

## VIII.—FENWICK OF BYWELL.

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In vol. ii of his MS. pedigrees in Newcastle upon Tyne Public Library, the late Mr. J. C. Hodgson gave at p. 446 a fragmentary pedigree of Fenwick of Bywell, to which he added a note: "This pedigree properly worked out and proved is printed in vol. vi of *New Hist. of Northumberland*." Mr. A. L. Raimes (Proc. 5th ser. 1 364-5) has shown that this statement is unfortunately not true as regards the children of William Fenwick of Bywell, and in addition to the errors he points out I have discovered several more. Some of these are printers' errors, but one at least is due to a statement having been lifted from Hodgson's *Northumberland*, and re-printed without having been checked.

Hodgson says that William Fenwick's son Robert was baptized 8 April 1668. If this be correct he was a married man at eleven years of age and a knight at fifteen. The reference is given as Hodgson: *Northumberland* ii. vol. i pp. 335-370—which is misleading, since the statement that Robert Fenwick was baptized at Bywell St. Andrew's on 8 April 1668 appears on p. 369. Robert Fenwick's first wife was the only daughter of Sir George Graham, 3rd bart. of Netherby, Cumberland, by his wife Lady Mary Johnston. They were married at Hutton-in-the-Forest, Cumberland, on 17 August 1679, the marriage being thus recorded: Mr. Robert Fennicke and Mrs. Margret Graham married by Mr. Usher elder.

The marriage took place at Hutton because the bride's mother had married for her second husband Sir George Fletcher of Hutton.

The young couple went to live at Blencowe Hall, an old pele tower a short distance from Hutton-in-the-Forest. It was the home of the Blencowes, who seem at this time to have gone to live in Penrith. Blencowe Hall is in Greystoke parish, and the registers record that on 25 July 1680 was baptized William "son of Mr. Robert Phennick of Bywell in the county of Northumberland esquire, now liveing at Blencow Hall in this parish". Present at the christening was Sir Daniel Fleming who gave 2s. 6d. to the midwife. He speaks of the baby as "William Fenwick my Gossip's eldest son, who was borne July 21 80".<sup>1</sup> In 1685 William Nicolson, later Bishop of Carlisle, dined at Hutton, and recorded "Sr. R. Fenwick won 1s. of me at Table".<sup>2</sup> Sir Robert and Lady Fenwick had clearly a great love for Cumberland, and on 3 June 1686 Thomas Smith, Bishop of Carlisle, wrote to Sir Daniel Fleming about the return of Lady Mary Fletcher to Hutton from Yorkshire, adding: "I am told, w<sup>n</sup> she does return S<sup>r</sup> Ro. Fenwick and his Lady comes with her, and intend to be our neighbours in the Deanery at Carlisle, rather than return to Bywell."<sup>3</sup> The Deanery had become available as a residence because Lady Fenwick's brother, Dr. William Graham, had just been appointed Dean of Carlisle.

Tragedy now overwhelmed the family, as Sir Daniel Fleming noted in his account book: "1686 Aug. 12 The Lady Fenwick (the Lord Preston's only sister) dyed suddenly at Hutton Aug. 12 86; she killing herselfe (as it was reported) and she having been very melancholly ever since the Birth of her last child."<sup>4</sup>

Lady Fenwick was not buried at Bywell, and there is no record of her burial at Hutton-in-the-Forest or at Arthuret<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Flemings in Oxford* i 503. Apparently Sir Daniel was godfather and the baby's mother was godmother.

<sup>2</sup> Nicolson's diary for 23 March 1684/5 printed in *Transactions Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian & Archæological Society* N.S. i 27.

<sup>3</sup> *The Flemings in Oxford* ii 157.

<sup>4</sup> *Ib.* 372.

<sup>5</sup> In which parish is Netherby, the seat of her brother Richard Graham, Viscount Preston.

nor have the baptisms of her children been traced at Hutton<sup>6</sup> or St. Mary's, Carlisle.

Sir Robert Fenwick's second wife was first cousin to his first wife. She was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Graham of Norton Conyers, and as the pedigree in N.C.H.N. vi 98 states she was three years old on 15 August 1665, though the footnote (*u*) giving the source of this statement as Surtees: Durham i 71 is wrong. It comes from Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, and Mr. J. W. Clay in his edition of that Visitation has added the information (p. 17) that Elizabeth was baptized at Wath on 13 March 1661-2. The authority for her burial at St. Mary-le-Bow, Durham, on 3 Nov. 1744 is given as Durham Cathedral Register. It would be more correct to give the registers of St. Mary-le-Bow as the authority.

The only daughter of Sir Robert and Lady Fenwick—her Christian name was unknown to the compiler of the pedigree on p. 99 of the N.C.H.N. vi—was Mary and Canon C. M. L. Bouch has shown (Trans. Cumbd. & Westmd. Ant. and Arch. Soc. N.S. xiii 81) that she married before 1710, as his second wife, Richard Lowther (1669-1715), younger brother of Sir William Lowther, of Swillington, Yorks.

William Fenwick, the son and heir of Sir Robert, married a kinswoman Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Fenwick of Stanton. The N.C.H.N. pedigree says that she died at Morpeth 27 September 1769, the authority quoted being the *Newcastle Courant* of 4 Oct. 1760. Reference to the newspaper shows that 1769 is a mistake for 1760, the obituary reading, "That Day (i.e. Saturday) died at Morpeth in the 63rd year of her Age, Mrs. Fenwick, Relict of William Fenwick of Bywell Esq. and Aunt to the present William Fenwick of Bywell, Esq. a Lady whose Life was a continued Series of Benevolence, and whose Charity and Friendship to the Poor, will make her Loss severely felt by them; as it is most deservedly regretted by her friends and acquaintance.

<sup>6</sup> The registers of Hutton-in-the-Forest do not begin until 1729. The Bishops' Transcripts at Carlisle begin in 1667, but 1682 is missing.

Her Corpse was interred in a grand Manner at Nether-Witton on Tuesday.”<sup>7</sup>

Reverting to the pedigree in Add. MSS. 8942, the place of burial of Christopher Fenwick, a younger brother of Sir Robert, cannot be read. All that can be said is that it began with the letter P and that the compiler of the pedigree in N.C.H.N. vi was wrong in assuming that the place was Penrith, for the parish registers do not contain any entry of Christopher’s burial. Vol. 17 of The Catholic Record Society (p. 480) gives the date of death at Chelsea of Dom Lewis Lawrence Fenwick O.S.B., another brother as 4 June 1746. Add. 8942 gives Lewis or Ludovick as “President of the Englis Benidictin order or congregation in England”.<sup>8</sup> It is interesting to note that in this MS. pedigree Sir Robert is described as “a Papist turnd Protes<sup>t</sup>”. His son Edward is put down as “Dyed S.P. Blown up at sea being Cap<sup>t</sup>. of a man of W.” The compiler of the N.C.H.N. has made Edward a captain in the Royal Navy.<sup>9</sup>

Passing to later generations the N.C.H.N. pedigree contains many other errors and omissions. In several cases the footnote *u* should read *a*, the reference being to the registers of Bywell St. Andrew and not to Surtees: Durham i 71.

John Fenwick of Stanton and Brinkburn is said to have been baptized on 24 February 1698, but this was the date of his birth, and he was baptized at Longhorsley on 3 March

<sup>7</sup> Nether-Witton and Morpeth registers show that she was buried on 30 September. Her only child Elizabeth was married to Edward Ward at Morpeth on 4 January 1738-9 and was buried there on 20 October 1747. Here again the N.C.H.N. pedigree gives a wrong authority for this marriage, because the only Fenwick reference in Surtees Durham i 71 is contained in the account of the Swinburne family, one of whom married Margaret, only daughter of John and Margaret Fenwick. The will of this John Fenwick, dated 13 December 1742, contains bequest of £10 a piece for mourning “to my sister Elizabeth Fenwick and to her daughter wife of Edward Ward of Morpeth gent.” and also a gold ring worth a guinea to each of them and one to the said Edward Ward.

<sup>8</sup> I owe this information to my friend Mr. Julian Brown, F.S.A., of the Department of MSS. in the British Museum, who has kindly examined Add. 8942—a very difficult MS.

<sup>9</sup> He has also made him the elder of Sir Robert’s sons, but it is clear from Add. 8942 and from Greystoke parish registers that William was the first born. I have failed to find Edward Fenwick in Admiralty records.

of that year.<sup>10</sup> His daughter by his second marriage was Mary, not May, and her marriage to Ralph Soulsby took place at Bywell St. Andrew on 21 September 1751.<sup>11</sup>

John's third son Roger is said to have died before his mother, i.e. before June 1727, but the registers of Bywell St. Andrew show that he was buried on 27 April 1728. The marriage of John's eldest son William was at St. Andrew's Auckland on 23 May 1747, and the birth of their son John was recorded in the *Newcastle Courant* of 28 January 1749 as having taken place "to the great joy of that worthy Family" on Sunday last—i.e. on 22 January.<sup>12</sup>

Lastly, Dorothy wife of John Fenwick's second son John is said to have been christened at St. Mary-le-Bow, Durham. This should read St. Margaret's, Durham.

I am indebted to my friends Mr. Julian Brown and Mr. P. I. Wilson for a great deal of help in the compilation of these notes.

<sup>10</sup> N.C.H.N. vi 99 says he died 19 Dec. 1747 aged 58 but at 246 he is said to have been 50. The latter age is right.

<sup>11</sup> Admon. of her estate was granted on 29 August 1772 to her half brother William Fenwick.

<sup>12</sup> It is to be feared that this son and heir brought grief to his parents. These Proceedings x 210 say of him: "Having had some unnatural connection was obliged to leave the Kingdom."

