

ART. XVII.—*Two Duddon farms, Thrang and Hazlehead.* By SUSAN JOHNSON.

Read at Carlisle, April 15th, 1961.

MY father, the late Rev. H. H. Symonds, owned these farms for a time, and had a box of old deeds and manorial documents, mostly written on vellum, which were so crumpled and faded as to be difficult to read and he did not have time to decipher them. When my step-mother came across them recently we unwrapped them and these are some of the results.

The first document which we have for Nettleslack, which was a farm a quarter of a mile up the dale from Seathwaite Bridge — still called locally Nettleslack Brig — is the record of Nicholas Walker of Under Cragg, Seathwayte, conveying it to his son Roger in 1724. “With the consent of James Penny, Lord thereof”, Nicholas sells his “customary messuage . . . of the antient yearly customary rent of six shillings and sixpence . . . together with . . . buildings . . . lands . . . commons common of pasture and turbary moors and mosses . . . intakes sheep roads . . . Nicholas is seized of a good estate of tenant right and . . . doth sell it provided if it shall be God’s” (will) “that Elizabeth the wife of Nicholas shall him survive, then she, if she continue unmarried, have her widdow-rights of the messuage.” Roger was not to let his mother go short! In 1765 Nicholas Walker of Nettleslack is labelled as a slategetter; he buys from William Jenkinson of Ennerdale one joist and a half or one cow-grass and a half of pasture in Tongue Ashbank and the Cove . . . parcel of William Jenkinson’s tenement Hollin-house . . . of the customary rent of nine pence with all ways rayles styles commons. “Seen and allowed by me William Penny.” William Jenkinson is one who makes

his mark. "Tongue" must be Hollinhouse Tongue (F. of the Duddon Gorge); it was identified in the sale of 1846 — Ashbank is, according to the Ordnance Survey, south of Longhouse and the Walna Scar road; the Cove is on the left bank of Longhouse Gill.

Joseph Walker of Nettleslack as son of Nicholas Walker deceased was, in 1781, admitted tenant to hereditaments of the customary rent of 9d., and as grandson of Roger Walker deceased in 1784 to land of the rent of 7s. 7d. Altogether he had three stints or cowgrasses in the inclosure called Hollinhouse Tongue, and three others in the inclosure called Ashbank; and $9\frac{1}{2}$ in the inclosure called the Cove, of them five "to be enjoyed at such times only as he shall have no cattle or sheep depasturing in Hollinhouse Tongue and Ashbank in respect of the before mentioned 6 stints". Over-grazing was thus prevented. (The records of the Court Baron show that by 1849 Hollinhouse, too, still had stints in the Cove—all that "customaryhold one and a half joist or cowgrass".)

In 1797 Joseph Walker mortgaged Nettleslack and his $1\frac{1}{2}$ cowgrass in the Cove to Thomas Turner who — after William Jenkinson of Ennerdale — owned Hollinhouse. The interest was to be ten pence for every pound. In 1810 Joseph paid this mortgage off for £135. 17s. to Thamar Turner, Thomas's widow. In 1846 he sells Nettleslack with its sheep, and the stints in Hollinhouse Tongue, Ashbank and the Cove, to John Dawson of Throng — a variant of Thrang. The customary rent of the whole is now 8s. 8d. Joseph makes his mark — a wiggly X — and adds his seal, which shows clearly a man's head in profile and his high collar.

The Dawsons of Thrang had bought extra land in 1813. William, a carpenter, bought from George Tyson of Longhouse for £48 "two dales or parcels of land in a common field called Broad Ing as they are now meased [*sic*] and marked forth . . . which George Tyson lately purchased free from the Lord of the Manor of Dunerdale and

Seathwaite . . . to hold . . . paying yearly one peppercorn on the day of Pentecost if any such thing their be due.” George Mackereth and James Fleming were witnesses to this on 13 March 1813. “The common field with dales (The addenda to West’s *Furness*, 1789, has this dialect use of dale — ‘dail-head, a narrow plot of ground in a common field.’) marked forth” must have been before the Inclosure Acts. When the Acts were passed, in some places (e.g. Troutbeck, Westmorland, Act of 1831) it was still possible that the proprietors of pasture might “divide and ascertain them by boundary stones or other marks of partition only”. A clue to Broad Ing is given by the entry in the records of the Court Baron of Dunnerdale with Seathwaite of 1865: Joseph Tyson sold to William Redhead, “a close formerly 3 dales known by the several names of Beck House Dale, Long House Dale, and Lady Hall Dale in an inclosure or common field . . . called Broad Ing.” Of these three farms Lady Hall’s memory is kept in the name Lady Hall Hill (“475” on the 6-inch map) below Thrang Braid Ing Brig over Tarn Beck New Cut, on the left bank. Some say Braid Ing might be Broad Ing, and Mr Gilbert Hartley of Undercragg states that he has heard that Thrang and Longhouse had “a square up in the fields by the Butts”.

An endorsement on the conveyance of 1813 reads: “Be it remembered that quiet and peaceable possession was given by the delivery of a sod of earth by the within named George Tyson to William Dawson in their proper persons this 26th day of March 1813, To hold unto William Dawson, his heirs and assigns for ever. John Turner. James Dawson.”

This William Dawson appears in William Green’s *Guide to the Lakes* (1819). When Green was a county surveyor he lodged at “Throng”, and in 1807 he returned to his friend William Dawson and sketched the Duddon at Goldrill (Goudrale). “Throng is his hereditary property and stands under a hill crowned with wood.

Rocky knolls graced with the native beauties of the country, oak, ash and birch, rise sweetly from the lower grounds. Mr Dawson conducted the writer by a mountain road to Birker force, in Eskdale. The friendly shepherd departed for his home in a declining sun." In 1815 Green brought his daughter of fourteen from Coniston by Gaitswater, in September cloud, to Thrang — a stout girl for those times. They enjoyed "the native good humour of the whole Dawson family", and next day Dawson and his daughter went with the visitors right up the Walna Scar road. "Here in much friendship, the fathers and daughters separated."

After 1846, Thrang and Nettleslack being one farm, the little house of Nettleslack became a ruin; it is near the public path going from Fiddle Steps to Thrang Braid-ing by the flat bridge. The next Dawson at Thrang was John, heir to William, and he had "farm house and buildings and eighty-two acres of land with 21 stints, rent ten shillings and sixpence." He mortgaged the property to Joseph Gunson, whose address was not given; he would be the Joseph Gunson of Ulpha mentioned in the will (1823) of William Jackson of Hazlehead — "a son of my niece Frances Gunson." John redeemed the mortgage, but in 1875 he sold Thrang away from the Dawsons to Thomas Coward, a gentleman of Cambridge.

The early deeds of Hazlehead are written on tattered and hardened vellum and an indenture of 1817 explains why they seem chewed: "The title deeds of William Jackson were stolen from his house and a considerable time afterwards found in a hedge near Hazlehead much mutilated and defaced by the weather." However, some of the manorial documents under the lordship of the Hudlestons, the Singletons and William Ormandy can be made out in part. In 1719 "Fer. Hudleston" signs this document:

"*Manner de Ulpha* . . . Hudleston of Millom Castle Lord of the said manor . . . annual rent of five shillings . . . John

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1. Brocklebank is admitted tenant . . . and of all and every the appurtenances thereunto . . . at Hasselhead to have and to hold the said messuage unto the said John Brocklebank his heirs and assigns for ever he . . . according to the custom of the said manor paying and performing all rents fynes herriots dues duties and services."

The Christian name of this Hudleston is not clear, but seems to be "Fer." for Ferdinando. Then Paul Brocklebank sells the farm to Thomas Jackson, first of the many Jacksons shown by these deeds to have lived there. The enfranchisement of Thomas as tenant is recorded in the indenture of three Williams, in 1750:

"Indenture between William Gale of Whitehaven and William Whinfield of the City of Durham, gentleman, trustees named in the . . . will of William Hudleston 29 November 17 . . . did direct . . . to his sisters Esther Goodall Ann Elizabeth Wilson and Sarah Hudleston by deed of settlement 1721 . . . all those his castles messuage lands tenements . . . in the parish of Millom . . . unto William Gale and William Whinfield that paying by the sale of his rents . . . estates his debts and legacies . . . delivery of fifty (?) one pounds have sold (Hazlehead) being parcel of the Manor and Township of Ulpha . . . free from every due boon service . . . to the only proper use and behoof of him Thomas Jackson, freely and absolutely enfranchised except . . . paying therefore unto the Lord of the said Manor for the time being (every) 29th day of September . . . William Gale. William . . ."

Then Jonathan Jackson, house carpenter of Hasselhead, bought from John Jackson, also of Hasselhead, with the consent of William Singleton, Lord, two separate "parcells" each of the rent of 5s. "with all houses byars stables . . . moors mosses mountains sheepheaves common of pasture and turbary." John was able to write his name on the conveyance. We have a printed Court Baron document of about 1758 which says that Jonathan having paid a fine for "the premises of Hasselhead is thereof admitted tenant". In 1759 the conveyance to him was endorsed: "At the Court of demission of William Singleton before John Tyson . . . this deed was seen and allowed

to be good by Clement Askew." A printed form of this Court of demission at Frith Hall in February 1759 says

"Jonathan Jackson was admitted tenant of Hassel Head to hold according to the custom of the Manor paying doing and performing therefore all rents fines, herriots, dues, duties, suits and services which of right hath heretofore being accustomed . . . he having paid a fine of five pounds."

Frith Hall,¹ where this court was held, is the hostelry on the old coach road from Mill Bridge, at the bottom of Holehouse Gill, to Millom. William Singleton of Drigg and Jonathan are again recorded as having dealings in 1762, when Singleton "granted and enfeoffed unto Jonathan . . . all the present and future growth spring and springs of trees bark woods and underwoods which now . . . and all times shall grow be . . . or spring on the customary tenement freed from all former sales grants dower . . . charges and troubles." For this growth Jonathan paid £40. Perhaps he wanted it for fuel for the copper and other mines which were at about this time being worked on Duddon farms — e.g. at Pikeside, and here at Hasselhead in 1800 according to the deed of enfranchisement quoted below.

In 1799 the Singletons' lordship of the Manor was over, and according to a hand-written form "the Court of Demissions of William Ormandy, Lord . . . was held at the House of John Gunson, Church House, Ulpha . . . by Peter Younger, gentleman steward, Jonathan Jackson was admitted tenant of Hasselhead . . . of the rent of 5s., and also other tenement at Hasselhead, rent 5s., now in the hands of the Lord upon the death of Mary Singleton, spinster, general admitting Lady of the Manor." Then "about 1801 William Jackson grandson of Jonathan Jackson of Hazlehead agreed for the purchase of Hazlehead" (by William) "for £477. 16s. 8d." William had a sister, Mrs Frances Dawson, who in 1800, when she was a widow, sold to him, for £27, "her

¹ For Frith Hall see CW2 1 102, 104.

dwelling house adjoining the dwelling house where William now lives, and two drags" (spelt "drags" below) "adjoining and the small outhouse called Haul Hoghouse, also high garden with all the wood standing on it, together with the right which Frances had of planting sufficient potatoes for a family upon the estate of William . . . , with fronts yards backsides backgrounds garths and ways . . ." Does dragg as a measure of land mean one strip of the width that a chainharrow could break? The present tenant, Mr Boyd, showed me by the low house a piece of once-ploughed land raised in broad hump-backed ridges in the present grass; it is the only part of the field ("Back o' Beck") where the rocks would allow ploughing. These signs of ploughing cover about 60 x 11 yds. Apart from this patch she had her potato-planting rights.

Haul Hoghouse would be for the hogs; could "Haul" be the Broughton attorney's attempt to refine "ol"? As for "high garden", the plan of 1866 shows both today's house and "Low House Orchard and Garden" where the little beck from the main house falls to join Crosby Gill. If "High Garden" were the garden of a separate High House we might look to find it on this plan, but in vain. The number of people living off the land above Ulpha has fallen so much since 1800 that many now derelict homesteads are there. About 1880 this low house was called Hullet's Nest, and an old man and his wife made a living there gathering bark. In 1942 my father considered whether this low house could be made habitable again, and decided against it. The present owners have taken its stones to the farm to make foundations; but of its garden rhubarb remains. Another house, too, north-east of Grimecrag Brig, is remembered by Mrs Joseph Youdal, widow of my father's tenant. "In it lived Mr and Mrs Butler. She was a Miss Gunson. It was pulled down."

The next document, dated October 1800, is the

enfranchisement of Jonathan by his lord, William Ormandy. Jonathan

“is tenant in possession of a customary tenement of the . . . rent of 5 shillings, and also a second tenement at Hassel Head, . . . for £77. 16s. 8d. William Ormandy sold . . . to Jonathan . . . the tenement with the appurtenances and the freehold and the inheritance thereof . . . and commons and rights . . . in the manor and all woods . . . stone for the necessary building repairing slating and supporting of houses outhouses and walls (are granted by) the said William saving excepting and reserving, of this present grant, to William all mines of copper, lead (?) and all other mines and minerals not herein particularly granted . . . to search for . . . mines and minerals stone and slate and to lay the ore, and other produce of the mines and minerals stones and . . . on the premises dug up and to break (them) on the premises and with horses cattle carts waggons and carriages to take lead and carry away . . . for better winning working the (minerals) to lay wagon ways pit (?) Engines walks gins smelting houses and other buildings on the premises, as deemed necessary for the getting and working (of the minerals), providing satisfaction to the . . . occupiers for damage which may be done above ground . . . for ever reserving to the said Lord suit of Court to be done at the Court of William Ormandy and his heirs when the Lord shall be holden for the said damage and also all royalties wrecks of sea waifs estrays deodants treasure trove goods and chattels of felons and fugitives . . . felons . . . and a power of fishing and fowling hawking and hunting in the premises . . . Jonathan . . . paying to William the rent of one peppercorn . . . if demanded, and performing suit of court at the feudal courts of William.”

This was signed by William Ormandy in the presence of William Taylor, William Bibby, John Briggs and John Gunson. For William Bibby no address is given. A gamekeeper William Bibby of Low Eskholme, born about 1762 was drowned at Muncaster in 1837. The only mine on the land of Hazlehead known to the two latest tenants is low down, a little above, and to the west of, the point where Crosby Gill goes under the bridge of the main dale road; this is a deeply cut dry level in Great Calf Haw.

About 1801 William Jackson took over, it seems, the

two tenements at Hazlehead, and "all buildings . . . fronts . . . folds dunghillsteads gardens orchards . . . feedings sheepheath brackendales and woods." In his will, proved in 1823, he left money to his nephews Thomas and David Jackson, to Thomas William and James Dawson, sons of Frances, and to his nieces Elizabeth Braithwaite, Hannah Tyson and Mary Townson and to his great-nieces and great-nephews Lummas and Porter; "to John Jackson son of my late nephew John Jackson the freehold messuages which I purchased of my late brother Jonathan Jackson at Hazlehead, with half of my stock of sheep now let with my estate there; also the loose timber . . . ladders cranes and crooks and fixtures there; to Myles Jackson son of my deceased brother Jonathan every other messuage at Hazlehead with the other half of my stock of sheep, also timber . . . ladders cranes and crooks . . . there and one ark or chest. To William Jackson son of my brother Jonathan my messuage at Holehouse in Ulpha with the stock of sheep . . . therewith and the iron crane and crooks in that dwelling house charged with the payment of £200 to my executors. To my late servant John Senagles, £5." (This last is a German name brought by miners to Keswick.) So William as well as buying a Hazlehead farm from his grandfather Jonathan and from his brother Jonathan, had got Holehouse. Perhaps the "cranes crooks and ladders" at both places were mining gear. William directed "All joint rights of pasturage in the enclosed coppice woods at Hazlehead on my several estates shall be extinguished; the owner of the wood growing . . . shall be entitled to the profits thereof of what nature soever whereof I have power to dispose." John and David Casson, both of Church House, witnessed this. Myles then had to raise money due under William's will to the executors, John Gunson, Jos. Porter and Thomas Townson, so in February 1823 he mortgaged his farm raising £250 "from William Hird of Crook in Ulpha, labourer".

In 1826 Myles had defaulted on this debt to Hird, now at Dalegarth Hall, and he passed the debt to A. Cragg, trustee for William Lewthwaite of Broadgate in the parish of Millom, and raised from him another £750, to buy from John Jackson, keeper of an inn at Bolton-le-Moors, one of the farms at Hazlehead which William had left to John; he got Hazlehead with its sheep "and a moiety of 300 acres of pasture" for £220. (At Broadgate, on the way from The Green to Swinside Stone circle, Lewthwaites are still to be found.)

We have Myles's will of 1846, signed on his behalf by his lawyer in the presence of witnesses; Myles was presumably very ill. He left "my several tenements at Hazlehead to John Whinfield, of Whinfield Ground, and Jos. Gunson, miller son of John Gunson of Church House, as executors, to sell it", make payments to nephews, "and they shall divide the residue between my sister Betty Braithwaite and my nephew John Jackson." The witnesses were John and William Gunson, and James Hornby of Hazlehead. The will was proved at Lancaster on 23 December 1846 by the executors. They "exposed Hazlehead to be sold by auction in September 1846, when it was sold to Joseph Braithwaite for £1,780, to be conveyed to him subject to the payment of £1,000." The mortgage debt of £1,000 was transferred to Elizabeth Lewthwaite of Broadgate, spinster, Joseph Braithwaite, previously of Frith Hall and now of Hazlehead, promising to pay. In February 1856 Joseph got into further difficulty, borrowing another £500 from Elizabeth, and conveying the mortgaged farms at Hazlehead to her — "and Mary wife of Joseph Braithwaite had concurred for the purpose of released her right of dower in the hereditaments." They are thus described: farmhouse, outbuildings, gardens; new meadow, Busks and Back o' Beck; Skin Dubs; High Field, High Pasture; Calf Close; Great and Little Scale; Smithy Parrock, Wood Head; Low House Orchard and Garden; Croft; Wet

Nook; Cragg Close; High and Low Fold Wood; Great and Little Calf Hall Wood; Woodside Coppice, Half of River — altogether 201 acres occupied by Jos. Braithwaite and John Dodgson. One of the Gunsons of the Plough Inn at Kirk House had set up John Dodgson as keeper of the new Travellers' Rest on Hazlehead land.

"Skin-Dubs" is by the charming tree-grown island in Crosby Gill; Calf Close (now called the pig-field) is west of the house; Scale, now all one, south of Calf Close; and Smithy Parrock between the house and the road. Smithy Parrock is now Smithy Mire. (The word parrock, in the form "parak", was used by the tenants of Browside, Seathwaite, too, about 1850.) Was there at one time a smithy here for horses which had just toiled up from Ulpha? Where the plan has Great Calf Hall Wood, the Ordnance mapper has put Greatcalf Haw.

After the death of Elizabeth Lewthwaite her claim on Hazlehead passed, in 1863, to William her brother. In 1865 Hazlehead was sold by auction at the Travellers' Rest to John Barratt, gentleman, of Coniston, and £1,500 was paid to W. Lewthwaite, and £260 to Joseph Braithwaite. (Mr Barratt paid £90 extra for the coppice wood and timber. He was perhaps a relative of William Barratt of Coniston who formed in 1856 the Hodbarrow Mining Company.) Hazlehead later went to his married daughter, Catherine Whinerey; perhaps she was of Whin'ry Ground under the Dunnerdale Fells.