

XIV.—BEADNELL IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By SIR EDMUND CRASTER.

A long stretch of sands extends from Newton Point north-eastward to the rocky headland called Ebbsnook and is known as Beadnell Bay. It is only near its north end, however, where a small runner called Sandyford Gote¹ seeks its way out to sea, that one passes into the township of Beadnell. The bay is girdled by bent-covered hills of blown sand, backed by grass-grown links. A sandhill that once out-topped the rest was called Fetherblow, a name already found in an Elizabethan survey,² but about a hundred years ago a strong gale whirled it into the sea. Along the sands horse-races used to be run about Easter time. The Beadnell races were a popular event until, at the 1794 meeting, young Mr. Nicholas Brown Forster of Bolton was killed by a fall from his horse.³

Ebbsnook, at the north end of the bay, takes its name from a thirteenth-century chapel dedicated to King Oswald's sister, St. Ebba. The chapel consisted of chancel, nave and western tower.⁴ Down to 1679 interments were carried out

¹ Mentioned in Clarkson's survey of 1567; *Northumberland County History* (hereafter cited as *NCH*), i, p. 336. The word Gote is defined as "a stream of water approaching the sea through sand or slake"; Heslop, *Northumberland Words*.

² Clarkson's survey; *NCH*, i, p. 351.

³ *NCH*, ii, p. 265.

⁴ There can be little doubt that this is the true explanation of the western chamber which Albert Way thought to be "the dwelling of an anchorite or of the priest". The tower appears to be shown on the "card" of Beadnell made by William Lambert in 1707, in Sir John Craster's possession. Mr. Way's description of the chapel in the *Archæological Journal*, ix, pp. 410 *et seq.*, is otherwise informative and trustworthy.

in the "garth" or little churchyard that lay to the west of the chapel, of which the boundary wall is still visible.⁵ But after that time Ebbsnook ceased to be used as a burial place, and the chapel itself fell into decay before the close of the seventeenth century. It was described in 1734 as "entirely ruined, there being scarcely anything but the foundations to be seen of it".⁶ On the north side the face of the cliff creeps nearer and nearer to the ruin. The magnesian limestone, of which the promontory is composed, rests on a bed of softer shale, and, as this is broken up and washed away by the tides, large masses of the overhead limestone break off and tumble into the sea.⁷ Erosion was already at work in 1788 when John Wood of Beadnell (of whom more will be said hereafter) contracted to allow Joseph Robson, a Sunderland engineer, to ship off fallen stone near the face of Ebbsnook at twopence a ton for the building of Sunderland North Pier at the mouth of the Wear in the county of Durham.⁸

At Ebbsnook the coastline changes direction and trends north-north-west, disclosing a series of limestone rocks, sandstones, shales and coal seams running out to sea; past and beyond the red sandstone headland of Delf Point. Occasional inlets called "holes" run up between the rocks. Such are Nackers Hole near the present White Rock Hotel (named after its mussels), the haven below the site of the old "Square" once known as Gulls Hole, and, farther north, Collith Hole. From the haven northward sandhills and links reappear and continue to the Sunderland (now called the Annstead) Burn.

Inland from the haven runs the village, still known as the "toon" to its older inhabitants. When the eighteenth century opened it consisted of two rows of houses with a

⁵ *NCH*, i, p. 102. The "garth" is marked in a "draught of Mr. Wood's lands lying in the townfields of Beadnell" made in 1744.

⁶ *Inedited Contributions to the History of Northumberland*, p. 71.

⁷ *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Field Club*, iv, p. 100. George Tate's article on the Geology and Archæology of Beadnell, at pp. 96-110 of that volume, affords the fullest treatment of the subject.

⁸ This and other statements in this article for which no authority is quoted are derived from Sir John Craster's muniments at Craster Tower.

village green between. On the green stood a chapel that had replaced St. Ebba's but was little used, an afternoon service being held in it only once a month. Things grew better as the century advanced, and in 1746 the chapel was rebuilt by subscription. It was a simple structure, as those who knew it before its restoration may remember. It had windows of Churchwarden Gothic, a flat ceiling, plastered walls whose damp patches showed in blotches of darker blue, and a western gallery supported on timber posts that were painted to look like cast-iron. Here the Bamburgh curate came over every Sunday afternoon to take the service. And now let us leave the church and turn to the homes of the people who in 1701 were the five principal parishioners.

(1) The first house on the north side of the village was the East Hall, now Beadnell Hall Hotel. It was inhabited at this time by William Forster.⁹ He was the largest landowner in the place. His estate represented the old freehold of the Hardings, a family of Newcastle origin who acquired their Beadnell land in 1383 and made it their home until they migrated to Hollinside in county Durham. A tower which once stood at the east end of the present house was doubtless the Harding residence.¹⁰

(2) Richard Taylor's modest house stood on the site of Beadnell House Hotel. His forbears are said to have acquired their land from the Forsters of Brunton,¹¹ and his descendants continued to hold it into the present century.

(3) Continuing westward from the Taylors' house, one comes to the Tower, a building of the fifteenth or sixteenth century. The land which went with it had been purchased from John Swinburn in 1563 by Thomas Forster of Adder-

⁹ See appendix, The Forsters of Beadnell (I).

¹⁰ A number of early deeds relating to Harding property in Beadnell were formerly preserved at Streatlam Castle and are cited in *NCH*, i, pp. 325-6. The property was still in Harding hands in 1606. A doorway into the old tower is visible in a cupboard in the east parlour of the Hall. The basement of the tower is said to have continued in use as a kitchen to the later house.

¹¹ In 1626, according to *NCH*, i, p. 329. But this date is inconsistent with a clause in the will made by Thomas Forster of Brunton on 19 June, 1648, whereby he devised his three farms at Beadnell to his son Ephraim; *NCH*, ii, p. 112.

stone, whose son, Thomas Forster the younger, left Beadnell Tower by will in 1587 to *his* eldest son, Matthew. A succession of John Forsters followed, and the owner, when the eighteenth century opened, was the third of that name.¹² The old tower had come by 1818 to serve as the back premises of a public house once called the Bull Inn and now the Craster Arms.

(4) Beadnell Town Farm, on the south side of the village, was owned by yet another line of Forsters, those of Warenford. The property had once been held by the Swinhoes, whose freehold in Beadnell is traceable back to 1469.¹³ The last Swinhoe of Swinhoe and Rock left two daughters and co-heirs. One married William Lawson, and their son, William Lawson of Rock, sold his farmhold and cottages in Beadnell in 1593 to Cuthbert Forster. Cuthbert's great-grandson, Thomas Forster of Warenford, owned the property in 1701.¹⁴

(5) Lastly, but no longer identifiable, there was the Black Hall, which Michael Harbottle of Tuggal Hall left by will, with six fishers' houses, to his wife in 1585. Michael's great-grandson, George Harbottle, the third of that name, now owned it.¹⁵

The five landowners above mentioned all styled themselves gentry. Their properties ranged from 69 to 243 acres of arable. Together they owned the entire township apart from two very small holdings, one of which belonged to a yeoman farmer, and the other to the lord of the manor.

Beadnell was a sequestered place, not easy to get at. As late as 1759 the main road to Alnwick was a rough sandy track along the south links.¹⁶ A road may have gone northward along the coast, but there was no bridge across the

¹² See appendix, The Forsters of Beadnell (II).

¹³ For six deeds relating to Henry Swinhoe's lands in Swinhoe and Beadnell in 1469 see *Surtees Society*, 127, pp. 119-120. A pedigree of Swinhoe and Lawson is given in Raine's *North Durham*, p. 237.

¹⁴ See appendix, the Forsters of Beadnell (III).

¹⁵ *NCH*, i, pp. 328, 354.

¹⁶ As shown in "a plan of part of Beadnell, the estate of Thomas Wood, esq., by James Robertson of Alnwick, surveyor".

Annstead Burn until John Wood built one at his own expense in 1790. The road inland to Swinhoe, though already mentioned in a survey of 1567,¹⁷ was originally, as its name of Gair implies, not more than a green turf cartway running through the common fields.

Up to the beginning of the eighteenth century the fields still lay open and undivided. Enclosure was carried out, by agreement between the various landowners, in 1701. First on the list of the contracting parties came Ferdinando Forster, lord of the manor of Bamburgh. Ten days after signing the agreement, Squire Forster was murdered in a street of Newcastle, and his bankrupt estate was bought up by his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Crewe, the able but unpopular bishop of Durham. The eight acres of arable,¹⁸ which made up the lord of the manor's holding, were eventually handed over by the Crewe trustees to be glebe, and the present vicarage stands upon them.

Ridges and furrows in grass-land to the south and north-west of the village show that the arable area was once greater than it is at present. More corn was grown, some of it perhaps for export. There were a number of granaries along this part of the coast: one of them became part of the residence called Beadnell Cottage, now styled the Beadnell Towers Hotel. Corn was ground at a windmill at Delf Point and at a watermill in the neighbouring township of Tuggal. From Tuggal mill the miller carted his sacks to Beadnell through a cut in the sandhills still called the Miller's Nick.

The enclosure agreement provided that two wells in the township should continue to be used in common, and that the inhabitants should be allowed to dry and bleach their clothes on the grounds about them. One, called the Crew well,¹⁹ was on the north side of the Swinhoe road, near the point where it starts to climb the hill; the other, known as

¹⁷ *NCH*, i, p. 336. Gair is defined as "an irregular strip of green turf running down the side of a moorland hill". Heslop, *Northumberland Words*.

¹⁸ Not 87½ acres as stated in *NCH*, i, p. 328, but 8 acres of arable and 7½ of pasture.

¹⁹ Crew or crewe denotes a pen or enclosure.

the Moor Well, lay just north of the present by-pass. There was a dovecote close to the Moor Well wash-house, and a second dovecote in the village near the old tower. Other features of village life were the common pound and the stocks on the green.²⁰

The links provided rough pasturage as well as a supply of rabbits. John Wood, in leasing the south links in 1794, reserved to himself a yearly six couple of rabbits, while agreeing to return their skins to his tenant. Seaweed could be gathered in plenty from the rocks, or collected after a storm from the shore, to be spread on the grassland or burnt and dried into kelp. Mr. Wood calculated, about 1770, that kelp was bringing him in some thirty pounds a year.

Next to agriculture, the principal industry of the place was sea fishing. It had been so from early times. In 1408 the prior of Holy Island sent a welcome present of "Bidnel-fysh" to his brethren, the monks of Durham. The tithes which were paid on all fish landed at Beadnell were a source of income to the Augustinian canons in their cell at Bamburgh, and, when that monastery was suppressed, were farmed out by the Crown at £6 14s. 4d. a year.²¹ They continued to be paid in kind up to the end of the eighteenth century. The agreement for enclosure of the common fields confirmed all parties in their existing rights to fishing, gathering bait, and laying up their fishing boats. Cobles were launched and drawn up at the haven east of the village, where a fish-house is shown on a plan of 1759. The village stank of fish: an order made in the Bamburgh manor court in 1721 prohibited the inhabitants of Beadnell from the noisome and offensive practice of boiling and extracting fish oil in the town streets or in their houses.²²

New life was brought into the place in 1735, when John Wood of Presson bought for his son Thomas the two largest properties in the township. These were the Beadnell Hall estate, bought from William Forster's son William, and the property which George Harbottle had once owned and which

²⁰ *NCH*, i, p. 171.

²¹ *NCH*, i, p. 93.

²² *NCH*, i, p. 171.

had meanwhile passed to Richard Grieve of Alnwick.²³ The fine panelled rooms of the Hall date from this period.²⁴

Thomas Wood left a son and heir, John Wood, who added to the family property by buying the Beadnell Tower lands in 1783, but sold them off in 1799, along with the northern portion of the lands bought in 1735, to his brother-in-law, Edmund Craster of Preston. The lands so sold became the Annstead estate. Half a century later, in 1849, John Wood's son, Thomas Wood Craster, bought up Beadnell Town Farm. Only the Taylor property remained in the hands of its seventeenth-century owners; and in this way the five properties of 1701 came to be reduced to three.

Although the parties to the enclosure agreement reserved their rights to win stones at the seaside and to bank them on the links, it is doubtful whether there was any serious quarrying before Thomas Wood set to work on Delf Point. Delf is a north-country word for quarry,²⁵ and the headland had received its name by 1747. In that year Thomas Wood granted to George Turnbull of Cambois a thirty-year lease of the limestone rocks from Delfs Rock to Ebbsnook, and gave him leave to erect one or more draw-kilns. A plan made by James Robertson in 1759 shows four draw-kilns on the south side of Delf Point. They were kilns from which the calcined limestone could be drawn, in the form of clot lime, through the "eyes" or openings at the bottom of the kiln, and they are depicted on the plan as having vanes like a Kentish oasthouse. The limestone beds here made very good lime. Farm leases show that it was much in use for marling the fields. A tenant of Bent Hall Farm was bound by his agreement, made in 1800, to spread on his fallow land four double cartloads of shell lime and eight loads of small lime to every acre. But much of the lime was exported. It

²³ *NCH*, i, p. 329, where, however, no mention is made of the purchase from Forster.

²⁴ Mr. Honeyman has pointed out their similarity to rooms in Hetton House near Fowberry. *NCH*, xiv, p. 325, with plate.

²⁵ The *New English Dictionary* cites a reference in an Act of 31 Elizabeth to "quarries or delfes of stone or slate".

was a profitable business. Thomas Wood's son was soon reckoning that he was making a hundred pounds a year out of his limekilns. To make export easier, Turnbull was allowed, under the terms of his lease, "to cut away at his own cost any rock as he shall think necessary to make a commodious harbour". So he cut through the whin dyke—the twenty-eight-foot broad ridge of basalt rock that crosses Nackers Hole, and converted the inlet into a small practicable harbour. There was some competition between landlord and tenant for the use of the new quay, but this was amicably settled by an agreement that each should load in alternate months. And Mr. Wood soon gave up quarrying Delf Point away, for he found that by so doing he was letting the sea break in on his land when a north-east gale blew. It threatened to render the new harbour useless, and to destroy the limekilns and saltpans erected near high water mark.

"The common way of making sea salt in this country," says a legal opinion drawn up in 1770, "is by making a large pit or reservoir near the full sea mark, which is made to communicate with the sea and may be filled by the sea at any time when it is high water; and from this pit the seawater is pumped and conveyed with troughs into saltpans or boilers where it is made into salt by the force of fire." Limekilns and saltpans both required coal for their working. There are several seams of coal in the locality, varying from two and a half to six feet in thickness. Two coalshafts had been sunk before 1759 in a field east of the village. With a view to increasing the supply, Thomas Wood leased in 1764 to Alexander Long of Sheerness, for twenty-one years, all his coalmines in the south links, with the windmill or engine belonging to the said colliery, and gave him leave at the same time to erect saltpans. Long promptly put up five pans on the shore between Delf Point and Nackers Hole, and, two years later, took a twenty-one-year lease of Mr. Wood's havens or harbours at Beadnell, with sole liberty of shipping and vending by sea his salt and all other commodities. He next entered into partnership with Richard Pemberton of

Sunderland, to whom Thomas Wood had leased his freestone and firestone quarries; came north to live at Brunton; being of an enterprising disposition, started to dig brick clay on the links (to which his lease did not entitle him); and settled down to transform Beadnell into a little port, engaged in foreign export and in coastwise trade.

There had been a good deal of illicit traffic in the past. One day in September, 1762, the customs house officers seized 2,700 gallons of brandy, four hundred gallons of rum and geneva, twenty-three hogsheads of wine, and some tea that had been run into Beadnell by Scottish smugglers.²⁶

In 1767 Thomas Wood died. His son, John Wood, resolved to take over the salt works, and, in order to get trade entirely into his own hands, bought out Pemberton's quarrying rights, as well as those of the successors to Turnbull's lease. This was in 1775. Alexander Long seems by that time to have faded out of the picture. John Wood next turned to organize the fishing industry. He started, in or shortly before 1777, by providing the fishermen with new houses on the bank above the haven. They formed a block, known at first as Fisher Square, and afterwards simply as the Square. Two-room houses, three or four to a side, were ranged round a central court. The rooms had stone-flagged floors, with cupboard beds in the wall, and over them was a loft for storage of fishing gear. Increasing population led the Woods to erect other buildings outside the village—the red-tiled Windmill Steads on the sea side of the road past Delf Point, and, farther along the same road, the cottages round the farm of Bent Hall, popularly known as the Benty.²⁷ Square and Steads have both been pulled down in the present century.

In 1788 John Wood embarked on a venture, called the Northumberland Branch of the British Fishery. Its objects

²⁶ *Newcastle Courant* of 26 February, 1763, quoted in *NCH*, i, p. 319.

²⁷ The Steads make their first appearance in the parish register in 1766, Benty Hall in 1765; but Charles Grey, a relative of the Woods, was tenant of the Benty a few years earlier; for the houses there are marked as "Grey's Inn Houses" on Robertson's plan of 1759.

were defined in the terms of co-partnership as buying vessels, boats, nets and other tackle, and disposing of all fish caught or purchased. Business was to be carried on at Beadnell and at Ullapool on the west coast of Scotland. The society started with a small capital of £1,950, soon increased to £13,250. The principal shareholders were the Duke of Northumberland, John Wood, and Walter Hall and Co., each of whom held eight £250 shares. Mr. Wood made over his lugger, the *Anna Maria*, in part payment. As he was the prime mover in the enterprise, it was natural that he should be elected its Director and Treasurer. The firm traded under the name of John Wood Esq. and Co. Its office books, covering the years 1789-94, are preserved at Craster.

If fishing and an export trade were to be encouraged, it was vital that Beadnell should have a better harbour. So in 1788 John Wood approached Robert Cramond of Sunderland and obtained from him an estimate for making a harbour at Ebbsnook. Its cost, estimated at £8,395, was perhaps found too great, for, at the beginning of 1790, Cramond submitted another estimate, this time for £2,942, for a pier two hundred and thirty yards long, which should serve as a temporary breakwater. This plan also was jettisoned, but a harbour on the present lines had been begun eight years later, when Mr. Wood agreed to let to Richard Pringle for a term of fifteen years all the coal and limestone on the Wood estate.²⁸

Under the provisions of this agreement, dated 23rd November, 1798, Pringle undertook to build a limekiln on the pier at Beadnell; and Mr. Wood on his part agreed to finish the harbour which he had begun, and to keep it in repair during the term of the lease. The kiln was to be twenty-four feet high from the kiln eyes to the top, nine feet in diameter within at the bottom, and sixteen feet in diameter at the top. To meet the expense of building the kiln, Pringle was to be allowed to have the profit of burning four

²⁸ Activity in coal mining is shown by the frequent mention of pitmen in the parish register from 1802.

thousand loads of shell lime, each load consisting of twenty-four Winchester bushels. For every load of shell lime sold thereafter, Pringle was to pay ninepence upon each load that he shipped, and sixpence per load on land sales. He pledged himself to ship a thousand loads every year. If more kilns than one should be required (as proved to be the case), Mr. Wood was to be at the expense of building them. The three limekilns which were now built, and which form, with the harbour in front of them, so picturesque a setting to Beadnell Bay, are now the property of the National Trust.

The Northumberland Fishery Society seems to have confined itself at first to white fishing, but the herring catch soon came to be of prime importance. In 1800 John Wood leased to two Berwick coopers for seven years the herring house and adjoining sheds and salt cellars down by the harbour, with all the apparatus of herring curing—spitting trays, baskets, spits, trestles, water shoots, culling boards and fatts. As lime burning fell away, herring curing came to take its place. In 1822 John Wood made a contract with Thomas Hill, a Berwick cooper, and with John Ormston, a former Customs officer. He gave them leave to use the kiln eyes for curing herrings until he should himself need them for burning limestone. At the same time he made over to them the harbour dues upon their keeping the harbour in repair, an obligation which they conspicuously failed to discharge. He agreed also that in future he would take only one half of the accustomed tithe of herring and other fish.

Hill and Ormston carried on their business as fish curers up to 1841, and in 1827 built the herring yards²⁹ which continued in active use till the end of the century. A letter that Mr. Wood wrote in 1828 to Trinity House shows the proportions to which the herring fishery had then grown. He wrote of "near one thousand poor fishermen in open boats, not daring to near the shore, with a hard gale from ENE and raining in sluices, till a large coal light was raised on Beadnell Point, when nearly one hundred boats run in and

²⁹ *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, xxxiii, p. 126.

all got safe, to the inexpressible joy of their numerous poor families". He was given leave to show a lantern light on Ebbsnook every year from the 25th July until Michaelmas following, as a guide for fishermen during the herring season, of which, Trinity House wrote, "Beadnell is the central point". Boats arrived in numbers during the later summer months from fishing ports on the east coast of Scotland and from as far away as St. Ives in Cornwall, and Scottish girls came to help in the curing. Fishing was carried out at first in small cobbles, then later in large decked herring boats, of which Beadnell itself had ten down to the First World War.

It is only since that war that Beadnell has developed into a holiday resort. A sign of the coming taste for seaside lodgings is to be found in 1816, when Lady Delaval of Ford took from John Wood a seven-year lease of a house on the south side of the village, later called Ivy Cottage and now known as St. Ebba's. Villagers long remembered the great lady, and the black wristband that she wore, to hide the mark left, they said, when the Devil gripped her.

APPENDIX.

THE FORSTERS OF BEADNELL.

The following notes, based on Sir John Craster's archives and on the wills epitomized in *NCH*, i, p. 328, are made with the object of disentangling various branches of this prolific family.

I

Alexander Forster of Beadnell heads the list of proprietors in that place in the ratebook of 1663. He is very possibly to be identified with Alexander Forster of Swinhoe, son of Matthew Forster of Fleetham, for whom see *NCH*, i, p. 288. Inventory of his goods taken 29 May, 1673.

2. Matthew Forster was probably son to Alexander. By deed dated 13 November, 1674, on his marriage with Rebecca, daughter of Henry Pearson of Newton by the Sea, he settled upon trustees all his lands in Beadnell which formerly belonged to Ralph Harding of Hollinside. The inventory of his goods is dated 14 January, 1679.

3. William Forster, son of Matthew, born in 1679. Party to enclosure award of 1701. By will dated 9 June, 1730, he settled his lands in Beadnell upon his elder son, William, in tail male, with remainder to his younger son, John. Will proved in 1732.

4. William Forster (II), son of William Forster (I) by Mary his wife, sold his lands in Beadnell to John Wood, 2 May, 1735.

II

John Forster of Beadnell made his will on 19 January, 1656. He thereby directed that he should be buried in Bamburgh quire, among the rest of his predecessors; left his lands in Beadnell to his son John, and made mention of his nephew, Mr. Thomas Forster of Adderstone. Will proved 1662.

2. John Forster (II), son of John Forster (I) by Elizabeth his wife. He and his wife Katherine made feofment of their Beadnell lands to their son, John Forster (III), 6 October, 1676.

3. John Forster (III), party to enclosure award of 1701. Will dated 13 March, 1712.

4. John Forster (IV), son of John Forster (III) by Rachel his wife, died before July, 1724.

5. John Ferdinando Forster, brother and heir to John Forster (IV), died 4 May, 1773, aged 77. Monumental inscription in Beadnell churchyard. The initials I F S with the date 1751, mentioned in *NCH*, i, p. 327, as occurring on the doorsill of the Craster Arms, stand probably not for this Forster, but for John Fenwick of Embleton, to whom he mortgaged his property in 1746.

6. James Forster, of Beadnell and afterwards of Alnwick, house carpenter, eldest son of John Ferdinando Forster by Barbara his wife, sold to John Wood the tithes of fish and harbour dues of Beadnell, 2 December, 1785, and five cottages there on 25 September, 1819.

III

A pedigree of the Forsters of Warenford is given in *NCH*, i, p. 252. The earlier generations of this family can be supplied from Sir John Craster's muniments by a pedigree drawn up in 1846, and are as follows:

1. Cuthbert Forster of Warenford purchased from William Lawson of Rock, 1 August, 1593, a farmhold and four cottages at Beadnell, to which he was admitted by copy of court roll at the Bamburgh manor court, 30 April, 1595. In 1615 he conveyed his estate at Beadnell to his grandson, Matthew Forster, eldest son of

his eldest son Thomas Forster of Charlton, for his better maintenance, education and preferment in marriage.

2. Thomas Forster conveyed his estates in Warenford and Charlton in 1623 to his son Matthew and to Matthew's son Cuthbert.

3. Matthew Forster. His initials, and those of his wife, Isabella, with the date 1636, are carved over the doorway of one of the cottages in Beadnell south side.

4. Cuthbert Forster of Warenford.

5. Thomas Forster, eldest son of Cuthbert, purchased in 1683 a farmhold at Beadnell previously in the possession of Ralph Huitson. Party to enclosure award of 1701. He married on 2 December, 1705, Jane Forster, whose will was dated 17 January, 1740, and proved 24 January, 1747. For other particulars regarding him and his descendants see *NCH*, i, p. 252, where he is mistakenly called a son of Ralph Forster of Doxford.

His grandson, Thomas Forster of Warenford and Alnwick, presented a silver patten to Beadnell church in 1777 (*NCH*, i, p. 330). He "had frequently been heard to say that he had no heirs; that he would make no will; and that his property would go to the Crown or to 'the blacks' in Westminster Hall" (*Newcastle Courant* cited *op. cit.*, p. 252). But on his death intestate in 1813 the estates were successfully claimed by Captain Matthew Forster of Berwick, whose descent is set out in the pedigree before mentioned as follows:

1. Ralph Forster, second son of Matthew Forster of Warenford; a burgess of Berwick (*NCH*, i, p. 254, note i); married on 26 June, 1651, Anna, daughter of William Temple; buried at Berwick 6 March, 1667.

2. Matthew Forster, his eldest son, was christened 16 September, 1654, and was admitted on 22 October, 1680, to be a burgess of Berwick, of which he subsequently became mayor. Married Anna Collis. Buried at Berwick 3 March, 1729. Will dated 24 April, 1728; proved 1730.

3. Matthew Forster (II), eldest son of Matthew Forster (I); christened 15 December, 1700; admitted a burgess of Berwick 16 March, 1722; was a doctor of medicine; married on 3 June, 1729, Margery, sister or daughter of William Cooper of Newcastle; and was buried 6 July, 1748. His will, dated 18 May, 1747, was proved in 1750.

4. Matthew Forster (III), eldest son of Matthew Forster (II), was christened 21 April, 1730, and on 1 May, 1751, was made a burgess of Berwick, of which town he was afterwards mayor. He married on 9 April, 1764, Sarah (surname not given). He was a commissary general in the East Indies. Buried 26 June, 1798. His will, dated 12 January, 1795, was proved in 1798.

5. Matthew Forster (IV), eldest son of Matthew Forster (III); christened 27 May, 1765; was admitted a burgess of Berwick 27 February, 1786; and became a captain in the Royal Navy. He succeeded, as above stated, to the real estates of Thomas Forster of Alnwick as his heir at law; died unmarried on 12 January, 1824, and was buried at Bamburgh. By his will, dated 9 January, 1824, and proved in the Prerogative Court, Canterbury, he devised his real estate to his brothers, Vaughan Forster and Thomas Forster, his sister Margaret Watson, and his adopted son, Matthew Forster. His representatives sold their farm at Beadnell on 19 April, 1849, to Thomas Wood Craster of Craster for £5,600.