

The Dacre Inheritance: the Surveys of 1589 and the Howard repurchase in 1601

1. Background

Three daughters (one of whom died young) of the 4th Baron Dacre inherited (by virtue of a court judgment) the lands of the Dacres of the North following the death of their brother George. The eldest, Lady Anne Dacre, married Philip Howard who became Earl of Arundel in 1580 and died in 1595. The youngest daughter, Lady Elizabeth Dacre, married Philip's half brother William, later to become Lord William Howard of Naworth. In the 1580s a series of powerful challenges to the Howard inheritance led to the appointment of commissioners, who decided, "by office" in 1589 and 1594, that the whole of the Dacre lands had been inherited either by Leonard Dacre, or by his brother Francis, as a result of whose attainders the whole inheritance was forfeit to the Crown. In both stages the Commissioners used the findings of surveys conducted in 1589 to describe the Dacre lands. In December 1601, acting through intermediaries, the Howards were allowed to buy back their lost inheritance. Set out below are the main surviving primary sources relating to these massive land transfers.

2. The 1589 Surveys and the Jurors' Presentments

TNA LR2/212

A bound volume of Cumberland surveys of various dates, includes three of the four presentments by the 1589 juries, as follows

(a) Presentment of the Westmorland Jury, folios 13-53, 29/9/1589, signatures of the 14 jurors - includes parts of the manor of Barton, the manors of Martindale, Patterdale and Deepdale (including Glencoyne), Hoffe & Dribeck, half of Overton (Orton); and (in Cumberland) parts of Kirkoswald, Melmerby, Glassonby, Renwick, Ainstable, Sandwick, Penrith, Carleton, Ullesby

(b) Presentment of the Cumberland Jury, folios 82-128, Barony of Burgh by Sands, 28/9/1589, signatures of 13 jurors - includes manors of Burgh, Beamond, Kirkanders, Westlevington, Bowness, Dromburgh, Cardronock, Rowcliffe, Ayckton and Thursby, and several hamlets separately surveyed as parcel of the Barony of Burgh.

(c) Presentment of the Cumberland Jury, folios 243-306, Barony of Graystock, 28/9/1589, signatures of the same 13 jurors - includes manors of Graystock, Motherby, Stainton, Skelton, Matteredale, Grisedale, Wethermelock, Sparkhead, Berrier, Dufton, Newbiggin

(d) The presentment of the Cumberland Jury in relation to the Barony of Gilsland is not found either in LR2/212 or in LR2/213 (also a Cumberland volume).

3. The Official Findings of the 1589 and 1594 Commissions

(a) **TNA E164/42** (1589) is the original, full and undamaged, document describing the land forfeited to the Crown "on the attainder of Leonard Dacre" at Michaelmas 1589. It is signed by three of the commissioners, and includes the Baronies of Burgh by Sands (ff 1-30) and Gilsland (ff 32-74); and also some other lands described in 2(a) and 2(c) above. It omitted the manor of Thursby (apparently in error); and also the whole of the Barony of Graystock, and other lands surveyed therewith.

(b) **TNA E178/588** (1594), "on the attainder of Francis Dacre", would have been the equivalent document in 1594 dealing with the Barony of Graystock and other lands not included in 1589 - but the document is damaged and the detailed schedules have been lost. Its contents can be inferred by reference to 2(a) and (c) above, DHG/19, and the 1601 Patent Roll. It would also (apparently) have included large tracts of land in Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland.

4. The material at Carlisle

(a) **DHG/19** is a bound volume containing (most of) the details of the Baronies of Burgh and Graystock, with other miscellaneous lands surveyed in 1589. The volume is fragile and has been photocopied and repaginated by the archive staff for search room use. It appears to have been an office copy for use in connection with the management of these estates on behalf of the crown, beginning with the Burgh material, and with the Graystock and other material added after 1594 in a different hand. The volume never contained the Gilsland material (under a separate administration), and some pages have been lost from the Burgh section.

(b) **D/Lons/L5/2/41/51** is a copy (in the Lonsdale collection) of the material for the Barony of Burgh, taken perhaps in about 1800. Both the surviving Burgh pages of DHG/19 and this later copy are consistent with E164/42 - with variations in spelling of names (only two significant changes noted). This document is valuable because it contains the material lost from DHG/19.

(c) The **Gilsland** pages of E164/42, photographed at TNA (no data for manors of Cumrew and Croglin) - see list of manors given below

5. The repurchase in 1601, by letters patent of 19/12/1601

TNA C66/1570, folios 9-17

[The named purchasers were Edward Carrill, John Holland, John Cornwallis and Robert Chuffield, collectively acting as nominees - although the document doesn't say this - for Lord William Howard and his wife, and Anne Countess of Arundel. The following land was included in the purchase -]

f9, lines 13-20, the **Barony of Burgh by Sands** with its manors (and hamlets) of Burgh, Beamond, Kirkanders, Westlevington, Bowness, Drombrugh, Whitrigge & Whitrigleas, Langcrofte, Aynthorne, Cardronock, Glasson, Easton, Fingland, Rowcliffe, Etterby, Ayketon, & Thursby

f9, line 21 to f10, line 10, the **Barony of Gillesland** with its manors of Lydersdale, Brampton, Denton, Walton Wood, Farlam, Talken, Castle Carrock, Cumrew, Hayton, Fenton, Crosby, Tradermayne, Askerton, Cumwhitton, Forest of Braithwaite, Garvehouse and a piscary called Gymell Garve; the Land-Sergeant's fees

f10, lines 13-20, the **Barony of Graystock** with its manors of Graystock, Motherby, Stainton, Skelton, Matterdale, Grisedale, Wethermelock, Sparkhead, Berrier, Murrey, Newbiggin

f10, line 21 to f12, line 17 **miscellaneous Cumberland lands and tenements, particularised:** f10 lines 21- 50 Carlisle, Fulkeholme, Stanwix, Caldecott, Thistlethwaite and Melmerby; f10, line 51 to f11, line 4 Penrith, Carleton, Ullesby; f11, lines 5-43 Staffield & Kirkoswald; f11, lines 44-79 Glassonby and Renwick; f11, line 79 - f12, line 17 Ainstable

f12, line 17 to f14, line 34 **manors and lands in Westmorland** - f12, line 21 manor of **Hoffe & Dribeck**; line 22 manor of **Orton**; lines 24-40 (particularised) Glencoyne; lines 40-80 (particularised) lands in manor of Barton including Ellerbeck, Trosterment, Thorpe, Sockbridge, Thistlethwaite and other lands in Barton; line 85 manor of **Dufton**; f13 lines 1-60 (particularised) lands in Patterdale, Deepdale and Farleton Knott; f13, line 61 to f14, line 34 more lands in Barton, Sandwick, piscaries in Ullswater

After that the document switches to lands in Yorkshire and Northumberland, and winds up with two folios of covenants.

Loose ends – no data for Cumrew and no mention of Croglin (both part of Barony of Gilsland); Martindale (surveyed by Westmorland jury but not mentioned again, perhaps another unintended omission)

For Kirkoswald and related manors please see my article in CW3 2010