

ART. IV.—*The Eastern Fells. Part II. Kirk Croglin and Little Croglin.* By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A.

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#### I.—KIRK CROGLIN.

THE parish of Croglin, situate on the north bank of Croglin Water, comprises both the principal manor of Croglin, or Kirk Croglin, and its dependent manor of Newbiggin, all parcel of the barony of Gilsland. Robert de Vallibus became lord paramount of Gilsland in 1164-5, and gave common of pasture for ever in his vill of Croglin to Wetheral Priory (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 301). The priory already possessed land at Little Croglin, which was comprised in another barony.

Early in John's reign, the manor was, for some reason or another, in the king's hand, and the sheriff rendered account of the "farm" of Croglin and Newbiggin, during the period 1202-8 (*Pipe Rolls*). It appears subsequently to have been held of the barony of Gilsland by a family surnamed de Hastings.

About 1214, Philip de Hastings witnessed a confirmation charter of Robert de Vallibus, the younger, lord of Gilsland (*Wetherhal*, p. 303). He may have been Robert's tenant, and if so, tenant of Croglin, because the de Hastings do not appear to have been connected with any other manor of Gilsland.\* It is probable that Philip was a younger son of the Hugh de Hastings, who acquired, by marriage in 1194-5,† the manors of Crosby Ravensworth and Nateby in Westmorland (Dugdale, *Baronage*, i., 579), for it is significant that, about 1220-40, Philip

\* Walter Hastings is mentioned in the Pipe Roll, 1191.

† The copy of Dugdale's *Baronage*, 1675, in Lincoln's Inn Library, contains supplemental pages, numbered 579-82, which are apparently intended to supersede the original ones, and give fuller information respecting this branch of the family of de Hastings.

attested the confirmation of Crosby Ravensworth church to Whitby Abbey by Thomas, son and heir of the said Hugh de Hastings (*Surtees Society's Publications*, no. 69, p. 38).

The names of many of Hugh's successors in title at Crosby Ravensworth and Nateby are given in Mr. Ragg's *Tabulation* (these *Transactions*, N.S. viii., pp. 304 *et seqq.*), but the names of members of the family who were lords of Croglin occur less frequently. For instance, when Thomas de Multon, lord paramount of Gilsland, died in 1295, Hugh de Hastings held of him £8 of land at Croglin, by service of half a knight's fee (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 23 Edward I., p. 185).

Much later, on May 20th, 1429, when Henry VI. was king, Richard Hastings, knight, continued to hold "part of the barony of Gilsland, namely Croglin," of Thomas de Dacre, by the same service of half a knight's fee (*Feudal Aids*, i., 245). Again, at the death, in 1485, of Humphrey de Dacre, lord of Gilsland, the heirs of Ralph de Hastings, knight, were his free tenants at Croglin and Newbiggin (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 1 Henry VII., p. 69).

The arms of de Hastings, as borne by a scion of the house, Ralph de Hastings, knighted at the capitulation of Calais in 1348, were:—*Argent*, a maunch (or sleeve) *sable* (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*).

But the estate of the de Hastings in Croglin and Newbiggin was a mere seignior, or over-lordship, because, at the commencement of the 14th century, the beneficial interest in the same manors had become vested in the de Whartons, of Wharton in the parish of Kirkby Stephen, Westmorland. They were probably connected by marriage with the de Hastings. John Denton states (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 133), that Gilbert de Wharton married a co-heiress of de Hastings, and thus acquired Croglin in Gilsland. But the statement implies that the direct

male line of de Hastings was extinct. It was not so in fact, and it is preferable to regard Gilbert de Wharton as sub-feoffee, or under-tenant, of de Hastings.

In 1294, Adam, "parson of the church of Kirke Croglin," owed a debt to William de Hastings and was empowered to lease his rectory to Master William de Brampton, for five years, subject to the conditions mentioned in the licence (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i., pp. 10, 28). That is the earliest mention of the church of Kirk Croglin. It was rectorial and, as will presently appear, in the gift of the lord of the manor. It must be carefully distinguished from "the church of Croglin" formerly given to the Abbey of St. Mary of York (see *infra*).

In 1303-4, there were proceedings regarding the manor of Croglin, between the said Gilbert de Wharton and Emma his wife, and their son Henry de Wharton and Margaret his wife (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 231).

In 1309, Simon de Laton, rector of Croglin, was granted leave of non-residence and licence to lease his rectory for three years to Master John de Boghes, clerk, in order that the said rector might better contribute to the expenses of the then projected crusade (*Halton Register*, i., 322); and, in 1312, the said Henry de Wharton, as "true patron," presented William de Edenhal to the church of Croglin, notwithstanding the fact that the said Simon de Layton was already in possession; so the bishop arranged that Simon should pay William the annual pension of five marks to serve him for a "title," and it was not until 1317 that William de Edenhal was instituted to the then vacant living (*Halton Register*, ii., pp. 65, 144). In 1323-4, the said Henry de Wharton and Margaret his wife levied a fine of the manor and advowson of Croglin, a moiety of the manor of Tebay, and two-thirds of the manor of Nateby (these *Transactions* N.S. vii., p. 234). Henry de Wharton presented John de

Wetewang to the vacant rectory of Croglin in 1335 (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 433). On May 10th, 1346 the vill of Croglin in the parish of that vill had been burnt by the Scots (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 20 Edward III., p. 30).

A roll of Edward III.'s reign states that Thomas de Wharton, of "Westmorland," (possibly the Thomas next mentioned) bore as arms:—*Sable*, a maunch *argent* (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*). They differ only in tincture from the above-described arms of de Hastings. On November 16th, 1361, the escheator had certified that Hugh de Wharton was formerly an adherent of Robert Bruce and, after such adherence, succeeded to lands at Croglin in Cumberland and Wharton, Tebay and Nateby in Westmorland, by the deaths of Thomas his brother and Henry his father. All the said lands had been taken into the king's hand, and it had been ordered that the king's hand should be removed, because the certificate was insufficient in certain details (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 34 Edward III., p. 515).

As regards the church at this period:—Thomas, rector of Croglin, died in 1362 (Ferguson, *Testamenta Karleolensia*, p. 43), and his successors, all presented by the said Hugh de Wharton, were:—in 1362, Patrick de Edenham\*; in 1370, William de Wyllerdby, whose will was proved in 1376 (*Test. Karl.*, p. 113); and in the following year, John Mayson.

On the resignation of John Mayson in 1380, William de Hoton was presented to the rectory by William Beauchamp, rector of Kirkoswald (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 433).

The succeeding lords of Croglin were doubtless the holders for the time being of the manor of Wharton:—William de Wharton in 1388 and 1392 (see *Tabulation supra cit.*, p. 324); Richard de Wharton, knight of the

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\* Perhaps Edenham (now Ednam), on Eden water near Kelso, Roxburghshire, mentioned in 1336 (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 10 Ed. iii., p. 478).

shire for Westmorland in 1417-18, although his connection with Wharton is not stated; Henry, who, according to Nicolson and Burn's reading of John de Clifford's *inquisitio post mortem*, held Wharton in 1422, and certainly had Tebay in 1435 (*Tabulation*, p. 327); and Thomas who had Wharton in 1482 (*Tabulation*, p. 327), and, according to a document presently cited, held Newbiggin in 1499. A detailed pedigree of the Whartons of Wharton, beginning with Thomas, son of the last-named Henry, was certified at the Visitation of Yorkshire, made in 1563-4, by William Flower, Norroy King of Arms (*Harleian Society's Publications*, vol. 16), and their subsequent history is contained in these *Transactions*, N.S. ii., p. 262. The Whartons of Wharton continued to be lords of the manor of Kirk Croglin until the death, in 1731, of Philip, Duke of Wharton, when the direct male line became extinct.

The original arms of de Wharton were:—*Sable*, a maunch *argent*, but Edward VI., by letters patent dated April 23rd, 1553, directed William Harvey, Norroy, to assign to Thomas, first Lord Wharton, as an augmentation "to his ancient arms, a border engrailed *gold*, remplished with lyon's legs in saltire rased (i.e. erased or torn off) *gules*, armed *azure*, as more plainly appears in the margin" (*Genealogist*, N.S. viii., p. 127), being an allusion to the Scottish lion which the said Thomas Wharton maimed at the battle of Solway Moss.

Newbiggin, a township of Croglin parish and a dependent fee of Kirk Croglin, has very little history distinct from that of the principal manor. There are, within a radius of fourteen miles from Croglin church, four localities similarly named, that is to say (a), the Newbiggin in question; (b), Newbiggin, a parish on the border of Westmorland; (c), Newbiggin, a township of Dacre parish; and (d), Newbiggin, a hamlet in the Brisco township of the parish of St. Cuthbert's Without; so

it is not always easy to identify records relating to the first-named locality. Newbiggin was in the king's hand in 1202-8 (*supra*). In 1285-6, Robert and John de Swyneburn were tenants of land in "Newbiggin and Gilsland" (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 229). A local family derived its surname from the petty manor. In 1329-30, Robert de Newbiggin and Agnes his wife were parties to a fine concerning land "in Kirk Croglin" (*ibid.*, p. 236); and in 1353-4, Alice, daughter of Thomas and Johanna de Newbiggin, had an interest in the neighbouring manor of Castlecarrock; but the male line of the de Newbiggins was then extinct (*ibid.*, p. 239). Meanwhile, in 1349, Peter de Tilliol, of Scaleby, died seised of a moiety of "Newbiggin hamlet, held as parcel of the vill of Croglin" (*Cal. Esch.*, 23 Edward III., no. 51); and, in 1499, Christopher Moresby, knight, held the manor of "Newbiggin *subtus* le fell" of the aforesaid Thomas Wharton (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 14 Henry VII., p. 192).

In 1597, Croglin (that is to say Kirk Croglin in the tenure of the Whartons), was one of 15 principal manors dependent on the barony of Gilsland (Bain, *Border Papers* ii., p. 446), and in 1601-2, all the crown's interest in the lordship of Gilsland, including rents called "land serjeant's fees" in Croglin and Newbiggin, forfeited by Leonard Dacre, was leased to four nominees, until failure of the issue male of his surviving brother, Francis Dacre, an event which occurred in 1634 (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 351).

Croglin Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was described in 1848 as follows:—

The church is small and very damp. It consists of a nave and chancel, with a bell-gable carrying two bells. On the south side of the nave may be traced a circular door, now walled up, having the billet moulding; and, in the chancel, which is in a ruinous state, are some remains of very small and rude lancet windows (Jefferson, *Leath Ward*, p. 100).

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It was entirely re-built in 1878, on a site a little to the north of its former position. In the vestry is preserved the very small grave slab in memory of "Hisabela," described in these *Transactions*, N.S. ix., p. 12; and an old chest, probably the one noticed by Bishop Nicolson (*Miscellany Accounts*, p. 118). In the churchyard is a grave slab, discovered during the rebuilding of the church. It measures 6 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, and bears upon its bevelled edge the inscription, *In hac tumba iacet Robert' Eps.* It is believed to have marked the tomb of Robert de Chase, bishop of Carlisle, who died in 1278, and whose biography is contained in the *Victoria History of Cumberland*, vol. ii., p. 29. There is another grave slab 5 feet 4 inches in length, adorned with a large cross on Calvary steps and shears on the sinister side; and also the mutilated effigy of a lady with hands joined in prayer, compared by Canon Bower to the similar effigy in the vestry at Cumrew (*ibid.*, ii., 214).

Attached to the rectory house are the two lower storeys of a solidly-constructed pele tower, measuring externally 30 feet from west to east by 18 feet. The apartment on the ground floor, now used as the drawing room, is 25 feet 8 inches long and 11 feet 4 inches broad, and has a vaulted ceiling of stone. At its north-east corner, a stairway, constructed in the thickness of the wall and now blocked up, led to the upper storey. Near its north-west corner, a door gives access to the modern part of the house, and shows the thickness of the north wall of the tower to be 3 feet 3 inches. A large French window has been inserted in its western face. The upper storey has been divided into two apartments, by a wooden partition, and is covered by a gabled roof (see also J. F. Curwen, *Castles and Towers*, p. 364, where it is classed among 15th and 16th century towers).

Croglin Water forms the southern limit of the parish. The eastern limit is a line drawn from the head of Croglin

Water northward for three-quarters of a mile until it meets the county boundary, at a desolate spot, called in the perambulations "Tom Smith's Stone," where a person of that name is said to have committed suicide. Here stands a square stone, four feet high, bearing upon its faces the initials C.A.W.K. for Croglin, Alston, Whitley (in Kirkhaugh parish) and Knaresdale; which converge at that point. The parish boundary coincides with that of Northumberland for exactly three miles, passing Gillian Briggs Pike (the G is pronounced soft), to Butt Hill. It has meanwhile been traversing the "backbone" of England, as "heaven's water deals" (divides), keeping to the ridge of the swampy watershed, seamed with innumerable gutters, through which the rainfall gravitates, here to the right there to the left, into the vales below. At Butt Hill the parish boundary turns sharply down the channel of a mountain stream called "New water,"\* and forms the line of demarcation between Croglin fell and the waste known as the "King's forest of Geltsdale." When it reaches the point where the New water makes a sharp elbow, it leaves it and strikes south-west, so as to include Newbiggin village, and then north-west to the "Rising Sun Inn" on the road to Castlecarrock. About half a mile west of the inn it meets the Cairn rivulet, ascends it, and rejoins the Croglin Water a mile south-west of the church.

## II.—LITTLE CROGLIN.

The parish of Kirkoswald, situate on the south bank of Croglin Water, comprises Little Croglin, parcel of the manor of Kirkoswald, which devolved constantly with the barony of Burgh (these *Transactions*, N.S. xi., p. 52).

Uchtred, son of Ligolf (Liulph) gave one-third part of Croglin together with its church to the Abbey of St. Mary

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\* To distinguish it from "the Old Water in Geltsdale," referred to in 1595 (Bain, *Border Papers*, ii., p. 63).



of York (Dugdale, *Monasticon*, edit. Caley, iii., 550 \*). Liulph, according to Roger de Hoveden (*Rolls Edition*, i., 134) died about 1080, and it may be suggested that his son, Uchtred, was under-tenant of the manor of Little Croglin in the time of Ibria de Trivers, lady paramount of Burgh and benefactress of Wetheral Priory, a "cell" of the said abbey, and that he was progenitor of the de Croglins, who, about a century later, were lords of that manor.

Athelwold, bishop of Carlisle 1133-56, confirmed the "church of Croglin" to the Abbey of St. Mary of York, and to its own use (*Wetherhal*, p. 45).

Simon de Morvill, lord paramount of Burgh and Kirkoswald in 1158-67, confirmed to the monks of Wetheral the half carucate of land in Croglin, which *domina* Ybri had given them (*Wetherhal*, p. 186). Ybri, or Ibria de Trivers, was his wife's grandmother.

Bernard, consecrated bishop of Carlisle in 1204, further confirmed the "church of Croglin" to the Abbey of St. Mary of York (*ibid.*, p. 47), and it was probably appropriated, because, about that date, Simon, chaplain of Croglin, was the principal witness to the conveyance of some land in the parish of Kirkoswald (*ibid.*, p. 288). That is the last mention of this church of Croglin.

A family named de Bello Campo, or de Beauchamp, held the manor of Staffol and its dependent manor of Little Croglin under the lords paramount of Burgh and Kirkoswald. At the last-mentioned date, 1204, Roger de Bello Campo was a knight in the service of Helewisa de Stutvill, then lady of the manor of Kirkoswald (these *Transactions*, N.S. xii., p. 167). It was probably the same Roger, who, in 1208, had custody of the land and forestry of William, son of Adam de Hoton (*Pipe Rolls*), and who, in 1210, had married Grecia, widow of Thomas,

\* The statement, made on p. 532 of the same volume, that Adam *fitz* Swane made a similar gift, must be disregarded, as it is due to a mis-reading of Henry II's confirmation Charter.

son of Gospatric, son of Orm (*Wetherhal*, p. 256, *note*). By charter of the supposed date 1223-9, Roger de Bello Campo gave to Wetheral Priory his body, to be buried in its church; and all his land of Cringledike; with the service of a villein named John Golt; and all liberties belonging to *the manor of Staffol*; for the finding by the prior of vestments and lights at the altar of the Blessed Virgin (*Wetherhal*, p. 280); and it was in connection with this gift in mortmain that, on October 20th, 1241, Alice and Amabilla de Bello Campo, sisters and co-heiresses of Roger, were complainants, and the Abbot of St. Mary, York, deforciant, in a fine relating to two and a half carucates of land at Cringledike in Staffol (*ibid.*, p. 281).

In 1245-6, John de Bello Campo was party to a fine relating to land in Staffol (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 223).

On March 22nd, 1269-70, Thomas de Bello Campo had held freely two bovates at Staffol, of Helewisa, widow of Richard de Wernune, lady of the manor of Kirkoswald, lately deceased (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i., 516). He was Seneschal of Gilsland, and witnessed a charter dated June 29th, 1271 (*Wetherhal*, p. 308).

The de Beauchamps of this period were a numerous family, for in 1285 Geoffrey de Beauchamp was a forester of Inglewood, Thomas de Bello Campo (probably the last named), a verderer, and Richard de Bello Campo a regarder (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 3, and N.S. x., p. 3).

The arms of William Beauchamp, of "Cumberland," are described in a roll of Edward III.'s reign as:—*argent*, on a bend *gules*, three plates (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*, p. 14).

There is mention in 1356-7 of Johanna, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 240).

In 1424-5, William Beauchamp was party to a fine concerning land in Kirkoswald (*ibid.*, p. 246). In 1482,

Richard Beauchamp was holder of a fee at Waitby, in Kirkby Stephen parish, presently mentioned (these *Transactions*, N.S. viii., p. 309). John Denton says (*Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 125), that the Beauchamps, in Henry VII.'s reign, sold their fee of Little Croglin to Thomas, Lord Dacre of Gilsland, then lord paramount of Kirkoswald.

On July 17th, 1511, there was a grant of pardon to the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Beauchamp of Croglin, late sheriff of Cumberland, and their respective husbands, namely, Richard Bell and Margaret his wife; John Hoton and Elizabeth his wife; Thomas Musgrave and Alice his wife; and Thomas Lancastre and Joan his wife; and a grant of the goods of the said Thomas Beauchamp, which had been seized by the sheriff (*L. and P. Henry VIII*, vol. i., p. 272). The above-mentioned John Hoton was of Hoton Hall, in Penrith (*Visitation Pedigree*, 1615). The demesne land of Waitby is described, in 1519, as lately belonging to Thomas Beauchamp of Croglin (these *Transactions*, N.S. x., p. 419), and the manor of Little Croglin was occupied, in 1534, by Sir Christopher Dacre (see *infra*).

A family, surnamed de Croglin, were the under-tenants of the de Beauchamps at Little Croglin, and resided there. Elias de Croglin, by charter of the date 1175-95, gave to the monks of Wetheral five acres of land in Croglin (*Wetherhal*, p. 251). At the beginning of the 13th century, William, son of Elias de Croglin, "with the assent of my wife Ysouda, and for the health of my lord, Roger de Bello Campo," gave them two bovates of land in the field of Croglin, being one-tenth part of the vill of Croglin, and a toft and croft adjoining the ford of Croglin water "which my uncle Gilbert once held" (*ibid.*, p. 256). The said chief lord, Roger de Bello Campo,\* thereupon confirmed to the said monks all the lands which they

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\* He appears to be styled Roger de Croglin in the *Pipe Roll*, 1196.

held in the vill of Croglin of the gift of *domina* Ybri, Simon de Morvill, and William, son of Elias, respectively, then reckoned to be one-fifth of the vill, besides the five acres in the field of Croglin which Elias gave them (*ibid.*, p. 257). Again, in 1223-9, William de Croglin \* gave them two bovates "in my vill of Croglin," with toft and croft and a meadow lying between the land of Ybri and the land of Walter, the porter (p. 252). And lastly, in 1231-6, William de Croglin, "with the assent of my son and heir William," gave them two acres "in my alder plantation adjoining my house in the vill of Croglin" (p. 259), and also "my villeins (*nativi*), Ranulph, son of Alan, and Alice his wife, their offspring (*sequela*), and chattels" (p. 261).

Robert de Croglin, in company with his chief lord, Thomas de Bello Campo, was juror at an inquisition held on March 22nd, 1269-70 (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i., 516), and at another held on April 27th, 1300 (*ibid.*, ii., 290). John de Croglin was juror at an inquisition concerning Inglewood forest, held in 1292 (these *Transactions* N.S. v., p. 57), and another John de Croglin was executor, in 1362, of the above-mentioned will of Thomas, rector of Kirk Croglin.

I will now return to the history of Little Croglin, after its purchase by Thomas, Lord Dacre. Sir Christopher Dacre, knighted at Flodden Field, occupied Little Croglin under William, Lord Dacre. Sir Christopher's father, Sir Thomas Dacre of Lanercost, was a natural brother of William, Lord Dacre, (see *Dacre Pedigree*, these *Transactions*, N.S. xi., p. 258). On May 11th, 1534, the inventory of the goods of Sir Christopher Dacre, taken by the king's commissioners, included :—

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\* The donor is evidently lord of the petty manor. Chancellor Prescott supposes him to be the successor of William, son of Elias, and identical with the William next mentioned. The "land of Ybri" is that comprised in her above-mentioned gift.

Stuff at his house of Croglin, namely, in the parlour and the chamber above it, the chamber in the tower, the garner and the barn. Store of cattle at Croglin Hall and Carlatton (*L. and P. Henry VIII.*, vol. vii., p. 248).

A similar inventory of the goods of William, Lord Dacre, taken on May 16th following, shows that he had some sheep at Croglin dale (*ibid.*, p. 259). On July 9th, a commission was appointed to enquire into an alleged "treacherous agreement" made by William, Lord Dacre, Warden of the West Marches, through Sir Christopher Dacre of Croglin, with certain Scots therein named (*ibid.*, p. 368). William, Lord Dacre, was acquitted of the charge.

Shortly before George, Lord Dacre's death, on May 17th, 1569, his uncle, Edward Dacre, occupied Little Croglin, for, on September 2nd, 1568, Edward Dacre, described as "of Croglin," had entered into a recognizance of 1,000 marks to appear before the Privy Council and answer certain matters (*Cal. S. P. Dom. Add. Eliz.*, p. 55), and on November 18th, 1569, he wrote from Croglin to his brother Leonard, whom he styles "Lord Dacre." (*ibid.*, p. 253). The attainted family appears to have clung to its home at Little Croglin, because, on September 17th, 1589, Francis Dacre, the youngest of the brothers, addressed a plaintive letter from Croglin to Queen Elizabeth (Nicolson and Burn, ii., 352). In 1601-2 that land seems to have been included in the above-mentioned lease to four nominees, under the description of "tenements in Staffol," but the beneficial interest in the same ultimately vested in Lord William Howard of Naworth, and his *Household Books* (*Surtees Society's Publications*, vol. 68), contain the following entries:—

November 11<sup>th</sup> Received of Michael Sargeson, farmer of Croglin Hall, for one year's rent of the same, due at Martinmas, 1621, £50 (p. 152).

*Croglin Parva*, July 7<sup>th</sup> Received of George Sargeson, for

one whole year's rent of the demesne at Croglin, due at the Purification of Our Blessed Lady last past, 1633, £55 (p. 281).

His third son, Sir Charles Howard and the latter's son William resided at Croglin Hall (*Visitation Pedigree* of Howard, 1665).

Croglin Low Hall (so called in contradistinction to Croglin High Hall distant three quarters of a mile), was the manorial mansion occupied in succession by the de Croglin, Dacres and Howards, while Croglin High Hall appears to have been in the possession of George Towry (*Visitation Pedigree* of Towry, 1664).

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