

Victoria County History of Cumbria Project: Work in Progress

Interim Draft

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Parish/township: KIRKANDREWS ON ESK

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KIRKANDREWS ON ESK: LANDOWNERSHIP

The parish lay partly within the barony of Liddel and partly in the Debateable Lands.¹ The barony of Liddel was created in the early 12th century by Ranulph le Meschin, to whom Henry I granted lordship of Carlisle.² The earliest holder of the barony appears to have been Turgis de Brundos at the beginning of the 12th century.³ After Turgis, the barony passed by descent to the Stuteville⁴, Bigot⁵ and Wake families, descending to the Crown from the Wake family through the marriage of Margaret, sister and heir of Thomas Wake, to Edmund Plantagenet, earl of Kent in 1325. Their daughter Joan married Edward the Black Prince, father of Richard II.⁶

During the 16th century, whilst held by the Crown, the barony lands were occupied mainly by the Graham family, fugitives from Scotland, who held their land by border service during hostilities with the Scots.⁷ William Graham and his eight sons occupied various farms and land granted by Henry VIII to ensure their support.⁸ They built several tower houses in Kirkandrews

¹ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/1; CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/3

² *Denton's History*, p.73.

³ T.H.B.Graham, 'Turgis Brundos', *CW2*, 29 (1929), pp.49-56

⁴ Close, 3, Hen. III. P2, m.7, 24th June 1219, n. 723. In *Cal. Docs. Scotland*, vol.1, p.127; Charter, 51 Hen.III. m.4, 18 July 1267, 2435. In *Cal. Docs. Scotland*, vol.1, p.482.

⁵ *Coram Rege*, 35 & 36 Hen. III. Oct 13-20 1251, 1813 In *Cal. Docs. Scotland*, vol.1, p.337.

⁶ *Denton's History*, p.73.; N & B, vol 2. P. 464-5.

⁷ Denton, *Perambulation*, p. 386.

⁸ *Cal. Pleadings, Duchy of Lancaster*, vol. 22, p.77 *Indenture 13/4/1538* quoted in T.H.B. Graham, 'The Gramams of Esk', *CW2*, 30 (1930), p. 224.

on Esk, Arthuret, Canonbie and other land in Scotland.^{9 10} In 1543 the manor of Liddel,¹¹ along with the manor of Arthuret, appears to have been leased by the Grahams.¹² These Grahams held their “fair livings” by the service of having their horses ready and keeping the night watches on the debatable lands.¹³ It was said that in 1592 the Grahams could raise a mounted force of 500 men.¹⁴

In 1603 James I granted the manor to George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, along with the forest of Nichol, and the lordships and manors of Arthuret, and Randilinton for the rent of £100 per year.¹⁵ In 1610 the king granted to Francis Clifford, George’s brother and heir, the territory known as the debateable land (later to become the townships of Kirkandrews Middle and Kirkandrews Nether) under the yearly rent of £150.¹⁶ Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, sold the barony of Liddel, which included the manors of Liddel, Arthuret and Randalinton, the forest of Nichol and the debateable land, in 1628 to Richard Graham, the son of Fergus Graham of Plomp for £6,700.¹⁷ The purchase was confirmed by Letters Patent.¹⁸ It is not thought that Richard and Fergus were close relatives of William Graham and his sons who had dominated the area in the second half of the 16th century.¹⁹ However Fergus had occupied the farm of Plomp, now known as Plumpe Farm, in the debatable lands, near Gretna and Springfield.²⁰

From 1628 the manor of Kirkandrews descended through Richard Graham’s descendants as part of the Netherby estate, centred in the neighbouring parish of Arthuret. Richard Graham (1635/6-1711), master of horse to the Duke of Buckingham and later equerry to Charles 1, was created first baronet Graham of Esk in 1629.²¹ His royalist sympathies, including fighting on the King's side at Marston Moor in 1644, led to his assets being confiscated.²² His estates were

⁹ R.T.Spence, ‘The Pacification of Cumberland borders, 1593-1628’, *Northern History*, 13 (1977), p.62; Bain, *Border papers*, vol 1. 1560 – 1594, pp. 124-26 & Appendix: Pedigree of the Grahams of Esk.

¹⁰ Platt of the debateable land, 1590, *Archaeologia*, xxii, p.161, printed in Graham, *Debateable land*, p. 49.

¹¹ which it is assumed was an alternative name for what was later referred to as the manor of Kirkandrews,

¹² LP,, Henry VIII, vol. xviii, part I, no. 799, June 1543, p. 444. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=76751&strquery=799> Date accessed: 17 May 2012.

¹³ Bain. *Border papers*, vol 1, pp.101-2.

¹⁴ Spence, *Pacification*, p.61.

¹⁵ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/1; N&B, vol 2, p.465.

¹⁶ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/2; N&B, vol 2, p.465.

¹⁷ Spence, *Pacification*, p.40.

¹⁸ CRO (Carlisle), DGN/4/3; N&B, vol 2, pp. 465-6.

¹⁹ T.H.B.Graham, ‘The barony of Liddel and its occupants’, *CW2*, xi (1911), p.80.

²⁰ (Spence).

²¹ Charles Mosley, *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, 107th edition, vol 2, p. 1620.

²² R.T. Spence, ‘The first Sir Richard Graham of Norton Conyers and Netherby’, *Northern history*, XVI (1980), pp. 102 – 129.

returned to him in 1648 on payment of a fine.²³ He retired to Wath in Yorkshire and died there in 1653.²⁴

Kirkandrews manor descended to Sir Richard's eldest son Sir George Graham (c. 1624-1657), then to George's son Richard (1648-1695), who was born at Netherby. Sir Richard was created the first Viscount Preston of Scotland in 1681 by Charles II and held the office of Secretary of State in 1688. He aspired to be created Baron of Liddel. However his fortunes fell when James II was forced to abdicate. He escaped execution for treason, although his estate was retained by the Crown as security for his good behaviour. He died at Nunnington Hall, Yorkshire, in December 1695.²⁵

The manor descended through Edward (1679-1709), Richard's son, to Charles (b. 1706), who died without issue in 1739 resulting in the baronetcy of Esk and the Preston viscountcy dying out. Charles was succeeded by his father's two sisters as co-heirs: Mary died unmarried in 1753, leaving the whole estate to her sister Catherine, widow of Lord William Widdrington. Lady Widdrington died in 1757 without issue, bequeathing the Netherby estate to her cousin Rev. Robert Graham (d. 1782), a great-grandson of Sir Richard Graham the first baronet.²⁶ As well as being lord of the manors of Kirkandrews and Arthuret, the Rev. Robert Graham was the rector of Arthuret and Kirkandrews from 1758 to 1782.²⁷ He invested much effort improving the Netherby estate²⁸.

On his death in 1782, the manor descended to his second son James (1761-1824), his eldest son Charles having survived him by only two weeks. James restored the baronetcy to the Graham family being created 1st Baronet Graham of Netherby in 1783.²⁹ His son, Sir James Robert George Graham (1792-1861), who achieved national political eminence as first Lord of the Admiralty and Home Secretary, took over the running of the estate in 1818 and inherited the baronetcy in 1824 on the death of his father. . He also instigated agricultural reforms on the Netherby Estate.³⁰ The manor thereafter descended in the male line, passing from father to son, from Sir Frederick Ulric Graham (1820-1888), to Sir Richard James Graham (1859-1932),

²³ J W Clay, 'Royalist composition papers', *Yorkshire Archaeology Society records series*, xv (1891), pp. 130-4.

²⁴ N&B, vol 2, p. 467.

²⁵ ODNB, vol 23,, pp. 227-230. .

²⁶ N&B. vol 2, p.467-9; *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, 107th ed., vol 2, p.1620.

²⁷ CRO (Carlisle), PR 55/18. E. Faulder, 'The parish and church of Kirkandrews on Esk'. 1993. p.8.

²⁸ See Economic section.

²⁹ *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, 107th ed. vol 2, p.1623.

³⁰ ODNB,, 23, pp. 204-210.

Lt.-Col. Sir Fergus Frederick Graham (1893-1978), Major Sir Charles Spencer Richard Graham (1919-1997) and to Sir James Fergus Surtees Graham (1946-).³¹

In 1910 the Graham family owned the majority of land in Kirkandrews, apart from some property and land belonging to the North British and Caledonian railway companies and some small parcels of land that had been sold prior to 1910, such as Rosetrees Moss to Francis Tinning, later to become a major landowner in the parish, and Mill Hill owned by Richardson's Moss Litter Company.³² Significant amounts of the Netherby estate were auctioned in 1912 and 1919.³³ By 1938, while Sir Fergus Graham was lord of the manor of Kirkandrews, William Tinning was described as the lord of the manor of the Nether Quarter.³⁴

The first explicit mention of the manor of Kirkandrews may be the manorial call list covering the years 1795 to 1800.³⁵

³¹ *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, 107th ed, vol 2, pp. 1623-25.

³² CRO (Carlisle), TIR/4/75, Board of the Inland Revenue Land Valuation Records 1910. Domesday Books. Kirkandrews Middle, Moat and Nether.

³³ CRO (Carlisle), DB74/3/2/1173; *Carlisle Journal*. 19 Jul. 1912, p.8; CRO (Carlisle), DB74/3/2/922; *Carlisle Journal*, 1 Aug. 1919

³⁴ Kelly, *Dir. Cumb.* 1938, p.192.

³⁵ Manor of Kirkandrews Court Roll 1795-1800, Netherby Archive at Crofthead, February 2005 (courtesy of Susan, Lady Graham)