

VI.—ADDITIONAL NOTICES OF THE WALK-MILL IN
THE PARISH OF WARKWORTH.

By J. C. HODGSON, F.S.A., vice-president.

[Read on 29th November, 1905.]

Since the account of the small township of Walk-mill which appeared in the fifth volume of the new *History of Northumberland* was written the writer has had an inspection of documents throwing much light upon the families who have held the property. As parcel of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Newminster, the Walk-mill, at the dissolution of religious houses, came into the hands of the Crown, from whom it was held by lessees until the reign of James I.¹ It has not been ascertained to whom, or when, the place was granted, but in 1650 Morwick Walk-mill, with the lands thereto belonging called Whinney-field, Hilly-closes, Banke[? Back]-riggs, Brown [? Broom]-field and Walk-mill closes, were sequestered for the delinquency of Sir William Fenwick of Meldon. The property was purchased in 1653 from the Committee for Compounding Cases by George Clarkson, apparently acting as a trustee for the heiresses of Sir William Fenwick, one of whom became wife of Sir Francis Radcliffe of Dilston, knt.² On November 6th, 1672, Sir Francis Radcliffe sold 'the fulling mill called Morwicke Walke Miln,' the close or parcel of pasture ground called Bowman's Close, with all the corn tithes, etc., at 'Morwicke Walke Miln *alias* Grange Walke Miln,' to Robert Straker of Upper Buston, gent., in consideration of the sum of 350*l*.³ The Walk-mill remained in the hands of Straker's descendants for sixty-two years and on April 30th, 1736, it was conveyed by William Straker

¹ *New Hist. of Northumberland*, vol. v. p. 252.

² *Royalist Compositions*, Welford (111 Surt. Soc. Publ.), p. 208.

³ Walk-mill deeds.

of West Thirston, yeoman, to John Johnson of the Hirst, gent.⁴ In order to make up his title as heir-at-law, William Straker, the vendor, obtained depositions setting out his pedigree from John Fawcus of Warkworth, carpenter, Robert Watts of Warkworth, yeoman, William Brown of Guyzance, yeoman, John Straker of Netherwitton, yeoman, and John Huntley of Alnwick, shoemaker.

4th March, 1735/6. John Fawcus of Warkworth, carpenter, aged 62 years, deposed that Robert Straker, late of Morricks Walk-mill, married and had by his first wife several daughters and an only son who died when he was about the age of a quarter of a year. That the said Robert married to his second wife one Mary Baird, and had issue by her only one son called Joseph, and one daughter called Isabel: and that Isabel married one Thomas Sanderson and had issue to him but they all dyed young and without issue. That the said Isabel is also dead. That Robert, about forty-five years ago, dyed seised of Morricks Walk-mill leaving the said Joseph his only son and heir, an infant about the age of 6 years. That his said mother, Mary, and James Vardy, whom she married after the death of the said Robert, enjoyed the premises until the said Joseph attained the age of 21, which happened about twenty-eight years ago when he entered into the premises and enjoyed the same till his death and died seised last October without issue and unmarried. That the said Robert had only one brother called Thomas whom this deponent knew very well and who dyed about forty-two years ago and who had issue only one son called George and two daughters called Frances and Jane. The said George died about ten years ago and had issue, three sons, viz., William, the eldest, Robert, the second and John, the third. That William dyed unmarried in the lifetime of his said father. That Robert dyed about nine years ago and left three sons, viz., John, the eldest, William, the second, and Robert, the third. That the last mentioned John dyed in the lifetime of his said father, unmarried. That William is now living, and is the eldest son of the last mentioned Robert, who was eldest son and heir living of the said George, who was eldest son and heir of the said Thomas, who if he had been living at the time of the death of the said Joseph would have been entitled to the premises as uncle and heir of the said Joseph. 'This deponent can the better depose as to his knowledge of the said George for that he married this deponent's mother to his second wife.'

4th March, 1735/6. Robert Watts of Warkworth, yeoman, aged 59 years, deposed that he very well knew Robert Straker, late of Morricks Walk-mill,

⁴ Walk-mill deeds.

yeoman, deceased, and also Thomas Straker, late of Chevington, who was only brother of the said Robert. This deponent's father kept a public house in Warkworth and the said two brothers, Robert and Thomas, came frequently to Warkworth church and lighted att and staid att his, this deponent's father's house a good part of the Sunday and they frequently gave him, the deponent, some farthings for taking care of their horses.'

4th March, 1735/6. Wm. Brown of Guizon, yeoman, aged 64, deposed to same effect as the other deponents and also said that the said Robert had only one brother called Thomas (who was this deponent's uncle by marriage) that the deponent ever knew or heard of.

4th March, 1735/6. John Straker of Netherwitton, husbandman, aged 53 years, maketh oath that: He very well knew Robert Straker, late of Morricks Walk-mill, who was this deponent's grandfather's brother. That he married and had, by his wife, several daughters and only one son, who dyed before he attained the age of one year. That the said Robert married to his second wife, one Mary Baird, and had issue by her, only one son called Joseph and one daughter called Isabel. That Isabel married Thomas Sanderson and had issue several children to him but they all dyed young, and without issue. That the said Isabel is also dead. That Robert died forty-five years ago, seised of Morricks Walk-mill and the tythes thereof leaving the said Joseph his only son and heir, an infant of about the age of 6 years. That his said mother, Mary, and James Vardy (whom she married after the death of the said Robert) enjoyed the premises till the said Joseph attained the age of 21 which happened twenty-eight years ago when he entered and enjoyed, etc., till his death and died seised thereof on October last past without issue. That the said Robert had only one brother called Thomas whom this deponent knew very well who was this deponent's grandfather. That the said Thomas dyed about forty-two years ago and had issue only one son called George (who was this deponent's father) and two daughters called Frances and Jane. That the said George dyed about ten years ago and had issue three sons (to wit) William, the eldest, Robert, the second, and this deponent the third. That William dyed unmarried in the lifetime of his said father and without issue. That the said Robert (this deponent's brother) died about nine years ago and had issue three sons (to wit) John, William and Robert. That the last mentioned John died in the lifetime of his said father and without issue and that William is now living, and is the eldest son and heir living of the last mentioned Robert who was eldest son and heir living of the said George, who was eldest son and heir of the said Thomas who, if he had been living at the time of the death of the said Joseph, would be uncle and heir of the said Joseph and as such entitled to the premises as eldest brother of the said Robert, father of the said Joseph.

19th March, 1735/6. John Huntly of Alnwick, late of Warkworth, shoe-maker, aged 83 years, deposed that: He very well knew Robert Straker

late of Morrick Walk-mill, yeoman, deceased, that he died seised of Morrick Walk-mill, etc., about forty-five years ago and left Joseph his only son and heir. 'That Robert had two brothers called Thomas and George whom this deponent knew very well, and that they were always reputed and taken to be brothers of the said Robert, and that the said Thomas was elder brother of the said George and next brother unto the said Robert as this deponent verily believes.'

John Johnson, the purchaser, was a member of the family of Johnson of Woodhorn, once well known but no longer represented in the county.

On November 23rd, 1784, Thomas Johnson, son of the above-named John Johnson, and his mortgagees, for the sum of 1,510*l.* sold the property to John Laing of Hazon, gent., by whose son's trustees it was resold 24th April, 1819, to Richard Robson of Alnwick. The latter died unmarried and intestate and his sister, Mrs. Margaret Tait of Bamburgh, sold the property to Mr. Thomas Tate of Bank-house, then residing at Bilton.

The acreage of the township, according to the old ordnance survey of 1866, was 127·762. This included Bowman's Close, now part of Sturton Grange South Side, which, according to the more recent survey of 1897, is now included in the township of Sturton Grange. The one hundred and twenty-seven acres are now divided amongst five proprietors, viz., the Duke of Northumberland, Sir John D. Milburn, bart., Mr. John Tate, Mr. Reginald Fenwick and the North Eastern Railway Company.⁵

⁵ The acreage held by the various proprietors (1906) is as follows:—

The Duke of Northumberland	...	...	...	...	30·869
Sir John D. Milburn, bart.	...	...	...	...	68·724
Mr. John Tate	...	...	...	...	19·787
The North-Eastern Railway Co.	...	...	...	...	3·032

122·412

To which must be added Mr. Reginald Fenwick for Bowman's Close (detached) which according to the last survey has been added to and included in Sturton Grange South Side

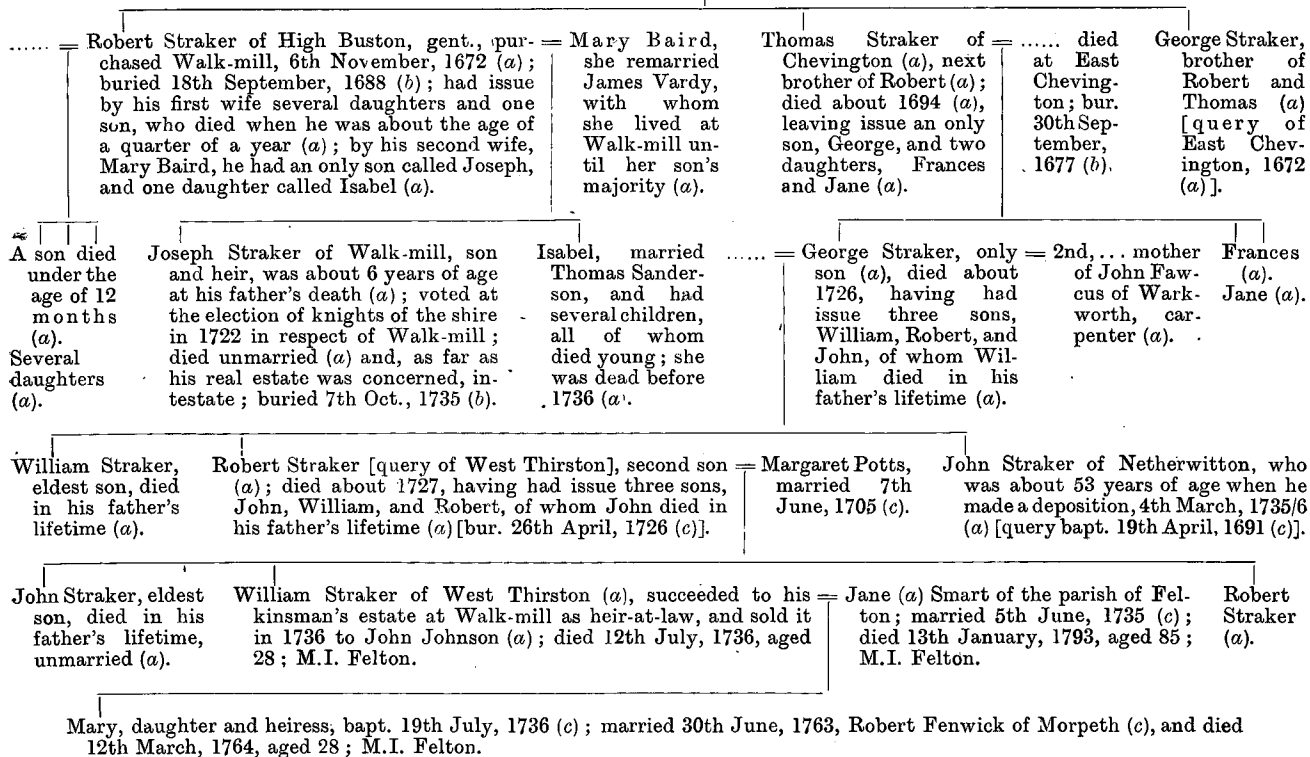
5·350

Ex inf. Mr. T. Tate.

127·762

STRAKER OF WALK-MILL AND OF WEST THIRSTON.

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(a) Walk-mill deeds.

(b) Warkworth Register.

(c) Felton Register.

JOHNSON OF WALK-MILL.

JOHN JOHNSON of Woodhorn =.....

John Johnson of Woodhorn and of the Hirst, <i>jure uxoris</i> , bapt. 11th March, 1679/80 (a); purchased Walk-mill in 1736 (b); buried 27th July, 1742 (a); will dated 6th August, 1741 (b).	= Elizabeth, daughter and ultimately heiress of Rev. John Wolfall, vicar of Woodhorn. by his wife Dorothy, daughter and heiress of Thomas Ridley of the Hirst; married 17th December, 1702 (a).	Other issue.
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Thomas Johnson of Walk-mill, to whom his father gave that estate and also his lands in Hallywell (b); bapt. 3rd February, 1707/8 (a); was residing in Newcastle 30th June, 1762, when he was described as eldest son and heir of John Johnson, late of the Hirst, deceased (b); also in 1774 when he voted at the election of knights of the shire, and also 9th January, 1778 (b); party to sale of Walk-mill, 1784 (b).	Francis Johnson of the Hirst, baptised 10th October, 1711 (a); an executor of his father's will under which he took certain lands at Hirst (b); buried 27th June, 1760 (a). ↓	Elizabeth Bulman of Sheepwash, articles before marriage, 18th Mar. 1754.	William Johnson of Woodhorn, bapt. 1st Feb., 1715/6 (a); an executor of his father's will under which he took certain lands at Hirst (b); buried 10th Sept., 1804, aged 89 (a).	= Catherine, daughter of William Cresswell of Cresswell, married 5th September, 1754 (a); died at Morpeth; buried 15th August, 1797, aged 68 (a).	Dorothy, bap. 18th July, 1704 (a); married Green and was named in her father's will (b). ↓ Elizabeth, bapt. 22nd October, 1717 (a); named in her father's will (b); married, 10th October, 1752, George Ditchburn of North Shields (a). ↓ Other issue (a).
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(a) Woodhorn Register.

(b) Walk-mill deeds.

LAING OF WALK-MILL AND OF BURRADON IN COQUETDALE.

[Ann Tate of Hartlaw, married 12th May, 1730 (a)].
 [Elizabeth, wife of John Laing of Morwick, buried 29th May, 1750 (a)].

JOHN LAING, residing at Hadston, 1731 (a); of St. Margaret's, Alnwick, 1733, when he purchased lands at Burradon in Coquetdale (e); and of Morwick-moor House in 1749, when he purchased other lands at Burradon (e); voted at the election of knights of the shire in 1748 for Burradon; died at Hazon; buried at Warkworth, 4th February, 1762 (a); will dated 8th March, 1757; proved at Durham, 1762.*

Sarah Nicholson of Hazon, married 23rd May, 1752 (b); named in her husband's will.

Sarah, born at Hazon; bapt. 4th January, 1754 (b); buried 28th September same year (b).

George Laing, born at Amble; bapt. 23rd May, 1736 (a) [died in his father's lifetime].

Grace Heron of the parish of Shilbottle, married 30th Jan. 1764 (b); party to deed 7th November, 1775 (e).

John Laing of Burradon in Coquetdale, son and heir, born at Bondicar; bapt. 28th August, 1743 (a); was residing at Hazon in 1772 when he purchased Doxford Newhouses (f), and also in 1784 when he purchased Walk-mill (d); voted at the election of knights of the shire in 1774 for Burradon; buried 31st January, 1806, aged 65 (c); will dated 10th December, 1803; proved 24th July, 1806.

Ann named in her husband's will as provided for by her marriage settlement, liv. 1816 (d).

Eleanor, born at Hadston; bapt. 20th June, 1731 (a).
 Anne, born at Bondicar; bapt. 3rd August, 1740 (a).
 Elizabeth, died at Morwick; buried 23rd August, 1741 (a).
 Mary, married 22nd November, 1753, John Appleby of the parish of Shilbottle (b).

Robert, bapt. 8th December, 1764 (b); buried 17th January, 1765 (b).
 John, bapt. 9th May, 1766 (b); buried 10th June of same year (b).
 William, baptised 9th September, 1768 (b); buried 26th September of same year (b).
 Thomas, buried 27th February, 1775 (b).

George Laing, proprietor of Doxford Newhouses, of Walk-mill, and of lands at Burradon in Coquetdale, bapt. 2nd July, 1770 (b); a bailiff of the Duke of Northumberland; was residing at Long Houghton in 1809, and at Kirton in Lindsay in 1819 (e).

Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund Law, vicar of Whittingham; articles before marriage, 7th and 8th Dec., 1808 (f); mar. at Whittingham, 13th December, 1808; survived her husband.

John Laing, bapt. 22nd July, 1777 (b); to whom his father gave a rent-charge on Walk-mill; died before 1845 s.p. (f)

Margaret, baptised 5th May, 1767 (b); unmarried at the date of her father's will.
 Elizabeth, bapt. 8th June, 1772 (b); buried 29th June of same year (b).
 Grace, bapt. 24th March, 1774 (b); married 12th April, 1798, George Lemon Dyer, parish of St. George's, London (b), an officer in the 65th regiment (f).
 Mary, bapt. 5th Nov., 1779 (b); buried 28th November of same year (b).

(a) Warkworth Register.

(b) Shilbottle Register.

(c) Shilbottle M.I.

(d) Walk-mill deeds.

(e) Mr. William Forster's abstract of title to lands at Burradon in Coquetdale.

(f) Doxford abstract of title.

* 8th March, 1757. Will of John Laing of Hayson (Hazon), yeoman. I charge my freehold tenements, etc., at Burradon with an annuity of £5 per annum, to be paid to my wife, Sarah Laing, and I give a cottage at Hayson during the continuation of my lease of that farm, and the household goods and furniture which belonged to her before our marriage; I give to my daughter, Mary Appleby, wife of John Appleby, £20; I give my freehold farmhold, etc., in Burradon, my messuage at Bondgate, Alnwick, to my son, John Laing. He sole executor. Mr. George Davison of Newton Cap, Mr. George Taylor of Fleetham, and Mr. William Grey of Burgham, trustees and supervisors. Proved 1762. Durham Probate Registry.