

ART. XIII – *George Romney's Ancestry*  
By C. ROY HUDLESTON

**M**ORE than sixty years have passed since the Reverend T.N. Postlethwaite contributed to *CW*<sup>2</sup>, xxvi, his long and interesting, if somewhat discursive paper on the ancestry of George Romney, the Cumbrian born painter. Mr Postlethwaite was writing long before the establishment of County Record Offices but he had the great advantage of help from his brother clergy who gave him access to their registers. He also enlisted professional help and was provided with abstracts of wills which were at Somerset House, though as I shall show, he was apparently unaware of the existence of one very important will. Had he seen it he would have been obliged to reject a statement made by the painter's son, the Reverend John Romney. Unfortunately Mr Postlethwaite accepted it without question. The statement on pages 5 and 6 of the Reverend John Romney's life of his father is as follows. Having spoken of the artist's father John Rumley (post Rumney), Mr Romney went on to say

His wife's name was Ann Simpson. She was born at a place called Sladebank in Millom, Cumberland, which estate belonged to her father. . . . Her mother's name was Bridget Park. She was born at *Millwood*, near Dalton and was the granddaughter of that Thomas Park, who has distinguished himself by writing a narrative of the intestine broils and commotions that afflicted Furness in the civil war between the king and parliament; he being during that unhappy period the high Constable of Furness (from 1642 to 1647).

Mr Postlethwaite provided an adequate account of the ancestry of Thomas Parke of Millwood, Dalton-in-Furness, the High Constable, based on wills and Dalton registers. Unfortunately he was unaware that the High Constable's will, proved in the P.C.C. (Appendix I), was extant. The High Constable's descent is summarised in the outline pedigree below. It will be seen that Lawrence Parke of Millwood, who died in 1636, had by Dorothy (died 1661) his wife, three children – Thomas the High Constable, William and Frances, who married, at Dalton on 9 October 1637, William Spenceley, by whom she had three children including Frances (born 1638), married 1657 Samuel Kilner of Sunbrick, Aldingham, and Bartholomew Spenceley (1646–96). The High Constable married Bridget, daughter of John Wood of Mansergh Hall, Westmorland, and still a youngish man, died in 1653 and was buried at Dalton on 27 September, nine days after making his will in which he asked to be buried in Dalton Church, 'near whereunto my child was buried'. He made his wife and 'Eliza my child' executors and Bridget proved the will at Westminster on 18 May 1654, with power reserved to Elizabeth Parke. Dalton registers contain these entries:

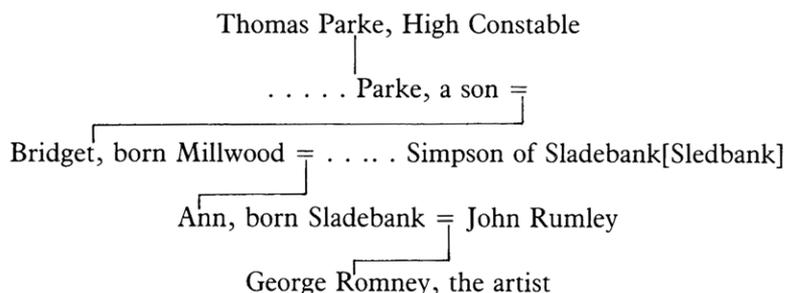
Tho: s. Tho: Parke, Milnwood, bap. 12 May 1651  
Elizabeth d. Thomas Parke, Milnwood, bap 2 March 1652[-53]  
Ann d. Tho: Parke bap. 5 Feb 1653[-54]  
Tho: s. Tho: Parke, Milnwood, buried 21 May 1652

It is clear that the High Constable was survived by one daughter only and that he could not have had a granddaughter Bridget Parke, who married John Simpson, though since

the High Constable's wife bore that name, the Reverend John Romney's assumption may be judged excusable, especially considering the fact that he knew his father's Parke ancestors lived at Millwood. The truth is that two apparently unrelated Parke families owned that place, though a long distance of time separated their ownership. The High Constable's widow, in January 1655, became the second wife of George Hilton, whose wife, Elizabeth had died in August 1653. George and Bridget lived at Millwood, the latter dying in 1679. Some details of Hilton's life will be found in Appendix VIII.

The High Constable's brother, William Parke, was of Newbarns when he made his will on 30 June 1662, desiring to be buried in Dalton Church 'neare whereunto my ancestors and children were buried'. His daughter Dorothy, who died when she was a few months old, had been buried there in 1657. Her father was buried there on 11 August 1662, leaving Ellin his widow, who proved his will. On 15 August 1669 she married, at Dalton, Robert Buskell, who was buried there on 25 September 1692 and she on 28 March 1696. Her will (Appendix II), shows that they died without issue. It is certain that the Parkes of Millwood failed in the male line with William Parke in 1662.

The Reverend John Romney worked out his pedigree:



As will be seen later, the Simpson-Parke marriage was in 1689 – the date makes it almost impossible for the bride to have been the High Constable's granddaughter.

Mr Postlethwaite seems to have been unaware of the marriage bond of 13 October 1689 in the Archdeaconry of Richmond for the marriage of John Simpson of Silecroft and Bridget Parke. The marriage took place and a large family was born to the couple, beginning with a son, John, christened at Whicham on 16 May 1691. Later the couple moved to Sledbank in Whitbeck parish, where later children were christened, including Ann on 26 March 1704.<sup>1</sup> She is said<sup>2</sup> to have married *c.* 1730 John Rumley and she gave birth to George, the painter, in 1734.

Who was Bridget Parke, later Simpson? The Reverend John Romney said she was born at Millwood but her baptism does not appear in Dalton registers. Whitbeck registers, however, record the baptismal entry on 24 November 1668, the day after her birth, of Bridget, daughter of the Reverend Lawrence Parke (1637–73), incumbent of Whitbeck 1661–73, whose ancestral home, Woodhouse, is within sight of Millwood. Moreover, the Reverend Lawrence had a son, William Parke (*c.* 1666–1728), who was of Millwood when he made his will on 30 March 1717, and who was buried at Dalton as of that place in 1728.

His will contains a bequest of £5 to 'Ann Simpson now dwelling with me'. Though he

does not say so, it seems more than likely that Anne was his niece, the daughter of his sister Bridget Simpson.

That William and Bridget were indeed brother and sister we know because of a discovery made by the Reverend T.N. Postlethwaite's namesake, my friend Mr R.H. Postlethwaite of Haslingden. This discovery not only settled the relationship, it also solved a problem which baffled the Reverend T.N. Postlethwaite and others – the connection between the artist and William Lewthwaite<sup>3</sup> (1700–67) of Broadgate, Millom. The latter is mentioned by the Reverend John Romney as 'the intimate friend and relation' who recognised that George had artistic talent and persuaded his father that the boy ought to have lessons in painting.

The clue to the relationship is found in the will, which Mr R.H. Postlethwaite found, of Elizabeth Parke, widow, dated 24 January 1662[–63] and proved on 14 July following (Appendix III). Elizabeth was the daughter of John Parke (died 1645) and sister of Lawrence Parke (1612–91) of Whitbeck Hall, who acquired the manor of Whitbeck in 1687. She married, on 8 November 1632, Clement Parke of Woodhouse (1609–46) to whom she bore six children, three of whom only concern us – Jennet, bap. 4 September 1633, married William Towers of Bleansley, Broughton-in-Furness, the Reverend Lawrence Parke already mentioned and Anne, bap. at Whitbeck on 22 March 1641– 42 and married there on 25 February 1660– 61 William Whinfield of Bridgend, Woodland, Kirkby Ireleth. Elizabeth Parke was possessed of considerable means as her inventory



PLATE 1. Sledbank, Whicham, home of George Romney's grandmother, Ann Simpson

shows. She had lent more than £260 to a dozen or more local men, and her executors entered into a bond of £1,000, so that the value of her estate was presumably half that sum.

In her widowhood she left Whitbeck and went to live at Bleansley with her son-in-law and daughter, William and Jennet Towers, and there she ended her days.

Her son, the Reverend Lawrence Parke, curate of Whitbeck, died in 1673, his wife Isabel (Frears) having predeceased him in 1668. Their three orphan children – Clement (1664–73), William (c. 1666–1728) and Bridget (1668–1742) were sent to their aunt and uncle Towers at Bleansley. As we have seen, Bridget married John Simpson of Sledbank, and was George Romney's grandmother. Her aunt Anne, who married William Whinfield at Millom in 1661, was mother of George Whinfield (died 1741), who married in 1695 Joyce, daughter of Major Edward Hudleston, younger brother of Sir William Hudleston of Millom Castle, by Katherine, daughter of Thomas Towers of Bleansley. George's sister, Eleanor or Ellin, married John Lewthwaite (1665–1747) of Broadgate, Thwaites, and their son William Lewthwaite, the encourager of the young Romney, was second cousin of the boy's mother – in spite of Mr Warriner's notion that William was 'more likely a friend' than a kinsman.

I turn now to the Reverend Lawrence Parke's son William Parke, an important actor in this story since it was indirectly due to him that his niece Anne Simpson married John Rumley.

William was born in 1666, and, in 1686, on the eve of his marriage, is described as of Hall Calder, gentleman. This estate had been sold on 30 October 1595 by Richard Towerson to William Frears, curate of Corney, and one presumes that he was an ancestor of Isabel Frears – William's mother. It was in the possession of an Isabel Frears, widow, and her son Francis in 1662 and the Frears family certainly owned part at least of the estate until the end of the 18th century.<sup>4</sup>

As for William Parke – as we shall see – he and his son and heir sold Hall Calder in 1712. On 18 August 1686, William Latus leased Whicham Hall to William Parke and Mrs Agnes Humphrey, his intended wife, for seven years, at an annual rent of £15. The lease was later renewed by William Latus's son, Ferdinando, for a year at the yearly rent of £13. 6s. 8d.<sup>5</sup> William Latus's mother was an Ambrose of Lowick Hall, and he married Agnes Ambrose, his first cousin. Agnes's brother, the Reverend John Ambrose, squire of Lowick and rector of Grasmere, made his will in 1682, bequeathing £50 to 'my kinswoman Agnes Humphrey'. This has led me to the suspicion – and it can be no more – that Agnes was the illegitimate daughter of William Latus, thus explaining his kinship to John Ambrose.

Be that as it may, William Parke and Agnes – she now called Mrs Agnes Umphra – were married at Whicham on 20 August 1686 and children were born to them at Whicham Hall between May 1687 and 1695.

By 1701 they had moved to Bleansley where their son Clement was born that year. They were still there when Agnes died in 1704 and her body brought to Whicham for burial. We have seen that William had acquired Hall Calder in Ponsonby parish before 1686. He mortgaged the property to Ewan Christian of Unerigg in 1705, took out a further mortgage in 1707 and, in 1712, with his eldest son William, he sold the property to John Stanley of Ponsonby Hall for £318.<sup>6</sup> Though William had long since left Whicham, he remained a trustee of Whicham and Millom Grammar School as proceedings in Chancery in 1708 (C5/623/74) demonstrate.

Many years earlier Whicham parishioners were dissatisfied with the way in which the Reverend William Wells, vicar of Millom and master of Whicham and Millom Grammar School, was running the school – ‘who, for his convenience, taught the school in the parish church of Millom, did very much neglect the school and more particularly the scholars that came out of the parish of Whicham’. Eventually an enquiry was held, when it was found that there had been mismanagement of the school and it was ordered that the children should be taught in Whicham for the benefit of Whicham and Millom. Later, in 1691, ‘the gentlemen of Cumberland’, certified that land called Church Yate, near Whicham Church, was the most suitable site for building a school and school-house, and trustees were forthwith nominated to manage the school – Sir William Pennington Bart., Richard Patrickson, Myles Pennington, Robert Crompton, William Parke, William Hodgson, John Myers the younger, William Askew, Joseph Cleater, William Brockbank and Myles Postlethwaite gentlemen. William Parke was still a trustee in 1708.

After the sale of Hall Calder it is surprising to find William Parke at Millwood. My efforts to discover how he acquired the estate have been unavailing. It cannot have been by descent from the earlier Parkes who had failed in the male line many years before.

By 1717, when William Parke, now established at Millwood, made his will (Appendix IV), he had married a second wife, Katherine, whose surname is unknown. He long outlived the making of the will, which was proved in the Archdeaconry of Richmond on 29 November 1728 – he had been buried at Dalton-in-Furness on 24 May of that year – by Katherine, his widow and Clement his son, the executors. The other two executors, John and George Parke, sons of William, did not prove the will – we are told that they had been absent from England for many years.

Clement, who had been baptised at Broughton-in-Furness on 14 August 1701, is described as of Whinfield in the parish of Pennington, when administration of his goods was granted in the Archdeaconry of Richmond on 14 March 1742[–43] to two relatives, William Lewthwaite of Kirkby Hall, Kirkby Ireleth and John Rumley of Dalton, joiner – George Romney’s father – for use of Clement’s ten year old son, William (Appendix VI). Of him I have no further information. Nor have I discovered anything of William’s son and heir William, beyond the fact that he was living with a wife Anne and daughters, of whom more later, in 1720. He perhaps died in his father’s lifetime. Be that as it may, the elder William’s sister Bridget Simpson, widowed at Sledbank in 1727, left Cumberland and settled herself at Millwood. She had been granted administration of her husband’s estate on 27 September 1727. She made her will (Appendix V) on 1 March 1732, leaving to her son-in-law John Rumley the half burgage house in Dalton, which she had lately bought from Mr Josiah Heard and Mary, his wife. Was this half of Millwood? In 1737 she sold or mortgaged part of the property to Josiah Herd and Sarah, his wife, for £47.<sup>7</sup> She died in 1742<sup>8</sup> and in that year her son-in-law bought Cocken in Dalton from Thomas Richardson for £147.<sup>9</sup>

It is tempting to assume that John Rumley sold the part of Millwood he had inherited to Ann Parke, wife or widow of William Parke the Younger, his wife’s cousin. At least it is a fact that Anne became the owner of the property. She was the sister of Ralph Sidgwick of Heath, Yorkshire and was the mother of four daughters – Agnes baptised at Dalton in 1714, Margaret in 1716, Eleanor and Catherine. Agnes married, in 1745, Captain William Postlethwaite of the Broadstone, Dalton family and Eleanor married, in 1751, Thomas Clibran. Margaret is not mentioned in her mother’s will (Appendix VII)

of 1747 and was then apparently dead, leaving a daughter Ann Story who is mentioned in the will.

Millwood passed to Agnes and William Postlethwaite and was eventually inherited by their descendant John Postlethwaite, solicitor, of The Hollins, Whitehaven (1813–78), who sold Millwood and Broadstone to the Duke of Buccleuch. On the site of the Parke's house the Duke built the present mansion, which for long was the home of his agent Edward Wadham (1828–1913). It is now an old people's home, owned by Cumbria County Council. Our member Mr Lorne Thom-Postlethwaite of Lorton, is descended from the Parke and Postlethwaites of Millwood and I am grateful to him for his kindness in allowing me to consult documents in his possession.

Turning to the painter's paternal ancestry, we know little of his grandfather George Rumley (c. 1642–1738) beyond what the Reverend John Romney said – that he was born at Colby, Appleby and 'on account of the civil disturbances that prevailed in Appleby . . . during the protectorate he was induced at an early age to leave his native place and migrate to Lancaster. Urged, probably, by the same motive, he soon quitted that town and returned across the Sands and established himself in Furness.'

In 1702, when according to the Reverend John, he was sixty, he married, at Dalton, Jane Barrow. I am sure that the reason the Reverend John gives for George Rumley's migration is pure guesswork. It is almost certain that George came to Dalton in the train of George Hilton of Appleby, who was of Millwood by virtue of his marriage in 1655 to Bridget, widow of Thomas Parke, the High Constable. Some brief notes on Hilton's career will be found in Appendix VIII post.

## APPENDIX 1

Will, P.C.C. of Thomas Parke of Milnwood 1654

To be buried in the parish church of Dalton near whereunto my child was buried. I give to my two servant wenches 20s. each to Robert Backhus 20s. to William Colyer 10s. to Jo. Biggins £20 to Jenett Wooddale 30s. to Ellin [Threst?] 20s. to Bartholo. and Frances Spenceley £3 a piece to Mr Thomlinson 20s. he is owing me To Thomas [blank] 20s. my godchild and to the rest of my godchilds 5s. To Thomas Yewdale the money he oweth I give to the four and twenty of the parish and their successors for ever £50 to be lent to poor husbandmen and tradesmen without paying anything saving for the specialitie with the well liking of my executors and theires of Milnwood forever viz the Hawcoat Byerley £20 a third to Waney £14 to Dalton £ [blank] to Above Towne and £ [blank] to Yerleside att the four and twenty's discretion I make my wife executrix and she to do nothing without the consent of my supervisors I make my wife and Eliza my child executors. Supervisors Mr Jo. Preston Mr Fell Mr Fell Mr Richard Ja. [sic] and William my brother I give them 20s. a piece and I mak them co. . . . with my wife I give James Fletcher's children 30s. amongst them.

18 September 1653

Witnesses: James Fletcher x Robert Backhus x Anne Dagher.

Proved at Westminster 18 May 1654 by Bridget Parke the widow, power reserved to Elizabeth Parke the daughter.

[This was the will which was apparently not known to the Reverend T.N. Postlethwaite]

**APPENDIX II**

Will of Ellen Buskell widow, Archdeaconry of Richmond 1696.

As to my temporall estate I doe thus dispose these of viz.

I give to my cozen Joseph Cleater. £3 . . . . I give to my brother John Towers . . . fourty shillings and a cove or five markes to buy a cove with at the elleccon of my Executrix I doe . . give to my nephews James and John Penny and my niece Agnes Penny every of them £3 . . . I give to nephew George Gibson . . . fourty shillings. . I give to my cozen Edmund Gibson of Parkehouse and his sonne Robert either of them £5 all which Legacyes I desire may be paid within twelve monthes after my decease And I make my niece Anne Gibson wife of the said Edmund Gibson executrix of this my last will to whom I give the residue of my goods and personall estate desireing her to make due payment of my debts and legacyes and to see my body decently interred in the parish church of Dalton 9 December . .1695

Sealed signed and published in

The presence of us

Richard Muncaster

signum Johis + Lowther

signum Ellenae + Pepper

Edm: Gibson (sworn)

Bond in £200 of Edmund Gibson gen. and John Woodburne of Ulverstone innkeeper. 31 March 1696. Edmund Gibson to execute the will of Ellen Buskell late of Parke house in the parish of Dalton in right and to the use of Anne his wife and Daughter [sic] of the deceased

Witnesses: Mason: Lambert Richard Trotter, notaries public

**APPENDIX III**

Will of Elizabeth Parke of Bleansley 1663

the 24 January 1662

The last will and testament of Elizabeth Parke of Bleansley in Broughton beinge very sick yet in perfect memory

First I bequeath my soule unto the Lord that gave it me and my body to be buried in Broughton church [yard deleted]

Item I give unto my sonne Lawrence Twelve sheepe which I had at Woodhouse

Item I give unto William Leece Ann Leece and George Leece children of Andrew Leece of Greetigate<sup>10</sup> each of them two shillings

Item I give unto William Whinfield one hundred and eightene pounds which is lyeing on ground at Lindall

Item I give unto my Grand Children Thomas Towers and Ann Towers Children of William Towers the sume of forty pounds which my sonne Lawrence oweth mee for goods hee had of mee

Item I make William Towers (jur) and William Whinfield (jur) my sonnes in law my executors payinge my debts and funeral expences

Elizabeth Parke

Marke

Wittnes

John Watter(jur) his mark

Bond 14 July 1663 in £1000 of William Towers of Bleansley and William Whinfield of Bridgend in the County of Lancaster yeomen to execute the will. Both sign in the presence of Thom: Gibson, notary public and Richard Trotter, notary public

Inventory of the goods of Elizabeth Parke prized by Robert Elletson elder of Rosthwaite John Towers of Burnmore Robert Casson of Bleansley John Casson of Mireside  
13 July 1663

	£	s.	d.
Her apparrell	6	13	4
12 Sheepe	2	8	0
	£ 9	1	4
Debts owing to the deceased upon bonds and bills			
Thomas Stainton of Lindall	118	0	0
William Denoson	30	0	0
William Jackson of Corney	30	0	0
Andrew Towers of Woodhouse <sup>11</sup>	10	0	0
William Carter of Loane end	7	0	0
William Atkinson of Loane end	6	0	0
John Singleton of Piel	1	0	0
John Danson of Bankend	4	0	0
Thomas Pearson of Old Hutton	5	0	0
	211	0	0
Debts owing upon trust			
Hugh Towers of Meanfield	2	0	0
Robert Danson of Low Mosse	1	0	0
William Towers of Bleansley	9	10	0
Lawrence Parke of Woodhouse	40	0	0
	£ 52	10	0

Funeral expenses			
Debts owing by the deceased	5	11	8
William [?] Towtay	30	0	0
Lawrence Parke	3	0	0
Richard Benson	0	4	7
Mathew Atkinson	0	6	8

**APPENDIX IV**

Will of William Parke of Millwood in the parish of Dalton 1728 Archdeaconry of Richmond

I have by a customary deed or conveyance of 30 March 1717 granted my customary messuage and tenement called Millwood with the lands hereditaments and appurtenances unto Thomas Banke of Northend according to the custom of the manor nevertheless to and for such uses trusts intents and purposes as by my will now I direct that my wife Katherine shall enjoy one half of my customary estate at Millwood during her naturall life and after her decease unto the said Thomas Banke in trust for the use of my eldest son William during his naturall life he paying to my sons and daughters vizt John George Clement and Margret each £20 within one year after the death of my wife Katherine. [clause about non payment] To my son William and my daughter Margret 20s. and to Ann Simpson now dwelling with me £5. Residue to Katherine my wife and John, George and Clement my three sons whom I constitute and appoint executors 30 March 2 George 1717

Wit. John [Roe?]

Thomas Nunns sworn

John Kirkby

29 Nov 1728 Catherine Parke the widow and Clement Parke son of deceased sworn John and George 'multis annis ab Anglia absentibus'

Inventory 25 May 1728 – £178. 2s.

Debits – Funeral £12. 0s. 9d.

To John Winder £21

To Mr Atkinson £2. 10s.

To Mr Atkinson poor money £31. 10s.

To Thomas Dodshon £2. 7s.

Thomas Banks £11. 10s.

£70. 17s. 9d. clear £107. 4s. 3d.

Thos Atkinson Tho: Dodgshon Robert Atkinson Tho: Nunns

**APPENDIX V**

Will of Bridgett Simpson, now of Millwood, 1 March 1731–32 Archdeaconry of Richmond

To my son-in-law John Rumley and to his heirs and assigns all that my half burgage house, onsett, with the gardens and meadow scituate in Dalton-in-Furness and which I lately purchased of Mr Josiah Herd and Mary his wife being the yearly customary rent of

£8, he the said John Rumley paying out of the said premises £30, vizt. to my son John Simpson £10, to my son William Simpson £10 to my daughter Isabell £10. To my grandson William Rumley my clock. To my granddaughter Bridgett Simpson 40s. Residuary legatee and sole executrix my daughter Ann Rumley  
 Witnesses Katherine Parke, John Forsait, Thos. Atkinson  
 Bond of John Rumley, house carpenter and James Postlethwaite, yeoman, both of Dalton in Furness 17 July 1742. Ann Rumley sole executrix, to prove the will. Under £5

## APPENDIX VI

Admon. of Clement Parke 1742 Archdeaconry of Richmond

Archdeaconry of Richmond. Bond of John Rumley of Dalton joiner and William Lewthwaite of Kirkby Hall yeoman both in the County of Lancaster and John Doe in £50, 14 March 1742, the condition being that Rumley and Lewthwaite administrators of the goods, chattels and credits of Clement Park late of Whinfield in the parish of Pennington husbandman deceased for the use and during the minority of William Park natural and lawful son of the said deceased do make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory before 14 September next.

Both bondsmen sign in the presence of Cha: Lambert and Henry Holme  
 [Henry Holme was vicar of Urswick 1713-47]

## APPENDIX VII

Will of Ann Parke 1747. Archdeaconry of Richmond

I Ann Parke of Millwood . . . widow . . . do make and publish this my last will. . in manner and form following. Whereas my late Brother Ralph Sidgwick of Heath in the County of York Gentleman by his last will . . 14 June 1729 did give . . . all his messuages lands and tenements with the appurtenances at Riflin in Dent. . . unto Ann his wife and her assigns during her natural life and after her decease to the issue of her body by him begotten. . . which said messuages lands and tenements are now enjoyed by Ann my said late Brother Ralph Sidgwick's wife, after whose decease one fifth part thereof. . . will descend to me my said late Brother being dead without issue which. . fifth part. . . I . . . give. . . unto my two daughters Eleanor and Catherine Parke equally they paying out of the same the legacy next. . . named. . . I give. . . unto my Granddaughter Ann Story £10 to be paid. . when she shall attain the age of 21 years. . . I give. . . unto my said Daughter Catherine Park £20. . . I give. . . unto my said Grand daughter Ann Story 10s. yearly and every year during the natural life of Ann wife of the said Ralph Sidgwick. . I give. . . unto my said Daughter Catherine the best chest of drawers and my bed and bedsteads. . . I give unto my Daughter Agnes Postlethwaite my Brass Mortar. . .

I give unto my son in law William Postlethwaite two Guineas All the. . . Residue of my

worldly Goods . . . I give. . . unto my two Daughters Eleanor and Catherine whom I . . .  
 nominate and appoint Executrices of this my last will. . . . 13 July 1747  
 Ann X Parke her mark

Witnesses John Killey John Hartley Laurence Long

9 July 1748 Eleanor Parke and Catherine Parke were sworn well and truly to execute the will.

Bond of Eleanor and Catherine Parke both of Millwood in the Parish of Dalton Spinsters and William Myers of Bracelet within the parish of Kirkby Ireleth gentlemen in £300  
 9 July 1748 Eleanor [signs Elinor] Parke and Catterinah [sic] Parke to execute the will of their mother Anne Parke

Witnesses John Barker Is: Walker surrogate

## APPENDIX VIII

George Hilton was the third and youngest son of Thomas Hilton of Hilton Beacon, Appleby [1584–1645] by his wife Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Sandford of Askham. At the time of the 1665 Visitation he was forty-one, having been baptised on 23 January 1624. The story of his tangled affairs can be traced in several chancery suits in which he was the plaintiff. His legal expenses must have been heavy and his debts eventually led to his outlawry and imprisonment. In 1653 he filed a bill in Chancery alleging that during the Civil War he had ‘three fat oxen, stall fed worth £40, kept at his house, two and a half miles from Appleby Castle, then garrisoned for the King by William Carleton, who in 1648 sent soldiers to his house to commandeer the beasts.’ By 1648 he had been married for four or five years to Elizabeth, eldest of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Preston of Park House, Dalton-in-Furness. Her younger sisters Dorothy and Mary were orphans and under age at the time of her marriage and we learn from George Hilton’s Chancery suit of 18 May 1655 (C.5/31/61) that he ‘kept, educated and maintained them with meat, drink, lodging and other necessaries according to their qualities for divers years until their marriages – Dorothy for four years which cost £15 per annum at the least’ and he had not been reimbursed, though when Dorothy married Thomas Duckett, he promised to repay Hilton but failed to do so, and in their answer in May 1656 Thomas and Dorothy said they could not remember how many years Hilton maintained her, but they did not think it was as much as four, and her maintainance did not cost £15 a year, ‘because it is and hath been a usual rate in that County to table persons of the age of Dorothy and of good quality for £5 or £6 per annum’

What took Hilton to Furness we do not know, but it is certain that he brought with him at least one of the Rumley family as his servant and there can be little doubt that the painter’s ancestor George Rumley also came to Dalton in Hilton’s train.

As we have seen, Hilton married secondly in 1655 Bridget Parke, the High Constable’s widow and a son George was born to them the following year. He died in 1669 and is commemorated by a brass in Dalton Church, with a Latin inscription extolling his virtues. After Bridget’s death in 1679, Hilton took a third wife, whose christian name

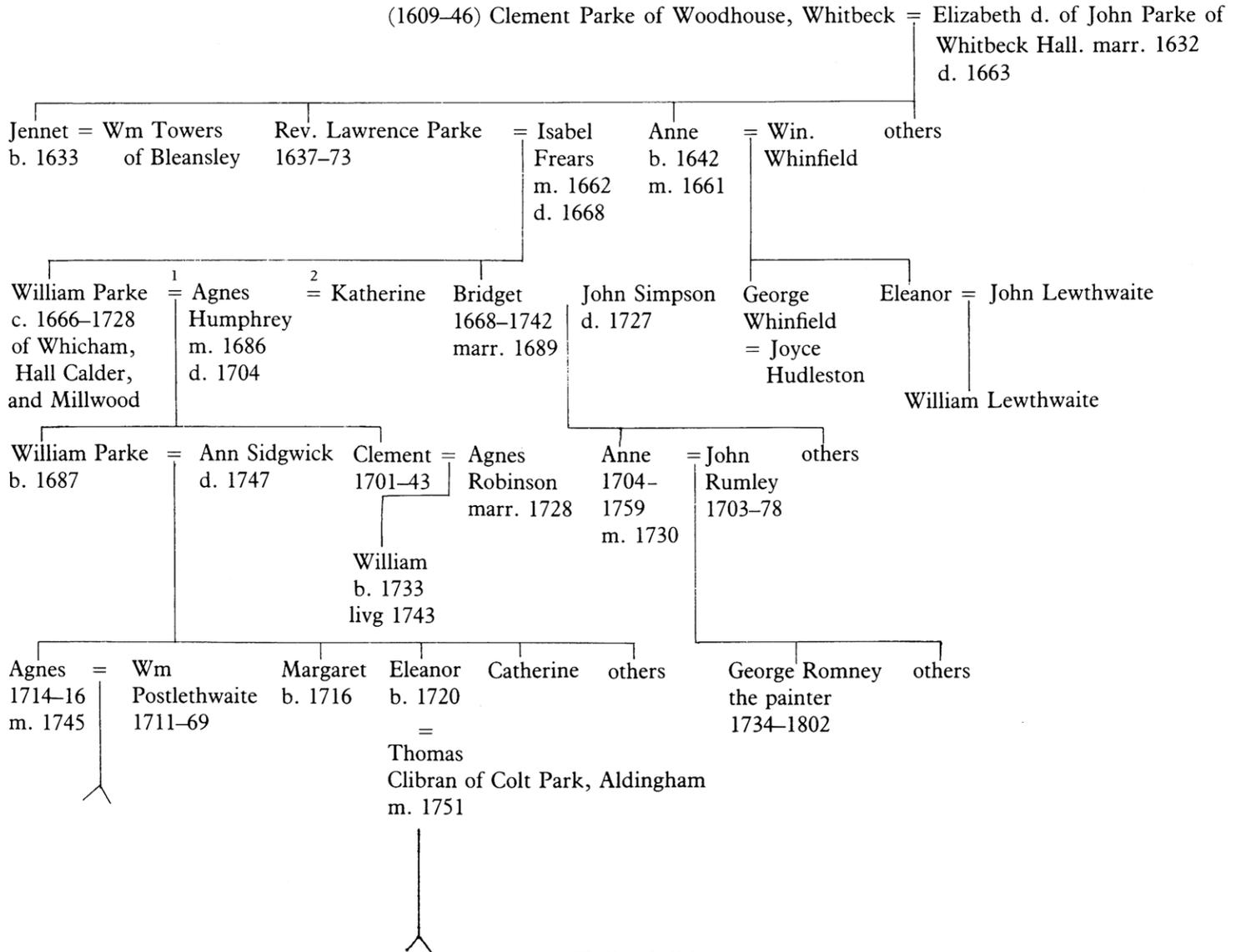
was Katherine, but her surname unknown. By then he was of The Manor in Furness. His will, dated 4 August 1701, reveals that he owned Lawson's tenement in Bondgate, Appleby and six burgages in the town. He left his library to his good friend Sir William Lowther Bart. of Holker. He was buried at Dalton on 9 August 1701 and his widow proved his will in the Archdeaconry of Richmond on 19 September following. She was buried at Dalton on 13 May 1728.

## APPENDIX IX

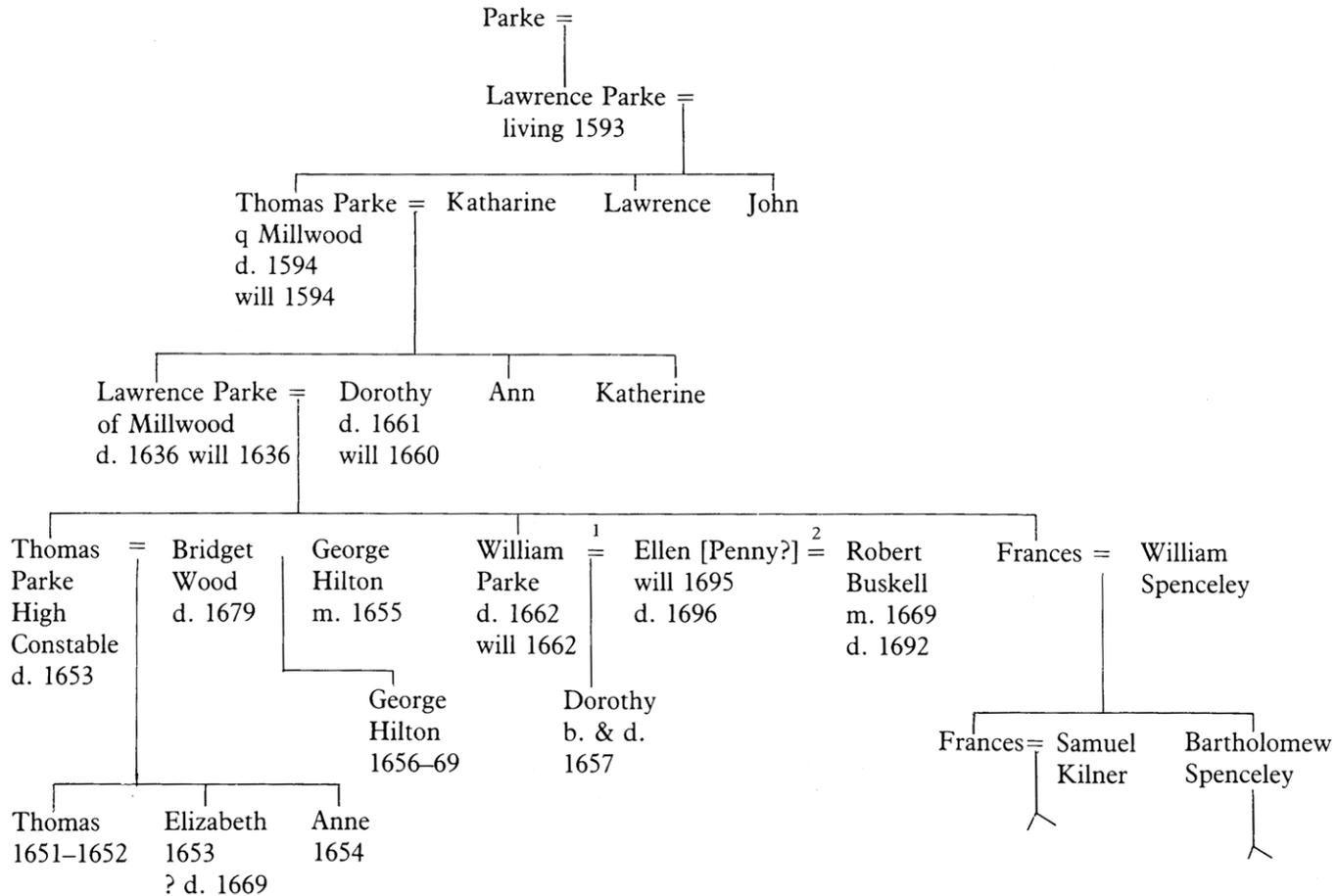
### Millwood

It will be realised that many of the questions I have had to leave unanswered would have been solved if I had been able to see Dalton-in-Furness manorial documents, but my efforts to trace them have proved unavailing. Because of this I have been unable to bridge the gap between the ownership of Millwood by the earlier Parkes and its acquisition by William Parke of the Whitbeck family. I suspect that there were originally three separate tenements. I have seen the will of John Blundell of Millwood, dated 29 May 1708, witnessed by George Rumley (mark), Anne Jackson (mark) and Thomas Atkinson, and proved 20 October 1708. This will was allowed by W. Knipe, steward of the manor of Plain Furness 13 October 1708. I have also seen the nuncupative will of John Inman, dated 3 July 1711. He may have been the man who entered into a marriage bond 16 January 1696-97 to marry Margaret Atkinson, but the testator of 1711 had a wife named Rebecka. Mrs Whickstead of Millwood was buried at Dalton in 1739 and Thomas Thompson of the same in 1743. I have not traced their wills.

APPENDIX X



APPENDIX XI



## Acknowledgements

My grateful thanks go to my friends Mr Timothy Cockerill, with whom I made a pilgrimage to the haunts of the Parkes in Dalton-in-Furness and Whitbeck, Mr R.H. Postlethwaite, whose discovery of the will of Elizabeth Parke was my starting point and Mr Lorne Thom-Postlethwaite. My thanks are also due to the staff of the Lancashire Record Office for their never ending kindness to me.

## Notes and References

- <sup>1</sup> The late Frank Warriner in *Millom People and Places* (page 26) made statements about the Simpson family, some of which are difficult to follow and others which are inaccurate. He wrote: 'In 1666 Ralph Simpson of Selcroft [sic] married Isabell. . . daughter of John Muncaster of the Maynes house in Selcroft, in 1678 a son William was born; it is not known whom he married, but among his children was John of Sledbank and Ann (b.1712) also thus described. She married George [sic] Rumney.' He concluded by dismissing the statement that William Lewthwaite was a kinsman and said he was 'more likely a friend'. He also called the painter's father 'old Rumney', though at the time he was in his early fifties. (see note 3 below)
- <sup>2</sup> *CW2*, xxvi, 358
- <sup>3</sup> Our member Mr Timothy Cockerill is a descendant of William Lewthwaite and contributes the following note on his ancestor. He was the second but eldest son of John Lewthwaite of Broadgate, Millom (died 1737) by Eleanor his wife, daughter of William Whinfield by his wife Ann, daughter of Clement Parke. He married Agnes (1703-77), daughter of Thomas Towers of Houkla Hall, Blawith. From 1740 he was of Kirkby Hall, Kirkby Ireleth and in 1746 was shipping ore and engaged in mining operations in Dalton. (A. Fell, *Early Iron Industry in Furness*, 43.) His death in 1767 was caused by a fall from his horse.
- <sup>4</sup> C.R.O., Carlisle, D/Stn/3/109, 114, 119-23.
- <sup>5</sup> Latus of Lowick muniments
- <sup>6</sup> See note 4
- <sup>7</sup> C.R.O., Kendal, WD/MM/169
- <sup>8</sup> Buried at Dalton from Rooscote 6 July 1742
- <sup>9</sup> As note 7
- <sup>10</sup> He was buried at Broughton-in-Furness on 3 August 1667. His wife Ann was buried there 13 July 1663.
- <sup>11</sup> Buried at Broughton 3 September 1667.

