

ART. V.—*The Parish of Stapleton.* By T. H. B. GRAHAM,  
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STAPLETON parish comprised two manors, Stapleton and Solport. Stapleton manor, parcel of the barony of Gilsland, included the parish church, lay on the left bank of the river Line, and had from time immemorial been divided into two equal moieties; one held by the de Stapletons of Stapleton; the other by the de Levingtons of Levington (Kirkclinton). Each of those families possessed a mediety of the advowson, and, by ancient custom, made a presentation to the living in turn. That fact is a clue to local history.

Solport manor, parcel of the barony of Liddel, included the mansion now known as "Shank Castle," lay on the right bank of the river Line and was held by the de Tilliols of Scaleby.

For civil purposes, the parish is divided into four townships, namely, Stapleton, Solport, Trough and Belbank. The manor of Stapleton, split into two moieties, was co-terminous with the first-named township. The manor of Solport embraced the other three. It should be noted that the township of Belbank, in Stapleton parish, is separated from another township of Belbank, in Bewcastle parish, by the river White Line (Parson and White, *Directory*, 1829).

The parish church is described, in 1794, as follows:—

The walls are very thick, and the windows were exceeding small, till they were enlarged about twelve years ago. It has no spire nor bells, nor is it dedicated to any saint. The chancel is large, in proportion to the church (Hutchinson, *Cumberland*, i, 560).

Its walls were adorned with paintings, covered by a coat of whitewash (these *Transactions*, o.s. xv, p. 20).

In 1188, William de Lindsey owed 40 marks, for having right in the king's court against Henry the clerk of Appleby, the countess of Albemarle and Nicholas de Stutevill, with regard to Leventon and Stapelthein (*Pipe Roll*). The record relates to Randolf Levington and Solport, both parcel of the barony of Liddel.

Peter de Tilliol, at his death in 1246, held Solport, in the barony of Liddel, of Hugh de Bigot, husband of Johanna de Stutevill, lady of Liddel (see pedigree, these *Transactions*, n.s. xiii, p. 37). Stephen de Stapleton and William de Stapleton (see Table appended to this article) were jurors at the inquisition held in the same year, concerning Peter de Tilliol's land (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, i, p. 313).

Richard de Levington died in 1250, seised of a moiety of Stapleton, in the barony of Gilsland, together with a mediety of the advowson, held of Thomas de Multon. His brother, Ranulf de Levington, was the heir (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 34 Henry III, p. 50).

Upon the death, without issue, in 1272, of Helewisa, last of the de Levingtons of Kirkclinton (see pedigree, these *Transactions*, n.s. xii, pp. 72 and 73) one *undivided* sixth part of all her widely-scattered lands devolved upon Matilda and Emma, daughters and co-heiresses of her aunt, Juliana de Carrick. Both were under age and resident in Scotland. Matilda was wife of Roland de Carrick and Emma was wife of Patrick Trump, of Carrick.

In following the history of the de Levingtons' moiety of Stapleton, there is, at this point, some danger of losing the scent. The mediety of the advowson appurtenant to that moiety had been long since assigned to Sarra, widow of Richard de Levington, and afterwards wife of Robert de Paveley, for her life in dower, but the de Levingtons' moiety of the manor of Stapleton seems to have been included in the specific share allotted, by the general

partition, of 1274, to Roland de Carrick and Patrick Trump, as tenants in common (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 2 Edward I, p. 132) because in 1295 (that is to say during Sarra's lifetime) Matilda de Carrick was in possession of her share of that moiety (see *infra*). The difficulty is that neither the general partition, which expressly excludes all advowsons, knights' fees and Sarra's dower lands (*ibid.*, p. 134) nor the much later partition of those dower lands, allude to the manor of Stapleton by name, and one may infer that the de Levingtons' moiety thereof was relatively of such small importance, that it was deemed, for purposes of division, to be parcel of the capital manor of Kirklevington.

As regards the de Stapletons' moiety, at the same period, John de Stapleton was a juror in 1276 (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 18) John and Stephen de Stapleton were jurors at the inquisition held in 1280 concerning customs in use upon the border of Cumberland (*ibid.*, ii, p. 59).

Roland de Carrick, the elder, died soon after obtaining livery of the share of land belonging to his wife, Matilda, and it was taken into the king's hand, but on April 30th, 1275, there was an order to restore the same to Matilda (*ibid.*, ii, p. 10).

Matilda de Carrick, "of Levington," was in amercement, because she was not present, on the first day of the assizes held at Carlisle in November, 1278, when a verdict was returned that she, Patrick Trump of Carrick and others held the barony of Levington *in capite* (*ibid.*, ii, pp. 34 and 37).

The manor of Solport, worth £20. a year, was held, in 1281-2, by Geoffrey de Tilliol, tenant by cornage of Baldwin de Wake, lord of Liddel, deceased (*ibid.*, p. 66).

Patrick, son of Patrick Trump, was party to proceedings in 1292 (*ibid.*, p. 150).

It was discovered, in 1294, that Matilda de Carrick had married again, without the king's licence (*ibid.*, p. 163).

Her second husband was Nicholas de Auchenleck, a Scotsman, to whom she was married on June 24th, 1291 (*Historical Documents*, edit. Stevenson, i, p. 358).

Robert de Muncheton, rector of Stapleton, obtained in 1294 dispensation for three years, and licence to lease his benefice for that period to the prior and canons of Carlisle (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i, p. 12).

And now comes an important fact. In 1295, Matilda de Carrick had 20 marks of land at *Stapleton*, held of Thomas de Multon, lord of Gilsland, by service of one-quarter of a knight's fee (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 23 Edward I, p. 186).

On March 17th, 1295-6, Matilda de Carrick, "of Scotland," had leased her interest in Kirklevington, for 13 years, to Master John de Bowes, parson of Kirklington, and he was cited by the sheriff, under the king's mandate as to Scotsmen's land in England, but was reinstated, as he had satisfied Matilda (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 169).

In 1296, the lands at Levington belonging to Patrick, son and heir of Patrick Trump, and leased to Henry de Malton, were seized by the escheator (*ibid.*, ii, p. 172).

On June 2nd, 1296, Robert de Tilliol, knight, presented Thomas de Leicester, priest, to the "church or chapel of Solport" and begged the bishop to institute him rector thereof (*Halton Register*, i, p. 69). Robert de Tilliol was lord of Solport, but had not, as yet, any legal interest in the advowson of the parish church. The church of Solport is not mentioned elsewhere, and allusion to the rector shows that it was identical with the church of Stapleton.

In December, 1296, Sarra, the doweress and patroness for that turn, presented Nicholas de Coventry, chaplain, to the living of Stapleton, and he was instituted in the following February (*ibid.*, i, pp. 89 and 96).

Sarra died in 1299, seised of land in the vill of Levington and of a mediety of the advowson of Stapleton church,

held for her life in dower, of the inheritance of her first husband Richard de Levington (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 28 Edward I, p. 441). The de Levingtons' mediety of the advowson had been excepted from the general partition of 1274 and after Sarra's death, devolved in undivided one-sixth shares among all the co-parceners of the barony of Levington. Consequently, Matilda and Patrick Trump, the younger were entitled to one-sixth of the de Levingtons' mediety of the advowson of Stapleton as tenants in common.

On June 13th, 1300, the king ordered that Sarra's dower lands should be divided equally amongst the co-parceners of the barony of Levington, but that the one-sixth share falling to the sisters Matilda and Emma should be retained, because they dwelt with the enemy in Scotland (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 291). Emma was probably dead, for in April, 1302, Patrick Trump, *le fiz*, and his aunt, Matilda, came to the king's peace and claimed their share of Sarra's dower land, taken for rebellion, and the king out of favour to his liege, Robert de Brus, earl of Carrick, whose tenants they were, ordered that the same land should be restored to them (*ibid.*, ii, p. 331).

The service of Robert de Tilliol in Solport was assigned, in 1302, to Joan, widow of John de Wake, tenant in chief of Liddel as part of her dower (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 519).

In 1304, Robert de Tilliol was pardoned for having, without licence, purchased in fee simple from Patrick Trump, a messuage and 14 acres of land and one-sixth part of the manor of Kirklevington (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 429). The record is silent as to Patrick's interest in the advowson of Stapleton, but the sequel shows that his one-twelfth share of that advowson passed by implication to Robert de Tilliol.

It was ordered, in 1304, that John de Stapleton should have seisin of a messuage, two bovates and 40 acres of moor at Stapleton, lately held of him by John del Wray,

an outlaw, and demised for the king's year and a day to William de Mulcaster (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 230).

The king directed, on March 21st, 1306-7, that some rents in Soelberth (Solport) and Stapleton should be delivered to Thomas de Whitworth and Cassandra, his wife, widow of Philip le Bretun, tenant by knight-service of the heir of John, Earl of Richmond, tenant in chief (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 491). John de Bretagne, Earl of Richmond, married Beatrice, daughter of Henry III, and died in 1305 (*Cokayne, Peerage*).

Matilda de Carrick died in 1307, seised of land "at Kirklevington" and one-twelfth of the advowson of Stapleton church. Roland, her son and heir, aged 30 and more, obtained seisin of the same (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii, pp. 7 and 8).

Stephen de Stapleton gave a title to a clerk in 1307 (*Halton Register*, i, p. 290).

Roland de Carrick obtained the king's licence, in 1308, to grant in fee simple to Master John de Bowes his interest in the manor of Levington and advowson of Stapleton (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 138). John de Bowes had consequently to answer for Roland's "relief" in 1310 (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, iii, p. 33) and in 1313, Robert de Tilliol was pardoned for having, without licence, purchased the last-mentioned premises from William de Bowes, who was John de Bowes' heir-at-law (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 563). Robert de Tilliol had thus, seemingly, contrived to acquire the whole of the de Levingtons' moiety of Stapleton manor, originally allotted to the de Carrick family, besides one undivided sixth share of the mediety of the advowson appurtenant to the said moiety. The holders, for the time being, of the six fragments of that mediety were entitled to make a *joint* presentation to Stapleton church, in turn with the tenant of the de Stapletons' moiety of the manor. It is unnecessary to notice any further the de Levingtons' moiety of Stapleton and their

share of the advowson pertaining to it, because the subsequent history of those hereditaments is bound up with that of Scaleby.

In January, 1323, John de Stapleton, clerk, was instituted to the rectory of Stapleton, vacant and in the collation of the bishop, through lapse of time (*Halton Register*, ii, p. 224).

But on April 2nd, 1323, the bishop was requested to admit Roger de Levington, king's clerk, to the church of Stapleton. The patrons for that turn were the king, in respect of the forfeited Corry share and the Hampton share, lately forfeited by Roger de Clifford (see *Cokayne Peerage*) Richard de Kirkbride, Peter de Tilliol, purchaser of the Carrick share, Walter de Kirkbride, purchaser of the Twynham share, and Patrick de Southayk (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 272). The entire patronage is thus accounted for.

By final concord, dated February 3rd, 1328-9, John de Stapleton, "*le piere*," made the following settlement of the de Stapletons' moiety of Stapleton, held of the chief lords of the fee:—

As to three-quarters of the manor and the whole of his mediety of the advowson, upon himself, the settlor, for life, with remainder to his son, John, and Johanna, wife of the latter, in tail male; and as to the remaining quarter of the manor, upon himself, the settlor, for life, with remainder to his son, William, and Juliana, wife of the latter, in tail male (*Feet of Fines, Cumberland*, file 9, nos. 6 and 7).

The two brothers, John and William, had married two sisters, Johanna and Juliana, daughters and co-heiresses of Robert de Turp, and each was entitled, in right of his wife, to a moiety of the manor of Edenhal, held *in capite*.

Mr. Ragg has given (these *Transactions*, N.S. xiii, p. 199) a full account and pedigree of William's descendants—the younger branch of the family, settled at Edenhal, and it only remains to notice some records, which relate to

John's descendants—the elder branch, settled at Stapleton.

John de Stapleton was a juror in January, 1332-3 (*ibid.*, N.S. x, p. 481).

There is mention, in 1334, of John de Stapleton "junior" and Johanna, his wife (*ibid.*, N.S. xiii, p. 214). The settlor was probably still alive. John de Stapleton, patron in 1338, presented John de Kirkby to the living of Stapleton, vacant by the resignation of Hugh, late rector (Nicolson and Burn) and was witness to a deed dated 1342 (Prescott, *Wetherhal*, p. 384).

William, son of the settlor, appears to have occupied Edenhal Hall,\* for there is reference, in 1350, to his fortalice, on the water of Eamont (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 24 Edward III, p. 588).

In 1356, the last-mentioned John de Stapleton presented Robert de Southayk, rector of Bewcastle, to the church of Stapleton, in place of Henry de Whitebergh, late rector, who had exchanged livings with Robert (Nicolson and Burn).

Robert de Bolton was rector of Stapleton in 1361 (*ibid.*).

The will of William de Stapleton, senior, of Edenhal, son of the settlor, proved May 20th, 1362, mentions his sons William and John, and his daughter Emma (*Test. Karl.*, edit. Ferguson, p. 45). Another daughter, Margaret, married John de Raughton (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 44 Edward III, p. 355). The testator's wife *Isabella*, barely survived him, for her will, proved May 23rd, 1362, mentions the said Emma, "daughter of William de Stapleton, senior," and *Isabella*, then wife of William de Stapleton, junior (*Test. Karl.*, p. 47). The said William junior, was afterwards husband of Mariota. One suspects clerical errors. There is no record that William son of the settlor made a second marriage.

On March 29th, 1363, William de Stapleton (grandson

\* So styled by Machel, about 1687 (Jefferson, *Leath Ward*, p. 407).

of the settlor) was pardoned for having, without licence, acquired from John de Stapleton (grandson of the settlor) a moiety of Edenhal, held in chief, which Robert de Laiburn (see Table) had lately held by the courtesy of England, after the death of Johanna, daughter of Robert de Turp, sometime his wife, of the inheritance of the said John de Stapleton; and for having given in exchange to the said John one-quarter of the manor of Stapleton (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 321). John de Stapleton thus became absolutely entitled to all the family estate at Stapleton.

William de Strickland, rector of Stapleton, exchanged his living in 1368, with Nicholas de Stapleton, rector of Ousby (Nicolson and Burn).

In 1378, John de Stapleton had been appointed collector in Cumberland of the tenth and fifteenth (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1 Richard II, p. 60).

Jenyns' Roll, a retrospective collection of names, compiled, perhaps, at the beginning of Richard II's reign (*Genealogist*, vol. v, p. 104) describes the arms of William de Stapleton, of Cumberland, as *argent*, three swords conjoined at the pommel *gules* (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*).

The William mentioned in Jenyns' Roll is probably William, husband of Mariota and knight of the shire. His will, undated, but proved in 1380, directs the burial of his body in the churchyard of Edenhal, and mentions his sons, William and John (*Test. Karl.*, p. 133). The sons were under age.

William Stapleton, *of Stapleton*, was a commissioner of the peace 1399-1401 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 2 Henry IV, p. 557) and it was probably the same William, who was collector, in 1407, of the aid for marrying the king's eldest daughter, Blanche, and who accounted for 10s. received from William Stapleton of "Ednale" (*Feudal Aids, Cumberland*, p. 244).

The Stapletons of Edenhal had ceased to be lords of any part of the manor of Stapleton, but they became under-tenants of a tenement there, because Mariota, widow of

William Stapleton, of Edenhal, died on January 25th, 1406, seised for herself and her heirs of a messuage and 20 acres of land at Stapleton, held of the heirs of John de Castlecarrock, by service of forty pence, and William, her son, succeeded to the same (see Mr. Ragg's article, *supra cit.*, p. 221). It may be inferred that a Stapleton of Stapleton had, at an early date, granted a fragment of his manor, by way of sub-infeudation, to John de Castlecarrock, to be held of himself in fee simple; and that John de Castlecarrock had made a like grant to Mariota's predecessor in title. Mariota, by the way, was a descendant of the Castlecarrocks (these *Transactions*, N.S. v, p. 294).

William Stapleton, of Stapleton, was again a commissioner of the peace, in 1418-21 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 10 Henry V, p. 451); and on March 20th, 1428-9, held a certain part of the barony of Gilsland, namely Stapleton, of Thomas de Dacre, by service of one-quarter of a knight's fee (*Feudal Aids, Cumb.*, p. 245). It is interesting to note that Matilda de Carrick formerly held her share of the de Levingtons' moiety of the manor of Stapleton by similar service.

William Stapleton, of Edenhal, died in 1432, and ten years later, his said tenement at Stapleton was assigned to his widow, Mary, for life in dower (*Cal. Esch.*, 21 Henry VI, p. 211). It is quite clear (see these *Transactions*, N.S. xi, p. 300) that Mary was his second wife, and not the mother of William de Stapleton next mentioned.

William, the last male representative of the Edenhal branch, died in 1457, seised of the above-mentioned tenement at Stapleton, then stated to consist of four messuages and 40 acres (*Cal. Esch.*, 36 Henry VI, p. 280). His widow, Margaret, died in 1469, possessed of the same tenement, then expressly stated to be held of John de Stapleton (see Mr. Ragg's article, p. 215). The statute

*Quia Emptores*, passed in 1290, to check the sub-infeudation of manors, provided that any manor granted in fee simple by that process should be held, not of the grantor, but of the grantor's superior lord. It therefore appears probable that John de Stapleton was the superior lord of the manor in 1469.

The last-mentioned William and Margaret are buried at Edenhal. A fine illustration of their memorial brass is given by the Lysons (*Cumberland*, p. cxcvii). It will be there observed that what looks like a large dagger is really part of the de Stapleton arms (three swords conjoined) emblazoned upon William's surcoat. A faulty pedigree of the Musgraves, certified at the Visitation of Cumberland in 1666, styles William de Stapleton *miles* (knight) but the memorial brass describes him as *armiger* (esquire). His two daughters and co-heiresses married the two Musgraves named in the Table appended to this article. (See Mr. John Brownbill's remarks, these *Transactions*, N.S. xxix, p. 341).

In 1485, the *heirs* of John Stapleton held land at Stapleton of Humphrey de Dacre, lord of the barony of Gilsland (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 1 Henry VII, p. 69).

Interrogatories were delivered, in 1525, as to whether John Stapleton, of Stapleton, was seised of Cumcrook and sold it to William, Lord Dacre (*L. and P. Henry VIII*, vol. iv, part i, p. 822).

In the same year, John Stapleton granted his mediety of the advowson to Thomas, Lord Dacre (Nicolson and Burn).

To sum up. The de Levingtons, of Kirkclinton, held Stapleton, not *in capite*, but as of the barony of Gilsland; not the whole manor, but only a moiety; not the whole advowson, but only a mediety, or alternate presentation, appurtenant to their share of the manor.

At the partition of the barony of Levington, in 1274, their moiety of the manor was used as a make-weight to adjust the Carrick share of the barony. That fact is

proved by the inquisition of 1295. It is sometimes included by implication in the general description "Levington" or "Kirklevington." Their mediety of the advowson was not included in the partition, but devolved upon the co-parceners of the barony of Levington in equal one-sixth shares. That fact is proved by the joint presentation of 1323.

In 1296 Robert de Tilliol, of Scaleby, was feoffee of Solport, under the barony of Liddel, and claimed to be patron of the church of Stapleton (or "Solport" as he chose to term it). But Stapleton and its manorial church lay within the barony of Gilsland, and the advowson belonged of right to the de Stapletons and de Levingtons, feoffees of Stapleton, under the last-named barony. The de Tilliols subsequently acquired, by purchase, a share of the advowson. But their premature claim, made in 1296, raises a presumption that Solport was then, as it is now, parcel of the *parish* of Stapleton.

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TABLE.—MANOR OF STAPLETON.

*The de Stapletons' Moiety.*

*The de Levingtons' Moiety.*

STEPHEN DE STAPLETON, juror, 1246.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON, juror 1246.

RICHARD DE LEVINGTON, d. without issue, 1250.

=SARRA, d. 1299.

RANULF DE LEVINGTON, d. 1253.

=ADA.

JULIANA DE LEVINGTON. = . . . DE CARRICK.

JOHN, juror, 1276 and 1280.

STEPHEN, juror, 1280.

HELEWISA DE LEVINGTON, d. without issue 1272.

MATILDA DE LEVINGTON, d. 1307.

=ROLAND DE CARRICK, the elder.

EMMA = PATRICK TRUMP, the elder.

ROLAND DE CARRICK, the younger, whose share was acquired by Robert de Tilliol, 1313.

PATRICK TRUMP, the younger, whose share was acquired by Robert de Tilliol, 1304.

JOHN DE STAPLETON, mentioned 1304, the settlor, 1329.

I. JOHN DE STAPLETON had three-quarters of Stapleton. = JOHANNA DE TURP = 2. ROBERT DE LAIBURN. of Edenhall.

JOHN DE STAPLETON, patron, 1356, collector, 1378.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON had one-quarter of Stapleton, d. 1362. = JULIANA DE TURP, of Edenhall.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON exchanged his one-quarter of Stapleton, 1363 d. March 1st, 1379-80. = MARIOTA d. 1406.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON, of Stapleton, commissioner, 1399, collector, 1407, held Stapleton, 1428.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON of Edenhall, d. 1432. = I. . . . . = 2. MARY.

JOHN DE STAPLETON, lord of the manor of Stapleton, 1469.

WILLIAM DE STAPLETON of Edenhall, d. 1457. = MARGARET, d. 1469.

JOHANNA = THOMAS DE MUSGRAVE.

(1) WILLIAM DE HILTON = MARIOTA = (2) RICHARD DE MUSGRAVE.