

II.—THE MANORS OF BRANDON AND BRANTON.

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Although the objections to the inclusion of two manors in the same enquiry are obvious, yet in the case of those of Brandon and Branton there are reasons for adopting this exceptional course. The two places lie side by side, the one on the left, the other on the right bank of the river Breamish; they are manors of the same lordship, townships in the same parish, parcel of the same rectory, are similar in character, and in the spelling of their names differ only by a single letter. Moreover, they have often had unity in ownership.

The history of the two manors may be divided into three unequal periods. The first, reaching back to pre-Conquest times, begins more properly with the creation of the lordship of Beanley by Henry I and ends with the sixteenth century. The second period covers the seventeenth century and the story of the Collingwoods of Branton. The third period covers from the time of queen Anne to the present day, dividing into the two separate streams of Brandon and Branton. Notices of the ancient chapels of Brandon and Branton shall be given in the sequel.

The township of Brandon with an area of 1087·444 acres is bounded by Wooperton on the north, by Beanley and Hedgeley on the east, by Glanton and Branton on the south, and by Ingram and Reaveley on the west. It has a highest elevation of 611 feet above sea level, ordnance survey, and it is watered by the river Breamish. In 1921 it had a population of .¹ The manor is more or less co-extensive with the township.

¹ The census Returns are: 1801, 103; 1811, 132; 1821, 118; 1831, 160; 1841, 147; 1851, 173; 1861, 134; 1871, 113; 1881, 78; 1891, 90; 1901, 61; 1911, 70; 1921, .

The township of Branton is bounded by Brandon on the north, by Glanton on the east, by Whittingham on the south, and by Fawdon on the west. It has an area of 1174.333 acres, with a highest elevation of 455 feet above sea level, ordnance survey. In 1921 it had a population of .² As in the case of Brandon the manor is more or less co-extensive with the township.

THE FIRST PERIOD.

'On Brandon hill,' says Maclauchlan, 'are the remains of a camp, in a plantation, about 350 yards south-west of the top of the hill. Though thus situated below the summit, it is on a sort of promontory over the steep fall of the woody ground, which is slightly rounded on the east side, where the ramparts are completely destroyed; but on the side of the precipice, and within the wood, the ramparts are in tolerable preservation to the extent of half an acre, from which we conjecture that the original figure was an oval of about 65 yards by 45 in the interior.'³ On a high gravel hill at Brandon a tumulus was opened in 1827, whence were taken a broken urn, teeth, bones, etc.⁴ On the 5th June, 1857, three bronze weapons were found on a knoll about 200 yards north by east of the camp. One was broken by the plough, the second was sent to Mr. Allgood, the owner of the estate, and the third was retained by Mr. Thomas James, then tenant of the farm, who two or three years later produced it for Mr. Maclauchlan's inspection.⁵

² The Census Returns are: 1801, 108; 1811, 100; 1821, 111; 1831, 110; 1841, 119; 1851, 102; 1861, 106; 1871, 84; 1881, 84; 1891, 77; 1901, 66; 1911, 89; 1921,

³ Maclauchlan, *Notes not included in the Memoirs already published on Roman Roads in Northumberland*, p. 56. London 1867. Printed for private circulation.

⁴ *Hist. Berwick. Naturalists' Club*, vol. xi, p. 283.

⁵ Maclauchlan, *Notes not included in the Memoirs already published on Roman Roads in Northumberland*, p. 56. Also *Hist. Berwick. Nat. Club*, vol. xi, pp. 283, 284, where the weapons are more particularly described.

Under the names of Bremdon and Bremeton, the two places are enumerated among the six manors comprized, with other estates, in the grant made by Henry I to Gospatric, brother of Dolphin, which constituted the lordship of Beanley.⁶ The name of Bremdon occurs in the Pipe Roll of 1208,⁷ and about the year 1236, it is stated in *Testa de Nevill*⁸ that John son of Waldeve held Edlingham, Hedgley, Lemington, Bromdon, Bremton, etc., in socage of his kinsman, Patric earl of Dunbar, rendering yearly a sparrow-hawk, or 6d. In another certificate—probably a little later in date—it is stated that William de la Vale held of earl Patric the manor of Bramdon, for which he paid no rent but did other services, while John de Bramdon held the manor of Bramdon by the like service.⁹ Later evidence will show that it was Branton which was held by William Delaval.

Under an order issued 11 April, 1247, to ascertain what lands in Northumberland Patric II, earl of Dunbar, held of the king and what he ought to hold, an inquisition was taken in which it was stated that the earl's great-grandfather, Gospatric (Quaspatricius) had given to his brother Edward, Edlingham, Lemington, Hedgley, Harehope, Bromduna, Bremtona, etc., that the said Edward had alienated Bremtona, which was then (1247) held by John de Bremtona, and also Bromdune, which was then (1247) held by Ralph de Feritate and Henry de la Val.¹⁰

At the Northumberland assizes in 1256, it was stated that Galfrid le messer of Brandon had been captured, or abducted, and imprisoned in the vill of North Middleton.¹¹

⁶ *Percy Chartulary*, p. 333. *New Hist. Northumberland*, vii, p. 30.

⁷ Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part III, vol. iii, p. 102.

⁸ *Testa de Nevill*; Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part III, vol. i, 214.

⁹ *Percy Chartulary*, p. 468. (117 Surtees Soc. pub.)

¹⁰ P.R.O. Inquisitions Various, Chancery file 2, No. 14. *New History of Northumberland*, vii, p. 56. Cf. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, III, i, 42.

¹¹ *Northumberland Assize Rolls*, p. 127. (86 Surtees Soc. publ.)

Before the year 1273 the master of Harehope had acquired an interest either in rents or lands in Brampton and Bremdon in respect of which he claimed, but failed to prove, a right to certain feudal privileges as against the Crown.¹² Of the jury which sat at Whittingham, 3 Jan., 1290 on the inquest taken on the death of Patric, earl of Dunbar, John de Bremptone was foreman,¹³ others of the jury being Henry de Ryal, Alan de Trewhit, Roger de Unthank, Nicholas de Middleton, Gilbert de Edlingham and Henry de Ewart.

BROMDON SUBSIDY ROLL, 1296.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Summa bonorum Gilberti filii Christiane ..	1	17	0	unde regi	3	4½
„ Hugonis filii Christiane ..	1	5	4	„	2	3¾
„ Johannis Hog ..	1	0	10	„	1	10¾
„ Gilberti filii Eve ..	0	11	0	„	1	0
„ Johannis filii Ade ..	2	3	0	„	3	10¾
„ Henrici filii Johannis ..	0	11	0	„	1	0
„ Henrici filii Christiane ..	1	10	4	„	2	9
„ Willelmi le Provost ..	2	11	4	„	4	8
„ Alexandri de Bywke ..	8	15	0	„	15	11
„ Ade de Faudon ..	7	17	2	„	14	3½

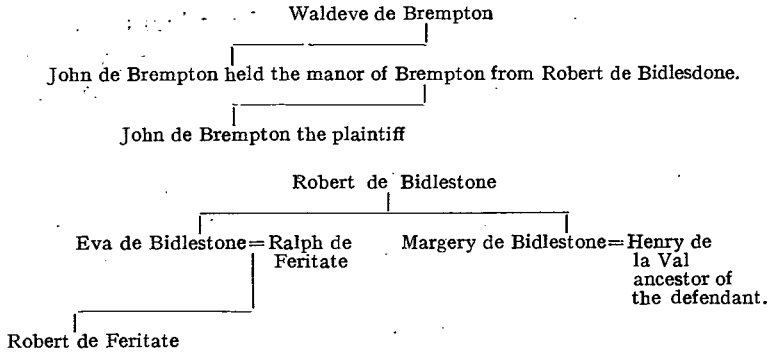
Summa huius ville 28*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*: Unde regi 51*s.* 1*d.*

In the grant of the lordship of Beanley made 19 February, 1334/5 to Henry de Percy, amongst other parcels set out was the homage and services of William de la Val for his tenements in the vill of Brampton. A suit entered on the De Banco Rolls¹⁴ for the following year explains how the Delavals had become possessed of Branton. In 1336 John de Brempton sued Robert de la Vale for an illegal distress in Brempton and the following pedigrees are given in the pleadings:—

¹² *Placita de quo Warranto*. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, III, i, 122, 198.

¹³ *New History Northumberland*, VII, p. 69n.

¹⁴ De Banco Roll, Easter, 10 Edw. III, m. 157. *Wrottesley Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls*, p. 32.



As has been stated above, Edward son of Gospatric II had received from his brother Gospatric III, Bronduna, Bremtona and other property, and in his life time alienated Bromduna. He was still alive in 1178. The history of the native family of Biddleston of Biddleston has not yet been investigated. Robert de Biddleston named in the pedigree was dead before 1240 when his two daughters Eva, wife of Ralph de Feritate, and Margery, wife of Henry Delaval, with their respective husbands, together with Robert de Feritate, son of the said Eva, granted lands near Kidland to the abbot and convent of Newminster.¹⁵ Branton, Brandon, and a moiety of Biddleston, were acquired by the Delavals by this marriage.¹⁶ Brandon was one of the estates brought into settlement 18th May, 1322, on the first marriage of Sir William Delaval. His son, Sir Henry Delaval, by deed in 1372, gave lands in Biddleston, Brandon, etc., to his wife for her life, with remainders over.¹⁷ Subsequently, there were suits at law between Sir Richard de Goldsbrough, who was the fourth husband of Sir Henry Delaval's widow, and Sir William Whit-

¹⁵ *Newminster Chartulary*, pp. 164, 165. (66 Surtees Soc. publ.) cf. *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. viii, 23.

¹⁶ *New History Northumberland*, ix, p. 166. cf. *Cal. Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 88.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* pp. 143, 144, 167, 168.

chester who, after the failure of the first line of Delavals, had succeeded to the estates, respecting Brandoun, Biddleston, etc.¹⁸ In 1373 there was a suit in the Court of Common Pleas between Nicholas de Hynghowe (Ingoe), plaintiff, and John Heron, defendant, respecting rents in Branton which William de Bekwyth gave to Nicholas de Puncharden.¹⁹ In 1422, there was another suit in the same court in which John de Burchester and Elizabeth his wife were plaintiffs, and Elizabeth, wife of William de Whitcheester, chivaler, was defendant, as to the manor of Brandon, 8 marks rent in Braunton, a moiety of the manor of Biddleston, etc.²⁰ Both plaintiffs and defendant had an interest in the Delaval estates. On the extinction of the first line of Delaval, while the greater part of the family estates passed through the Whitchesters and Burchesters to James Horsley who assumed the name of Delaval and founded the second line of that family, a smaller portion, including Brandon, came to Robert Mitford, of Seghill, by a settlement made in 1446.²¹ The fee-farm of Branton is mentioned in an undated settlement made between 1471 and 1474.²² His grandson, also named Robert Mitford, by deed dated 20th August, 1516, settled Brandon and other property on his wife for her life, with remainders over.²³

BRANDONE MUSTER ROLL, 1538.²⁴

Vmfrey Skeyde, James Rewelle; *Hable with horse and harnes*. Ed.

¹⁸ *Inq. p.m.*, 10 Hen. VI. No. 44. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, III, ii, 271. *cf.* *New History Northumberland*, IX, 145, 168; also De Banco Roll (1406) R. 583 m.448. *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser., VI, 68.

¹⁹ De Banco Roll (1373) R.450 m.169. *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VI, 60.

²⁰ De Banco Roll (1422) R.647 m.214d; *cf.* (1424) R.653 m.304 d. *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VI, pp. 73, 74.

²¹ *New History of Northumberland*, IX, p. 69. ²² *Ibid.* p. 151. ²³ *Ibid.* p. 65.

²⁴ *Arch. Ael.*, 1st ser. IV, pp. 164, 165. The reduced condition of the tenants was due to an inroad by the Scots who made a foray in the valley of the Aln in November, 1532, and destroyed Brandon and other hamlets. *cf.* *New Hist. Northumberland*, vol. I, p. 406.

More, Jonn Gybson, John Hansley, Thomas More, Robt. Gybson; *Hable men wanting horse and harness.*

BRANTON MUSTER ROLL, 1538.

Anton Schotton, Thomas Anderson, Ed. Downe, John Harrygald. Robt. Harrigald, John Pott, John Nycollson, and Thomas Kyrspe. *Hable with horse and harness.* James Schotton, Robt. Darres, Ed. Mondcay, Dand Rosden, Ed. Schotton, Georg Kyrspe, Willm Broster. *Hable men wanting horse and harness both.*

Amongst the Lansdowne MSS. there is a document, of the time of Elizabeth, entitled 'The losses, spoyles, and herages that Branton and Hedglyboughe, the inheritaunces of Jhon Palmar, of London, hath susteyned since the first yer of the Q. Majesties' Reigne, by the Carres, Youngis and Bornes, of Est Tevidall, beinge frends and servants to the L. of Cesford, the opposit warden of Scotland.'²⁵ It is undated but may be ascribed to the year 1586. It gives the names of inhabitants of Branton who had suffered from the raiders, with particulars of their alleged losses. Their names were: Jhon Shotton, Widdow Tayler, William Daveson, Thomas Nicholsoun, Robert Harrigall, Jhon Nichol, Edward Anderson, Jhon Harregall, Edward Michell, Edward Shotton, Edward Kerspe, Thomas Whithed, William Nicholson, William Archer, Jhon Cryspe, and Jhon Harrigale. They had been dispoiled of horses, oxen, kyne, sheep, swine and 'insight goods.'

It has not been ascertained how John Palmar of London intervned. He was no doubt the same person as 'one Mr. Palmarrs of Clerkenwell'²⁶ who in 1580 had an interest in Beal, in the parish of Holy Island, which interest he had obtained as assign of the Crown grantees.²⁷ If the Lansdowne MS., just cited, be correctly dated, and on the presumption that John Palmar was

²⁵ This document was printed *circa* 1839 in the publications of the short lived *Border Club*, p. 68, and reprinted in 1858 in Richardson's *Reprints of Rare Tracts and Imprints of Antient Manuscripts*, no. 54, p. 21.

²⁶ Bain, *Cal. Border Papers*, I, p. 19.

²⁷ *History Berwick. Naturalists' Club*, XXI, pp. 298, 299.

the immediate predecessor in title to Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, of Eslington, who was in possession of lands in Branton in 1587, the date of his acquisition of the property is narrowed down to a very few years. In a survey of the lordship of Beanley made in 1586 it is stated that at that period Branton was held by Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, knight, having previously belonged to John Palmer; while Branton was still held by Robert Delaval of Seaton Delaval and Robert Mitford.²⁸

THE SECOND PERIOD.

At a warden court held at the Staweford, near Yetholm, 12 March, 1589/90, Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, knight, and his tenants in Brantoun accused Hobb Davisoun of Fumerden, and others, with a band of thirty other Scotsmen, of reiving from Brantoun in the month of October, 1587, 30 kye and oxen, 6 horses and mears, insight goods with silver and gold both coined and uncoined.²⁹ The date of this raid is of some importance, for it raises an inference that the Delavals must have sold Branton about the same period they sold Biddleston. The new owner, Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, of Eslington, knight, was a man of strong and vigorous character, who in turn filled the Office of Commissioner of the East and Middle Marches, keeper of Harbottle and Redesdale, etc. In public service and by his marriage with Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Sir George Bowes, with whom he obtained large estates in the county of Durham, he was able to purchase Bolton and other property, for the most part lying in the valley of his ancestral Aln, some portions of which he sold or transferred to cadet members of his family. His will, dated 24 December, 1596; was made when he was at the point of death, for the inventory of his goods was taken only six days later. These documents are rich in detail, but they yield no clue to the testator's

²⁸ *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. xix, pp. 66, 67.

²⁹ Bain, *Cal. Boraer Papers*, 1, p. 359.

relationship with his namesake and successor in Branton.³⁰ Although the origin of the first Cuthbert Collingwood of Branton has not been ascertained, it is apparent from the terms of his will dated 12 August, 1608, and preserved in the probate registry at Durham, that his immediate ancestors were of the parish of Eglington and lay buried in the parish church. He was succeeded by his eldest son Daniel Collingwood who married Eleanor, daughter of Robert Mitford of Mitford,³¹ by whom he left issue, one son and four daughters. When on his death-bed on the 17 June, 1618, 'being Wednesday in the forenoon' he made his will nuncupatively, making Sir William Muschamp, Robert Mitford, Cuthbert Collingwood, and John Mitford supervisors. His son Robert Collingwood was entered at Gray's Inn, 3 August, 1626, as 'Robert Collingwood of Brandón, esq.'; and this name appears in the list of freeholders drawn up in 1638-39.³²

In the following year Branton saw the Scottish army under Leslie, their visit being recorded by John Rushworth (himself a native of Acklington-park), who states that on Saturday, 22 August, 1640, the Scots marched from Milfield to Middleton Haugh near Wooler, 'the next day, being Sunday, August 23, after sermon, they removed from Middleton Haugh and encamped that night at Branton Field. Munday, August 24, they removed from thence and encamped on the hill betwixt the New and Old Towns of Eglington or Eglington' [Edlingham].³³ The highlanders were armed with bows and arrows.³⁴

³⁰ The will of Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, with the inventory of his goods, printed in *Wills and Inventories*, 38 Surtees Soc. publ. p. 267, will repay perusal.

³¹ Mitford pedigree. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, II, ii, 46.

³² List of Freeholders in Northumberland in 1628 and 1638-9. *Arch. Ael.*, 1st ser. II, p. 324.

³³ Rushworth, *Historical Collection*, III, p. 1223.

³⁴ Cf. Letter from Mr. Woodman to Mr. R. Blair dated 21 Nov., 1892. *Proc. New. Soc. of Antiq.*, ser. v. p. 238. Terry, *Life and Campaign of Alexander Leslie*, p. 110.

Robert Collingwood was knighted before the 15 December, 1648, when as a delinquent, he was charged that he had delivered out of his house at Branton muskets wherewith to arm dragoons who had apparently been recruited in the neighbourhood by Henry Harbottle, a captain in Colonel Grey's regiment.³⁵ On the 9 April, 1651, his estate was ordered to be sequestered,³⁶ but there is no record of a fine, which fact with another to be mentioned presently raises an inference that like many north country lairds and land-owners, he may have done his best to stand well with both parties in the State. On the 11 June, 1657, he and his son Daniel were sent for by the House of Commons to answer a charge, that in an inn at Alnwick, he had inveighed against the Commonwealth, exclaiming, 'We must have a King, and will have a King, and my Lord Protector dares not refuse it.' His son in a gathering of Cavaliers, who were murmuring that they were debarred from horse-races, had exclaimed that 'there was none now in power, but the rascality, who envied that gentlemen should enjoy their recreations.' Father and son appeared at the bar of the House, 23 June, 1657, when the son having denied the words imputed to him, was discharged. Sir Robert was respited, but on the 29 January following, he confessed to having been present at the meeting at the inn, though he denied having used the words put into his mouth; he too was discharged of his imprisonment.³⁷ From statements recorded in the *Journals* of the House of Commons under date 2 July, 1659, it would appear that Sir Robert Collingwood had served in 1645, as a colonel of a foot regiment on the side of the Parliament, but against this statement there may be placed the charge that in 1648, he was 'divers times

³⁵ Welford, *Royalist Compositions* sp. 171. (III Surtees Soc. publ.)

³⁶ Welford, *Royalist Compositions*, p. 171.

³⁷ *Journals of the House of Commons* under date 11 June and 23 June, 1657; 29 January, 1657/8. Welford, *Royalist Compositions*, pp. 171, 172n.

with Colonel Gray since Berwicke was taken, viz., at Woller, Barwicke, Balmbrough and at Cartington Moor a little before the defeat given to the Cavaliers at Callaley and went into the enemy's quarters and garrison at his pleasure.'³⁸

Sir Robert Collingwood, knight, was one of the mounted volunteers who assembled under Lord Widdrington on Bockenfield moor, 29 January, 1660/1;³⁹ and in 1663 he was rated for Branton and Brandon at 300*l.* per annum, while his son Daniel was rated for lands in the adjoining township of Reavley at 46*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*⁴⁰ Soon after the Restoration Sir Robert was appointed governor of Holy Island, and, as such, received a warrant dated 9 March, 1664, to deliver up certain prisoners.⁴¹ He was buried in the church of Holy Island, 10 March 1665/6.⁴² In a deposition made in 1709, Sir Robert Collingwood is stated to have married 'Maddam Delavale, daughter to S^r John Delavale,' The lady was Margaret daughter of Sir John Delaval of North Dissington, by his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir George Selby. By her he had issue two sons and two daughters, Daniel, George, Margaret and Mary. Afterwards he had issue by his servant Jane Pringle, William, who was admittedly illegitimate, and other children (by most believed illegitimate, though some thought there was a marriage before their birth), viz.: Jane (who married one Hume in Scotland), Elizabeth, Barbara, Francis, called Colonel Collingwood, Robert, Ann, and Betty. Jane Pringle was turned out of Sir Robert's house by his sister, Anne Muschamp and gave birth to Francis in the house of Thomas Dillins, at Branton. After the

³⁸ Welford, *Royalist Compositions*, p. 171; cf. Bates, 'Border Holds.' *Arch. Ael.*, 2 ser. xiv, p. 399-403.

³⁹ *Proc. Newc. Soc. of Antiq.*, 2 ser. v, p. 162.

⁴⁰ Book of Rates. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, III, i, pp. 264, 266, 340.

⁴¹ *Cal. State Papers Dom.*, 1663-1664, p. 510.

⁴² Holy Island Registers.

birth of Francis, Jane Pringle was 'cloathed in silkes and was called the Maddam,'⁴³

Daniel Collingwood, son and heir of Sir Robert, was already in possession of lands in Reaveley when on his father's death he succeeded to Branton and Brandon. When admitted to Christ college, Cambridge, 6 March, 1649/50, he stated that his age was 16, that he was born at Dissington and educated at Warkworth—perhaps as a pupil of the vicar. He was also entered at Gray's Inn, 21 June, 1650. As has already been mentioned he had been in trouble about indiscreet speech. On the Restoration he obtained a commission as cornet in the Life Guards, and he appears to have succeeded his father as governor of Holy Island. On 31 August, 1666, a warrant was issued to the Commissioners of Prizes to sell him the ship 'Charity' of Amsterdam.⁴⁴ In the same year, shortly before the 11 October, he acted as second to Sir Thomas Osborne in a duel with lord Fauconberg.⁴⁵ He had already a seat in the House of Commons, having been returned for Berwick in a by-election, 10 January, 1664/5, in the room of Sir Thomas Widdrington. On the 6th January, 1670, he was promoted to be major in the queen's troop of Guards,⁴⁶ and on the 25 March, 1672, he was made captain of a company of foot to be employed at Holy Island.⁴⁷ In the following month,⁴⁸ he was appointed keeper of the castle of Holy Island and obtained a lease, of the island, for the term of 31 years, the rent reserved to the Crown being 26s. 8d. He was elected burgess in parliament for Morpeth in the parliament summoned to meet 2 September, 1679, and again in that summoned to meet 2 March, 1680/1. While representative for Berwick he obtained the good will

⁴³ P.R.O. Exchequer Depositions, Mich. 8 Anne, No. 25.

⁴⁴ *Cal. State Papers Dom.*, 1666-1667, p. 82.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* p. 191.

⁴⁶ *Cal. State Papers Dom., Add.*, 1660-1670, p. 7.

⁴⁷ *Cal. State Papers Dom.*, 1671-1672, p. 236.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.* p. 420.

of the burgesses by procuring a grant from the Treasury for the repairs of Berwick bridge and he was presented by the mayor and burgesses with a silver flagon with the borough arms engraved thereon.⁴⁹ In 1679, he was one of the two who stood bail or surety in 500*l.* for Sir Francis Radcliffe, who had been taken into the custody of the serjeant-at-arms on a charge of treason.⁵⁰ He is scathingly described by Andrew Marvell as a 'court janizary' with a pension of 300*l.* per annum.⁵¹ This statement is supported by a document entitled 'The Court Party in the House of Commons in 1677' printed in *Archaeologia Aeliana*.⁵² He died, without issue, in the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields and was buried in Westminster Abbey on 9th April, 1681. Letters of administration were granted 5 May, 1681, to his brother George Collingwood.⁵³

Of George Collingwood, who succeeded his brother in an embarrassed estate, little is recorded. He sold his lands in Reaveley and Ingram to John Banner, or Bonner, and Brandon to Lancelot Allgood; and by will dated 7 June, 1689, made shortly before his death, he gave Branton to his two sisters of the whole blood, Margaret, wife of Richard Hindmarch of Wallsend, and Mary, wife of Humphrey Pybus of Newcastle, merchant, but charged with the payment of legacies and annuities, the weight of which, as it was subsequently found, the property would not bear. He also remembered his half brothers, Francis and Robert.⁵⁴ Proceedings in the Court of Exchequer followed.⁵⁵ From various depositions it transpired that the estates were settled by a deed

⁴⁹ Scott, *History of Berwick*, p. 418. ⁵⁰ *Arch. Ael.*, 2 ser. I, p. 99.

⁵¹ Marvell, *Works*, ed. 1776, II, p. 571.

⁵² *Arch. Ael.*, 1st ser. I, p. 177. ⁵³ Westminster Abbey Registers.

⁵⁴ P.R.O. Exchequer Depositions Bills and Answers, Anne, Northumberland, no. 52, for an abstract of which as of other Exchequer Depositions the writer is indebted to Mr. A. F. Radcliffe of Charter-house.

⁵⁵ Succinct abstracts of these documents may be found in *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. IV, pp. 49, 50, 52, 58, 59, 60, 64.



dated 25 June, 1673, to which Daniel Collingwood, of Branton, esq., Sir Ralph Delaval, of Seaton Delaval, bt., George Collingwood, of Eslington, esq., Humphrey Mitford, esq. and Richard Kent, of St. Martin's in the Fields, Middlesex, were parties, Colonel Francis Collingwood (half brother of Daniel and George) had a son, Captain Francis Collingwood, who was killed at the battle of Almanza in Spain. Robert Collingwood (another half brother of Daniel and George) left a widow, Margaret Collingwood of the City of London, who had survived her son, Robert Collingwood the younger, to whose personal estate she had obtained letters of administration.⁵⁶

In the event, the property, by order of the Court of Exchequer made 20 Feb., 1711/2, was sold, for the sum of 2600*l.* and on the 5 April, 1712, by indenture of bargain and sale, between Edward Collingwood, of Alnwick, of the first part, Margaret Hebburn, survivor of Joseph Barnes who were the executors of Margaret Hindmarsh, widow, deceased, and which Margaret Hebburn was also executrix of Robert Hebburn, esq., deceased, of the second part, Mary Everard, widow, of the third part, Thomas Collingwood, of St. Andrew, Holborn, and Mary his wife, of the fourth part, George A. [.] of St Andrew, Holborn, of the fifth part, and William Brown of Bolton, esq., of the sixth part, Branton was conveyed to William Brown.⁵⁷

The hall, or manor house at Branton was of sufficient importance to be described in Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, published in 1695, as 'of good note, in our time, for one of the prettiest houses in this part of the county, the seat of George Collingwood, esq., a branch of the house of Eslington.'⁵⁸ Alas! after these words were written, perhaps before they appeared in print, the

⁵⁶ P.R.O. Exchequer Depositions, Mich. 8 Anne, No. 25.

⁵⁷ Abstract of Title, Rev. John Hodgson's Collections, Guard book.

⁵⁸ Camden's *Britannia*, (continuation) ed. Gibson, 1695, p. 874.

pretty house ceased to exist, for John Horsley, writing in 1729 or 1730 says of Branton, 'the seat of the Collingwoods—a branch of the family of Eslington,—that was here, and is commended in the later editions of Camden's *Britannia*, was destroyed 50 years ago by fire, and has never been rebuilt, nor is the estate now in that family and name.'⁵⁹ About 1864 the site of the house was pointed out to Mr. Maclauchlan who writes, 'On the opposite side of the road to the chapel are foundations of a strong tower probably a pele. The stones of the walls, as we were told by an old resident, have been taken to build the farm offices near.'⁶⁰

EVIDENCES TO PEDIGREE.

12 August, 1608. Will of Cuthbert Collingwood of Branton, gent. To be buried in the parish church of Eglington as near my ancestors as conveniently may be. I give to my second son Thomas two farmholds in Branton, now in his own occupation and another farmhold now in the occupation of Robert Harregate (?) to hold for the term of his life. On his death I give half of the said three farmholds to Barbara his wife, if she survives my said son Thomas. To my daughter Dorothy Collingwood 200*l.* in four yearly payments of 50*l.* each, beginning at the age of 19 years. She to marry with the liking and consent of my loving friends Mr. Thomas Swynoe, George Muschamp, and George Collingwood, esq. To my son John Collingwood whom I will shall be bound to some good occupation or trade 100*l.* To my son Ephraim Collingwood 100*l.* when bound apprentice. To my sister Jane Collingwood an annuity of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Residue to my son Daniel Collingwood, he executor. Pr. 1618. Durham Probate Registry.

17 June, 1618. Nuncupative will of Daniel Collingwood of Branton, gent. I give to my daughter Bess 1000*l.*: to my daughter Ann 900*l.*: to my daughter Margaret 800*l.*, and to my daughter Eleanor 'the portion that my sone shall gett by his marriage,' and failing my son shall marry then my daughter Eleanor to have paid out of the lands as Margaret shall

⁵⁹ *Inedited Contributions to the History of Northumberland: Materials for the History of Northumberland* by the Rev. John Horsley, M.A., F.R.S., p. 57.

⁶⁰ Maclauchlan, *Notes not included in the Memoirs already published on Roman Roads in Northumberland*, p. 56. London, 1867. Printed for Private Circulation.

PEDIGREE OF COLLINGWOOD OF BRANTON.

..... Collingwood of the parish of Eglingham =

Cuthbert Collingwood = Catherine
of Branton: will living 17 June, 1618
dated 12 Aug., 1608 (a)
pr. 1618: to be buried
in the parish church
of Eglingham, near
ancestors (a)

George Collingwood,
to whom his nephew
Daniel gave £10 (a)

Jane, to whom her
brother Cuthbert
gave an annuity (a)

Daniel Collingwood of = Eleanor, dau. of Robt. Branton son and heir,
Branton son and heir, sole executor and residuary legatee of his father's will (a). His nuncupative will is dated 17 June, 1618, being made on Wednesday in the forenoon (a)

Thomas Collingwood, = Barbara
second son (a), who named in the will of her father-in-law (a)
enjoyed for his life three farms of land in Branton (a)

John Collingwood (a), to whom his father gave 100*l.* (a), app. 13 Feb., 1611, to Francis Perkinson of Newcastle. Named in brother Daniel's will (a).

Ephraim Collingwood, to whom his father gave 100*l.* when bound an apprentice; named in brother Daniel's will (a).

Dorothy Collingwood, under age at the date of her father's will (a), to whom her father gave 200*l.* (a)

Henry Collingwood.

Jane Pringle, who was 'cloathed in silkes and was called Maddam.'

Sir Robert Collingwood of Branton, knight, son and heir, entered at Grays Inn 3 Aug. 1626 a delinquent in 1648(b), rated for Branton and Brandon in 1663. Governor of Holy Island; bur. there 10 March, 1665/6.

'Bess' or Elizabeth, to whom her father gave 100*l.* (a).
Anne, to whom her father gave 900*l.* (a), wife of Muschamp.
Margaret, to whom her father gave 800*l.* (a).
Eleanor, named in her father's will (a).

Daniel Collingwood of Branton, son and heir, of Christ Coll., Camb., adm. 6 March, 1649/50 aged 16. Entered at Grays Inn, 21 June, 1650: An officer in the Life Guards. Governor of Holy Island and keeper of the Castle there: M.P. for Berwick 1665, for Morpeth 1679 and again 1681; settled his estate by deed 25 June, 1673: died in the parish of St. Martins in the Field, bur. 9 April, 1681, in Westminster Abbey: adm. of his personal estate 5 May, 1681, granted to his brother, George Collingwood.

George Collingwood of Branton, brother and heir, sold Brandon and Reveley shortly before making his will dated 7 June, 1689.

Margaret, sister and co-heir; second wife of Richard Hindmarsh of Wallsend, mar. 7 Nov., 1683, at All Saints, Newcastle. Will dated 29 March, 1704.
Mary, sister and co-heir (third) wife of Humphrey Pybus of Newcastle, merchant; Bond of marriage 14 April, 1684. Died a widow and intestate [bur. at St. Nicholas, Newcastle, 2 Dec. 1691].

William Collingwood.

Francis Collingwood, called =
Colonel Collingwood

Robert Collingwood to whom = Margaret. (c)
his half-brother George gave his sword, arms, etc.

Jane, wife of Major Patrick Hume, a Scotsman, mar. at Holy Island 14 Jany. 1677/8; named in her half-sister Margaret Hindmarsh's will. Elizabeth, living 29 March, 1704.
Barbara, bp. at Alnwick, 22 Aug, 1660, living 29 March, 1704.
Ann [bapt. at Alnwick, Feb 1., 1658/9 as Agnes] living 29 March, 1704.
Betty.

Captain Francis Collingwood, killed at the Battle of Almanza in Spain, 25 April, 1707: will dated 5 Oct. 1702 pr. 1710 (a)

Robert Collingwood. (c)

(a) Durham Probate Registry.
(b) Welford, *Royalist Composition*, Surtees Soc. no. 111.
(c) Exchequer Depositions, Trin. Term, 9 Wm. III, no. 12.
Exchequer Depositions, Mich. Term, 8 Anne, no. 25.



have. To my mother 20*l.* To my brothers John and Ephraim 20*l.* apiece. To my uncle George 10*l.* To Umphray Read my young stagg. To Ann Hudspeth 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* To Jane Rutherford 40*s.* To Margaret Heron 10*l.* I make Sir William Muschamp, Robert Midford, Cuthbert Collingwood and John Midford supervisors. I give to my base begotten son Cuthbert Collingwood 100*l.*, to be delivered to Cuthbert Collingwood of Ditchburn to go forward to help my son, and that he shall be apprentice-bound to a merchant. My son Robert executor. Pr. 1618. Durham Probate Registry.

31 Jany. 1634. Will of Cuthbert Collingwood of Fawdon, Northumberland, gent. My eldest son Daniel Collingwood. My second son Thomas. My youngest son Cuthbert. My mother Elizabeth Rochester, now in Newcastle. My wife Anne, executrix. My three children to my brother Robert Collingwood of Branton. My uncle John Collingwood of Reaveley. (seal armorial). Pr. 2 January, 1636. Sharp. *Test. Dunelm.*

7 June, 1689. Will of George Collingwood of Branton, esq. I have lately sold my manor, lands etc. in Reeveley and Ingram unto John Banner in trust for his father, Richard Banner, and the manor, lands etc. in Branton to Lancelot Algood. I give Branton to my onely sisters Margaret Hindmarsh and Mary Pybus. They to pay to Mary Everard, widow, who now lives with me, an annuity of 20*l.*, and 1000*l.* to Mary, daughter of the said Mary Everard at 21, or marriage, provided she marry a Collingwood of my family, and an annuity of 30*l.* till marriage or completion of the 21st year. I give my lease of Holy Island to the eldest son of Francis Collingwood, 'who reckons himself my halfe-brother,' such eldest son paying 5*l.* yearly to 'Major Hume his wife,' in the said island, for the use of her son George. I give 'to Robert Collingwood, brother of the said Francis, who also reckons himself my halfe-brother,' a horse, armes, suite of cloths, sword, hat, paire of boots, gloves fit for him. Lancelot Algood, Richard Banner and John Crispe overseers, to each 10*s.* I give the residue to my sisters, Margaret Hindmarsh and Mary Pybus; they executors. Witnesses Lancelot Algood, John Crispe, Thomas Potts, Robert Hanylepe. (?)

5 October, 1702. Will of Francis Collingwood, esq. [of Holy Island]. To my aunt Collingwood, widow of my uncle Robert Collingwood 5*l.* To my cousin Robert Collingwood her son 50*l.* To my aunt Villiers 100*l.* To my friend Thomas Bendlowes, esq., 20*l.* To my cousin Mr. Robert Delaval two guineas. Legacies to be paid out of my arrears and the

profits of Holy Island in ye hands of my aunt Hindmarsh. My aunt Love spinster. My friend Thomas Bendlowes, esq. to have the remainder: he executor. Pr. 1710. *Raine Test. Dunelm.*

29 March, 1704. Will of Margaret Hindmarch, of Newcastle, widow of Richard Hindmarch, and sister of Daniel Collingwood of Branton, esq., deceased. My friend Robert Hebburn, of Newcastle, to hold Branton to pay my debts. To my nephew Robert Collingwood son of my brother Robert Collingwood To my sister in law Margaret Collingwood, relict of my said brother Robert To my sisters Jane Hume, Elizabeth Collingwood, Ann Collingwood, and Barbara Collingwood To the vicar and churchwardens of Eglingham To my nephew Francis Collingwood, esq. To my daughters-in-law Margery Ewbank and Elizabeth Hindmarch Joseph Barnes of Newcastle, barrister at law, and Margaret Hebburn executors.

Codicil 'about the same date.' I give to Jane Strother, widow, £100; William Dellavall £100, Margaret Hebburn £100, Elizabeth Fenwick wife of Robert Fenwick, of Fallogen, gent. £50; Mary Fenwick £50, John Fenwick £100, Joseph Barnes £100. [The testatrix died shortly afterwards]

Exchequer Bills and Answers Q. Anne, No. 52.

THE THIRD PERIOD.

BRANTON.

In the second half of the stirring seventeenth century there were two brothers, William Brown, dwelling in Ewart in the chapelry of Doddington, and Alexander Brown, dwelling in Twizel in Northumberland, having connections by marriage or otherwise, with the borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Acting together or separately, they made large purchases of land in north Northumberland. The elder brother William purchased property in the fishing village of Alnmouth in 1682 and the beautiful estate of Bolton in 1697. Alexander having purchased Dunstan in the parish of Embleton in 1692 and Doxford in 1702, received Shawdon and Crawley in 1705 from John Proctor in exchange for Dunstan, a sum of money, and other considerations. Dying in 1705 or 1706, Alexander Brown by will, dated 1 May, 1702, after providing for

his wife, gave his lands to his brother William, who thereupon became sole owner of a fine landed estate, which he extended in 1711 by the purchase of Branton. William Brown was buried in Bolton chapel on the 23 Sept., 1712, having made his will on the 3rd March of the same year. Partly in his lifetime and partly by his will, he divided his lands amongst his three surviving sons and his grandsons. The newly acquired estate of Branton was given to his third son Joseph.

Joseph Brown, who voted in respect of Branton at the election of Knights of the Shire in 1722, died at Bolton and was buried in Bolton chapel, 7 January, 1725/6. By his will, dated 2 November, 1725, he gave Branton to two of the sons of his brother Nicholas, viz: one moiety, described as Branton West-side, to Nicholas, and the other moiety, described as Branton East-side, to Alexander. On Joseph Brown's death doubts arose as to the validity of his devise, and whether, under the provisions of his father's will, the whole ought not to go to Alexander, described as the third son of Nicholas Brown. The question of title to the West-side was set at rest by the conveyance, dated 9 and 10 March, 1725/6, from the said Alexander described as of Newcastle,⁶¹ hostman, to his elder brother Nicholas of all his rights in the West-side of the manor of Branton.

The Moiety of Nicholas Brown, now styled Branton West-side.

Nicholas Brown, second but eldest surviving son of Nicholas Brown sometime of Ewart, was baptized 3 March, 1703/4 at Doddington; and, as has been already stated, succeeded to the moiety of Branton described as Branton West-side on the death of his uncle Joseph Brown in 1726. He married 13 June, 1728 at Bamburgh, Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Younghusband of

⁶¹ Alexander Brown son of Nicholas baptized, 23 Feb., 1704/5, at Doddington, was apprenticed, 13 December, 1721, to John Armorer of Newcastle, hostman.

Budle, and died at Bath, 20 August, 1762. By his will, dated 24 June, 1762, having no surviving son he gave Branton West-side to his second daughter Margaret, wife of Alexander Collingwood of Unthank and Little Ryle, in tail male, remainder to his youngest daughter Eleanor Brown and her issue, in tail male, remainder to his eldest daughter Jane Brown and her heirs for ever. Mrs. Collingwood died 9 September, 1807, leaving issue two daughters only, who, as co-heiresses, had already succeeded to their paternal inheritance, whereupon Branton West-side devolved on Mrs. Collingwood's nephew John Frankland the younger, then a captain in the 63rd regiment. He was the son of John Frankland,⁶² described as of Durham, who married 8 July, 1772 at St. Oswald's, Eleanor, youngest daughter of Nicholas Brown of Bolton.

By deeds dated 13 and 14 November, 1807, Captain Frankland barred the entail, and subsequently, by deed dated 14 and 15 July, 1812, made previous to his marriage with Elizabeth Crawford⁶³ of Alnwick, he charged the property with a jointure of 400*l.* per annum in favour of his then intended wife. The marriage took place at Kylee, 21 July, 1812, but Mrs. Frankland died in childbirth in the following year. In 1814, Frankland raised considerable sums on mortgage. He died 21 October, 1833, aged 60, being then, as is stated, a major in the 98th regiment. By lease and release dated respectively 9 and 10 May, 1834, Anthony Frankland, described as of South Place, Camberwell New Road,

⁶² 1772, July 8. 'John Frankland, son of the late Mr. Anthony Frankland of Richmond, married to Miss Brown, at Elvet church, daughter of the famous high sheriff of Northumberland. She was *gravidā facta*.'—*Gyll's Diary* (118 Surtees Soc. publ.), p. 225. The bridegroom's mother is stated to have been Winifred, daughter of Sir John Webb and sister of Lady Derwentwater. *cf.* notice of her death in *Gent. Mag.*, January, 1791. Anthony Frankland of Richmond, the grandfather, is said to have been akin to Oliver Cromwell.

⁶³ The only child of James Crawford of New Haggerston, by Barbara Robson his wife, she was baptized at Ancroft, 2 May, 1793, and, dying at Glanton Pike, was buried at Ellingham, 9 December, 1813.

Surrey, only surviving brother and heir at law of John Frankland, together with the trustees of his said brother, in consideration of 16000*l.*, conveyed Branton West-side to the Rev. Alexander Brown, described as of Budleigh Salterton, Devon. By this transaction, the moieties of the manor and estate of Branton again became the property of one owner.

Alexander Brown's Moiety, now styled Branton East-side.

Alexander Brown who succeeded on the death of his uncle Joseph Brown to the moiety of Branton, thenceforward styled Branton East-side, died at the advanced age of 89, at Low Newton, in the parish of Shilbottle, and was buried at Bolton, 30 November, 1792. He was succeeded by his youngest but only surviving son, Dr. Nicholas Brown, some time Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and rector of Ingoldsby, Lincolnshire, who died at Rochester, Kent, 13 February, 1810. His will is dated 18 February, 1809. He was succeeded by his second but eldest surviving son, the Rev. Alexander Brown, rector of Flempton, Suffolk, who on the 8 and 9 November, 1811, took a conveyance from Edward Anderson of Glanton, and others, of the small farm of Mile-end, lying contiguous to Branton, but situated in the parish of Whittingham, and, as has been already stated, by his purchase in 1834 of the West-side, he reunited in one owner the moieties of the manor and estate of Branton.

As to the whole.

The Rev. Alexander Brown⁶⁴ died 27 July, 1851 seised of both moieties of Branton and also of the farm of Glanton Mile-end. His will is dated, 23 May, 1849. In 1855 the trustees of the will sold the whole property to Mr. John Fawcett of Durham, the

⁶⁴ A pedigree of Brown, now Browne, of Bolton, being the main line, may be found in the new *History of Northumberland*, vii, p. 219. The pedigree of the Branton branch must be reserved for an account of Callaley castle.

conveyance being dated, 26 March, 1856. On the 16 September, 1919, the property was put up for sale by auction by the executors of Mr. George Foyle Fawcett in three lots. Lot 1 comprised Branton West-side with an area of 605·173 acres and a rental of 617*l.* per annum, subject to a tithe rent-charge of 31*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* payable to the vicar of Eglingham.⁶⁵ This was sold to Mr William Bolton of Alnwick for 15100*l.* Lot 2 comprised Branton East-side, with an area of 434·889 acres, with a rental of 458*l.* 10*s.* per annum, subject to a tithe rent-charge of 22*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* payable to the vicar of Eglingham. This was sold to Mr. Robson for 10000*l.* Lot 3 comprised Mile-end farm with an area of 195·222 acres and a rental of 182*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* per annum, subject to three rent-charges, viz., of 6*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* payable to the vicar of Eglingham, of 2*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* payable to the vicar of Whittingham; and of 11*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* payable to an impropiator. This was sold to Mr. English of Falstone for 4000*l.* In the absence of evidence to the contrary it is to be presumed that of the Mile-end farm, about 134 acres are parcel of the manor of Branton and the remaining 61 acres represent the farm, formerly Anderson's lying in the parish of Whittingham.

THE THIRD PERIOD.

BRANDON.

By indenture of bargain and sale dated 17 April, 1689,⁶⁶ enrolled in Chancery on the 7 June following, George Collingwood, esq., of Branton, Richard Hindmarsh of Wallsend and Margaret his wife,

⁶⁵ Under the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, the commissioners under the act ordered the vicarial tithes of Branton to be commuted for a rent charge of 60*l.* per annum, payable to the vicar of Eglingham.

⁶⁶ Capt. G. Allgood's muniments. By deed of even date George Collingwood and his sisters with their respective husbands conveyed Reaveley to John Banner of in trust for his father Richard Banner of Saddlers hall, London, who had already a considerable mortgage secured on Branton, Brandon, and Reveley.

Humphrey Pybus of Newcastle and Mary his wife, which Margaret and Mary are described as ' the only sisters and heirs apparent ' (*sic*) of the said George Collingwood, with the mortgagees, conveyed the manor and township of Brandon with the lands, tithes and rights thereto belonging, to Lancelot Allgood, described as of Newcastle. Feoffment, with livery and seisin, was given the same day. The lands were then held by no less than fifteen tenants. Lancelot Allgood, the new owner of Brandon was a son of Lancelot Allgood, sometime king's escheator for Northumberland, and a younger brother of Major Allgood, rector of Simonburn. He practised as an attorney in Newcastle where he was buried at St. Nicholas's, 12 October, 1705.

He was succeeded in his real estate by his nephew, Isaac Allgood of St. John's college, Cambridge, who was baptized 29 March, 1683, at Simonburn.⁶⁷ It was probably he who built the mansion house described by Warburton, Somerset herald, *circa* 1715, as ' Brandon White House, the seat of Isaac Allgood, esq., a regular well built freestone edifice with a triple front.'⁶⁸ He married Hannah, daughter and sole heir of Isaac Clark of London, the settlement before marriage being dated 3 June, 1707.⁶⁹ Dying in the month of July, 1725, he was succeeded by his son Lancelot Allgood. Lancelot Allgood, eldest son of Isaac Allgood, was born at Brandon White-house and baptized 8 March, 1710/1 at Egling-

⁶⁷ Isaac Allgood was eldest son of Major Allgood, rector of Simonburn, and his wife Mary, daughter of John Pye, rector of Morpeth, who were married, 4 March, 1678/9, at Bishopwearmouth.

⁶⁸ Duke of Northumberland's MSS.

Horsley, writes in 1729, "at or near Brandon is a good house which goes by the name of Brandon White House. It was built by Mr. Allgood, who purchased the estate of the Collingwoods of Branton, and both it and the estate are still in the same family, being now possessed by the grandson of the elder brother of him who made the purchase." *Materials for the History of Northumberland*, by the Rev. John Horsley, M.A., F.S.A., author of *Britannia Romana*, p. 57.

⁶⁹ Capt. G. Allgood's muniments.

ham. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he matriculated 20 Nov., 1730, and was entered at Gray's Inn 6 Jan., 1730/1. He was knight of the shire for Northumberland, 1748-1754, and, as such, brought in and carried through the House a bill for the making or improvement of the Alnmouth to Hexham turnpike.⁷⁰ He was knighted 3 Nov., 1760, and died 26 April, 1782. By his marriage, at Chollerton, 22 February, 1738/9, with his kinswoman Jane, daughter and sole heir of Robert Allgood, he obtained Nunwick, which then became, and has since remained, the chief seat of the family. Both Nunwick and Brandon⁷¹ with other estates rest in his descendant and representative, Capt. Guy Allgood.

The mansion house of Brandon White-house was demolished in the early years of the nineteenth century.

BRANTON CHAPEL.

Although it has been asserted that there was at Branton a medieval or pre-Reformation chapel, there are reasons for believing that this assertion may be due to a misconception. As there was such a chapel at Brandon, which is three quarters of a mile distant, no second chapel could be needed for the spiritual welfare of the scanty population, nor was there ever a residential family at Branton, sufficiently opulent to maintain a chaplain or chantry priest. It is true that in the *Clavis Ecclesiastica* of bishop Barnes,⁷² who was bishop of Durham from 1577 to 1587, Branton occurs in a list of parish churches and chapels 'having none incumbents but served with stipendarie priestes,' but in the list, Brandon though

⁷⁰ Cf. Welford, *Men of Mark*, Vol. 1, p. 40. Lancelot Allgood in building the mansion house at Nunwick, followed, as is said, the design of Brandon White-house.

⁷¹ The vicarial tithes of Brandon, under the Tithes Commutation Acts, were commuted for a tithe rent charge of 53*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, payable to the vicar of Eglington.

⁷² *Ecclesiastical Proceedings of Bishop Barnes*, p. 9. (22 Surtees Soc. publ.) cf. Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part III, vol. III, xlvi, xlvii.

probably intended, is not mentioned. It is more difficult to explain away a statement in the Oliverian Survey of 1650 in which the Commissioners under the Great Seal report that there were four chapels in the parish of Eglingham, viz., ' Bewicke, Branton, Brandon and Lilburne, and that it is fitt that Branton and Brandon [may be united, and added] to the church of ' ⁷³ The sagacious archdeacon Singleton notes in 1828 that there were at that time several dilapidated chapels in the parish of Eglingham, viz., Bewick, Lilburn and Wooperton, and he also mentions Brandon chapel yard.⁷⁴

Be this as it may, a chapel for Protestant nonconformists—which has been a lamp through a wide district and is known affectionately as ' Branton meeting '—has existed from the year 1725, if not earlier, for the register of baptisms begins 1 January of that year. The chapel was built on a site belonging to Alexander Brown who was baptized 23 February, 1704/5, and succeeded to Branton on the death of his father in 1716. The deed of conveyance of the site and the buildings thereon with certain privileges from Alexander Brown to trustees is dated 30 July, 1730. A fuller account of this church has already been communicated to this society, and is printed in *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. xv.⁷⁵

BRANDON CHAPEL.

The ancient chapel of Brandon stood close to the hamlet in a

⁷³ Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part III, vol. iii, lii. The document is printed from an imperfect copy and the words placed in square brackets in the text have been supplied.

⁷⁴ ' State of the Churches,' etc. *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. xvii, p. 254.

⁷⁵ An Account of the Presbyterian Meeting-house at Branton, read before the Society, 25 March, 1891, and printed in *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. xv, p. 153, being the first paper communicated by the present writer to the Society's publications. That paper was plagiarised, and without any acknowledgement, reprinted—errors included—in a *Historical Account of the Presbyterian Church at Branton*, etc., printed by the Alnwick and County Gazette and Steam Printing Co. (Limited), in 1891.

For many years the Rev. Newton Blythe, who was appointed minister at Branton in 1809, conducted a useful and acceptable school for boys.

garth or chapel yard, containing one fifth part of an acre—ordnance survey.⁷⁶ One of the four chapels of unknown antiquity within the immense parish of Eglington, it may possibly have marked a preaching station of St. Aidan and other missionaries who laboured for the conversion of Northumberland to the christian faith, but, so far as is known, no Anglian stone has been found on or near the site. Like most of the chapels, and some of the parish churches of the district, it was probably a humble structure, perhaps covered by thatch.

In a visitation held at Alnwick, 29 January, 1577/8, by Dr. Swift, chancellor of the diocese of Durham, John Wishard, the curate of Brandon, and Robert Harrygald, the parish clerk, appeared personally, but the curate produced no licence.⁷⁷ At a general chapter held at Alnwick, 30 July, 1578, summoned by the deputy of the vicar-general, John Wissharde, curate of Brandon, was cited, but did not appear.⁷⁸ At the Chancellor's visitation, also held at Alnwick, 23 January, 1578/9, neither the curate nor chapel-warden of Brandon attended;⁷⁹ and at another visitation, held 25 January, 1581/2, it was reported that the chapel of Brandon was without a curate, and process was ordered to issue against the vicar of Eglington for his neglect to appoint.⁸⁰ In a survey made in 1650 by a Commission under the Great Seal it was found that Brandon was one of four chapels in the parish of Eglington,⁸¹ and the document seems to imply that it was in occasional use. At a visitation made in 1663 by archdeacon Basire, it was reported that the chapel of Brandon was 'totally ruined and destitute,' the parishioners of the parish of Eglington

⁷⁶ When Archdeacon Singleton made an official visitation to Eglington in 1828, he noted in his minute-book that the chapel-yard of Brandon comprised 32 perches.

⁷⁷ *Ecclesiastical Proceedings of Bishop Barnes*, p. 37.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.* p. 77.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.* p. 94.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* p. 99.

⁸¹ Hodgson, *Northumberland*, III, iii, lii.

being 'generally schismatics, presbyterians, independents, or anabaptists,'⁸²

When John Warburton, the herald, made his tour in Northumberland *circa* 1715, he noted in his journal that Brandon was 'a mean village on ye north side ye river Bremish with ye ruin of an old chapel in ruins.'⁸³ George Mark, who visited the district in 1734, dismisses the chapels of Brandon, Bewick, and Lilburn with the brief statement, 'they are now in ruins, and no service performed at any of them except burying the dead.'⁸⁴ The walls of the grave-yard were repaired in 1903 when the removal of accumulated rubbish disclosed the foundations of the chapel. On the authority of Mr. James Potts of Powburn, builder, who conducted or took part in the good work, the chapel is said to have been in length 20 paces, in width at east end 10 paces, the walls being two feet and a half in thickness.⁸⁵

The register of burials of the parish of Eglington record very numerous burials at Brandon during the latter part of the seventeenth and during the eighteenth century. The following memorial inscriptions were legible in 1903:⁸⁶

Here ly[eth] the body of Robe^{tt} Bel who died May the 24, 1724.

Here lies the body of Christopher Jobson of Brand^{on} White-house who dyd May y^e 13, 1743, Ag^d 85 year.

Here lyeth the body of Ann wif of Christopher Jobson who died the 26 of Decmbr. 1748, aged 79 years.⁸⁷

Here lies the body of James Jobson of Newton by the Sea who departed this life May 19, 1776, aged 76 years.⁸⁸

⁸² 'Survey of the Churches,' etc. *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. xvii, p. 254.

⁸³ 'Notices on ruined Towers, Chapels,' etc. *Arch. Ael.* 3 ser. xiii, p. 7.

⁸⁴ *Inedited Contributions to the History of Northumberland* (printed at the cost of John Hodgson-Hinde) p. 83.

⁸⁵ A plan of Brandon chapel is given in *Proceedings*, 3 ser. vol. 1, p. 132. For notices of the exploration of the chapel-yard see *ibid.* pp. 131, 140.

⁸⁶ Communicated by Mr. James Potts of Powburn.

⁸⁷ 1748, Dec. 30. Ann Jopson, widdow, Hedgly, buried. *Eglington Register*.

⁸⁸ 1776, May 27, James Jobson, Newton-by-the-Sea, buried at Brandon. *Eglington Register*.

Here lies the body of Alice Howey wife to John Howey gardiner in the White-house, who departed this life the 28th day of May, 1751, aged 48 years.⁸⁹

Here lies the body of John Howey husband of Aleen (?) Howey who departed this life Dec^r 19, 1765, aged

On the 10th December, 1801, Mr. James Allgood took a conveyance from the Rev. Hugh Hodgson, vicar of Eglingham, of two pieces of glebe land, the one containing five acres and five perches, lying at Brandon Hill-head, the other containing about an acre lying at (the hamlet of) Brandon. The indenture of bargain and sale was inrolled in Chancery 7 May, 1802.⁹⁰ This land was probably parcel of the ancient endowment of the chapel of Brandon.

⁸⁹ 1751, May 29. Alice wife of John Howey, White-house, buried. *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ Capt. G. Allgood's muniments.