

ART. XIV.—*The de Multons of Gilsland*. By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A., F.S.A.

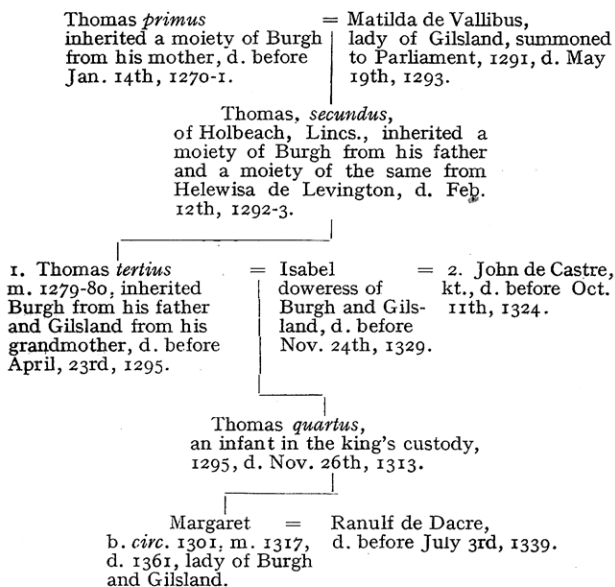
*Communicated at Whitehaven, Sept. 14th, 1927.*

THOMAS de Multon, surnamed of Moulton, Lincolnshire, was patriarch of the family. He was father of Lambert de Multon who founded the Egremont branch; father of Alan de Multon who founded the Cockermouth branch, styling itself "de Lucy"; and, by a later marriage, father of Thomas de Multon who founded the Gilsland branch. He was not originally connected with Cumberland but, by great astuteness, contrived to secure for himself and his family considerable influence in that county. In 1213, he paid 1000 marks for the custody of Amabilis and Alicia, infant daughters of Richard de Lucy, of Egremont, with their inheritance and marriage (*Rotuli de Finibus*, edit. Hardy, p. 482); and without the king's consent gave them to the sons of his first marriage (*Testa de Nevill*). Lambert married Amabilis and Alan married Alicia (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 168).

In 1215, he joined the rebellious barons, and was consequently excommunicated by the pope in the following year (Matthew de Paris, *Chronica Majora*, Rolls edition, ii, pp. 585, 644). In 1218, his land in Cumberland was seized because he had without the king's licence married Ada de Morvill, widow of the said Richard de Lucy (*Rot. Claus.*, edit. Hardy, p. 354). Ada was entitled in her own right to half the barony of Burgh-by-Sands and to the hereditary office of forester of Cumberland (*Testa de Nevill*). His audacious conduct frequently involved him in trouble, but he weathered all storms. He was constable of Carlisle Castle in 1233 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 17 Henry III,

p. 8) and sheriff of Cumberland 1233-6. He was a lawyer of some repute, acted as justice itinerant, adjudicated upon cases at Westminster (Dugdale, *Chronica Series*),

PEDIGREE OF DE MULTON OF GILSLAND.



and in 1236 is styled *justiciarius de banco* (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 20 Hen. III, p. 348). He died in 1240 (Matthew de Paris, iv, 49). His shield, *argent*, three bars *gules*, is displayed inverted in the margin of the MS. (*ibid.*, vi, 475). His youngest son, Thomas, called in the Chronicle of Lanercost "*dominus* Thomas de Multon *primus*" (see accompanying pedigree) had already married Matillidis, or Matilda, de Vallibus, lady of Gilsland (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 24 Hen. III, p. 188). The above-stated facts form a fitting introduction to the subject of this paper.

In 1240-1, Thomas de Multon *primus* had livery of his father's land (*Pipe Roll, Cumb.*) and respite of taking arms and making himself a knight (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 25 Hen. III, p. 351).

A roll of arms, believed to have been compiled at this period, states that Thomas de Multon of Egremont bore *argent*, three bars *gules*, and Thomas *primus* of Gilsland, hereditary forester of Inglewood, bore the same with a label *sable* for difference:—

Thomas de Multon d'argent a trois barres de goules: Thomas de Moulton le forestier autiel\* ung label noire (*Hen. III, Roll*, edit. Nicolas, p. 14).

On April 30th, 1247, the king granted to "Thomas son of Thomas de Multon" (Thomas *primus*) free warren in his demesne lands of Gilsland (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, 31 Hen. III, p. 320) and on October 1st, 1252, further granted to him and Matilda free warren in their demesne lands in Cumberland and a market at their manor of Braunton (*ibid.*, 37 Hen. III, p. 406). On March 28th, 1258, Thomas son of Thomas de Multon (that is to say Thomas *primus*) and Thomas, son of Lambert de Multon, were comanded to meet Henry III at Chester, with all their forces against Llewelyn (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 412).

Thomas *primus* was deprived of the office of forester in fee of Inglewood, for many trespasses committed within the forest in 1263 and subsequent years (these *Transactions*, N.S., vii, p. 5).

He predeceased his wife Matilda. The writ for the inquisition of his lands in Cumberland was issued on January 14th, 1270-1. Those lands consisted of his mother's moiety of the barony of Burgh, with 13 nets in the Eden; a moiety of "le frithnette" and a moiety of Kirkoswald. They all passed to his son Thomas who was of full age (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 55 Hen. III, p. 246). His place of burial was probably Holbeach, Lincolnshire, but, some fifteen years later, on All Souls' day (November 2nd), 1285, the body of Thomas de Multon *primus* was translated to Lanercost Priory (*Chronicle of Lanercost*, Bannatyne Club, p. 120). Thomas de Multon, his son

---

\* *Autel*, "the like."

and heir, called in that chronicle "Thomas *secundus*, lord of Holbeach," did homage for land in Lincolnshire at his father's death (*Rotuli Finium*, edit. Roberts, p. 535) and on January 20th, 1271-2, was called upon to warrant some land, which Matillidis, widow of Thomas de Multon *primus*, claimed as dower (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 540). At the inquisition concerning land of Helewisa de Levington, made by virtue of a writ dated October 1st, 1272, he was found to be her heir, in respect of another moiety of Burgh and Kirkoswald, equivalent to half a barony (*ibid.*, i, p. 549).

At assizes held at Carlisle on November 3rd, 1278, it was proved that Thomas de Multon "of Burgh" (Thomas *secundus*) held all Burgh and Kirkoswald of the king by cornage (*ibid.*, ii, p. 37) and on the same occasion Thomas de Multon "of Gilsland" (Thomas *secundus*) claimed that he and his ancestors had from time immemorial taken fines for all illegal nets, at a place in the Eden called "Polburgh,"\* by view of knights and others appointed to the custody of the waters (*ibid.*, ii, p. 38). He is there, for distinction, styled "of Gilsland," but he was not lord of Gilsland, because his mother Matilda was in sole possession of that barony.

At the same assizes, David de Torthorald and Christiana his wife complained that Matillidis de Multon of Gilsland had disseised them of some common pasture in Brampton, pertaining to their freehold at Talkin and Brampton, namely, pasture in one place upon 1000 acres of brushwood and waste, where they commoned with all their "avers," throughout the year; and pasture in another place upon 100 acres of arable land and meadow, where they similarly commoned after the hay and corn were carried. Matillidis did not appear and the plaintiffs withdrew their plea (*ibid.*, ii, p. 29). The proceedings possibly refer to the enclosure of Brampton Park.

---

\* In 1485, the court of Polburgh, or "watercourt," was still held in the manor of Burgh (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, I, Hen. VII, p. 70).

Matilda de Multon had two parks in 1285, namely Irthington and Askerton parks (these *Transactions*, N.S., xix, p. 107). The former may have been what, until recent times, was known as "Brampton Park," carved out of her free chase of Brigwood and situate on the bank of the river *opposite* to Irthington.

In 1279-80, Thomas de Multon *secundus* enfeoffed his son Thomas (who shall be called "Thomas *tertius*") and Isabel, intended wife of the latter, jointly, of the manor of Kirkoswald, parcel of the barony of Burgh, except the park and advowson, to hold in tail, and in 1283-4, similarly enfeoffed them of the same park and advowson. Both feoffments were made without the king's licence (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 23 Ed. I, p. 185).

Matilda de Multon, *domina de Gillesland*, was summoned to Parliament on April 16th, 1291, together with Thomas de Multon *senior* and *junior* (*Report on the dignity of a peer*, *Appendix* no. i, p. 54). The elder was Thomas de Multon of Egremont (d. 1294) summoned in respect of that barony and the younger was Thomas *secundus*, summoned in respect of his barony of Burgh.

Thomas *secundus* died in his mother's lifetime, and had consequently no interest in Gilsland. The writ for the inquisition concerning his manor of Holbeach is dated March 1st, 1292-3, and a Lincolnshire jury found that the heir was his son Thomas *tertius*, aged 26 and more (*Cal. inq. p. m.* 21 Ed. I, p. 69) but later in the same year a Suffolk jury declared that the same Thomas was 30 years of age and more (*ibid.*, p. 64). The inquisition relating to his barony of Burgh is missing, but on March 27th, 1293, the escheator was ordered to deliver to Thomas *tertius*, his father's lands (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 21 Ed. I, p. 320).

The death of Matilda de Multon occurred some three months after that of her son Thomas *secundus*. Writs directing *inquisitiones post mortem* were issued on May 28th, 1293, and they were accordingly made concerning her

manors of Sevenhampton (Seavington) and Ayshulle (Ashill) Somerset, held of her son James for life; her manor of Surlingham, Norfolk, held of her son Hubert for life; and her manor of Denham, Suffolk, held of dominus Roger Bygod, Earl of Norfolk. In the last instance, Thomas *tertius*, aged 30 and more, was found to be her heir. (*Cal. inq. p. m.* 21 Ed. I., p. 64). There is no record of the inquisition concerning Matilda's barony of Gilsland, but the document next quoted shows that she was there, as at Denham, succeeded by Thomas *tertius*.

July 1st, 1293. The escheator is ordered to deliver to Thomas de Multon of Cumberland, kinsman and heir of Maud de Multon, tenant in chief, the lands late of his said *grandmother*, he having done homage (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 21, Ed. I, p. 325).

The compiler of the Chronicle of Lanercost has inadvertently inserted the deaths of Thomas *secundus* and Matilda under the heading "*anno 1294*." It should be 1292-3:—

In the same year, on the day before the Ides of February (Feb. 12th) died Thomas de Multon *secundus*, then lord of Holbeche. Again, on St. Dunstan's day (May 19th) died that most noble matron of pious memory, *domina* Matildis de Multon, lady of Gilsland, mother of the aforesaid Thomas (*Chronicle of Lanercost*, p. 159).

Thomas *tertius* survived his grandmother less than two years. The writ for the inquisition held after his death is dated April 23rd, 1295, and the jury returned a verdict that he died seised of the barony of Burgh, including the chief manor of Burgh with some fisheries, three saltworks, five parts of a court and a rent called "flodesilver" and also the barony of Gilsland, including the chief manor of Irthington with 80 acres of arable land at Hamesby within that manor, two parks, two lakes, free chaces, eyries of sparrow-hawks (*nisorum*) and free tenants by socage, doing homage and suit at the court of Irthington (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 23 Ed. I, p. 183). He held some fees in Coupland of Thomas de Multon of Egremont (*ibid.*).

The writ for a fuller inquisition was issued on June 25th of the same year, when it was proved that the barony of Burgh included the chief manor of Burgh with three saltworks, two water mills, a fish pond, five parts of a free net, a little fishery called "tractus," the farm of a fishery called "flodesilver" and a fishery with a pond, and the barony of Gilsland included the manor of Brampton with a brewery, woods called "Brigwood, Irthing and Gelt," a mill on the Gelt, the mills of Lonetby\* and Rotheburne (Roachburn) a fulling mill, rents of 11 skeps and 5½ strikes of flour and a pasture called "Geltsdale." Thomas *tertius* had nearly 600 acres at Fulewood,† held by 44 farmers at will and some 200 acres at Walton Wood, held by 35 farmers at will; the "great waste" of Northmoor; the lakes of Tindal Tarn and Talkin Tarn, which rendered fishing for the lord's use; and the free chace of the barony which rendered nothing but herbage (*ibid.*, p. 184).

Thomas *tertius* was survived by his widow Isabel, and his son and heir Thomas *quartus*, aged 13 on the gule of August next following (Aug. 1st, 1295) and all the land remained for some years in the king's hand.

A Thomas de Multon was summoned to Parliament in 1297 and 1299 (Dugdale *Summons*, pp. 19, 23). That was Thomas of Egremont (d. 1321-2) because Thomas *quartus* was still a minor in the king's custody (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 28 Ed. I, p. 429).

An old poem of 1300 mentions Thomas de Multon:—

Ke avoit baniere e escu  
De argent ove treis bars de goules.  
(Nicolas, *Siege of Carlaverock*, p. 8).

That was certainly Thomas of Egremont.

\* Perhaps *Bowetby*, i.e., Boothby, Cf. "Bowetby mylne" (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 1 Hen., VII, p. 68).

† Matilda, lady of Gilsland, claimed free warren in Northmoor and Fulwood in 1292 (*Placita de quo waranto*, 20 Ed. I, p. 126).

Thomas *quartus* had come of age and was in possession of his property on December 20th, 1303, when Thomas de Multon "lord of Gilsland" acknowledged a debt of £1,500, to be levied on his land in Cumberland and elsewhere (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 32 Ed. I, p. 192); and on April 5th, 1306, Thomas de Multon of Gilsland and Thomas de Multon, knight, were ordered to assist with horses, arms and all their power, in defence of the realm against the Scots (*ibid.*, 34 Ed. I, p. 433). A Thomas de Multon was knighted at Whitsuntide of that year (Ashmole, *Garter*, p. 38).

On August 26th, 1307, in the first year of Edward II, Thomas *quartus* was summoned to Parliament as "Thomas de Multon of Gilsland" (Dugdale, *Summons*, p. 57).

On September 25th of the same year, he and "Thomas de Multon of Egremont" were ordered to assist in meeting the "thievish incursions" of Robert de Brus (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1 Ed. II, p. 42). His last summons to Parliament is dated July 26th, 1313 (Dugdale, *Summons*, p. 93).

The Chronicle of Lanercost under the heading *anno 1313* (p. 223) records:—

In the same year, on the sixth day before the Kalends of December (November 26th) died *dominus* Thomas de Multon, lord of Gilsland. He left as heir an only daughter, Margaret by name, whom Robert de Clifford, son of Robert of the same, in the seventh year of his age (*suæ ætatis*) espoused at Hoff, as he lay in bed (*ipso lecto decubante*) and, while the said Robert was alive, Ranulf de Dacre, son of *dominus* William de Dacre, married the same Margaret, because he had a right to her, on account of an agreement, made before the former nuptials, between Thomas de Multon, father of the said Margaret, and William de Dacre.

The writ for the *inquisitio post mortem* of Thomas *quartus* is dated January 14th 1313-4, and the jury found that he was seised of the manor of Hoff (Westmorland) held of Robert de Clifford; the manor of Burgh, except one-third part which his mother Isabel held in dower; and the manor of Irthington (*i.e.* Gilsland) except one-third part which his mother similarly held in dower;



and his daughter Margaret, aged 13½, was his heir (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 7 Ed. II, p. 252). On June 14th, 1316, the king granted custody of the land late of Thomas *quartus* to Adam de Skelton, by reason of the minority of the heir (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 9 Ed. II, p. 283).

Dugdale supposes (*Bar.* i, 568) that Thomas de Multon, who with Margery his wife obtained in 1317, privileges at Ayshulle and Sevenhampton, Somerset (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, 10 Ed. II, p. 335) was Thomas *quartus*. But he was, in fact, Thomas de Multon, of Pinhoe, Devon (*Polwhele, Devon*, ii, 185).

On October 28th, 1317, Ranulf de Dacre was pardoned for abducting by night Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Multon of Gilsland, tenant in chief, a minor in the king's custody, from the castle of Warwick (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 11 Ed. II, p. 39); and on October 30th following the escheator was ordered to give Ranulf de Dacre and Margaret his wife seisin of her father's lands, as she had proved her age before the king and he had taken Ranulf's fealty (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 11 Ed. II, p. 504).

Isabel, doweress of Gilsland and Burgh, married, secondly, John de Castre, knight. He was sheriff of Cumberland in 1310 and was dead on October 11th, 1324 (*Cal. inq. p. m.* 18 Ed. II, p. 355). Isabel died in 1329. The writ for her *inquisitio post mortem* is dated November 24th of that year, and her grand-daughter Margaret was then 26 years of age and more (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 3 Ed. III, p. 153).

By fine levied at Westminster, June 25th, 1324, and recorded at York, October 20th, 1328, Ranulf and Margaret settled their two-thirds of Irthington and Burgh and the reversion of Isabel's one-third thereof upon themselves jointly in tail (*ibid.*, 13 Ed. III, p. 169).

Ranulf obtained licence to crenellate Naworth in 1335 (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii, p. 211) and died in 1339. On July 3rd of that year, it was ordered that Irthington and Burgh

should be delivered to Margaret (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 13 Ed. III, p. 164). Margaret died in 1361. Her inquisition is so discoloured by age that it is hardly legible (*Cal. esch.*, 36 Ed. III, p. 249). At her death, the family of de Multon of Gilsland became extinct.

From beginning to end, the name "Thomas de Multon" is a stumbling block. The patriarch of all the de Multons of Cumberland bore that christian name and surname. There were four successive Thomas de Multons of the Gilsland branch; two successive Thomas de Multons of the Egremont branch;\* and yet another Thomas de Multon, of Cockermouth, who assumed, for the sake of distinction, the surname "de Lucy." John Denton's description of the family (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 69) is defective, because it omits a generation. The pedigree printed in these *Transactions*, N.S. xii, p. 166, and founded on that description is consequently defective in the same particular.

---

\* The former died in 1294 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 22 Ed. I, p. 337); the latter in 1321-2 (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 15 Ed. II, p. 198).