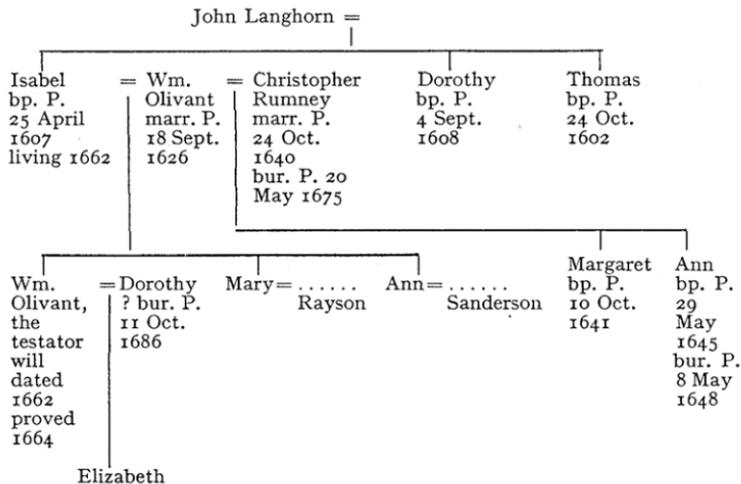


## NOTES.

### 1. *Olivant, Rumney and Langhorn.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

The will of William Olivant of Newcastle, gentleman, which was proved at Durham in 1664, throws some light on the history of three Penrith families — his own, and those of Langhorn and Rumney. It will be noted that he owned property at Thieveside, which he calls "Seiviside alias Thieveside". The form Seiviside is not mentioned in *The Place Names of Cumberland* i 234. An abstract of the will is as follows:

William Olivant of Newcastle upon Tyne gentleman. I give & devise to my loveing wife Dorothy the moyety . . . of all my messuages houses lands grounds and appurtenances whatsoever belong to Seiviside alias Thieveside in the county of Cumberland now in the possession or occupation of William Sanderson for her natural life and after her decease to my daughter Elizabeth and her heires for ever The other moyety . . . I give to my said daughter Elizabeth and her heirs for ever I give . . . to my father in law Mr Christopher Rumney and his wife Issable my loveing mother twenty poundes for a token . . . I give to my two sisters Mary Rayson and Anne



Sanderson ten poundes a peice and to each of their children twenty shillings a peice for tokens . . . I give to my uncle Mr Thomas Langhorne twenty shillings for a token The residue of all my goods and chattels my debts and funerall expences being paid I give . . . to my loving wife and daughter Elizabeth whom I nominate and appoint joint executors

Wm Olivant

20 October 1662

Seal wyvern rampant in bordure engrailed ermine

Witnesses: George Pattison Natl: Salkeld Rich: Walker notary public

The will was proved at Durham by Dorothy Olivant the widow, (power reserved to Elizabeth Olivant the daughter and co-executrix) on 10 March 1663-4.

Inventory taken 23 February 1663 by Robert Blagdon and George Pattisonn

	£	s	d
Two paire of linn sheets two paire of course sheets			
one sheet more		13s	4d
Twenty fower yards of linn cloath three dozen of course nappkins one course nappkin more one paire of pillow beares one diaper table cloath eight diaper nappkins two course towelles one rugg one greene dresser dresser cloath	2.	os	od
one truncke		3s	4d
two candlestickes three puter dishes five puter porringers one dozen of irin stures [?] one brass pott and two brass panns one bason	1os		8d
one paire of pott clips one pott Lidd one brass kettell one halfe dozen of trenches eight chaires without covers		6s	8d
one Lanthorne three tunnills one puter chamber pott one salt seller eight runlets eight butts pipes and hodgsheades three hand basketts one poor three blew dishes one blew bason two blew potts and gally pott one white chiney dish eight earthen trencher plaites	15s		4d
Two venus Glasses seaven quart glasse bottles one saddle two pint glass bottles one great glass bottle one gallen latten pott nine little pictures fower great pictures one vessel called a soe one latten pinte pott one latten quart pott		3s	4d
one blacke cow		33s	4d

one gold ring	6s	8d
in money about forty shillings	40s	
Several sortes of wine to the vallew of	10s	
his weareing apparell	4s	4d
one still one paire of iron terriors	6s	4d
A litle poake mantle		6d
a paire of tables	1s	8d
	<hr/>	
Total	£23.	4s 6d
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2. *The Roman Wall at Cambeckhill Farm* (NY 507637). By DOROTHY CHARLESWORTH.

A trench was cut by the Ministry of Public Building and Works, with the kind permission of the owner, Castlesteads Estates, before a new barn was erected in the farmyard. All that remained of the Wall was a foundation of red sandstone rubble about 9 ft. 6 in. wide, but in the robbing of the stones of the Wall for the local buildings this had obviously been spread slightly and did not have a well-defined regular edge. East of the Cambeck a flag footing of 9 ft. 6 in. was located in 1933 (CW2 xxxiv 133).

The farm is on the site of milecastle 57, but no surface traces of this are visible. The ditch, however, can be seen running under the modern field boundary west of the farmyard, reduced by ploughing on the south side of the hedge, but clear on the north side.

The line of the Wall from its crossing of the Cambeck to Heads Wood Farm, approximately from turret 56b to turret 57a, is a surprising one. Although this is a vulnerable point, much used later by Border raiders, the Wall does not run along the crest of Cambeckhill but on the south slope where it cannot command the country to the north. This is a marked contrast to the siting further east where every crag and hill-crest is used. Here the approach is guarded by the detached fort, for a unit of 500, at Castlesteads, standing high above the Cambeck on its south-east side. The stream flows between it and the Wall and, together with the steepness of the slope, makes rapid movement northwards difficult. The vallum swings round the south of the fort. As this is a weak point it is surprising that the Wall does not run further north after crossing the Cambeck, along the crest which would give a commanding position, nor take a line closer to the vallum, crossing the stream further south, near the modern road bridge.

3. *Fenwick Lowther*. By C. ROY HUDLESTON.

In CW2 xlii 81, Canon Bouch gave some details of the life of Fenwick Lowther, who was christened at Kippax in Yorkshire on 11 October 1710, the son of Richard Lowther by his second wife Mary Fenwick. Canon Bouch says that Fenwick Lowther lived to the age of 25 and died unmarried. No authority is cited for these statements, neither of which is true. On 1 August 1726 Fenwick was apprenticed to Robert Sorsbie of Newcastle, and enrolled on 8 December following (Surtees Society ci 349). He next appears as waiter and searcher in the port of Stockton-on-Tees, and Miss J. Thackray of H.M. Customs and Excise Library has been kind enough to send me the following details of his service. On 7 July 1737 the Collector of Stockton wrote to the Board (Customs 89/1, p. 13): "Mr Fenwick Lowther, for whom your Hon.'s sent a commission to be Waiter and Searcher at this Port, has given good security for the faithful discharge of that trust and was admitted to his employment here the 8th. His Bond etc. shall be transmitted to your Hon'ble Board with our next account by the carrier."

On 23 October 1739 Fenwick Lowther, bachelor of Stockton, aged 31, Customs officer, entered into a marriage bond to obtain a licence to marry Anne Scaife, of Stockton, a 21-year-old spinster. They were married at Stockton on 29 October.

Customs 89/1, p. 145, gives a list of officers on 12 April 1742 belonging to the port of Stockton to whom annual allowances were made by incidents. Fenwick Lowther appears as waiter and searcher, with an annual allowance of £30, the order for this payment having been made on 2 July 1737.

He died on 11 April 1744 (*ibid.*, p. 172) and was buried at Stockton on 13 April. No will or administration has been found in Durham probate records. "Mrs Ann Louther", clearly his widow, was buried at Stockton on 20 October following. I have found no baptisms in Stockton register between 1739 and 1744. Anne appears to have been daughter of Benjamin and Ann Scafe and christened at Stockton on 10 June 1718.

4. *Portinscale Bridge*. By BRUCE L. THOMPSON.

It is sad to have to record the loss of the old double-arched bridge over the Derwent at Portinscale, near Keswick. Probably it was not less than two hundred years old but, like many local bridges, had been widened from about nine feet to about eighteen feet. Its unusual alignment slantwise across the bend of the river was an undoubted hindrance to modern traffic, and its central pier must have impeded flood-water for many genera-

tions, but as a landscape feature it was highly picturesque. A drawing of it by William Green, the Ambleside artist, was published in 1815.

More than fifty years ago Cumberland County Council planned to rebuild the bridge because at that time it was thought to be not strong enough to carry heavy weights, especially traction engines. Our member, the redoubtable Canon H. D. Rawnsley, then Vicar of Crosthwaite, led a campaign to preserve the bridge by grouting it with cement, and this "Battle of Portinscale Bridge" was eventually won in 1913 and is described by him in his *Chapters at the English Lakes*. It was hoped the bridge was permanently saved.

However, as the result of a serious flood in December 1954 half of the northern arch collapsed into the river, although the rest of the bridge remained intact. The County Council had to make emergency arrangements and almost immediately installed a Callender Hamilton steel bridge over the top of the old structure. This temporary expedient lasted for more than ten years. Then, a Portinscale by-pass and a new bridge farther downstream having been constructed, it was decided to abandon the old bridge and to build a new footbridge on the same site. This despite efforts by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and several letters to the press. The old arches were finally demolished in February and March 1969, although not without some difficulty.

There seem to be few early records of the bridge, but Mr J. Hughes has drawn my attention to an article by W. G. Collingwood in CW<sub>2</sub> xxi 168-170 which suggests there was a stone bridge near "Porqenschal" in the period 1210-1216, surely an ancestor of the bridge that has lately gone. An earlier article in CW<sub>1</sub> xv 121 n. says the bridges in the ancient parish of Crosthwaite were not "county bridges" in the ordinary sense of the term but were repairable by the parish.

The Long Bridge, as it was properly called, was interesting because two-arched bridges are unusual in the Lake District, where the rivers are mostly small. On the great coach road through the district from Kendal to Cockermouth I believe there used to be only three: Troutbeck Bridge, Greta Bridge at Keswick, and Portinscale Bridge. All have now been rebuilt or replaced and the last of them will be specially missed.

5. *Ranald Macdonald*. By W. A. J. PREVOST.

In CW<sub>2</sub> lxiv a paper entitled "Two Jacobite prisoners in Carlisle in 1746" told the story of Major Donald Macdonald of Tirnadris who was captured at Falkirk and in due course was

taken to Carlisle for trial and execution. During the trials his son Ranald stayed in Carlisle and was befriended by the Warwicks of Warwick Hall who were Roman Catholics and staunch Jacobites. Ranald, who was then a boy, was at Tirnadriss in Lochaber when, "after the battle of Culloden", his family were forced to flee from their house and his adventures "from seven years of age till his arrival at Warwick Hall" were recorded by himself in 1749 and have since been published in *A Family Memoir of the Macdonalds of Keppoch* by Angus Macdonald. The house at Tirnadriss was burnt down but some of the old walls of great thickness appear to have been incorporated in the existing house which was rebuilt on the old site. In due course Ranald returned to Carlisle where he stayed for two weeks and then he moved to Traquair where he stayed for about eight months learning English. He returned to Warwick Hall.

Mrs Lolah M. Burford, "novelist, research scholar, poet", at present living in Fort Worth, Texas, is interested in the Clan Macdonald and in particular in Ranald about whose career she has been collecting facts. Her references to his leaving Warwick Hall for Douai with the intention of becoming a Roman Catholic priest are informative for *inter alia* she has discovered his mother's name which is absent from clan records.

From H. N. Birt, *The Obit Book of the English Benedictines* (Edinburgh, 1913), "I have extracted the following information about Br. Roland (*sic*) Anselm Macdonald: born in Lochaber, Scotland, 1738. Son of Donald Macdonald. Educated at the school of St Gregory's Priory, Douai. (Not the English College for secular clergy nor the Scots College, both in Douai). Received the habit, 22 March 1756, and professed at Douai, 25 March 1757. Ordained subdeacon. Died at Douai 13 April 1760."

From Douai Abbey, Mrs Burford obtained a transcription of Ranald Macdonald's statement at the time of receiving the habit, with his actual signature, and giving his age at the time of writing as 17 on 22 March 1756. This dates both his age in 1746 and his age at the time of his death four years later in April.

"Je Frere Anselme autrement Ranald Macdonald fils de Donald Macdonald et Marie Mackenzie natif de Lochaber en Ecosse ai recu l'habit . . . let vint deux Mars, l'an de mon age dix sept."

"Anno Dom. 1756", and signed Frere Anselm Macdonald.

It is interesting to note that Major Donald Macdonald's broadsword is at Corby Castle. On leaving Warwick Hall his widow gave it to Mrs Warwick, and she later gave it to her

nephew, Philip Howard of Corby. It is of very fine quality and was probably made at Solingen in Prussia. It is inscribed with the name "Andrea Ferrara", the name being then used as a sign of quality, but it was not made by Andrea dei Ferari who was active from about 1550 until after 1583. It is often said that these swords were made by him in Toledo, a myth included by Sir Walter Scott in his long list of romantic perversions of historical fact. William Gilpin in his *Observations . . .* (1789) on the Highlands of Scotland gives on page 137 the following footnote: "Andrew Ferrara, a Spaniard, was invited into Scotland by James the third to teach his countrymen the art of tempering steel. From him the best broad-swords take their name." James III reigned from 1460 to 1488, long before Ferrara was born. Another legend records that Ferrara killed an apprentice who was stealing his secret and fled to Scotland where he joined the court of James V, who reigned from 1513 to 1542.

An early example of the use of the name Ferrara is to be seen on a claymore in the possession of Lt-Col. D. H. Cameron of Lochiel. The overall length of this claymore is 59 in. The blade measures 44 in. and is engraved "Andrea Ferrara" with, on one side, "Allan Cameron of Lochiel", who was the 16th chief of the clan; and on the other side, "Spero Dum Spero 1588".

A broadsword of a pattern similar to Major Donald Macdonald's was on exhibition in the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh in 1963. It was marked "Andrea Ferrara" and "Solingen", the factory where it was made.