knight of the shire in 1306-7 and probably father of the famous Sir Richard Denton, who appears to have been born before January 30th, 1282 (see p. 46). Among the knights of the province of York, who served with Edward I. in Scotland and elsewhere, were Denton, argent, two bars gules, in chief three martlets; and Denton *alter*, argent, two bars gules, in chief three cinquefoils sable (Glover, *Visitation of Yorkshire*, edit. Foster, p. 400). The former coat of arms appears upon the grave-stone of John de Denton, lord of Ainstable; the latter is alleged to have been borne by Sir Richard de Denton (see p. 48).

Richard de Denton took a prominent part in the arrest for high treason of Andrew de Harcla, earl of Carlisle, and on March 10th, 1322-3, was rewarded by a grant of forfeited land which seems to have included the manor of Ainstable (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 16 Edward II., p. 263). On April 5th, 1323, a commission was issued to Richard de Denton and another, to array in Cumberland and Westmorland 2,000 footmen, armed with haketons, basnets and palettis,* and lead them to the king at Newcastle, by

* *Palettes* were pieces of armour for the head.

the octave of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, to go against the Scots (*Ibid.*, p. 274). And on December 23rd, 1324, there was a similar commission to Richard de Denton to select in Cumberland and Westmorland 120 hobelers, mounted on horses other than mares, and have them at Portsmouth, ready to embark by Mid-Lent (*Ibid.*, 18 Edward II., p. 79). He was knight of the shire for Cumberland in 1324.

On August 12th, 1326, Richard de Denton, knight, acknowledged a debt to be levied on his lands in Cumberland (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 20 Edward II., p. 639). On February 16th, 1330-1, the king appointed Richard de Denton a justiciar for the enforcing of the treaty with Scotland in Cumberland (*Cal. Doc. Scot.* iii., 186). And on November 3rd, 1331, he was empowered to receive Scotsmen who desired to cease hostilities (*Ibid.*, p. 189).

On June 2nd, 1335, there is a grant to Richard de Denton that, whereas Edward II. gave him in fee all the lands in Cumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire acquired by Andrew de Harcla from Edmund Boyvill, which had escheated by the rebellion of the said Andrew, and also granted him the lands which he and Agnes his wife held in dower of the lands of John de Boyvill, sometime the husband of Agnes, of the inheritance of the said Edmund, and which, by pretext of a grant by Edmund to Andrew, would revert to the king on her death; and also lands held for life by Joan, late the wife of William de Boyvill, which, for the like reason, would revert to the king on her death, to remain to Richard and his heirs, provided that, if, in any year, the total value of the lands should exceed £50, the excess should be paid at the Exchequer; now he, the said Richard de Denton, shall have the knights' fees and services of free tenants of these lands, with the advowson of the church of Thoresby late of the said Edmund, which escheated to Edward II. in like manner; as well as 4 tofts, 8 bovates and 46 acres

of land in Thoresby and Aynstapellith, late of William le Blount, which escheated to the said king by the adherence of the said William to the Scots in rebellion ; to hold to him and his heirs, by such services as were rendered before they passed into the king's hands (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 9 Edward III., p. 111).

Richard de Denton was sheriff of Cumberland in 1336. On October 5th, 1337, he was going beyond the seas in company of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, and had letters nominating his attorneys in England until Easter (*Ibid.*, 11 Edward III., p. 529).

In October, 1340, there is a release by Edmund de Boyvill to Adam de Coppelay, or Copley, of all his right in lands in Yorkshire, which Adam held of the gift of Sir Richard de Denton (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 14 Edward III., p. 633). The said Adam de Coppelay of Yorkshire married Margaret, only child of Sir Richard de Denton.

On November 18th, 1341, Edward III. appointed Richard de Denton to inquire into the complaint of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, constable of England, that his men of Annandale, coming, as of old by the Solway, to sell their goods at the fairs and markets of Carlisle, were hindered and unduly taxed by the deputy-keeper of the Solway (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii., 250).

In 1346 (19 Edward III.), there were proceedings between Adam, son of John de Coppelay, and Margaret his wife, plaintiffs, and Richard de Denton, *chevalier*, deforciant, concerning the manor of Denton in Gilsland (*Feet of Fines*, 35, 10).

On July 6th, 1350, Richard de Denton was constable of Carlisle and sheriff of Cumberland (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii., 283).

On January 30th, 1351-2, exemption for life was granted to Richard de Denton, for his good service to the king's grandfather and father and to the king, and because he had passed the age of three score years and ten, from

being put on assizes and juries, and from being appointed to offices, against his will (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 26 Edward III., i., p. 226).

On October 10th, 1352, William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, constable of England and lord of Annandale, appointed Sir Richard de Denton and others to receive Lochmaben castle and the vale of Annan from his warden there (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii., 286). I will refer presently to a later official connection of the de Dentons with Annandale.

In September, 1356, Agnes, wife of *dominus* Richard de Denton, made her will at Uluesby (Ousby), and thereby gave her body to be buried in the parish church of Thoresby, and bequeathed to the church of Denton her second best animal, for a mortuary; to the nuns of Armathwaite ten shillings; to Thomas del Hall two shillings; and the residue to her husband (*dominus*) Richard de Denton; and appointed the said Richard de Denton, *John his brother*, and *dominus* William de Denton, rector of the church of Uluesby, executors; and the same will was proved at Rose on December 2nd, 1356 (*Testamenta Karleolensia*, p. 12).

On May 18th, 1363, Richard de Denton was dead and there was an order to deliver to certain persons the manor of Thoresby, which he held for life (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 37 Edward III., p. 467).

According to Thomas Denton's *MS.*, quoted by the Lysons (*Cumberland*, p. 98), Sir Richard de Denton conveyed Denton Hall* to Thomas del Hall by a deed in which he referred to the latter as his relation (*consanguineus*). If that statement is correct there were two persons who claimed to represent Sir Richard de Denton, namely Adam de Copley of Yorkshire, who married his only daughter Margaret, and Thomas del Hall

* The *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 140, seems to imply that Sir Richard Denton reserved an interest in the manor of Nether Denton.

of Cumberland, who purchased Denton Hall. But a few generations later the heir of del Hall married a descendant of de Copley and the two branches were united.

I will deal first with the de Copleys. Adam and Margaret de Copley are referred to as husband and wife in 1346 (*supra*), and had a son, John, of whom nothing is recorded, and a grandson, Richard de Copley, who in Henry IV.'s reign, that is to say at the beginning of the fifteenth century, gave to Adam, son of Thomas del Hall, his daughter Isabel in marriage; and the right to use the armorial bearings of her ancestor, Sir Richard de Denton, namely, *argent*, 2 bars *gules*, in chief 3 cinquefoils *sable*. A copy of that grant of arms, written in French, was contained in Thomas Denton's *MS.* (Lysons' *Cumberland*, p. lxxi.).

I will next deal with the del Halls. Thomas del Hall was legatee under the will of Agnes de Denton in 1356. Again, Thomas del Hall was appointed executor of a will dated January 13th, 1378-9, 2 Richard II. (*Test. Karl.*, p. 126). And it was Adam son of Thomas del Hall who about the year 1400 married the aforesaid Isabel de Copley. The Visitation pedigree of the Dentons of Warnell states that the said Adam del Hall, *alias* de Denton, died in 10 Henry IV., 1408-9. If so, I am at a loss to identify the Adam de Denton, who was juror at an inquisition held at Carlisle in 1428-9 (*Feudal Aids*, vol. i., p. 245); and the Adam de Denton, who figures amongst the prominent local gentry in 1433-4 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 12 Henry VI., p. 383).

Adam and Isabel de Denton had a son, Thomas Denton, *armiger*, who died in 1456-7, seised of the manor of Nether Denton in Gilsland, held as of the manor of Irthington, and three burgage tenements at Carlisle and one messuage at Ricardyate (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 35 Henry VI., p. 275), and left issue by his wife Alice, daughter of Thomas Moore, a son Richard.

Richard Denton had by his first wife, whose name is not stated, a son, John, who gave to Thomas, Lord Dacre, K.G., the manor of Nether Denton, in exchange for that of Warnell in Sebergham parish. He is still described in 1519 as "John Denton, of Denton, Cumberland," on being discharged from a recognizance entered into in 1507 (L. and P., Henry VIII., vol. iii., p. 32); and he is, perhaps, the John Denton, who signed the inventory of goods at Naworth belonging to William Lord Dacre in 1534 (*Ibid.*, vol. vii., p. 259). His descendants appear in the Visitation pedigree of Denton of Warnell.

Thomas Denton, to whose memory the monument in Sebergham church was erected, married twice and died April 1st, 1616, without male issue. He survived his brother, George, and the latter's son, Henry, and by his will dated February 17th, 1613, devised Warnell to Thomas Denton, son of the said Henry, in tail male. These dates are inconsistent with those of the Visitation pedigree, but I follow an extract from the family pedigree preserved at Warnell Hall, furnished by Mr. C. W. Ruston-Harrison. On the south wall of the sanctuary is a helmet, carved in stone, with mantling and crest, a bird rising, surmounting the escutcheon of Denton of Warnell, and below are affixed four stone slabs emblazoned with coats of arms:—

- 1.—Denton of Warnell, *per se*, argent, two bars gules, in chief three cinquefoils sable; and above, a helmet with mantling surmounted by the crest, a bird rising.
- 2.—The same design in duplicate.
- 3.—Denton of Warnell impaling Aislabie of Yorkshire, namely, first and fourth quarters, azure, a fesse between three martlets argent; second, an eagle displayed; third, a bend; and above, two crests, namely, a bird rising and a morion.
- 4.—The same design in duplicate.

Immediately beneath the four coats of arms is a fifth slab inscribed:—

E

Thomas Denton de Warnell arm., in artibus M^r et dignæ memoriæ, octingenta expletis an., fæluciter obiit, i die Aprilis, a^o dni 1616.

Below the last are affixed two small shields side by side inscribed respectively "*per me*" and "*A.D. uxor*," and two more stone slabs with Latin inscriptions, to which Bishop Nicolson makes reference in his *Miscellany Accounts*.

The above-mentioned slabs form the epitaph of Thomas Denton of Warnell, born about 1536, and Chancellor Ferguson was of opinion (these *Transactions*, o.s., vii., p. 257), that they were the decorations of an altar-tomb, formerly standing against the south wall and demolished when the manor changed hands; and that the initials A.D. stand for Anne Denton, née Aislachie, second wife of the said Thomas Denton. On December 26th, 1599, Anne Denton, wife of Thomas Denton of Warnell, is described as a recusant (*S. P. Dom. Eliz.*, 1599, p. 362). In 1568, Thomas Denton of Warnell entered into a recognizance to appear before the Privy Council (*S. P. Dom. Add. Eliz.*, 1568, p. 55).

The Thomas Denton, who certified the Visitation pedigree, retired from the office of Recorder of Carlisle in 1679. He wrote the Thomas Denton MS. and died in 1695. The portraits of himself and his wife, Letitia or Lettice, are in the Town Hall of Carlisle. Their son Thomas, aged four at the date of the Visitation, married Margery Crackanthorpe, of Newbiggin, Westmorland, and had issue:—Thomas, who married Jane Pattinson, of Penrith, by licence dated December 10th, 1710, and died in 1736. His widow died at the age of 89, and was buried at Sebergham, March 5th, 1775.

Their son John Denton, baptised January 26th, 1715, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Wilkin, of Brough Sowerby, Westmorland. He sold the manor of Warnell-Denton to Sir James Lowther, Bart. (afterwards Earl of Lonsdale), in 1775, and was buried on September 30th

of the same year at Sebergham. The entries in the Sebergham parish registers which relate to the Dentons of Warnell are printed in these *Transactions*, o.s., ix., p. 83.

Warnell Hall, now occupied as a farmhouse, possessed a strong tower of which there are remains. The steep bank upon which it stands is known as Low Dentonside.

II.—THE DENTONS OF CARDEW.

The version of the *Accompt* edited by Chancellor Ferguson does not contain any very definite particulars concerning this younger branch of the family, but states that a certain John Burdon, who had become entitled to Cardew, settled the same upon his son John Burdon the younger for life, with remainder to John Denton and Joan his wife and the heirs of their bodies; that the John Denton, who married Joan, was lord not only of Ainstable but of "the forest of Garnerie and Kirkpatrick and Agingrey (Irongray), in Scotland, which he had of the gift of Edward Baliol, King of Scots"; and that, when the latter was banished from Scotland, he defended his principal house until it was set on fire; and, in remembrance of that incident, he was granted the crest of a tower sable, with flames issuing from the top thereof, and a demi-lion rampant, holding a sword in his right paw, issuing out of the flames. That Scottish crest is drawn in the Scaleby version of the *Accompt*. It further states that the said John de Denton was "steward of all Annandale, under Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex and Lord High Constable of England." Edward Baliol fled to Carlisle in December, 1332, but did not surrender his land to Edward III. until January 20th, 1356-7 (Aylofffe, *Calendars*, p. 299). The Humphrey de Bohun referred to was probably the minor, who succeeded to those titles in 1361 (Dugdale, *Baronage*, i., 186), because, in 1362-3, custody of the castle of Lochmaben

and of the lordship of Annandale was committed to John de Denton (Aylofffe, p. 224).

Another version of the *Accompt*, lent to Bishop Nicolson by Mr. Bird of Brougham, explained that the said John de Denton married Joan, daughter of Walter Kirkbride, by Alice daughter of Sir William de Burdon, brother of the settlor (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 318).

Walter de Kirkbride was born about 1287 and died in 1336. I infer that John, nephew of Sir Richard de Denton, was the founder of the family of Denton of Cardew. Again, in 17 Edward III., 1343-4, there are proceedings between John, son of John de Denton, knight (*militis*), plaintiff, and Richard de Denton, *chevaler*, deforciant, concerning the manor of Ainstable which Johanna widow of William de Boyvill holds in dower (*Feet of Fines*, 35, 10). I infer that John, nephew of Sir Richard Denton, was the plaintiff.

In the pavement at the foot of the altar steps of Ainstable church is a fine grave-slab, adorned with a long cross florée, a sword, a helmet surmounted by the Denton crest (a bird rising), and four coats of arms:—the first argent, two bars gules, in chief three martlets gules (Denton of Cardew), impaled with argent, a cross engrailed vert—the arms borne by the Kirkbride, who fought for Edward I. at Carlaverock in 1300 (Nicholas, *Siege of Carlaverock*, p. 76). The second, Denton impaled with a bend indented, which seems to indicate a second marriage. The third and fourth shields bear the arms of Denton of Cardew *per se*, and upon the margin of the slab is the inscription *Hic jacet Johannes de D[e]ntoun, dominus de . . . nstapli*. Jefferson's illustration (*Leath Ward*, p. 251) does not do justice to this handsome grave-slab; nor is the plate in Lysons (opposite p. cxcv.) much better.

In 1777, it was near the middle of the church (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 432), and recently it lay at the west end of the churchyard, but there can be no doubt that it

originally covered the remains of the founder of the family of Denton of Cardew.

After Sir Richard de Denton's death, John de Denton comes into prominence. He was sheriff in 1371 and 1374, and several times knight of the shire, 1368-81. A will dated 1378 refers to tenements at Bochardgate, Carlisle, belonging to John de Denton (*Test. Karl.*, p. 117). In 1382, there was an acquittance to Richard de Coupland by John Denton (*Catalogue of ancient deeds*, v., 128), whose son and successor, according to the Bird version of the *Accompt*, was William de Denton.

In October, 17 Richard II., 1393, an agreement, written in French, was executed at Millom, Cumberland, between Richard de Coupland of Bolton of the one part, and Jonett de Denton, Richard de Skelton, and William de Denton of the other part, by which the said William de Denton agreed to take to wife Katherine, daughter of the said Richard de Coupland, within fifteen days after the feast of "St. Martin in the winter" next (*Catalogue of ancient deeds*, iv., 529). William de Denton was witness to a charter dated January 25th, 1404-5 and noticed in the *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 176.

The effigies of a Denton and Katherine his wife formerly in St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, are now lying on either side of the altar of Ainstable church (for illustration see these *Transactions*, o.s., xv., 417). They must represent the William and Katherine mentioned in the above cited agreement. As tenants of Cardew, in the episcopal barony of Dalston, and as holders of tenements in Carlisle, they were entitled to be buried at St. Cuthbert's; but, by the irony of fate, their effigies were subsequently brought to Ainstable by another family, the Aglionbys, in the *bona fide* belief that they represented some of their own ancestors. Jefferson makes the erroneous suggestion that the effigies are those of Aglionbys:—

When St. Cuthbert's Church, in Carlisle was rebuilt, two recumbent monuments in memory of John Aglionby (*sic*) and Catherine Denton his wife were removed to Nunnery. The sides have been panelled with quatrefoils bearing shields in the centres (*Leath Ward*, p. 241).

St. Cuthbert's church was re-built in 1778, but the following careless account, written in 1796, represents the monument as still remaining there intact :—

Under one of the north arches of the nave of St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, is an altar-tomb of red stone, with two rude figures of a knight and lady, and this inscription on the side capitals on the ledge :—*Orate pro anima Katharinæ Denton, quæ obiit a'o d'ni M . . .* (I was told 1448 or 1458). On the sides in quatrefoils—Fretté. Ditto under a label of 4 points. A fesse between 3 fleurs de lis, impaling barré of 4 or 6, a bend. Another coat not seen (*Sepulchral Monuments* II., 150).

The actual date is MCCCC...XVIII. probably 1428. For many years the effigies and fragments of the altar-tomb lay in front of the house at Nunnery, but eventually the effigies were placed in the parish church, and the interesting coats of arms enclosed in quatrefoils were, with some others, affixed to the wall of a grotto in the Nunnery walks.

William and Katherine de Denton had a son William the younger. In 1427-8, Elizabeth, who was the wife of William Denton, died seised of five bovates at Skelton, land in Inglewood Forest, and a burgage tenement at Carlisle (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 6 Henry VI., p. 114). And fourteen years later, in 1441-2, John de Denton, of full age, was found to be the son and heir of Elizabeth, who was the wife of William de Denton "the younger" (*Ibid.*, 20 Henry VI., p. 210). The name of John de Denton occurs, in company with those of Adam de Denton and William de Denton, mayor of Carlisle, in a list of Cumberland gentry dated 1433-4 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 12 Henry VI., p. 383).

On November 13th, 1461, there was a commission to John Denton and others to array all the king's subjects in Cumberland against Henry VI. (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1 Edward IV., p. 66). Thomas Lord Dacre of Gilsland, then deceased, had "extorted" Ainstable from him, because he supported Edward IV. (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 119), and the younger branch of the family were thenceforward connected with Cardew only.

The aforesaid John Denton was succeeded by his son, Henry Denton, sheriff in 1490. On July 12th, 1509, Henry Denton "of Cardew" was bound as a surety (*L. and P.*, Henry VIII., vol. i., p. 40), and on June 20th, 1511, he was a commissioner of array for Cumberland (*Ibid.*, p. 260). His son was named William.

William Denton was one of the gentlemen empannelled on the inquisition concerning the escape of Richie Graham of Esk in 1528 (*Ibid.*, vol. iv., p. 1829). And he was summoned by the sheriff in 1534 (*Ibid.*, vol. vii., p. 49). According to the Bird version of the *Accompt*, William had a son, John, and John had a son, Henry, who was father of John Denton the historian.

John Denton the historian stands at the head of the Visitation pedigree of Denton of Cardew. His contemporary, Reginald Bainbrigg, wrote in 1599:—

I went to Mr. John Denton, of Cardew, being a man well read in antiquities in his own country as any one man in the north. I found that he had taken great pains (these *Transactions*, n.s. xi., p. 369).

The following document is curious:—

Note of patents and other records, from 1 John to 9 Edw. IV., seen by Mr. Denton, by warrant of the Attorney General dated Jan. 30th, 1601 (*S. P. Dom. Eliz.*, 1601, p. 36).

It is said that Henry Robinson, bishop of Carlisle and superior lord of the manor of Cardew from 1598 onward, caused John Denton to be imprisoned in the Tower of

London, in consequence of a dispute between them, and that John Denton was allowed access to public records preserved there. There is an echo of some such dispute in 1613, while Henry Robinson and John Denton were still living :—

George (*sic*) Denton, of Cardew Hall within the manor of Dalston, esquire, refusing all suit to his lordship's mills and courts, the bishop filed a bill against him in the Exchequer and obtained a decree against him and thereby secured the just rights of his fee against that mesne lordship (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 284).

John Denton the historian married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Dalston of Dalston knight (these *Transactions*, N.S., x., p. 216).

Their great-grandson George Denton, in 1672, sold to his tenants, for 61 years' ancient rent, their messuages and tenements free from all rents, fines, heriots, carriages, boons and other services ; reserving only one penny yearly rent, suit of court and royalties. And in 1686 he sold the manor of Cardew to Sir John Lowther, Bart. It consisted, in 1777, of about fourteen tenancies at Cardew lees (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 317). The entries in the Dalston parish register which relate to the Dentons of Cardew are printed in these *Transactions*, o.s. vii., p. 206. Cardew Hall is now a farmhouse.
