

ART. XIX.—*Notes on Kirksanton “Tenter-runs” and other South Cumberland Sites.* By the Rev. W. S. SYKES, M.A.

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KIRK SANTON.

IN 1798-9 the owners of land in Kirk Santon decided by voluntary agreement to make a readjustment of certain fields surrounding the hamlet. Prior to that time about 140 acres contained in 24 fields were let out to the villagers for the cultivation of hemp for the rope walk, which is stated to have been on the Green. There is no information to show how ancient the earlier method may have been, but it was then worked by hand in dailes or strips locally called “Tenter runs,” and in the course of years the boundaries seem to have altered considerably. The total number of strips was 118, but that included several large portions which may at some time have been stripland, or only added at the above date to make more equitable division.

Two maps are in existence, No. 1 showing the ancient method and No. 2 the alterations made in 1799. These maps, which I was permitted to copy,* were themselves only tracings, and I could not learn in whose hands the original surveyor's copies now are. Of those seen, one was in very frail condition, and the table of contents was so difficult to read that a transcript of the notes on the edge of the map was not attempted. There were one or two evident errors, and at least one field omitted; there

* These copies of the original plans by the Rev. W. S. Sykes have been kindly presented by him to the Society, and will be found in the Society's Cabinet at Tullie House.—Ed.

is also a little confusion in Map 1, because some of the field boundaries and owners' names belonging to the adjustment (Map 2) have been added.

A detailed list of strips with their ownership and area would occupy too much space, but the following is a summary of the tables of contents:—

Plan 1.

Name.	Acreage.	Number of owners strips.			Plan 2.		
		7	7	16.3.15	Fields.	Owners.	Acreage.
Far Croft	17.734	9	16	7	7	16.3.15	
Smiddy Croft	2.229	3	3	2	2	2.0.36	
Town End gardens	2.423	6	10	4	6	2.1.26	
Elphole	4.188	3	12	2	2	4.0.29	
Micklethwaite	3.756	3	3	3	3	5.2.39	
Bower Gardens	3.260	6	6	4	3	3.0.29	
Mire Meadow	1.583	3	3	1	1	3.1.13	
Half Penny Butts	0.247	2	2	? with Limestone Hall with Croft land.			
" Greaves	0.294			? with Mire Meadow.			
Meadow Close	0.881	3	3	1	1	0.2.15	
Limestone Hall	0.493	2	2	pt with Mire Meadow.			
Back of Goat	1.098	1	1	1	1	1.1.5	
Under How Bank	1.309	4	5	1	1	0.1.32	
Crooked Parrak	0.456	1	1	2	2	29.0.18	
How Bank	22.121			2	2	8.2.9	
New Close	8.766	2	7	1	1	3.1.10	
" Head	3.319	2	4	5	4	9.1.16	
Whate Bank	9.644	8	11	1	1	5.3.25	
Low Big Rigg	5.909	4	10	4	4	6.0.32	
Big Rigg	6.116	5	7	with Bogg, Waste, &c.			
Steward Ing	2.031			2	2	4.3.34	
Mains	5.164	2	4	1	1	2.0.36	
Goath Meadow	2.226	2	2	2	2	9.2.6	
Jane Bank	9.549			3	3	21.1.37	
Far Bank	22.178	3		6.0.20			
Bogg Lane Leg in Jane Bank	1.084						

The names of the owners as given in the list of contents are:—

Richard Danson Wm. Lewthwaite esq.

Isaac Kirbank Thomas Middleton

John Walton

George Kirby John Postlethwaite esq.

William Wilson

Squire Rothery

John Yudale.

Mrs. Thompson

The strips vary very much, and in 17 fields so divided hardly more than two are alike, though many only differ

by a few yards. The following table shows the sizes approximately in acres and fractions:—

4	2	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	1	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$
1	4	3	7	$1\frac{1}{4}$	5	$1\frac{1}{2}$	35	20	7

The total of which is 82.623 acres, which with 57.976 contained in four large and five small fields undivided, makes the total 140.599.

Plan 2 purports to give a list of 50 fields, but one, No. 9 (? in Whate Bank), is missing in the list of contents, and the entry, "Bogg, Steward Ing, Road and other wastes," (6 . o . 20), is not numbered.

Of the field names mentioned:—

BOWER GARDENS.—It is stated locally that the garths were all to the north of the green, i.e. away from the village and separated from it by the crofts.

ELPHOLE.—This seems to be a corruption of Helpul, i.e. this portion of the Whicham Beck; cf. Helpa Bridge; Helupul and Heleuepul in charters of 1175-94 (Furness Coucher II; edit. Brownbill, pp. 551-517).

It is the field next to the standing stones.

GOAT, back of the.—The field is on the north side of the Millrace, under How Bank. Goyt, gote, or goat = stream of water; sluice (N.E.D.).

GOATH MEADOW.—In this case the goyt is not the Mill race, but a gutter coming from the hillside near Whate Bank; after passing through the meadow it forms one boundary of Monks Holme.

HALFPENNY BUTTS.—This name is written as if connected with Greaves, but they are distinct fields separated by the high road and under different ownership. The former apparently belonged to Limestone Hall, which is said to be part of the Manor of Hestham.

JANE BANK.—There is a neighbouring field called Tom bank.

MAINS.—If this be "demesne" land it is so close to Monks Holme as to raise the question whether it formed

part of the Boyvil homestead, and whether the words of the Charter of William de Boyvil (1175-94), *proximum gardino meo* (*Furness Couher* ii, 516), may be taken literally: cf. Mains at Hodbarrow, and Steel Green belonged to "the Low Demesne" in 1741.

MICKLETHWAITE.—These fields are close to Helpa Bridge.

NEW CLOSE HEAD.—About $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of this in Plan 1 is marked "Wood," and perhaps was the last remnant of the Wood of Kirksanton mentioned in the Charter of Wm. de Boyvil (1175-94).

PARRAK, CROOKED.—Another form of Paddock. It is close to Helpa Bridge.

SMIDDY CROFT.—Now called "The Croft."

STEWARD ING.—This field is locally stated to have been held by the agent appointed from year to year to adjust the tenancies of the tenter runs.

WHATE BANK.—A shortened form of Thwaite.

Many of the fields on the map, especially near Limestone Hall, are difficult to trace on the o.s. map. The cutting of the railway and the breaking up of the farms of Yudale, Walton, and Hartley, and more recently the iron mines and other buildings, have changed many field boundaries.

THE COCKPIT.

Opposite Park Head is now a cottage which was at one time a school, well known in the district for its sound education, especially in Latin. The last master remembered was Mr. J. Jackson, who belonged to a family living at Hill Millom. The road from the Hill to Whicham valley passes it; approach from the lower valley was through Gill Scarr, and from the Green by one of the oldest roads in the neighbourhood, which is in some parts only 8 feet wide. The school grounds were bounded on one side by the wall of the Millom Park, but on the other was unenclosed common land, which has since then been awarded

to Dashat Gate and Park Head farms. The latter is approached by a field road, and divided from it by a wall is a somewhat marshy field, and in the angle of the wall with the road is the ancient Cockpit. The pit is about 26 feet in diameter, surrounded by a trench 2 feet in width and 9 inches deep. The principal fight, a contest with Whicham Grammar School, was famous for many miles round, and brought visitors from Millom, Whicham, Bootle, Broughton, and other places, as many as fifty pairs being fought in the day. The contest was under the superintendence of the scholars, who elected two to act as stewards, named the King and Queen. The last who were known were John Kirby and a Miss Hunter.

LINCO (ORDNANCE MAP, "LINGCOVE").

This is a pasture formed by the meeting of Linco beck with the river Esk, the base being a very ancient earth and stone dyke. The remains of a sheepfold and bothy are in the corner where the dyke touches the beck. It is estimated that the old fence contains about 30 acres. But a more modern fence has been erected parallel with the old one so as to include more ground; this is still kept in repair and the field used for cattle by the tenant of Butterilket ($1\frac{3}{4}$ miles distant). On the other side of the stream an ancient fence crosses part of Yewbank breast, but its object is not evident. On the map the name Throstlegarth is given to the higher fell.

Now between 1284 and 1290 John de Hudleston, Lord of Millom, granted to Furness Abbey the liberty of enclosing "the pasture of Botherhulkil and Lyncoue which adjoins the forest of Egremont with a dyke, wall or paling as the abbot and monks should think most convenient for them; but such, nevertheless, as harts and does and their fawns could leap" (Furnesss Coucher, ii, edit. Brownbill, 565). This old dyke must surely be that which the monks erected in the thirteenth century; and if so, it is a monument of the greatest interest.