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NEWCASTLE MERCHANT ADVENTURERS FROM WEST YORKSHIRE

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THE SOUTHWARD migration of Scots and men from North Tynedale and Redesdale into Newcastle and Tyneside to seek work in the coal trade is a well-known feature of the seventeenth century. A northward move of aspiring young men from the West Riding of Yorkshire seeking their fortune in Tyne trade has passed unnoticed.

If the inferences of the late Dr. Hunter Blair are correct the "pathfinder" was no less than Roger Thornton in the late fourteenth century. As a Thornton of *Bradforddale* he originated in an area whose chief asset was wool, although the first manufacturing centre in the Yorkshire valleys was Halifax, some eight miles to the south-west of Bradford. Roger Thornton, who entered Newcastle through the Westgate with his "lambskin", diversified into lead, wine and coals. He prospered, was mayor of Newcastle ten times, and on his death in 1430 left handsome bequests to many charitable causes. He founded the Maison Dieu on the Sandhill and by purchase of the estate of Netherwitton founded a local landed family whose heiress married Sir George Lumley of Lumley Castle near Chester-le-Street.¹

There are few precise references to the fathers of the early merchants of Newcastle readily available until the commencement of the register of apprentices for the honourable company of Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle upon Tyne. On this evidence the incomers from Yorkshire started in 1588, when Robert Baxter took on William Lyllye of Bradford on 25 January. The same year George Liddell became master of Brian Fawcett from Holbeck beside Leeds, who was significantly the son of a clothier, while John Butler accepted Henry Frankleine from Sawley in Ribblesdale, whose father was a tanner. Four years later, in 1592, they were joined by Isaac Sharpe from Little Horton in Bradford, the son of another clothier. Of this group only Sharpe appears to have completed his term of ten years' servitude.² On gaining his freedom he married at St. Nicholas' church Margaret Bewicke, his master's daughter, and apparently on her death he wed Alice Mitford two and a half years later, again at St. Nicholas'. He set up house in the parish of All Saints, where two of his daughters, Grace and Mary, are recorded in the baptisms register under 1626 and 1629 respectively. Interestingly Sharpe's first apprentice, Robert Cooke, was the son of a Bradford clothier, who sent a second son George in 1605 to be bound to Michael Kirkley.³

The most successful of this first wave of emigrants, Leonard Carr, arrived in Newcastle in 1597. He came from a Craven family settled at Langcliffe near Giggles-

wick whose pedigree makes no attempt to link with the prosperous family of merchants established in Newcastle since 1451, when Allen Carr was the town's sheriff.⁴ (The Newcastle Carrs subsequently acquired land at Hebburn and Cocken in County Durham.⁵) Leonard was apprenticed to George Dent, boothman, on 1 August 1597 and after he was admitted to his freedom took among his own apprentices William Carr, also from Langcliffe, his home-village, Lawrence Carr from "Shingcliff" (surely a misreading), another William Carr from Langcliffe, and a further three from Yorkshire in general.⁶

Whether it was the happy chance of bearing a surname "well-kenned" on Tyne-side, or conspicuous business ability, Leonard Carr rose to become governor of the Merchant Adventurers' Company from 1641 to 1645 and governor of the Hostmen's Company from 1641 to 1643 and again from 1653 to 1655. He was in partnership with Ralph Cole to work Gateshead colliery, which they acquired for over £3000, and in his will of 1658 he refers to coal interests at Elswick and at Red House near Sandgate, east of Newcastle, as well as at Wardley, Hebburn, Monkton, Hedworth, Harton and Westoe. Carr also had interests in the salt-pans at South Shields. He worked hard on behalf of the Merchant Adventurers' Company, investigating financial claims against it advanced by the London company of Merchant Adventurers to which it was affiliated. He was sheriff of Newcastle in 1635 and alderman by 1642. In addition he traded in wine, supplying the Howards of Naworth with claret and sack. Both the "three Norwich soldiers" and Sir William Brereton in their travellers' accounts of Newcastle refer to Carr keeping a hostelry on Butcher Bank called the *Nag's Head*.⁷

Carr had been left a widower on the death of his wife, Isabel Robinson, in December 1635. They had married at All Saints on 14 September 1607. One daughter, Jane, married Ninian Shafto (who had been apprenticed to a *London* draper) on 1 May 1627, while her sister Margaret married Thomas Ledger on 18 May 1631. After her husband's death in 1647 Jane Shafto seems to have gone to live with her father. Certainly he bequeathed to her the bulk of his property. There may have been a third daughter, whose child married William Dent. The only son, Henry, predeceased his father and was without issue.⁸

As holding public office as an alderman Carr was necessarily involved in the defence of Newcastle against the Scots in 1644 and was denounced as a Royalist. This is unlikely, as he was an earnest member of the Presbyterian congregation at All Saints during the Commonwealth, where he served as an elder. Mr. Prideaux the minister, moreover, was one of the supervisors of his will. In this will he made elaborate provision for legacies totalling £5 to be paid annually "for ever" from his residence in Butcher Bank by All Saints, from three houses nearby, occupied severally by a widow and two butchers, and from another house near the foot of the bank. The freehold was bequeathed in the first instance to his daughter Jane Shafto, with reversion to her four children. The £5 was to be spent by the churchwardens of All Saints and the overseers of the poor for the benefit of the needy of the parish. It continued to be accounted for into the nineteenth century. Carr also left £10 to the poor of the parish of Giggleswick "where I was borne", and referred to lands in

Sedbergh which he "suffered an old woman to enjoy durement her life, who is now dead".

Carr continued to serve as an alderman until some months before his death in August 1658, when he was removed on a specious charge of disaffection to the Commonwealth. He must have been over eighty years of age. He was buried in All Saints near the vestry door. He left eight grandchildren, but as all were by his daughters there was no Carr to inherit the urban property in Newcastle and Morpeth, the coal interests, and farm land at Broomrigg in upper Coquetdale. The lion's share passed to the Shafto grandchildren, with an ultimate remainder to the children of Margaret Ledger and an obscure reference to the children of William Dent and Isabel his wife.⁹

Perhaps fired by news of Carr's success other lads from Craven emigrated to Newcastle to try their luck. There were Thomas Brown and Lawrence Swainson from Giggleswick (1603, 1651), Henry Holmes from Sedbergh (1616) and William Norton from Sawley (1656). Numerically, however, they made a poor showing against the contingent from Halifax and district (14), Bradford (5), Leeds (4), and outliers such as Ripley, Milnthorpe, Wakefield, Killinghall and Poole. Apart from the obvious factors of enterprise and a surplus population in West Yorkshire, are there any discernible reasons for this exodus to Newcastle, where 23 apprentices were bound as Merchant Adventurers between 1609 and 1637 and 10 between 1645 and 1662?¹⁰ Especially should it be borne in mind that the average Newcastle merchant-apprentice came from the near vicinity.

The word about prospects on Tyneside may have been disseminated through the family connexions of Thomas Calverley, recorder of Newcastle between 1582 and about 1600. As shown in a previous article Calverley had been appointed temporal chancellor of Durham by Bishop Pilkington in 1563. Five years later he married Isabel Anderson, daughter of Bertram Anderson, thrice mayor of Newcastle and four times one of its members of parliament.¹¹ The Calverleys of Calverley, five miles from Bradford and six from Leeds, were in the sixteenth century sending out younger sons to make their way in the professions. Thomas, second son of Sir William Calverley, took to the law. The family pedigree as recorded in 1615 credits him with younger brothers named William, Henry, John, Ralph and Michael. Michael Calverley occurs as coroner in County Durham and John was bailiff of Bedlingtonshire. "Mr John" Calverley was left a legacy by William Riddell in 1600 in terms suggesting he was Riddell's brother-in-law. Nephews Sheffield and Ralph, sons of William Calverley, then deceased, were admitted apprentices in the autumn of 1609. Sheffield Calverley subsequently married his master's daughter Barbara, and their son William was baptized at St. Nicholas' on 12 August 1621. Although Sheffield died before 17 July 1623 the boy survived to be admitted to Lincoln's Inn on 17 February 1640, like his kinsmen Thomas and John, and may be identified with the "Mr William Coverley" interred at St. Nicholas on 25 July 1660, when he was described as "counsellor".¹²

The Halifax "interest" started with Thomas Burnet of Brickhouse (?Brighouse) in 1616. He was followed by Henry Briggs of Bynroid and Richard Sutcliffe of Ovenden

in 1619, Thomas Gledall of Barseland (?Barkisland) in 1623, Abraham Thomas of Erringden in 1625, Timothy Thorpe of Northowram in 1628, William Dixon of Shelf in 1630, Abraham Drake of Halifax in 1637, James Staincliffe of Northowram in 1645, Nathaniel Mitchell and Hugh Fawcett, both of Halifax, in 1654 and 1655 respectively, Joshua Pannell of Northowram and Daniel Nichol of Cote Hill, Halifax, both in 1660, and William Bate of Cromwell Bottom in 1668. This is a roll-call of the townships of the leet jurisdiction of Halifax and Brighouse within the extended Manor of Wakefield. Through the survival of the Wakefield manorial rolls we can learn something of the home-background of these men from "Halifax". The recent publication of the Wakefield Court Rolls for 1639/40 enables us to see the families of Gleidhill and Drake, Briggs and Thomas at work in their own community.¹³

The status of the apprentices' father ranged from "gentleman" through "clothier" to "yeoman". The latter description was applied to John Briggs, Richard Thomas, John Thorpe, Hugh Fawcett and Thomas Pannell. The fathers of Richard Sutcliffe, Thomas Gledall, William Dixon, Abraham Drake and Daniel Nichol were all clothiers.¹⁴ The more usual condition of the fathers of Merchant Adventurers was "gentleman". Does this reflect in West Yorkshire a paucity of "gentle blood" or a prosperous peasantry well able to afford to keep their sons in the style expected of apprentice-merchants? (Apparently premiums for admission to the company of Merchant Adventurers were not required.¹⁵) Were the Yorkshire clothiers and yeomen performing the administrative functions performed elsewhere by the "gentry"?

Starting this investigation with Thomas Gledall of Barkisland, we find of his family that Brian Gleidhill and Robert Gleidhill were appointed in 1639 as searcher for hides and sealer for Halifax. William Gleidhill was one of the presenting jury for Brighouse court leet, responsible for endorsing indictments of local misdemeanours. George Gleidhill was deputy to the constable of Stainland, and John Gleidhill was the retiring constable of Emley. Similarly Robert Drake, "cardmaker", was constable of the township of Hartshead with Clifton.¹⁶ As constables they brought to the court leet complaints formulated by the local community, such as that Thomas Drake had failed to "make a sufficient bridge against a place called Damhead" near Shibden mill. John Drake of Northowram and Henry Northend were to repair the highway "beneath Northowrom and mack a suficant wainway and a horseway and cut their heges that hangs ofer the said way between this and the frist of May next in pain of £5". Mary Naylor of Hebden Bridge, widow, was fined 10s by the Halifax court leet "for suffering a walle to falle downe on the backside (yard) of Hugh Fawcett whereby the watercourse of Bowerum is stoped".¹⁷

At the Halifax court leet following, in April 1640, Christopher Thomas was a member of the grand jury. Among victims of local violence were Michael Byns and Nathaniel Gleidhill.¹⁸ Six months later, in October 1640, Robert Thomas was chosen as constable of Wadsworth and Christopher Thomas as constable of Erringden. Less edifying, Hugh Fawcett had assaulted William Brockshawe and was fined 10s, and at the Brighouse court leet the following day it was presented that John Gleidhill had broken the lord's fold at Stainland and made two rescues from the keeper of

the pound. He had also assaulted John Lockwood there. On the other hand the four men presented for assaulting John Gleidhill were each fined 10s. At the court leet at Halifax in May 1641 John Dixon and William Sutcliffe were members of the grand jury before whom it was presented that John Gleidhill had assaulted John Lumb, Isaac Gleidhill assaulted Miles Wallis and Robert Gleidhill assaulted Jonas Holdsworth, who hit back. At Erringden the constable, Christopher Thomas, was resisted "when he charged Crabtree with his Majesties peace and that they said they cared not for any man, for they were under noe lawe". The next day at the court leet at Brighouse William Gleidhill as a member of the grand jury heard how James Gleidhill, one of the four sworn men for Dalton, was thrice the victim of an assault. Meanwhile in Stainland John Gleidhill was ordered to "make a sufficient fence about the colepitt in the foote waye betwene Stayneland and the Knowle topp, betweene this and the last of this instante May", he then being a highway overseer.¹⁹ This is sound evidence of the participation of the various "Halifax" families in local government in the same way that one finds the Collingwoods, Crasters, Erringtons, Fenwicks, Goftons, Killingworths, Middletons and Ogles functioning in Northumberland.²⁰

What happened to these Yorkshiremen after they reached Newcastle? Some travelled abroad. Apprentices towards the end of their "time" might engage in trade with their master's consent, and Isaac Sharpe was at Elbing near Dantzic when he witnessed the will of Henry Riddell in 1597.²¹ As before noted, he married his master's daughter in 1602. In 1612 Robert Cooke, his apprentice from Bradford, was transferred to Jacob Fernyside, but subsequently he took other apprentices in 1626 and 1629. Curiously one of these also was transferred and "allowed to adventure fortie pounds in joynte stock with his master". Richard Sutcliffe, apprenticed to Henry Fernyside (and later to his widow), subsequently set up shop in Stockton, on which grounds it was deemed by the Company that he was unsuitable to take on Abraham Drake as an apprentice. This is a reminder that not all Newcastle merchant adventurers were wholesalers. Sutcliffe "kept only a retail shop".²²

Some found Tyneside brides. Apart from Isaac Sharpe, those who married their master's daughter included Joshua Pannell, who married Alice Dobson at St. Nicholas' in 1677 and Joshua Oley, who married Mary Roddam in 1672. George Cooke married Margaret Coxe at St. Nicholas' on 20 January 1617 shortly after completing his articles and his brother, Robert, Cooke, married Elizabeth Surtees also at St. Nicholas' on 24 August 1618. James Staincliffe was married at St. Nicholas' on 1 November 1655 to Mary Ledger, a grand-daughter of Leonard Carr. Laurence Carr, Leonard's brother, married Jane Kirkhouse at All Saints on 14 November 1615, and on 7 May 1621 Abraham Crabtree married Margaret Rowell at All Saints.²³ It may be observed in passing that only the registers of St. Nicholas' and All Saints record these "vital statistics" of the Yorkshiremen, presumably because the best trading quarters and residential areas lay within their bounds.²⁴

Continuing in pursuit of family details, we find that like Leonard Carr, Lawrence Carr, Isaac Sharpe and Abraham Crabtree all lived in the parish of All Saints. Isaac Sharpe was still adding to his family in 1629, when his daughter Mary was baptized

there. Abraham Drake, however, like the Calverley brothers, Sheffield and Ralph, lived in St. Nicholas' parish. He and his wife Alice brought their first-born, Alice, for baptism on 1 January 1652, and repeated the journey for William (21 July 1653), Sara (2 March 1654), Alice II (19 November 1656), Jeremy (29 May 1659) and Abraham (28 October 1662). Unhappily the funerals were nearly as regular: Alice I on 7 September 1652, Sara on 23 February 1657, Abraham on 20 September 1664, and Jeremy on 14 October 1676. Only William survived to be enrolled as a Merchant Adventurer by patrimony and admitted to the Eastland Company on 11 March 1682.²⁵

The build-up of tension over sheer survival of the family name may be traced in property-transfers on the Wakefield manor rolls. In one case in 1639 William Walker of Midgley was willing to override the claims of his daughter Mary to land in Warley in favour of his bastard son John: and John Deane of Northowram constructed an entail barring the claims of his five daughters as long as there was any hope of male issue.²⁶ This same spirit is manifested in the will of Joshua Oley of Newcastle. Oley in fact came from a Wakefield family, his father being a mercer. He had been apprenticed to Robert Roddam, boothman, on 1 October 1661 and was admitted to the company of Merchant Adventurers in March 1672. Two years previously he had been made free of the Eastland Company. He married his master's daughter by special licence at St. Nicholas' on 28 October 1672, and baby Margaret was presented there for baptism on 3 August 1673, and baby Mary on 3 October 1675. On 20 August 1676 Joshua Oley made his will, and by good fortune for us both this and his inventory of effects survive, indicating something of his mind as well as the state of his business.²⁷

Priority was given to the repayment of any debts by his executors, namely his widow Mary, his father-in-law Robert Roddam, and his friends Robert Fenwick and John Douglas. His second concern was the settlement of his lands on his long-desired son. His wife was pregnant, and it might be "third time lucky". In consequence he left to his "son" a farm called "Binsfarm" at Crofton, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east of Wakefield, lands in Hampsthwaite near Harrogate and Flint, and a house in York, these having been bequeathed to him by his father Daniel Oley. Other lands in Crofton, bought by his father, would pass to his two daughters, Margaret and Mary. Should the new baby not be a brother, then the three sisters would inherit equally. His widow, meanwhile, would receive any income from the land as long as she remained a widow and would educate the children. In the event of her re-marriage his other executors would bring up the children, maintaining them from the same rents until they reached the age of 21 or were married. He bequeathed to his widow his interest in two ships, his gold and silver plate, saving three guineas to be made into mourning rings for the four bearers of his coffin. Any residue of money was to be divided equally among his widow and children, saving a bequest of £10 apiece to his executors "for their faithfull execution of this my last will".²⁸ (In the event it was another girl. Elizabeth Oley was baptized on 5 November 1676.²⁹)

The long inventory which Abraham Drake signed as one of the valuers suggests that Oley was a flax merchant. His "low celler" contained various qualities of raw

flax worth £128 2s 7½d, with more in the "shop", where there was also candlewick, canvas, twine "and two frying pans". There was more flax in "Mr Roddam's Cellar", together with a butt of brandy worth £18 6s 8d. The "garret loft" contained 32 sacks of canvas, 78 mats and ropes. The "lodging chamber" was furnished with a bed and two sets of chairs, and no less than five sets of table-cloths ranging from damask to huckaback, eleven pieces of "holland" worth £38 5s 6d, 15 straking cloths—a kind of coarse linen used for shirt-making—and a piece of linen. These surely had strayed from the selling area. The inventory also included a child's chair in the hall, and in the closet a crossbow, dirk, sword, two wax-candlesticks, "his books or Library" and a "standish" or ink-stand, with £76 9s in cash. There was a well-furnished nursery and well-appointed kitchen and buttery. The "cellar" contained two hogsheads, a washing-tub, a mast, and somewhat surprisingly, a watch and "his purse and his apparel". The total effects were valued for probate at £538 0s 4d.³⁰

Oley's inventory serves as a reminder that Newcastle Merchant Adventurers might trade in other commodities than coal. Of the 43 apprentices from the West Riding here scrutinized, 27 were articulated as boothmen, that is merchants engaged in the Baltic trade, and only 13 as mercers, four of whom were the sons of clothiers. (Somewhat disconcertingly nine who were articulated as boothmen gained their *freedom* as mercers, and one apprentice mercer, Richard Sutcliffe, was enrolled as a boothman! Twenty-four do not seem to have taken up their freedoms.³¹) Carr seems to have been a member of the Hostmen's Company since 1610, which may explain why he alone joined the town oligarchy.³² Thomas Burnett, a draper, on his death in 1664 left stock appraised at £17 3s 4½d, including "holland" cloth, "a bundle of night caps" and 4 lbs of "skeene" in several small bundles, a box of cut tobacco and a cwt of tobacco worth £5 17s 4d.³³ Abraham Drake's goods as appraised on 24 September 1683 included two pairs of scales, a beam and weights "in the shopp", and 165 bushels of rye worth £21 12s 6d.³⁴

Information about the houses of the "Yorkshire" merchants is rather meagre. Only Abraham Drake can be identified among the Newcastle householders paying hearth tax in 1664/65, when he was assessed in the Pink Tower Ward at four chimneys. This was the best commercial quarter and significantly most of the householders have the prefix of Master. Oddly only five out of the 30 in the ward were not so distinguished in 1664, of which one was Drake. As his name heads the list he presumably lived at the end of the Sandhill. His neighbour was Mr. Peter Sanderson, the Puritan sheriff in 1651, with Mr. Edward Blackett and Mark Milbank Esquire next down the street.³⁵ At Drake's death his accommodation consisted of a hall and buttery, a kitchen whose equipment included a coffee pot, a parlour, the Red Chamber with its feather bed, looking-glass and close-stool, and a garret crammed with an old chest, a set of old curtains, a dresser-cloth, a corn-sieve, four bushel-measures, two half-bushel measures, five pillows, three old blankets, four old coverlets and an old flock bed—the clutter of an old man.³⁶

Abraham Drake had spent a useful business life on Tyneside, training a succession of apprentices. A mercer, admitted on 18 March 1647, he took his first recorded

apprentice James Kennett from Hunwick, county Durham, in 1651. As Kennett completed his time he was succeeded in 1661 by Daniel Nichol from Cote Hill by Halifax, Drake's home town, and eight years later Drake took on William Bate of Cromwell Bottom near Brighouse.³⁷ This pattern of Yorkshire lads going to Yorkshire-born masters is observable with Drake himself apprenticed first to Richard Sutcliffe from Ovenden and then transferred to William Carr from Langcliffe in Craven.³⁸ Isaac Sharpe from Little Horton by Bradford was master to Robert Cooke of Bradford (1604), although he subsequently took two apprentices from Northumberland.³⁹ George Cooke of Bradford was master to Henry Briggs of Bynroid (1617), although he later had two apprentices from county Durham.⁴⁰ James Staincliffe from Northowram was master to Anthony Ovington from Ovington in Yorkshire (1657).⁴¹ This probably means little more than the Newcastle merchants kept in touch with their "folks back home", although there are traces of these Yorkshire merchants acting together on Newcastle affairs. For instance, in January 1671 Abraham Drake acted with Ambrose Barnes, himself from North Yorkshire, Robert Roddam (master and future father-in-law of Joshua Oley) and Alderman Jenison as representatives of the Merchant Adventurers to treat with Trinity House over dues to be paid on the Tyne.⁴²

One of the confraternity, Lawrence Carr, became clerk to the company of Merchant Adventurers. The son of Thomas Carr of "Shincliffe", he was bound to Leonard Carr and almost certainly his kinsman—probably the "cozen" to whose daughter Mary Leonard Carr left £10. Lawrence continued as clerk until his death in December 1655, when he was succeeded by Timothy Hechstetter. He may reasonably be identified with the churchwarden at All Saints in 1628 recorded when two chalices, engraved with the church initials and the names of the churchwardens, were added to the communion plate.⁴³ Leonard Carr, however, had a brother Lawrence, also dead by 1658, whose daughter Elizabeth was bequeathed £20.⁴⁴

How far the Yorkshire merchants on Tyneside were content to be assimilated, and how far they kept up the links with their old home must remain conjectural. Leonard Carr in his will of 21 July 1658 left £10 to the poor of the parish of Giggleswick "where I was borne". Joshua Oley, with his property at Crofton, Flint and Hamps-thwaite and a house in York, was concerned in his will with a trust operated by himself and his brother in Wakefield.⁴⁵ By the eighteenth century the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle were recruited mainly by patrimony and the Yorkshire element is therefore no longer traceable. The development of water-power in Airedale and Calderdale also helped to keep enterprising Yorkshiremen in their own locality.

Abstract of the will of Leonard Carr, 21 July 1658

After committing his soul to God Leonard Carr desired to be buried in All Hallows Church, Newcastle upon Tyne, beside his wife, his son Henry and his other children.

He bequeathed a rent of fifty shillings to the poor people of All Hallows, to be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor and their successors, arising from his capital messuage and dwelling-house near the foot of All Hallows

Bank in Newcastle, payable annually at Whitsun and Martinmas in equal portions, the first instalment at whichever date next followed his death. The property itself was bequeathed to his daughter Jane Shafto "as she now enjoyeth the same" and for her natural life, with remainder to his grandchild Leonard Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, failing which to his grandchild Robert Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, failing which to his grandchild Ralph Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, failing which to his grandchild Isabel Shafto and the lawful heirs of her body, failing which to his grandchildren Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd and to the lawful heirs of their bodies, failing which to remain to the right heirs of himself, Leonard Carr. Whosoever was in enjoyment of ownership of the property should be responsible for payment of the annuity to the poor of All Hallows.

He bequeathed to the poor people of All Hallows forty shillings annually payable from his three messuages now occupied severally by Isabel Laidler, widow, Leonard Str[al]ingewayes, butcher, and George Browell, butcher, situated together on All Hallows Bank, namely from the messuage occupied by Isabel Laidler ten shillings, from the messuage occupied by Leonard Straingeways ten shillings and from the messuage occupied by George Browell twenty shillings: the sums to be paid at Whitsun and Martinmas as above. The property itself was bequeathed to his daughter Jane Shafto, her executors or administrators for the term of eleven years after his death, during which term she should pay the annuity to the poor. Thereafter the property should remain with his grandchild Robert Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body failing which it should pass to his grandchild Leonard Shafto ... Ralph Shafto ... Isabel Shafto ... Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd ... the right heirs of Leonard Carr: whosoever was in enjoyment of the property being responsible for payment of the annuity to the poor of All Hallows.

He bequeathed to the poor people of All Hallows the sum of ten shillings annually from his messuage now occupied by Peter Burrell, merchant, situated near the foot of All Hallows Bank, payable as above. The property was bequeathed to his grandchild Isabel Shafto and the lawful heirs of her body, failing which it should pass to his grandchild Leonard Shafto ... Robert Shafto ... Ralph Shafto ... Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd ... the right heirs of Leonard Carr. Whosoever was in enjoyment of the property should be responsible for payment of the annuity to the poor of All Hallows.

He bequeathed his close and half-close in Gateshead in county Durham to his grandchild Robert Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, failing which it should pass to his grandchild Isabel Shafto ... Leonard Shafto ... Ralph Shafto ... Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd ... the right heirs of Leonard Carr.

He bequeathed all his coal-mines and collieries within the hereafter named grounds to wit "Harteingewood", Wardley, Powlers Close, West Hebburn, Monkton, Hedworth, Harton, Westoe, Fieldhouses and Walsend (*sic*) in county Durham to his daughter Jane Shafto for the three years next after his death, after which one equal quarter should go to his said daughter Jane and her heirs, an equal quarter to his grandchildren Mary Stantcliffe, Hannah Ledgerd, Hintie Dent and John Dent, children of William Dent, merchant, and of Isabel now his wife and to their respective

heirs. The other half after the said three years should pass to his grandchildren Robert Shafto, Leonard Shafto, Ralph Shafto and Isabel Shafto and their heirs. It was his intention that the lease already granted by him to Michael Coatesworth of part of the said coal-mines should be honoured and be calculated as part of the moiety bequeathed to the Shafto grandchildren.

He bequeathed his third of the lands called the Haugh and Bankside in Morpeth beyond Wansbeck in Northumberland and all his houses and lands at or near Granagate Yate in Morpeth, and all his lands at a place called Broom Rigg in the parish of Allington or Ellington in Coquetdale in Northumberland to his daughter Jane Shafto during her life, and after her death to his grandchild Robert Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, with remainders to Leonard Shafto, Ralph Shafto and Isabel Shafto, to Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd, and finally to his own heirs.

He bequeathed his burgage lately occupied by Widow Willerghby and now in the possession of Isaac Wympron, smith, situated in Pilgrim Street in Newcastle to his daughter Jane Shafto during her life and after her death to his grandchild Leonard Shafto and the lawful heirs of his body, with remainder to Robert Shafto, Ralph Shafto, Isabel Shafto, Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd, and his own right heirs.

He bequeathed all lands due to him in Allington in Northumberland to his grandchild Robert Shafto and his heirs.

He bequeathed to his daughter Jane Shafto his interest in a lease from the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle of the West Ballast hills, Coney Close, the houses occupied by Thomas Milborne and Elizabeth Hall, widow, and the two small cottages built on the West ground which belonged to Widow Hazey.

He bequeathed to Elizabeth daughter of his brother Lawrence Carr, deceased, the sum of £20 payable at the end of two years after his death if she lived so long.

He bequeathed to Mary daughter of his cousin Lawrence Carr, deceased, £10: to his nephew John Carr, son of his brother John Carr, £20: to Hintie Dent £5: to his grandchild Isabel Dent the lesser of his gilt-covered cups: to Mary Stantcliffe and Hannah Ledgerd a piece of plate each at the discretion of the executors.

He bequeathed to Leonard Carr, son of William Carr of Langcliffe, £5: to Michael Coatesworth £5: to his apprentice Richard Walker £4: to Elizabeth Garthen 40s and to Ralph Sadler, son of Leonard Sadler, deceased, £5.

And whereas there were certain lands due in Sedbergh purchased from Reynold Allinson which he allowed an old woman to occupy during her life and she was now dead, some of the evidence whereof Mr. George Overend, attorney at law in Westmorland, delivered to John Carr, the testator's brother, which Leonard now had, and some he kept and when asked for the same by John Carr "he promised he would search if he had them": these lands were bequeathed to his grandchild Robert Shafto and his heirs.

He bequeathed the half of his fourth part of the coal-mines and collieries in Elswick in Northumberland to his daughter Jane Shafto for a term of eleven years from his death and thereafter to Robert Shafto and his heirs.

He bequeathed to his daughter Jane Shafto and to Leonard Shafto, Robert Shafto and Ralph Shafto and their heirs all his coal-mines and collieries in all the grounds

belonging to his "Reedhouse" outside Sandgate, viz. the Great and Ann's Close, St. Cuthbert Close, Baxter's Close, Blakestowes Close, Hodshons Close, Pond Close, Hall's Close, Swaddle's Close and Crowforth's Close.

He bequeathed to Isabel Larsden £3 for a legacy and to her son Anthony Purvis £4 towards a stock for him "he being now at Sea".

He bequeathed to Elizabeth Purvis 40s for a legacy and to Jane Purvis 40s for a legacy.

He bequeathed to the poor people of the parish of Giggleswick in Yorkshire where he was born the sum of £10.

The residue of his estate after payment of his debts was bequeathed to his daughter Jane Shafto.

He appointed his daughter Jane Shafto as sole executrix, renouncing all other wills made by him, and desired his true friends Mr. Richard Prideaux, minister, and Mr. John Cosin, draper, to be supervisors of the same. To these latter he gave £5 each as a token, trusting that they would "see the due Execucion of this my will and Testament".

The will was sealed and delivered in the presence of Anthony Walker, Richard Walker, and Anthony Normann. William Earsden and Gevert Lindall made their marks.

"This will was proved at London before the Judge for probate of wills and granting Administrations lawfully authorized the eight and twentyeth day of January in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty eight by the oath of Jane Shafto daughter and sole Executrix to whome Administration was Committed of all and singuler the goods chattels and debts of the said Deceased, shee being first sworne by Commissioner truely to Administer etc"

Notes on the will

The printed pedigree of the Shafto family (*NCH* XIII, 223) is not concerned with the children of Ninian Shafto and Jane Carr, who were so amply provided for by their maternal grandfather.

Leonard Shafto matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, on 15 June 1651, proceeding to BA in 1654/5 and MA in 1657. Between 1665 and 1671 he was vicar of Dedham, Essex, when he was appointed to All Saints, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he remained until his death. (J. and J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantab* [1927] Part 1 to 1751, iv, 47). Under 10 August 1676 is the entry in the St. Nicholas' register of the burial of "Mr. Leonard Shaftoe, minister of All Saints" (ii, 138).

Leonard Shafto II, son of the above, was educated at Durham School. He entered Christ's College, Cambridge on 14 January 1686/7, proceeding to BA in 1690/1 and MA in 1694. He was appointed morning lecturer at All Saints, Newcastle on 14 July 1698 at a salary of £100, with an additional £10 for a "lecture" on Thursdays. He was rector of Gateshead from 1705 until his death on 27 August 1731 (Venn, *op. cit.*, iv, 47; E. Mackenzie, *History of Newcastle* 317 and notes).

Mr. John Cosin had served with Carr on the aldermanic bench (*cf.* Howell, *op. cit.*, 16 and notes, 177–80).

Carr's interest in the Ouseburn collieries does not seem to have been recognized. The Great and [Little Saint] Ann's close and Baxter's close were mentioned in 1549 as marking the new boundary between Byker and Newcastle (*NCH* XIII, 264).

During the Commonwealth the probate jurisdiction of the bishops was transferred to a special commission based in London, hence Carr's will is to be found in the Public Record Office, London, and not among the Durham diocesan records.

NOTES

¹ C. H. Hunter Blair, "The Armorial Evidence for the descent of Roger Thornton and of his wife Agnes", *AA*³, XIX, 1922, pp. 84–6; J. C. Hodgson, "The 'Domus Dei' of Newcastle...", *AA*³, XIV, 1917, pp. 191–218; R. Welford, *Men of Mark Twixt Tyne and Tweed*, III, 517–21.

² F. W. Dendy (ed.), *The Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle upon Tyne* (Surtees Soc. 98, 101, 1894, 1899) II, 218–20, 228–9. Whereas the Act of Apprentices of 1563 specified an apprenticeship of seven for most trades the Merchant Adventurers had set a term of ten years by ordinances dated 8 August 1555 (*Ibid.*, I, 10).

³ *Register of Marriages, St. Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne*, (1914), 12 (12 October 1602), 13 (11 February 1605); Parish register of All Saints ii, 107, 126; *Merchant Adventurers* II, 228, 229.

⁴ To Leonard Carr is attributed the untinctured arms of a chevron with three stars (C. H. Hunter Blair, "The Mayors and Sheriffs of Newcastle", *AA*⁴, XVIII, 1940, Plate VII). The Yorkshire Carrs bore these arms gules, on a chevron argent three stars sable (J. Foster, *Visitation of Yorkshire 1584/5* [1875], p. 602). *Cf.* C. H. Hunter Blair, "Mayors", pp. 19, 22–6, 30–1, 38, 40, 43.

⁵ R. Surtees, *History of Durham* I (1816) 208–9; II (1820) 76.

⁶ *Merchant Adventurers* II, 225, 239, 242, 243, 250, 253, 259.

⁷ R. Welford, *op. cit.*, III, 485–8; R. J. Howell jr, *Newcastle and the Puritan Revolution* (Oxford, 1967), 15, 21 n. 8, 46, 180, 229; *Merchant Adventurers* I, 129, 162, 164, 182, 184; II, 7, 10, 22, 25, 34–5, 42–7; P[ublic] R[ecord] O[ffice], London, Probate 11/286 ff. 82–84v (abstracted above); *NCH* XIII, 223.

⁸ All Saints i, 232; ii, 76, 181, 193; Carr's will *passim*.

⁹ Howell, *op. cit.*, 180–2, 186; H. Bourne, *History of Newcastle* (1736), 95.

¹⁰ *Merchant Adventurers* II, 228–9, 233–6, 238–40, 243, 245, 247, 249, 261–2, 264, 282, 286–8.

¹¹ C. M. Fraser & K. Emsley, "Some Early Recorders of Newcastle", *AA*⁴, XLIX, 1971, pp. 147–9.

¹² J. Foster, *Durham Visitation Pedigrees* (1887), 63; Durham County Record Office, Quarter Session Indictment Roll 1 mm. 10, 30d; *Wills & Inventories* III (Surtees Soc. 112, 1906), 177; *Merchant Adventurers* II, 232; Registers of St. Nicholas Marriage 21: Burial i, 101, 295, 302; ii, 25.

¹³ C. M. Fraser and K. Emsley, *The Wakefield Court Rolls, 1639/40* (YAS, WCRS I, 1977).

¹⁴ *Merchant Adventurers* II, 238, 245, 248, 279, 286; 240, 243, 250, 261, 287

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, I, 11.

¹⁶ *WCR*, 1639/40, 70, 90, 99, 100.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 92, 101.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 135, 152.

¹⁹ Y[orkshire] A[rchaeological] S[ociety] MSS, Wakefield Court Rolls for 1640/1, mm 12d, 13, 14, 18. The township bills, unnumbered, are filed with the draft roll.

²⁰ *Cf.* Northumberland Record Office, Vetera Indictamenta *passim*.

²¹ *Wills & Inventories* III, 167–8.

²² *Merchant Adventurers* II, 228, 245, 249: 240, 261.

²³ *St. Nicholas* 12, 19, 45, 61, 63; All Saints i, 246, 258.

²⁴ *Cf.* R. Welford, "Newcastle Householdors in 1665", *AA*³, VII, 1911, pp. 56–7, 61–4, 66–9, 72.

²⁵ All Saints ii, 8, 11, 126; *St. Nicholas* i, 190, 196, 337: ii, 4, 10, 12, 21, 37, 116, 140; *Merchant Adventurers* II, 315.

²⁶ *WCR*, 1639/40, xv, 19, 90.

²⁷ *Merchant Adventurers* II, 288; St. Nicholas ii, 87, 99, 138; Durham University, Dept of Palaeography and Diplomatic, Probate Joshua Oley 1676.

²⁸ Oley's will *passim*.

²⁹ St. Nicholas ii, 105.

³⁰ Durham University, Dept. of P & D, Probate Joshua Oley 1676.

³¹ *Register of Freeman* I (Newcastle upon Tyne Record Series III, 1923), 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 30, 33, 72, 84, 87, 89.

³² F. W. Dendy (ed.), *Hostmen's Company* (Surtees Soc. 105, 1901), 246.

³³ Durham University, Dept. of P & D, Probate Thomas Burnett 1664.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, Probate Abraham Drake 1683 (inventory only).

³⁵ PRO, E179/158/101 m 3.

³⁶ Durham University, Dept. of P & D, Probate Abraham Drake 1683.

³⁷ *Merchant Adventurers* II, 261, 272, 287, 296

³⁸ *Ibid.*, II, 261.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, II, 220, 228, 245, 249.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, II, 229, 238, 241, 245.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, II, 262, 282.

⁴² *Ibid.*, I, 213–14.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, II, 243; PRO, Probate 11/286 f. 84; All Saints v, 19; Bourne, *op. cit.*, 91.

⁴⁴ PRO, Probate 11/286 f. 84.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 84 r–v; Durham University, Dept. of P & D, Probate Joshua Oley 1676.

