

ART. II.—*The Manor and Advowson of Great Orton from 1369.* By the Rev. C. M. LOWTHER BOUCH.

THIS article is really a continuation of one by Mr. T. H. B. Graham on the manor of Great Orton (*Trans.* xxxii, 38). Mr. Graham ends his article with the death of Sir Giles de Orton before August, 1369. He cites the Inquisition held on him in 1370, which shews he had an only daughter and heiress, Joan, who married Clement de Skelton of Armathwaite.

John Denton in his *Accompt* states that they had issue four coheiresses, who married respectively a Leigh, a Blennerhasset, a Ridley and a Belasis, whose heirs each had a share in the manor. It is a remarkable fact that the descendants of the three elder coheiresses held the manor, without alienation or probably even minor division, for the best part of 200 years. It will be most convenient to trace the history of each share in order.

I. LEIGH.

The eldest daughter, Agnes, married Sir William Leigh of Isell. He died in 1469. The *I.P.M.* shews that his wife was still alive and that his eldest son was another Sir William Leigh, who at the time was aged 34 and upwards.\*

It was this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sir William Leigh's sister, Joan, who married Sir Henry Fenwick of Fenwick and was the mother of six coheiresses, all of whom married into local families.

Margaret, John Denton of Cardew.

Elizabeth, Christopher Moresby.

Mary, Sir John Hudleston.

Eleanor, Sir Thomas Lamplugh.

\* *Trans.* n.s. xii, 18.

Joan, John Skelton.

Anne, John Radcliffe.\*

The subsequent descent of the Leigh moiety is shewn in the pedigree.

The story of how that remarkable woman Maud Redman, who married firstly Christopher Irton of Irton, then Thomas Leigh and lastly Sir Wilfred Lawson, left the Leigh share of Orton to William Lawson, has been told very fully by Colonel Haswell and need not be repeated.†

## 2. BLENNERHASSET.

The second daughter, Joan, married Ralph Blennerhasset. There has been some confusion about this marriage. Mr. T. H. B. Graham makes him Richard,‡ quoting Nicolson and Burn, II, p. 208. But the latter have identified a Richard, living in the middle of the 16th century, with the husband of Joan, who lived in the 14th. Further comment is unnecessary. If Ralph did marry a coheirress of de Staffal, he must have married twice.§ There is no reason to doubt that he was the M.P. for Carlisle in 1413. Joan remarried Sir John Middleton of Belsay.|| Her I.P.M. was held in 1450.¶ He had died in 1441.

The next two generations follow Mr. Graham's descent and are shewn in the pedigree.

After that there comes a break. John Blennerhasset the younger was probably born about 1440, so it is just possible that he was the father of the Edward Blennerhasset, whose name heads the manor rolls in 1532, and this Edward may have been the father of the Richard Blennerhasset, the next certain lord of the manor, who was dead before 1580, when his son, Thomas sold his share of

\* Northumberland County History. xii, 352.

† *Trans. N.S.* xxiv, 17-22.

‡ *Trans. N.S.* xxxii, 51.

§ Denton Accompt, p. 125 and *Trans. ibid.*

|| Northumberland County History xiii, 326.

¶ *Trans. N.S.* xxxii, 51.

Orton manor. The deed of sale mentions the title of dower of Dorothe Curwen, now wife of Thomas Curwen, and late the wife of Richard Blennerhasset, father of the said Thomas.

On these facts the accompanying conjectural pedigree is offered, which should be compared with that given by Mr. T. H. B. Graham in *Trans.* N.S. xxxii, 50.

The following is additional to the Blennerhasset evidences given in Mr. Graham's article.

I.P.M. on Edward Blennerhasset, 25 July, 25 Hen. VIII; held land in Aiderholme in right of his wife Janet and other property and Caldbeck and Whyrigg; heir, son John, aged 17.

### 3. RIDLEY.

The third daughter, Alice married Nicholas Ridley of Willimoteswick, Northumberland, and after his death, John Bellasis. By her first husband, she had a son and heir, also named Nicholas, who was aged 30, at the time of his mother's death in 1450.\*

The subsequent descent of the manor in his heirs is also shewn in the pedigree.

### 4. BELLASIS AND COLDALD.

John Denton states:

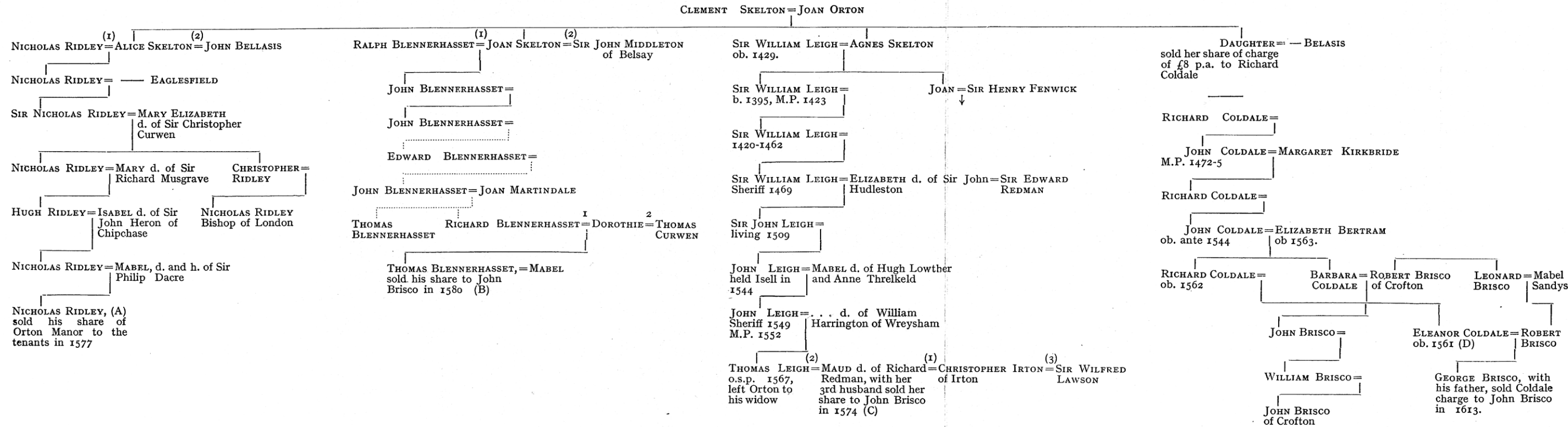
"They divided the mannor into three parts which Lighe Blennerhasset and Ridley enjoyed and charged the land with a rent of £8 to Bellasis whose heir sold the same to one Coldale a merchant in Carlisle."†

Until the Brisco deeds became available, there was no evidence by which to test this statement, which has therefore been doubted. But these deeds prove it to be correct; in the sale of the land to the Briscos, each moiety is still charged with a rental of £2. 13. 4., payable to the heirs of Richard Cowledale yearly. This charge of £8 is also mentioned in the I.P.M. on Richard Coldale in 1562.

\* *Trans.* N.S. xii, 19.

† *Accompt.* p. 82.

DESCENT OF THE MANOR OF GREAT ORTON 1369—1613.



(A) Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*: Curwen's *The House of Curwen*.

(B) *Trans.* xxxii 50, and evidence given in article. N.C.H.

(C) M.P.'s Biographies and MSS. Vol. in Tullie House, and evidence given in article.

(D) M.P.'s Biographies and evidence in article, *Trans.* xxxi, p. 6.

There is no evidence of the christian name of the heiress or her husband.

Richard Coldale, a merchant in Carlisle, is stated by Denton\* to have bought the manor of Caldcotes or Harrington house and thus it got its name Coldale Hall.

His son John was M.P. for Carlisle in 1472-5, and keeper of Inglewood Forest, 1467-76†: his grandson, Richard Coldale and John Davason, bought eight acres of land in Orton from John Blennerhasset in 7 Edward IV, 1478.‡

The son of this Richard, another John married Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Roger Bertram of Bothel, Northumberland. She was a widow by 1544. On 6 July, 1551, by a charter in which she is described "as of Carlisle, widow," she settled all her lands in Brenkley, Capheaton and Benwell upon her son, Richard Coldall and his heirs, with next remainder to John "consanguineo meo," son and heir of Robert Briscoe of Crofton, Esqre. She is said to have died 4 Elizabeth. Her son, Richard Coldale, died on 29 December, 1562, at Plumpton; there is a monument in Penrith church to his memory. He left an only daughter, Eleanor, aged two and a half years in June, 1563. His I.P.M. is printed below.§

John Briscoe then entered in his own right on the Northumberland lands, and as kinsman, obtained the custody of the body and the Cumberland lands of Eleanor Coldale, whom he gave in marriage at the age of 10|| to his "unkle's son" Robert Briscoe.¶

The subsequent lawsuit about these Northumberland lands does not concern this article.

This matter has been dealt with at some length, because

\* Accompt, 101.

† History of Parliament, Biographies, 1439-1509.

‡ Brisco Deeds.

§ Appendix I.

|| On 22 August, 1570 at St. Bees; her husband was aged 8.

¶ The above is a summary of part of an article "On Roger Bertram's lands in Brenkley and Benwell" by Alan Fenwick Radcliffe in Arch. Ael. 4th Series, vol. 7, p. 68.

it not only elucidates the Coldale pedigree, but it explains how the Brisco family acquired their first interest in the manor of Great Orton.

#### THE BRISCO'S PURCHASE THE MANOR.

On 2 May, 1574, Wilfred Lawson and Maud, his wife, sold to John Brisco, all his manor of Orton, except eight tenements already sold to John Lowther; these were resold to John Brisco on 30 Sept., 1577.

Then on 20 July, 1580, Thomas Blennerhasset sold to John Brisco his part of the manor of Orton, except one tenement already sold to John Lowther.

Meanwhile between these dates, mostly in 1577, Nicholas Ridley had been selling to 48 of the tenants his holdings in the manor. Some of these John Brisco repurchased in 1583; the remainder, William Brisco bought in 1587.

The transfer of the manor was completed when John Lowther sold his part to John Brisco on 21 Febyr, 1612, except the Coldale charge still remained and was, as shewn above, in the possession of a junior branch of the Brisco family. On 28 Oct., 1613, John Brisco of Crofton acquired from his second cousin, Robert Brisco and George, his son and heir apparent, the owners of this charge, their rights in Orton manor.

#### THE BOUNDS OF THE MANOR IN 1605 AND 1640.

The following copy of "The Perambulation of the Bounds of the Manor of Orton," 3 Sept., 1605, from the Brisco papers, may be of interest.

The Bounder of the mannour of Orton with the members thereof found by a jury at a court holden for the said mannour and accordingly ridd by John Brisco Esq<sup>re</sup> Lord of the same 3<sup>d</sup> of Septimber in the year of our Lord 1605.

Beginning at a place called Powath going eastward on

the outside of a certaine ground called the Borgh, adjoyn-  
 ing on the lands of the Countesse of Arrundell in Thursby,  
 and from thence to a place called Neelesdores taking an old  
 thorne tree on the left hand and soe to Thursby Street,  
 bounded by an ancient earthern ditch made for that  
 purpose in M<sup>r</sup> Leigh's time, which Neelesdores adjoyneth  
 upon the lands of John Denton of Cardew Esq<sup>re</sup> in Neeles  
 and along Thursby Street to a place called Newbyfield-  
 heads adjoyning upon the Bishop of Carlisle his lands  
 in Dalston, and from Newbyfield-head along Newbyfield-  
 dike by a place called Greene Lands to a place called  
 Broomehills and from there along . . . ne dike or runnell  
 called Spittlesdike to Shepherd-briggs and soe to the foot  
 of litle Orton field adjoyning upon the Dean and Chapter of  
 Carlisle lands called Prior rigge, and from the foot of  
 Little Orton field to a place called Blackwathsike, and  
 from thence along the little Mosse to the west part of  
 Bowfield and from thence to a place called Waresike and  
 from thence through Flat mosse to a place called Lady  
 mosse and from thence to the west part of the great field of  
 Orton, and from the same field to a place called Brodedike,  
 and from Brodedike south westward to a running water or  
 Becke called Powe, and along the same water southward  
 when the said bounder beginneth and endeth. All from the  
 foot of Little Orton field to Powe doe adjoyne upon the  
 Countesse of Arrundell her lands Bourgh Aikton and  
 Thursby.

Memorandum that the bounder was likewise ridd by  
 William Brisco Esq<sup>re</sup> Lord of the Mannour of Orton the  
 Second day of June, 1640, without the stopp lett or inter-  
 ruption of any person whatsoever, in the presence of

Clement Skelton, Thomas Liddell, John Lowther,  
 William Hind, Thomas Wilson, John Robinson, William  
 Coultart, Thomas Twentyman, John Twentyman, Matt-  
 hew Moore, John Blaine, John Bell, John Moore, John  
 Pattinson.

## THE SALE OF FREEHOLD TO THE TENANTS.

In the manor rolls of 28 Oct., 1619, John Lowther is entered as a free tenant of the manor; the only one. On 20 April, 1708, twelve other names are added.

In 1737, it is stated "We find those purchasers into freehold, whose names are under written." From then onwards the number of customary tenants gets fewer, until by 1764 only one is left.

## SALE OF COMMON, 1699.

On 16 Feby., 1699, by an agreement between John Brisco and the tenants, the later became entitled to common of pasture and Turbary in and upon the moors, waste-grounds and commonable places of the said manor.

## THE ADVOWSON.

This was divided into three parts at the division of the manor on the death of Joan Skelton. From that time onwards the right of presentation was presumably exercised by each of the joint lords of the manor in turn.

When the Brisco's purchased the manor from Thomas Blennerhasset and Wilfred Lawson, their shares of the advowson was included, but the other third share had already been sold by Nicholas Ridley to John Lowther on 1 May, 1577.

However on 6 Feby., 1636, this part was sold by his great grandson, John Lowther of Great Orton, gentleman, to William Brisco. Thus the whole patronage became vested in them.

## IN WHICH BARONY?

To conclude with this puzzle: in which barony is the manor of Great Orton? Denton is quite definite. "Orton in the barony of Burgh, and Skelton in the forest of Englewood, are notwithstanding part of this barony of Levington. And all the lands that were in the possession



of the Lords of Levington were by inquisition found to be parcel of their barony where ever it lay."\*

On the other hand Mr. T. H. B. Graham states in his review of the I.P.M. on Margaret de Dacre, lady of the barony of Burgh, held 3 Febr., 1365, "Therefore Great Orton was parcel of the barony of Burgh."†

The only evidence that can be discovered on this point among the Brisco papers is that of the grant of livery of his estates to William Brisco on 9 Febr., 1635, which states:

Manor of Orton, with 30 messuages, 40 acres of land, 200 acres of common land and 100 acres of wood. Holden two parts thereof of Sir Edward Musgrave, knt. as of his manor of Eavington by two parts of one Knight's fee; and the third part of the said manor, late being the inheritance of Nicholas Rydley, Esq., deceased, holden of the king in capite, by the service of the third part of one Knight's fee.

The manor of Eavington is none existent. Levington is obviously meant. Nicolson and Burn state that one third of this barony belonged to the Musgraves of Hayton, until they sold it in 1698.‡

On the evidence of this grant, it would seem as if the traditional account given by Denton was correct; but this is a matter for experts to decide.

The above statements and dates are all taken from various deeds among the Brisco Collection.

My thanks are due to Miss Brisco and to Mr. Anthony Crofton for the loan of the Brisco deeds mentioned.

\* Accompt. p. 152.

† *Trans.* N.S. xxxii, 43.

‡ N. & B. vol. II, p. 462.

## APPENDIX I.

I.P.M. ON RICHARD COLDAILL, ESQRE.

At Cockermouth on 18 June, 5 Eliz., 1563.

The jurors said that he was seized of four messuages and burgages in the city of Carlisle and of a capital messuage called Harynton Housses and six messuages, 16 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow in Caldogait, Caldcotes, and Harrington Houses, Cumberland, and of a messuage and 16 acres of land in the vill of Dundrawe and of two burgages in Keswick and four messuages in Bocherdbby and three messuages in Stanwixe and a close in Penrith called Heileclose and 20s. free rent issuing from a free tenement in Plait and two acres of land in Crosthwayt and one tenement in Ulton and of £8 rent from the manor of Orton, 8s. rent from the manor of Thurisby and a parcel of land called Grembold mede in Thurisby.

And being thus seized he made his will on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 5 Eliz., 1562 and by the same gave and bequeathed to John Brisco and Anthony Coldail his executors two parts of all these messuages &c. to pay his debts and legacies.

The jurors said that the capital messuage of Harrington Houses and the lands in Caldogait, Harrington Houses and Caldcates were held of the Bishop of Carlisle as of his manor of Dalston by socage service and a free rent of 5s. 8d. and suit at court twice in the year worth yearly £6. 0. 4.

The burgages in Carlisle were held of the College of Carlisle in free socage, worth £4 yearly.

The messuage, etc. in Dundrawe held of the manor of Dundrawe by Knight's service and a free rent of 7/-, worth 7/- a year.

The burgage in Keswick held of George Ratclyffe, Knt. as of his manor of Keswick in free socage and suit at court, worth 12s. a year.

The tenements, etc. in Bocherdbby held of the college of

Carlisle is of the Hospice of St Nicholas in free socage and a rent of 6<sup>d</sup>, worth yearly 18s. 2d.

The messuage, etc. in Stanwix held of the Queen as of her Exchequer of Carlisle in free socage and a free rent of 4<sup>d</sup>, worth 13s. 4d. yearly.

The close called Heilclose in Penrith and 20s. rent held of the Queen in free socage, worth 23s. yearly.

The tenement in Plait held of the manor of Orton in free socage, worth 2s. 6d. yearly.

The tenement in Ulton held of John Dalston as of his manor of Ulton worth 6s. yearly.

The two acres in Crosthwayt held of the same as of his manor of Brouneholme in socage, worth 2s. a year.

Richard Coldaill died on December 29, 5 Eliz. 1562, and Elianor Coldaill his daughter and next heir was aged two years at the taking of this inquisition.\*

## APPENDIX II.

Among the Brisco muniments there is an interesting document: an exemplification of Letters Patent of Orton Manor of 12 Febr'y., 1586, which shews that on the day on which Alice Ridley died, she held in capite, by cornage to pay annually on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary two shillings to the exchequer of Carlisle, the third part of the manor of Great Stanton beside Penrith; the third part of one tenement in Burgh, the third part of one tenement called Patrickles in the hamlet of Banton; the third part of one tenement situate in the city of Carlisle; the third part of the manor of Orton, and three messuages and ten shillings and sixpence of rent in the hamlet of Woganbridge; the third part of one messuage in Grymsdale; one tenement in Thornbye; one tenement in Makern; one acre of land in Gaulisbye; one oxgang of land in Warton and the third part of the advowson of the church of St Giles in Orton; with the appurtenances of the annual value of forty shillings and no more.

\* Chancery I.P.M. Ser. II. Vol. 135, No. 131.