

VIII.—THE RIDLEYS OF RIDLEY AND WILLIMONTSWICK.

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The family of Ridley takes its name from the township and manor of Ridley in the parish of Haltwhistle in South Tyndale. The manor contains the hamlets or places called Ridley, Ridley Hall, Beltingham, Shankhead, Allens Island, Allensgreen, Shaws, Steel, Farnalees, Briarwood, Penpugh, Sillyrea and Willimontswick. All these places, with the exception of Willimontswick, were customary tenements in the manor of Ridley and held by tenants paying customary rents, shield rents, a fine on the death of the lord of the manor, a fine and a heriot on the heath of the tenant and a similar fine on every alienation. In 1536 these lands are called the manors of "Willymontiswike" and Ridley, but in 1574 Willimontswick is called a capital messuage held in free socage of the barony of South Tyndale by a yearly rent of 8s. 10d., and the manor of Ridley and Ridley Hall is defined as held in chief by the service of one knight's fee of the old feoffment as of the manor of Wark in Tyndale. In 1604 Willimoteswick and Ridley are described as in South Tyndale and held by William Ridley, the rent due to have been paid being 18s. 1d.

In the late twelfth or early thirteenth century Hudard de Willimothwic was one of the witnesses to a grant of land at Whitlaw by Adam de Tindale to Hexham Priory,¹ and a grant of land in Carraw from Richard Comyn to Hexham Priory is witnessed by Adam de Tindale and Nicholas de Willimotewic.² This deed is probably of the early thirteenth

¹ Surtees Society, vol. 46, p. 85.

² *Id.*, p. 85 n.

century. Hudard (Odard) and Nicholas were, no doubt, members of the same family that later in the thirteenth century adopted the shorter territorial name of Ridley. The name Odard was borne by Odard son of Liulf of Bamburgh, sheriff of Northumberland in 1121, and by Odard son of Hildred of Carlisle, sheriff of Cumberland in 1130.

Odard de Ridley was a witness 11 November, 1275, to a deed relating to lands in Humshaugh;³ he was a coroner at the assizes held at Wark in Tyndale in 1279, and dying in that year was succeeded in his office of coroner by his son Nicholas.⁴ At these assizes Hugh de Ferewithescheles fined for his land in Willimot-teswike held in drengage of Nicholas de Ridley.⁵

A Nicholas de Wylmotewyk was a witness to a charter of Ivo de Vipont dated 22 March, 1294, and may be the same person as Nicholas Ridley who, in 1306, was in possession of the Huntland in Tindale, which had been purchased by Nicholas Whitfield from Hugh Grindon and at his death it came to Nicholas's sister Margery and on her death to her son Nicholas Ridley.⁶ Another Nicholas Ridley was a witness to a Thorngrifton deed of 3 March, 1321, a Fetherstonhaugh deed of 1336,⁷ and a deed relating to lands in Nunwick 26 August, 1348.⁸

A generation later Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Ridley were witnesses to a Whitfield deed of 1371,⁹ and Nicholas was a witness 1 October, 1375, to a deed relating to lands in Bellingham¹⁰ and an undated deed concerning Ouston in Whitfield.¹¹ Hugh Ridley occurs as a witness between 1371 and 1386, and in 1379 he released lands in Nunwick to Sir William Heron.¹²

On 16 June, 1410, a Nicholas Ridley of Willimoteswick had a grant from his kinswoman Alice of Scolacliffe, of lands

³ *Newcastle Record Series*, VII, p. 243.

⁴ *Hartshorne*, p. xxxviii and lv.

⁶ *Rolls of Parliament*, vol. I, p. 210.

⁸ *Greenwell Deeds*, p. 86.

¹⁰ *Newcastle Record Series*, VII, p. 114.

¹² *Newcastle Record Series*, VII, p. 114.

⁵ *Id.*, p. lviii.

⁷ Hodgson, ii, II, p. 356.

⁹ Hodgson, ii, II, p. 90 *n.*

¹¹ Hodgson, ii, II, p. 112 *n.*

in Coastley, Hackford and Langhope, par. of Hexham, and had a pardon 13 June 1411, from the archbishop of York for acquiring the property without licence. John son of Nicholas Ridley, probably a younger son, had a release of Coastley in April 1434 from Patrick Laverock and Juliana his wife. This cadet line of the Ridleys continued to hold Coastley until the death of John Ridley of Coastley in 1610.¹³ Another cadet branch of the Ridleys held lands in Little Whittington in the thirteenth century; Nicholas of Ridley, otherwise called Nicholas of Whittington, held one half of Little Whittington in 1285, deriving his title from his grandmother Hawise through his father Thomas Ridley.¹⁴

After the battle of Shrewsbury on 23 July, 1403, in which Henry Percy, called Hotspur, was defeated and killed and his father the earl of Northumberland was arrested, the earl agreed to surrender his castles as pledges for his future good behaviour. Orders were thereupon sent to Odard Ridley, constable of Langley, to surrender that castle.¹⁵ On 5 October, 1424, Odard Ridley entailed lands in Haltwhistle, Caldaws, Henshaw, Thorngrifton and Millhouse.¹⁶

On 5 August, 1467, John son and heir of John Smith conveyed to Joan, widow of Nicholas Ridley, a burgage in Haltwhistle called the Stonehouse adjoining on the west a tenement belonging to Nicholas Ridley, son of the said Nicholas and Joan, and on 20 March, 1481, Thomas Knage conveyed to Nicholas Ridley of Willimoteswick two burgages in Haltwhistle.¹⁷

Some of the Herald's Visitation pedigrees of these Ridleys are strangely mixed up in an attempt to include an entirely different family taking their name from Ridley Hall in Cheshire. The revd. John Hodgson was also led astray in this. The earliest pedigree of the Ridleys of Willimontswick is that prepared for Harvey's Visitation of 1552.¹⁸ It commences with a Nicholas Ridley I and his wife Alice, daughter

¹³ *History of Northumberland*, IV, p. 14.

¹⁴ *Id.*, vol. X, p. 379.

¹⁶ *Newcastle Record Series*, VII, p. 290.

¹⁸ *Surtees Society*, vol. 122, p. 19.

¹⁵ Hodgson, pt. i, p. 315.

¹⁷ Hodgson, ii, II, p. 12.

and heiress of [blank] Skelton of "Bramfort". The family of Skelton was at Branthwaite, co. Cumb., in the fifteenth century. Nicholas Ridley I is given a son Nicholas Ridley II who by his wife, a daughter of [blank] Eaglesfield had issue a third Nicholas, and a daughter Thomasine married to Thomas Carnaby of Halton. From other sources we know that there was a Thomas Carnaby of Halton, aged 24 in 1479, who is probably the person referred to. The wife of Nicholas Ridley II was presumably the widow Joan living in 1467. In Beltingham church near the vestry door a marble slab had the following black-letter inscription: *orate pro anima necolas redlye filii et he qui obiit xij die maij mensis anno d'ui MCCC* The rest of the inscription has been defaced.¹⁹

Nicholas Ridley III was a commissioner for the Middle and East Marches of England on 22 September, 1484.²⁰ According to the 1552 pedigree he married a daughter of [blank] Curwen of Workington. She can be identified as Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Curwen of Workington, co. Cumb.²¹ Their children were Sir Nicholas Ridley IV, Christopher Ridley, ancestor of the Ridleys of Unthank who will be dealt with later, and Robert Ridley, D.D. Robert Ridley was a rector of Simonburn 1527-1532, rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopgate, 1523, and prebendary of Mora; later he became rector of St. Edmund's, Lombard Street, 20 February, 1526, prebendary of Isledon and rector of Fulham, 20 October, 1520; he died 12 June, 1536.

Before 1524 Sir Nicholas Ridley IV had a grant from the Crown of lands in Plenmeller, the rents of which had formerly been received by the keeper of Tyndale.²² In 1532 his tenants routed a Scots foray at Haltwhistle. He died on 12 January, 1536, and the inquest taken 21 April, 1536, records that at his death he held the manors of Willymontiswike and Ridley, lands and tenements in Thorngraston,

¹⁹ Hodgson, ii, III, p. 335 n.

²⁰ Ridpath's *Border History*, p. 450 n.

²¹ Jackson, *Cumberland & Westmorland Papers & Pedigrees*, vol. I.

²² Hodgson, ii, III, p. 343.

Melkridge, Millhouse and Woodhall; by charter dated 17 May, 1532, he had given the manors and premises to Robert Ridley, clerk, John Heron and John Lumley to the use of himself and his heirs; he also held the vill of Middilborne; his heir was his grandson Nicholas, son of Hugh Ridley, aged 24 years.²³ The Yorkshire visitation pedigree of the Musgraves entered in 1584/5 names Sir Nicholas Ridley's wife as Mary, daughter of Richard Musgrave and granddaughter of Sir Richard Musgrave who died in 1464. The Ridley pedigree in St. George's Visitation of 1615 calls her Mary, daughter of Thomas Musgrave of Hartley. The children of Sir Nicholas Ridley were Hugh, William, Jane, Ann, Margaret and Mabel. Nothing is known of the second son William except that his name is recorded in the 1552 Visitation pedigree. Jane was probably married twice; on 1 September, 1491, John Heron of Chipchase had a dispensation to marry Jane Ridley and in the pedigree of Errington of Errington she is stated to have married Gilbert Errington (living 1509). Ann was wife of William Wallas of Knarsdale, and Margaret of John Fetherston of Stanhope, co. Dur. Mabel married firstly a Fenwick of Little Harle and secondly that John Lumley who was one of Sir Nicholas Ridley's trustees 17 May, 1532.

Sir Nicholas Ridley IV was succeeded by his grandson Sir Nicholas Ridley V, son of Hugh Ridley and his wife Isabel (or Margaret), daughter of Sir John Heron of Chipchase. Hugh Ridley's other children were Thomas Ridley, ancestor of the Ridleys of Walltown; John Ridley, living at Kingswood in 1586, who married Jane, daughter of John Errington, a younger brother of Gilbert Errington of Errington; Cuthbert Ridley, recorded in the Visitation pedigree of 1552; Dorothy, wife of Henry Jackson; and Margaret, wife of Ralph Whitfield of Whitfield.

Sir Nicholas Ridley V in 1542 was owner of "a good toure and a stone house joyninge thereunto" at Willymounteswyke. He was a member of the council called by

²³ Chan. Inq., *post mortem*, vol. 57, No. 57.

lord Wharton at Newcastle 12 September, 1553, to consider the defence of the Border,²⁴ a commissioner for enclosures about the same time,²⁵ and one of the commissioners appointed 12 February, 1567/8, to enquire concerning lands belonging to the dissolved monastery of Hexham supposed to be concealed.²⁶ On the 29th October, 1574, Sir Nicholas made his will. After directing that he was to be buried in the chapel of Beltingham, he bequeathed to his two younger sons William and Alexander Ridley, the manor of Henshaw for life, to his daughter Margaret Ridley the tithe corn of Plenmeller, and to his wife Mabel the tenement of Whitshields and the tithe corn of Thorngrifton and Birkshaw; his brother Thomas Ridley was to have 40s. rent out of Middleburn, and Robert Barrow's farmhold in the Woodes for life. The remainder of his goods and property were left to his eldest son Nicholas Ridley VI. It is endorsed on the will that on the day before his death, Nicholas Ridley said to his younger sons William and Alexander:

"Doo yor brother the best s'vic you can as yow will have my blessing and Ride and goo and when yowe ar away and not at home yor tenants to ryd and goo in the quen's maties affaires with him."²⁷

The youngest son Alexander Ridley was of Whitshields in 1628 when he voted as a freeholder. Sir Nicholas Ridley V's daughters were Jane, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mabel, Isabel and Anne; by agreement of 7 July, 1551, Elizabeth or Mabel was contracted to marry Simon Welden or William Welden, sons of Thomas Welden of Weldon (now Welton).²⁸ The eldest son, Nicholas Ridley VI, was 24 years at his father's death in 1574. He was an arbitrator 1 May, 1575, concerning the title to a burgage in Morpeth,²⁹ appointed guardian of the children of William Blenkinsop of Blenkinsop by his will dated 8 April, 1581, and guardian of the children of Philip

²⁴ Hodgson, vol. I, p. 359. ²⁵ *Id.*, p. 361.

²⁶ *History of Northumberland*, IV, p. 207.

²⁷ *Wills & Inventories*, vol. I, p. 397.

²⁸ *History of Northumberland*, vol. X, p. 332. ²⁹ Welford, II, p. 465.

Green of Morpeth by his will dated 20 July, 1583. With his distant cousin John Ridley of Coastley he was under an obligation of £80 to Reynold Swinburne of Bothal 10 April, 1585. Whilst still only 25 years of age he became, in 1576, under-sheriff of Northumberland.³⁰ Nine years later, in 1585, he became sheriff, and died on 16 January, 1585/6, during his term of office. The cause of Nicholas Ridley's death is not known, but his end was apparently a violent one, as William Vaux was later pardoned for it. An inventory of his goods appraised by James Ridley, Hewghe Ridley, Rowland Waughe and Nicholas Shorte is dated 7 March, 1585/6.³¹ Nicholas Ridley's wife, by whom he had no issue, was Margaret, daughter of Thomas Forster of Adderstone; she survived her husband until 1626, the inventory of her goods being dated 19 November, 1626.³²

William Ridley I, the second son of Sir Nicholas Ridley V, now succeeded to the estates. Considerable details of his activities and death may be found in the *Calendar of Border Papers*. Hunsdon writing to Burghley on 14 November, 1587, reported that

"If ever Mr. Ridley or Mr. Hearon had done their duties neither the barrenry of Langley nor Hawden Brigges had been either burnt or spoylde for they had both warning of the Scottes comming in by a xj of the cloke in the fornone—and yet neither of them sent anny warning either to Hawden brigges or Langley, being within iiij myle of Mr. Hearon and two myle of Rydley".

And later in the same letter:

"I have very vehement suspicions that Rydley himselfe and some other Englishe men have been acquainted and the drawers of the Scottes to Hawden brigg—which if I find trewe, I will make them hopp headles, whosoever they be". "Rydley hathe mariyed with Hearon, And it is credibly affermed that Mr. Hearon is att kindnes and frendshipp with Liddisdale."³³

³⁰ *History of Northumberland*, IV, p. 115.

³¹ *Wills & Inventories*, vol. I, p. 399.

³² Raine's MSS, *Wills & Inventories*.

³³ *Calendar of Border Papers*, I, pp. 286-7.

On 8 December, 1587, Hunsdon reported that Heron, the keeper of Tyndale, was "wholly governde" by his son

"and younge Rydley, who hathe marryd hys dawter, and sundry uther of the Ryddeles, whome I have heare (at Berwick) yn warde, ar dyrectly chargd with the bryngynge yn of the Skotes too Hawden bryges. Rydleys brother ys fledd, and 2 or thre more of the Ridleyse, and yf I hade nott gotten sum of thes by a grete chause, they hade byn gone too".³⁴

On 15 March, 1587/8, Hunsdon again writes to Burghley about Heron and Ridley:

"bothe Wyllyam Ridley of Wyllymans Weeke, and Renolde Herron, refusygne too stande too theyr tryall for marche treason, hathe submytted themselves too hyr Majestis marcy. Ridleyse seconde brother ys fledd, and too more of the Rydleyse."³⁵

Either the charges against Ridley were unfounded or he had a completely changed outlook to the Scots borderers in his later years. In 1597 "John Ridley man to Mr. Ridley of Williemuntswicke" and others made a raid across the border into Liddesdale³⁶ and two years later William Ridley met a violent death at the hands of the men of Liddesdale.

On Sunday, 13th May, 1599, Ridley and his friends

"hearing that certain Scotsmen to the number of 12 were to come to tryst in the West March of England, he having had friends murdered by the Scots took his friends and men with him to the number of 40 and thought to apprehend them on English ground. But the Scots having intelligence of his design, came 200 strong or more and killed Mr. William Rydley of Willimontswyk with two of his friends, and captured 26 men and 32 horses."

Among those present were many of the Ridleys—James Ridley of Walltown, Oswald Ridley of Walltown, Hugh Ridley of Plenmeller, Nicholas Ridley of Hardriding, Christopher Ridley of Unthank, Thomas Ridley of Melk-

³⁴ *Id.*, pp. 294-5. ³⁵ *Id.*, p. 320. ³⁶ *Calendar of Border Papers*, II, p. 309.

ridge, John Ridley of Henshaw, and Marmaduke Ridley "sonne of the foresayde William Rydley".³⁷ In a later report the two other casualties are named as "Mr. Nychol Welton and one Robson, tenant of her Majestys", and the killer of Mr. Ridley is described as Thomas Musgrave's son-in-law. "I hope you will let Thomas Musgrave's service be known; his son-in-law dwelling in house with him being the only slayer of Mr. Ridleys," writes Henry Widdrington to Sir Robert Carey on 18 May, 1599. Thomas Musgrave was captain of Bewcastle and it was reported that Sym of Whithaugh, a notorious Liddesdale thief, had married an illegitimate daughter of Musgrave, and was the killer of William Ridley.³⁸

Not much is known about William Ridley's peaceful doings. He was a supervisor appointed by the will of John Heron of Chipchase dated 5 December, 1590. On 23 May, 1598, he conveyed the farm of Sillywray in the parish of Haltwhistle to Thomas Robson.³⁹ The inventory of his goods is dated 22 August, 1599.⁴⁰

William Ridley's wife was Barbara, daughter of John Heron of Chipchase and their children William Ridley II, Michael Ridley, Mabel and Margaret being under age at their father's death. Richard Musgrave was appointed their guardian 27 August, 1599. Marmaduke Ridley who was present when William Ridley was killed was evidently his illegitimate son; he can be identified with a Marmaduke Ridley whose will is dated 8 March, 1628/9. Nothing further is known of the three younger children.

William Ridley II is called 'the younger' in the will dated 5 December, 1590, of John Heron of Chipchase and received a legacy of £40; he was still under age in 1604 when he appears in the Survey of the Debateable and Border Lands as freeholder of the manor of Middleburn, and customary tenant of lands at Staward and Hawkstrother. In 1615 he took a lease of Wark Park and manor. He married before

³⁷ *Calendar of Border Papers*, II, p. 604. ³⁸ *Id.*, p. 605.

³⁹ Hodgson, ii, III, p. 373.

⁴⁰ *Wills & Inventories*, vol. II, p. 335.

1635 Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Musgrave and in that year is called 'the elder'. The marriage was apparently not a happy one, and on 28 April, 1636, his wife preferred a petition against him in the High Commission Court at Durham "for liveing professedly with Anne Morrallee". "Mrs Ridley informed the court that the house where she lived was in a rebellious manner kept with armed men."⁴¹ Later in life, William Ridley was in serious financial difficulties, and had to sell most of his estates. On 6 March, 1657/8, he conveyed the manors of Henshaw and Ridley to Francis Nevill of Chevet, Yorks, and on 2 June, 1660, he sold Bradley Hall to him; on 23 December, 1612, he granted to Sir Allan Apsley an annuity of £200 out of the manor of Ridley, a capital messuage called Willimoteswick, the rectory of Haltwhistle and the manor of Melkridge.⁴² His family consisted of two sons and a daughter, Musgrave Ridley, William Ridley III, and Mary, wife of William Armstrong of Bardon Mill.

In Musgrave Ridley the turbulent blood of his ancestors once more appears when, in 1661, with his brother William he was bound to appear at York for killing Francis Robinson of Hackness.⁴³ In 1652 his name had appeared in the list of royalists who were forced by the Commonwealth rulers to compound for their estates but in fact the estates had already been sold. His last remaining property, the farm of Whitshields, he sold on 6 August, 1681. At his death, in 1690, the administration of his goods was granted, 31 October, to his sister Mary Armstrong. Musgrave Ridley married Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Cuthbert Ridley, rector of Simonburn, by whom he had two sons, Cuthbert and Nicholas. It was perhaps the descendants of one or other of these that were tenants at Tecket in the parish of Simonburn until the middle of the eighteenth century.

William Ridley III was living at Woodhall near Bardon

⁴¹ Surtees Society, vol. 34.

⁴² Blackett, *Title Deeds*.

⁴³ Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newc., 3rd series, VI, p. 192.

Mill in 1659 and at Crowhall in 1666. In this latter year he registered his pedigree at Dugdale's Visitation. On 19 May, 1674, he sold Melkridge and Woodhall to Sir William Blackett.⁴⁴ In 1677 his name appears in a list of recusants.⁴⁵ His wife was Troth, daughter of William Kennet of Coxhoe, co. Durham. As Widow Ridley she paid tithe for Crowhall in 1696, and as widow of William Ridley and mother of Michael Ridley she was party to a mortgage of Crowhall in 1709. This Michael Ridley the son voted as a freeholder for Crowhall in 1710, 1715 and 1734. In 1734 he was living at Hallpeatmoss, and in May 1741 he made an agreement to sell Crowhall to John Lowes of Ridley Hall, but dying before the conveyance could be completed, his son Alexander Ridley of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex in 1774 completed the transaction. A Nicholas Ridley who voted as a freeholder in respect of Crowhall in 1721 cannot be fitted into the pedigree.

Ridley of Unthank.

William Ridley of Unthank, probably a tenant, Hugh Ridley of Howden in Plenmeller and others were responsible for the killing of Nicholas de Fetherstonhaugh at Greenshield Cleugh on 4 October, 1530.⁴⁶ In 1613 Unthank in the tenure of William Ridley at a rent of 20s. was granted by the Crown to Theophilus, lord Howard de Walden.⁴⁷ Cuthbert Ridley, second son of Nicholas Ridley III of Willimontswick, lived at Unthank, and by his wife Ann, daughter of William Blenkinsop of Blenkinsop, was father of Hugh Ridley, Nicholas Ridley the bishop of London martyred at Oxford in 1555, Elizabeth wife of John Ridley of Walltown, and another daughter wife of Matthew Whitfield of Whitfield. The eldest son Hugh died before 1555, and was perhaps father of Oswald Ridley of Unthank, the administration of whose goods dated 30 November, 1585, mentions his wife Dorothy and their children Christopher, Hugh,

⁴⁴ Blackett, *Title Deeds*.

⁴⁵ Surtees Society, vol. 40, p. 227.

⁴⁶ Newcastle *Record Series*, VIII, p. 44.

⁴⁷ Hodgson, ii, III, p. 343.

Isabel, Margery, Thomasine, Margaret and Ursula.⁴⁸ Christopher Ridley of Unthank was present at Bewcastle in 1599 when William Ridley I of Willimontswick was killed and he was customary tenant of Unthank in 1604. Eight years later, there were still Ridleys at Unthank, when Hugh Ridley of Unthank by his will dated 1684 left lands in Crowhall and Haltwhistle to his two sons Matthew and Hugh. These two sons appear to be the Matthew and Hugh Ridley of Haltwhistle who voted as freeholders in 1698 and 1710; Hugh Ridley of Haltwhistle voted in 1715 and 1734 and Thomas Ridley of Haltwhistle in 1734 and 1748.

Ridley of Walltown.

An account of the arms of the Ridleys of Willimontswick in 1575 says "they give now three goshawks argent in a field of gules, between a cheveron argent, come by one Wale, whose daughter and heir they married, with condition that they should bear their arms, by whom they had Walltown and Tecket". It has previously been conjectured that Wale is the same name as Waw or Waugh, the local way of writing and pronouncing Wall.⁴⁹ Further consideration suggests that 'Wale' is in fact the same as 'Wall' the name of the thirteenth-century lords of Walltown. Before the middle of the sixteenth century, Walltown had become the property of a junior branch of the Ridleys of Willimontswick. In 1542 Bowes and Ellerker in their survey of the borders reported that "At Wawetowne is a toure of thinherytance of John Rydley of the same and is not in good rep'aco'ns". In 1550 "John Rydley of Thewall Towne" was one of the gentlemen of the Middle Marches. On the Muster Roll for Walltown in 1538 John Ridley heads the list, followed by Michael, Lance, Alexander, Perce, Lyell and Matho Ridley. John Ridley married Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Ridley of Unthank and sister of Bishop Ridley, by whom he had an only daughter and heiress Elizabeth,

⁴⁸ Raine's MSS, *Wills & Inventories*, I, p. 125.

⁴⁹ Hodgson, ii, III, p. 325.

who married her cousin Thomas Ridley, second son of Hugh Ridley of Willimontswick. At his death in 1562 he was buried in the chancel of Haltwhistle church under a gravestone with the following inscription:

Ihon Redle that sum tim did be
 Then lard of the Wal Ton
 Gon is he out of thes val of mesre
 His bons lies under this ston.
 We must beleve be Gods mersy
 Into this world gave hes son
 Then for to redem al Chrestens
 So Christ haes hes soul woon.
 All faethful peple may be faen
 When dath comes that non can fre
 The Bode kept the sould in paen
 Through Christ is set at liberte.
 Among blesed compane to remaen
 To slep in Christ nowe is he gon
 Yet stel beleves to have again
 Through Christ a joyful resurrecshon.
 All frends may be glad to haer
 When his soul from paen did go
 Out of this world as doeth apear
 In the year of our Lord
 A. 1562.

The tombstone had three rude armorial shields at its head, one towered and embattled, the second bearing a chevron between three birds (the Ridley goshawks), and the third, a unicorn statant.⁵⁰

Thomas Ridley who succeeded to Walltown in right of his wife is mentioned in the will dated 29 October, 1573, of his brother Sir Nicholas Ridley who left him for life a rent of 40s. out of the manor of Middleburn. He had three sons, John Ridley who succeeded him at Walltown, Nicholas Ridley ancestor of the Ridleys of Hardriding, and Christopher Ridley rector of Simonburn.⁵¹

In the 1615 Visitation pedigree, John Ridley of Wall-

⁵⁰ Hodgson, ii, III, p. 126 n.

⁵¹ See the *Manor of Simonburn & Warks Park*, in *A.A.*⁴

town is stated to have married Anne Charlton of Hesleyside, who does not, however, appear in the pedigree of Charlton of Hesleyside.⁵² The 1666 Visitation pedigree has it that John Ridley died without issue, but the earlier pedigree is no doubt more accurate. In it John Ridley is given two sons, John and William, and three daughters, Thomasine wife of Daniel Stoughton, or Staughton, Margaret wife of Ralph Thirlwall of Overhall,⁵² and Elizabeth wife of William Moralee. The younger son William Ridley is said to have been apprenticed to a dyer in London, and by his wife Anne Woodhouse to have had issue John, Cuthbert, William and Anne.⁵³

Although John Ridley the elder was still living in 1615 it was his son, John Ridley the younger, who entered the family pedigree at the herald's visitation. He voted as a freeholder in 1628 and 1639 and was a juror at the assizes in 1628/9. He had married before 1600 Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Carlton of Carlton, co. Cumb., and their nine children, Thomas, Hugh, Cuthbert, John, Nicholas, Anne, Thomasine, Mary and Frances were all born before 1615. The eldest son Thomas was aged 15 in 1615, and died before 17 May, 1647, on which date the tuition of his son and heir, John Ridley III, was committed to John Salvin.⁵⁴ Thomas Ridley's wife's name was Dorothy, but her family name is not known.

John Ridley III apparently had a son and heir Thomas Ridley who was rated in 1663 for Wall Towne and Demesne and died shortly afterwards, the inventory of his goods taken after his death being dated 15 December, 1668.⁵⁵ The next recorded owner of Walltown is Thomas Marshall who voted in respect of it in 1715 and 1721; it is likely that his mother was a Ridley. A fireplace in the Queen's Head Hotel at Morpeth, which property belonged to the Marshalls, bears a shield of arms of Marshall impaling Ridley and is dated

⁵² *History of Northumberland*, vol. IV, p. 35.

⁵³ Harleian MSS., 1448.

⁵⁴ Raine's *Testamenta*, p. 201.

⁵⁵ Raine, *Adm. Durham*, II, p. 83.

1656. The date perhaps has been recut. Thomas Marshall obtained a licence 4 August, 1714, to marry Anne Blenkinsop of the parish of Haltwhistle, and a Dorothy Ridley of Walltown in her will dated 13 January, 1685/6, mentions her uncle Thomas Blenkinsop of Blenkinsop.

Ridley of Hardriding.

Nicholas Ridley of Hardriding, second son of Thomas Ridley of Walltown, was present at Bewcastle when William Ridley of Willimontswick was killed in 1599. He died about 1618. By his first wife, said to have been a Heron of Birtley, he had two daughters, Barbara and Elizabeth, who both died in infancy. His second wife, said to be Barbara Errington of West Denton, does not appear in the pedigree of Errington's of West Denton;⁵⁶ she was living a widow in 1649 and then in receipt of dower out of Hardriding; their children were John Ridley, Albany Ridley a merchant in London who died without issue, and Susanna, wife of Michael Stokoe of Haydon Bridge.

John Ridley of Hardriding compounded for his estates in 1649. He was aged 51 in 1666 when he registered his pedigree at Dugdale's Visitation. He was a major in the army of the Marquis of Newcastle, and as "Justice Ridley" paid £3 for Hardriding tithes in 1680. By his first wife Anne, daughter of Ralph Fetherstonhaugh of Stanhope, co. Durham, he had issue John Ridley who died unmarried, Nicholas Ridley of whom later, and Barbara who married John Bradwood of Carlisle. John Ridley married secondly Mary, daughter of Edward Lawson of Brunton and had further issue, Edward (aged 14 in 1666), Nevill (aged 12 in 1666), Wilfrid (aged 10 in 1666), Godfrey (aged 9 in 1666), John (aged 2 in 1666), Elizabeth (aged 13 in 1666), Mary (aged 8 in 1666), Jane (aged 6 in 1666), and Anne (aged 4 in 1666).

The second, but eldest surviving son, Nicholas Ridley, was apprenticed 8 August, 1661, to Robert Ferri^{er} of

⁵⁶ *History of Northumberland*, XIII.

Newcastle, mercer, was made free of the Merchant Adventurers Company of Newcastle 2 November, 1671, and became governor of the Company in 1704. He was still owner of Hardriding in 1696 when he paid tithes for it. He married at St. Nicholas', Newcastle, 26 February, 1673/4, Martha, daughter of Richard March of Newcastle, merchant, and had issue two sons, Richard Ridley of Heaton who, by his wife Margaret, daughter of Matthew White of Newcastle, merchant, became ancestor of the present Viscount Ridley, and a younger son, Nicholas Ridley of London.