

ART. XIII.—*Cliburn Hall*. By FRANCIS HASWELL, M.D.

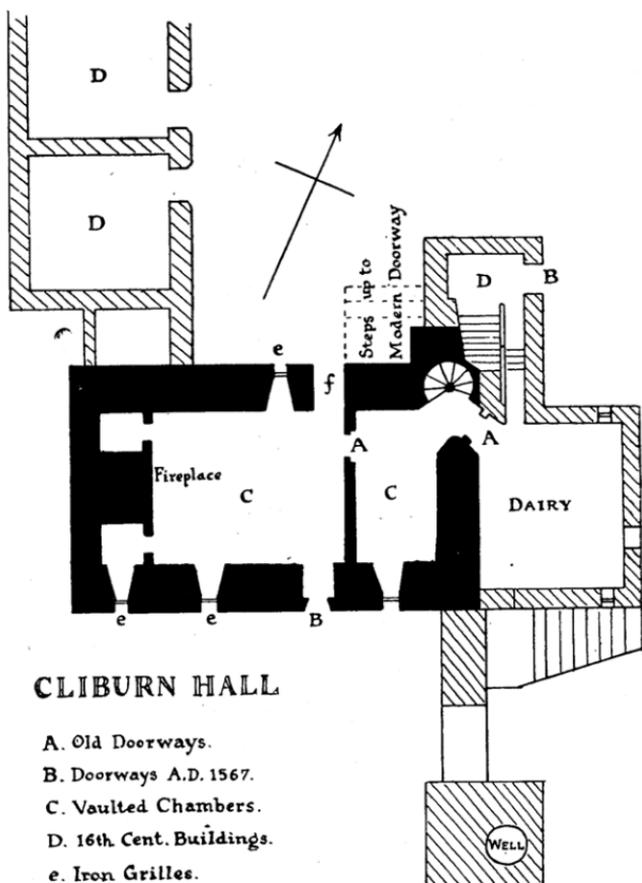
Read at the site, July 14th, 1911.

THIS old hall, which is arranged about the core of a pele tower, has many interesting features. The plan opposite shows the original pele in black, with the sixteenth century additions in open shading and the more modern buildings in outline.

The pele tower is a rectangular building, which is 45 feet in length and $29\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth and consists of three stories. The stone is of excellent red sandstone as you can see on the south side, where the modern rough-cast has fallen away; it seems a pity so to cover it, but the local stone is so porous that it allows a large quantity of moisture to percolate through the walls. The windows are large and of a very pleasing design, but I suppose they were added in Elizabethan times, when Richard Cliburn, whose name stands over the door, greatly enlarged and altered the hall; the roof was until 40 years ago a flat one with a parapet, which has been taken down, and on the south side are the remains of the gutter spouts.

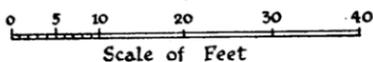
The growing luxury of the Elizabethan period made the owner launch out and add all the parts marked in the plan in open shading; this provided many additional rooms and a new and more convenient staircase. A door with an elliptical arch and square frame, which can be seen in the stable on the other side of this building, was made as the main entrance and no doubt this stone was over that doorway.

It bears a quarterly shield with the arms of the Cliburns and the Kirkbrides—this refers to the marriage of Robert

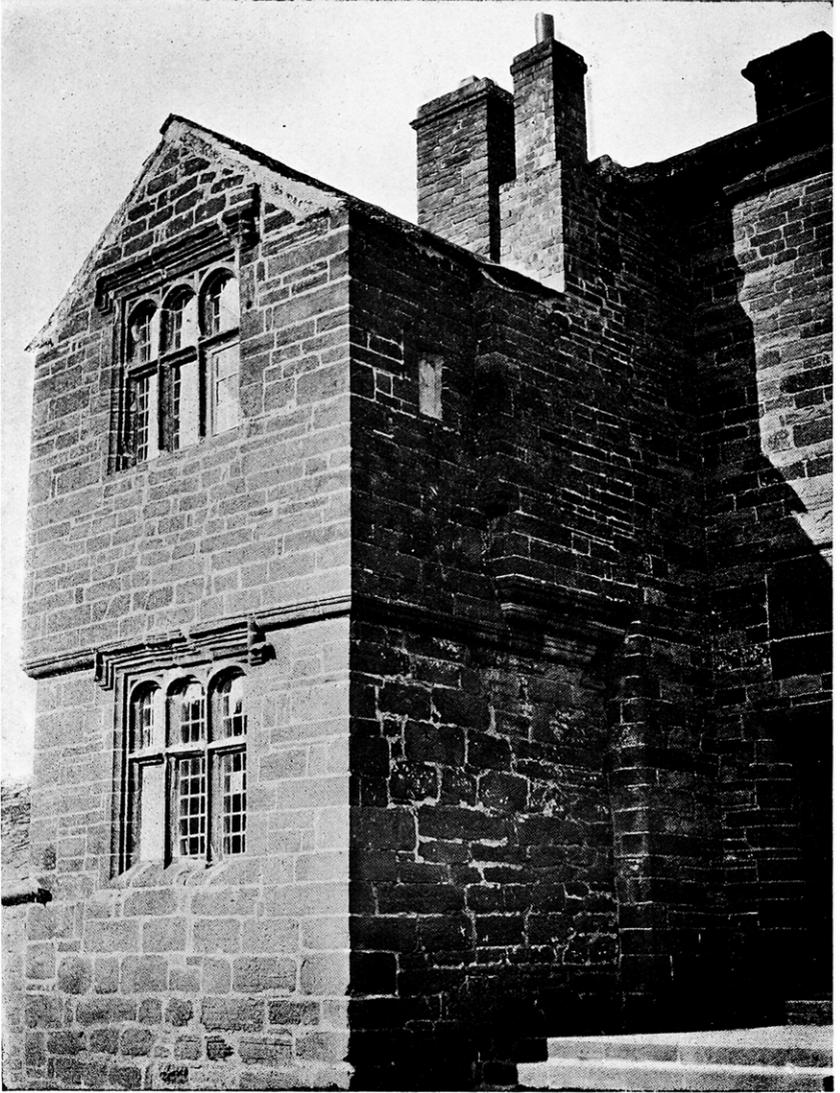


CLIBURN HALL

- A. Old Doorways.
- B. Doorways A.D. 1567.
- C. Vaulted Chambers.
- D. 16th. Cent. Buildings.
- e. Iron Grilles.
- f. Modern Doorway.



TO FACE P. 126.



CLIBURN HALL:
N.E. WING AND PRESENT FRONT DOOR.

Photo. by Dr. Haswell.

TO FACE P. 127.

Cliburn of this place with Emma, one of the daughters and coheirs of George Kirkbride of Kirkbride; and as the said Emma was married in 1507 and was only 21 years old in 1511, you can get an idea as to her age at the date of the marriage.

In passing I may mention an interesting feature of the Cliburn arms as occurring on the seals of the family in documents at Lowther. In 1436 their arms were fretty and a chief, but this became altered by an easy gradation to a chief and three chevrons interlaced. The Kirkbride arms are arg. a cross engrailed sable or vert.

The initials at the side, "R.C." are those of the grandson of the man who made this match and he has had the following inscription placed below:—

Richard Clebur̄ thus they me cawl
 Wch in my time Hath bealded ys hall
 The year of our Lorde God—who lyst
 for to neam.

1567.

R. D. Mayson.

This inscription, of which both the spelling and wording are very odd, is one of those rhyming couplets, such as occur at Newbiggin and Askham Halls; but "who lyst for to neam" is decidedly peculiar; however, as Dr. Taylor points out, it is not far from the "who lyst for to see" of Newbiggin Hall.

The mason who has been allowed to put his initials in large characters was certainly very efficient at his work, for the lettering is beautifully cut and in such a soft stone has lasted well for its 330 years. This door of course is an entirely modern arrangement.

To come to the inside features—the ground floor is level with the ground on the opposite side, but now considerably below on this; it is vaulted and was originally divided by a wall into two rooms.

The earliest doorway was on the east side and has a roundheaded arch ; close to this you will see the beginning of the newel stair, which also shows in two cupboards on the higher floors, otherwise it is quite blocked up.

A feature of this floor is the large fireplace, now filled with a modern grate ; there is also a similar fireplace in the room above, and if you go into either of the small rooms on the first floor beside the fireplace, you will see the huge extent of the chimney stack.

On the south side there is a door made no doubt in Richard Cliburn's time, when the stairway arrangements were altered by making another entrance to the hall.

The early iron grilles on two of the ground floor windows deserve attention.

On the first floor the charming windows in the dining hall and the extent of the chimney stack are the noticeable features.

On the second floor there is nothing of interest and the roof is not accessible.

On the south side there is a peculiar feature, consisting of a small square tower joined to the main building by an arch and having a parapet all round. This contains what was until recently the well of the hall and is sunk in the sandstone for about 40 feet. It seems probable that this arrangement was made for defensive purposes, so that the people inside could get access to water without being exposed to the missiles of their opponents.

The family of Cliburn lived here for many generations, for in Edward III's reign Robert de Cliburn held the manor of Cliburn Hervey, which is part of the present manor of Cliburn, but there is no satisfactory account of the family at present, until about the year 1500 when the visitation pedigree commences ; I say " at present," for I understand that Mr. Ragg intends giving us a paper on the subject.

The visitation pedigree commences with Robert Cliburn,

of Cliburn, who married Emma, daughter and coheiress of George Kirkbride of Kirkbride, who died January 24th, 1511.

The visitation pedigree does not give the family as of Cliburn, but of Hayclose, which is in Hesketh parish, and the reason is that Thomas, a younger brother of Richard Cliburn, who says he "bealded" this hall, but really didn't, had gone to live there, and Richard had taken himself off to Killerby in Yorkshire, where Cliburns are found in the Yorkshire Visitation. Mr. Ragg has given me some interesting information about them and I cannot do better than quote his own words: "Richard Cleburne not being satisfied with possessing Cliburn and half Bampton must needs purchase High Killerby from Sir George Bowes; for this he had to borrow money, and he was then foolish enough to get further into debt by purchasing Low Killerby, borrowing again, and over this borrowing and other disputes he came to grief with Richard Lowther and others and never really got on to his feet again, though some sort of patching up was made by the marriage of his grandson Thomas with Frances, daughter of Richard Lowther.

"Richard was rather a spendthrift, for besides purchasing Killerby, he spent a lot of money in completely altering this hall; he married Ellinor, daughter of Lancelot Lancaster of Sockbridge and had a large family, of whom Edmund, the eldest son, who married Grace, daughter of Alan Bellingham of Levens, succeeded to the estates. His son Thomas was 5 years old in 1585 and married Frances, daughter of Sir Richard Lowther, at Lowther, on 12th March, 1595.

"He was followed by Edmund, who was seven years old in 1612, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Timothy Hutton, of Marske, the granddaughter of Sir George Bowes from whom his great-grandfather had bought Killerby.

"But the family had always been in low water ever

since that unfortunate Killerby purchase, and Edmund's son Timothy sold the manor in 1654 to Robert Collingwood and Frances his wife. Two years later these people sold the manor and demesne, which seems to have come into their possession in the meantime, to Lieut.-Col. Sawrey and Elizabeth his wife, who seem to have immediately mortgaged it to Edward Lee of Monkwearmouth, who three years later, in 1659, levied a fine and recovery; this is the Lee who is mentioned by Dugdale as of Cliburn Hall; but as the family only remained for a very brief period in the county, they are not of much local interest to us.

“Edward Lee was 50 years old in 1664, and as it is not stated that he had any children, I think we may conclude that he had none, which gives a good reason for his action in the year 1662 in leasing the manor and demesne to Sir John Lowther for 99 years. But at the same time he obtained a lease of the demesne, so that it is probable that he continued to reside there or at any rate intended to do so; however, in 1667 he executed a final release of both the manor and demesne to Sir John Lowther, in whose family it has since remained.

“Edward Lee bought another estate in Lincolnshire, at Glanford Bridge, where he was living in 1670.”