

ART. IX.—*The Anglo-Scottish lords of Leitholme and Great Strickland.* By GEORGE S. H. L. WASHINGTON, F.S.A.

*Read at Kendal, April 21st, 1960.*

#### FOREWORD.

*The following paper by the well known Anglo-American antiquary, Mr George H. S. L. Washington, M.A., F.S.A., should be of great interest to all descendants of the ancient and knightly family of Strickland, which still flourishes in their ancient home, Sizergh Castle in Westmorland, and to the numerous descendants in the female line in the United States through the Washingtons of Virginia and the Carletons of New England.*

*Some years ago Mr Washington in his "The Early History of the Stricklands of Sizergh" (New England Historical and Genealogical Register and CW2) showed that Christina, wife of Walter fitz Adam, was named de Letham and was the heiress of Great Strickland, whence their descendants derived their name. In the present paper he presents an interesting and carefully compiled account of the distinguished ancestry of Christina, based on a careful study of English and Scottish records. It is a very interesting paper and proves the necessity of a study of the Scottish records, when dealing with the early history of the English houses on the Scottish Border.*

G. ANDREWS MORIARTY, F.S.A.

**D**URING the invasion of the Border counties by the Scottish king, William the Lion, in 1174, we are told by the chronicler Jordan Fantosme that "an old, grey-headed Englishman," named Gospatric son of Orm, had treacherously surrendered the castle of Appleby to the invading forces. Now the name of this Gospatric (*fl.*

1145-79) is familiar as that of the ancestor of the Curwens of Workington, and he also possessed a cousin, Ketel son of Dolfin, whose existence has been hitherto overlooked by our northern antiquaries but from whom is descended the very ancient and knightly Westmorland family of the Stricklands of Sizergh.<sup>1</sup>

According to the *Chronicon Cumbrie*, Waldeve or Waltheof of Allerdale, c. 1100, gave to his sister Gunhilda, in marriage with Orm son of Ketel (son of Eldred), the Cumbrian manors of Seaton, Camerton, Flimby, and Greysouthen; and the same Waldeve also granted to another sister Maud, wife of Dolfin son of Ailward, the adjacent Cumbrian manors of Little Crosby, Langrigg, and Brigham.

Gospatric, the son of Gunhilda and Orm, was called after his maternal grandfather Gospatric I, the Scottish Earl of Dunbar or Lothian, fl. 1067, 1072, who was cousin-german to King Malcolm III; while Ketel, the son of Maud and Dolfin, appears to have received from the Dunbars, who were its overlords, the Berwickshire manor of Letham or Leteham, *alias* Leitholme (situated not far from Dunbar castle in the parish of Eccles, where Earl Gospatric III founded a nunnery c. 1165-66).<sup>2</sup> It seems not impossible that Ketel son of Dolfin and Gospatric son of Orm son of Ketel were related on the father's side as well as on the mother's; since William I de Lancaster of Kendal (died 1170) also enfeoffed the said Ketel of the English manor of Great Strickland, with half Sockbridge and lands in Middleton-in-Lonsdale — the grantor, William de Lancaster, being son of Gilbert brother of Ketel (fitz Eldred), who in turn was Gospatric Ormson's paternal grandsire (*vide infra*). This Ketel son of Dolfin's wife was called Ada; for in the Durham *Liber*

<sup>1</sup> Another northern contemporary of Ketel son of Dolfin, named Ketel son of Ulf, founded the prominent Cumbrian family of de Coupland (*ex inf.* Mr G. Andrews Moriarty, F.S.A.).

<sup>2</sup> For the ancient tenure of Leitholme under the earls of Dunbar, see *Registrum mag. sigill. Scotorum*, vol. I, Appendix II, doc. no. 1949.

*Vitae*, folio 60, the following names are inscribed in a 13th-century hand: *Comes Patricius, junior, filius Wald-  
evi Comitis; Patricius [senior], avunculus ejus, et Cecilia  
uxor illius, et Willelmus [de Washington] filius ejus;  
Gilebertus Fraser, et Cristina uxor ejus, et Johannis filius  
illorum; Ketel, et Ada uxor ejus; Aengelarius clericus;*  
etc.

Due to his tenure of Letham (Leitholme), Ketel's name frequently appears as witness to the 12th-century charters of his powerful relatives, the Earls of Dunbar (themselves an offshoot of the old royal line of Scotland); and we find "Ketel son of Dolfin" attesting two confirmations of the churches of Edrom and Nesbit issued by Earl Gospatric III (*fl.* 1139-66) to the monks of St. Cuthbert of Durham now settled at Coldingham, Berwickshire (Raine, *Hist. North Durham*, Appendix, pp. 25-26). An additional confirmation of this grant, given in 1166 by Earl Gospatric's son, Earl Waldeve (died 1182), was witnessed *inter alios* by Alden the Earl's steward, Patric *fratre Comitis* (lord of Offerton in Durham, father of the original William de Washington *alias* de Hartburn), Ketel de Letham, and Gilbert Frazer. An agreement made between Earl Waldeve and the Coldingham monks concerning two carucates in Raynington had as witnesses Adam son of Alden, Gilbert Frazer, Ketel de Letham, and Ketel *filio suo* (Raine, *op. cit.*).

Further mention of Ketel son of Dolfin occurs in the charters of the near-by Cistercian nunnery of Coldstream (in the parish of Lennel, co. Berwick), which had been established in 1165-66 by Earl Gospatric III and the Countess Deirdre, his wife. The Earl's foundation charter was witnessed by "Walter [Waldeve], my son," Chetel de Letham, and Gilbert Frazer; and the founder's grandson, Earl Patric I (*fl.* 1182-1232), gave to Coldstream the adjacent lands of Scaithemore by three charters of c. 1182-85, attested by Patric son of Edgar (of Dunbar), Walter son of Edgar, Roger de Merlay, Robert de Vaux,

Gilbert Frazer, Ketel de Letham, Alexander the parson of Letham, and Master Henry de Eccles (*Chartulary of Coldstream*, ed. Rev. Charles Rogers, pp. 3-6). Another grant by William son of Patric (de Washington) of lands "in my fee at the Hirsell" (near Coldstream), c. 1184, had as witnesses Patric son of Adam, Bernard Frazer, Roger de Merlay, Ness de Waletton, "Ketel de . . . [Letham]," Patric son of Richard, etc. (*ibid.*, p. 17). It is clear that there were *two* successive Ketels of Leitholme (or Letham), father and son.<sup>3</sup>

We next come to Uctred de Strickland, *alias* Uctred son of Ketel, the second son of Ketel son of Dolfin, upon whom his father evidently settled the family's English lands situated at Great Strickland and elsewhere in the barony of Kendal. In the Westmorland Pipe Roll of 5 Richard I (1194), the name of "Uctred de Stirkeland" occurs as owing half a mark for his pledge of Robert Mustel (*Pipe Rolls of Cumberland, etc.*, 1847, p. 173); and a Westmorland deed at Lowther, of about the same period, records the grant by Uctred son of Ketel to Gilbert de Lancaster (of Sockbridge) of "a fourth part of all the land which William de Lancastre [the first, died 1170] gave to my father Ketell in Stirkeland, for his homage and service"; the said Gilbert paying 6d. yearly — viz., 3d. at Easter and 3d. at Michaelmas — "saving forinsec service." The witnesses were Richard Mustel, Richard son of Helsi, William son of Ketel, Robert de Morville, Adam de Austhwaite, Bernard son of Ketel, "and many others."<sup>4</sup>

Another Lowther document (16th-century copy) states that the second William de Lancaster (died 1184) gave to Gilbert, his natural son, half the manor of Sockbridge, "viz., that part which Huctred son of Ketel held of my

<sup>3</sup> Ketel son of Ketel was ancestor of the later de Lethams, lords of Leitholme, Berwickshire.

<sup>4</sup> The late Canon Ragg (CW2 x 431) wrongly identified this "Stirkeland" as being Strickland Ketel in Kendal (instead of Great Strickland near Appleby), which presumably derived its name not from Ketel son of Dolfin but from Ketel son of Eldred.

father in the place where Likmarike and Forellsike descend to the river Eamont': attested by Helewise de Lancaster, the grantor's wife, Gervase d'Eyncourt (of Sizergh), and Anselm son of Michael (le Fleming). In the *Register of St. Bees* (ed. Wilson, Surtees Soc., p. 551) we find Uctred son of Ketel, together with Alan son of Ketel, Gospatric son of Orm and Thomas his son, witnessing a charter from a certain Adam son of Uctred to Beatrice, his niece, of five oxgangs of land in Gilcruce given to her by William son of Liulf of Molle, his nephew.

It would seem that Uctred son of Ketel son of Dolfin, lord of Great Strickland died without male issue before the year 1208, leaving two daughters and co-heiresses, named Christian — referred to as "Christian de Leteham" in a Westmorland Assize Roll of 1291 — and Sigrid. In 1200 Sigrid, daughter of Uctred brought suit against Walter son of Durand (of Great Asby) for dower in property at "Werfton," co. Westmorland, that had once belonged to her husband Maldred, now deceased (Feet of Fines, Westmorland, 2 John); and in 1208 there was an agreement touching two bovates in "Stirkeland" made between Sigrid, daughter of Uctred and Gilbert de Lancaster (*ibid.*, 10 John). At Midsummer, 1208, Walter de Strickland and Christian his wife had a final concord with Sigrid, daughter of Uctred, tenant of a carucate in "Stircland" in Westmorland, whereby Walter and Christian acknowledged the land to be the right of the said Sigrid to hold of them and the heirs of Christian by the free service of an annual render of 2s. For this acknowledgment, Sigrid granted them all her land "from Aspelgile to Groshousic and from Groshousic to Bounwath," with remainder to Christian and her issue (*ibid.*, 10 John, no. 28). Christian's husband, Walter de Strickland, had, of course, acquired his Great Strickland possessions *jure uxoris*; and in 1291 Sir William de Strickland (Walter and Christian's great-grandson) claimed against William de Burgh further property at

Middleton-in-Lonsdale, co. Westmorland, "which Christian de Leteham, his great-grandmother, whose heir he is, held on the day of her death" (Assize Roll, Westmorland, no. 985, m. 23; see CW2 xlii 196-197; *New England Hist. Gen. Register*, 1942, pp. 105-106; Washington, *Early Westmorland M.P.s*, 1959, pp. v-vi).