

**Notes on the Docker Family  
Of  
Westmorland  
By  
George Lissant  
London, 1917**

PREFACE

These notes were made at the suggestion of a kinswoman who wished to know something of her Docker ancestry and connections. I had no intention of finding “blue blood” or “money in it”. Certainly, I have found affluence in some cases where the character and enterprise of the individual won it and which, quite justly, has not been diverted from lawful descendants. But aristocratic origin for the family is not forthcoming. However, better than this, I can record an ancient yeoman lineage notable for its sterling worth and exceptional culture. Westmorland has been particularly favoured in its educational endowments and this accounts for the fact that so many “Statesmen’s” sons rose to distinction in the professions and in public life, among them Dockers or their kinsfolk. Is this not sufficient?

As to the story here set out I must explain that it is a purely amateur effort and limited by the means and time at my disposal. Hence, indulgence is claimed for its imperfections. The pedigree here given will at least serve as the basis for a fuller story by those disposed to attempt it, and, it is hoped, may be the means of maintaining the unity of the family by making distant branches, who hitherto were strangers to each other, fully to realize that they are of the same kindred.

For the story before 1800 I am entirely responsible; for later information I am in some degree indebted to members of the family, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for their assistance and for their courtesy and patience under importunate questioning.

London, 1917

George Lissant

## CHAPTER 1

### ORIGIN OF THE NAME; DOCKER MANOR; DOCKER ARMS

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The meaning of the word Docker cannot be given with certainty. Some say that the first syllable is the equivalent of our modern Duck, while er represents the old English ora, a bank or shore. Others suggest that er is the same as ergh or argh, found in several Lancashire place names, and meaning the same as the Scottish sheiling, that is a shepherds hut or shelter for sheep. Another alternative suggestion is that the first syllable of Docker is from the old English personal name Doke or Docca. But until some really old spelling of the word Docker is found we are merely in the realm of speculation. In the past the word has been variously rendered. In the time of Henry II, it was written as Dochhere and in the time of Edward I, as Docherga. Later it varied according to the fancied spelling of the ancient scribes, examples of which will be seen in the extracts from the public records hereafter given.

The recognized authorities on British patronymics tell us that the surname of Docker is derived from a place of that name. There are two such places in England; one a township in the parish of Grayrigg, near Kendal, in Westmorland; the other a hamlet in north Lancashire, three and a half miles south-west of Kirkby Lonsdale, in the parish of Whittington. The two places are not far apart and, at some distant date, probably formed parts of a single holding. Westmorland and the northern part of Lancashire are not included in the Domesday surbaj and therefore we cannot name the holder of these townships in Saxon times or immediately after the Conquest.

Surnames are usually classified as follows:-

1. Patronymics, derived from the personal name of some remote ancestor, e.g, Wigg and Finn.
2. Topographical. Derived from (1) villages, towns and districts, as Bovington, Clifton, etc., and (2) local features as Wood, Hill, etc.
3. Occupation, such as Carpenter, Smith, Draper.
4. Nicknames, such as Black, White, Armstrong.

Docker belongs to class 2 (1). Names which derive themselves from villages have, perhaps, an undue amount of prestige attaching to them, doubtless because they are taken to imply a certain amount of dominion. But this applies only to a comparatively small number of families, such as the Berkeleys of Berkeley or the Cliftons of Clifton. The vast bulk of local surnames merely indicate the place of origin of their first bearers. It does not seem likely that the Dockers can claim any greater distinction than this. Indeed, it seems quite certain that they never possessed any manorial rights in either of the places called Docker.

Regarding the Docker, by Kendal, Nicholson and Burn, in their history of Westmorland, written in 1777, say:-

“This manor belonged to the hospital of St. Peter, afterwards called the hospital of St. Leonard’s York. This hospital had divers possessions in Westmorland, including Newby and Meburn. In exchange for lands in Kirkby

and High Barton, William de Lancaster, by charter, granted to the said hospital the manor of Docker 'by the metes and bounds therein specified'.

After the dissolution of the religious houses, the manor seems to have been granted to one Richard Washington, for in the 35<sup>th</sup> Hen. VIII, there is a licence of alienation to Richard Washington, to convey the manor of Docker to Richard Duckett, Esquire, of Greyrigg, whose descendant Anthony Duckett, Esquire, about the year 1690, sold the same to Sir John Lowther, bart. In whose family the same continues. The manor pays a quit rent of 13s.4d. yearly to the Duke of Leeds, whose ancestor, in the reign of Charles II, purchased this and many other fee farm rents of the Crown in Westmorland."

This statement of the local historians has been examined, and the writer is able to give authority for it and somewhat to amplify it. The manor appears to have belonged to the de Lancasters for three generations at least, before the time of Hen. II. In his reign it was granted to the hospital of St. Peter in York. The King's charter reads as follows:-

"Henry, King of Englad and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine and Count of Anjou, to the justices and sheriffs and ministers and all his faithful men, French and English, of Yorkshire, greeting. Know ye that I have granted and by my present charter confirmed to the hospital of St. Peter at York, of the gift of William son of William son of Gilbert of Lancaster, the grange of Dochhere.

Witnesses; H., bishop of Durham, John, bishop of Norwich, William, bishop of Worcester, al Winchester."

The "charter of William son of William of Lancaster" may thus rendered in English:-

"Be it known to all who shall see and hear these letters that I William son of William of Lancaster have granted and given to the poor of the hospital of the blessed Peter of York all the land which is called Docherga, viz: by the river which is between Docherga and Grayrigg and Docherga and Lambrig and Docherga and Wynfel and Docherga and Pattun and as the same river descends in Mymed and between Docherga and Falbec to its descent into Mymed and from its descent as it ascends to beneath the 'Wardas' and from the 'Wardas' into Knotermile and from Knotermild to Blabec by the middle of the wood where Blabec descends from Warlaheshayth and outside these boundaries the common pasture as far as Lon, this aforesaid land I and my heirs have given to the aforesaid poor persons in exchange for the land of Kirkby which Ketell, son of Elthred, had given to them and for the land of Bartonheved (Bartingsted?) which William my father had given to them And I and my heirs will warrant this aforesaid Docherga with all the aforesaid boundaries to the aforesaid poor persons against all men free and quit of all human service except the prayers of the poor persons. But if their animals should be found beyond these limits in my forest they shall be ejected with all gentleness without injury or harm to the brethren. But their horses and pigs shall be allowed to go through my forest. Furthermore if it should happen that because of violence of lords we should not be able to guarantee this land to them we will give to them an exchange of the same value.

Witnesses – the Lady Helewyas my spouse, Gilbert de Lancaster, Patrick son of Bernard, Robert Mustal, Baldricius, William de Pymunde, Achard (or Athard), Nicholas his son, Henry Fossard, Norman de Redman, Gervase, Knight, Grymbald, Knight.”

In 1293-4, a further charter, by Gilbert de Lancaster, continues the grant to the hospital of St. Peter of York. It may be thus translated:-

“Be it known to all men who shall see or hear these letters that I, Gilbert, son of Ranifer, moved by charity and piety, have granted and confirmed to the poor of the hospital of St. Peter of York the gift which William de Lancaster gave them in Kendal viz. the land which is called Docarhe viz. by the river (rivulus) which is between Docarhe and Grarig and Docarhe and Wynfel and Docarhe and Pattyn and so as the same river descends in Mimed and between Docarhe and Falbec and to the descent of the same river in Mimed and from the descent of the same as it ascends to beneath the “Wards” and from the ‘Wards’ to Knotermild and from Knotermild transversely (extraverso) to Brunchou in the south part and from Lickegile, where a cross is placed, and thence towards the east to another Brunchou near Sailis where another cross is placed and thence directly beyond Lickergile towards the east to beyond the great ash towards the brow of the mountain where a third cross is placed and thence directly towards the east as far as Blabec which descends from Warlaheshayth and falls in Mussa(?) at Bartingsted and outside these limits the common pasture as far as Lon. Moreover I have granted to the same that they may have their horses and pigs within my forest and that they may have two folds in my forest, one in Capelthwaite and the other in Roakerdale, for taking their horses and colts once a year and marking them (signandum), I have granted to the same gretheren that they may have a brother and a secular for keeping their horses and pigs within my forest without bow and arrows and without a dog but if their animals should be found outside the aforesaid limits in my forest they shall be ejected with all gentleness and without injury to the bretheren: Witnesses – the lord H. dean and chapter of St. Peters of York, the lord H. de Rodem, the lord Richard de Coupland, the lord G. de Lancaster, William son of Ketell and others.”

About the same time as this last charter, 1292, the Westmorland Assizes furnish this reference to the “brother” in charge of the “Grange” at Docker in Kendal:-

“The jurors present that brother Adam de Leverur, keeper of the Grange of Docker in Kendal, knowingly received Thomas de Kentmore outlawed for the death of William the Tanur. Therefore the sheriff is ordered to take him and the sheriff testifies that he cannot be found but has now withdrawn himself and is suspected. Therefore let him be exacted and outlawed. He had no goods.”

The grant of the manor of Docker to Richard Washington is referred to in the “Particulars of grants of fee farm rents in Westmorland” in the reign of Charles II. (Roll 34, m. 34):-

“Parcell of the late Monastery of St. Leonardes in the Cittie of Yorke: An annual rent, or tenth of XXVIIIs. Vid. For the manor of Docker as reserved

upon a grant thereof made to Richard Washington and his heirs for ever by letters Patent of the late King Henry VIII, bearing date the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of his raigne to hold in cheife and to pay the said 28s. at Michaelmas only.”

The original grant was to “Richard Washington of Grarig, Westmorland, in fee for £738.5.4½, and included, among other property, Shap Rectory, the manor of Docker, lands (many tenants names) in “Docker in the parish of Kirkby Kendal” and “a messuage in tenure of Richard Neveton in Newby in Morland parish”. This grant is dated 2 July 1544. A week later license was given to Washington to alienate Docker to Anthony Duckett.

The value of lands in Docker is given by Dugdale, in his Monasticon, as under (Vol. VI. 613):-

“Docker, etc. rents and farms £14.1.7½.” Docker, Perquisites of the Court, 1s. 10d.”

The extent of the manor is indicated in the following extract from the Common Plea Rolls (Mich. 36, Hen. VIII. 1544, 45 – No. 53).

“Westmorland. Anthony Duckett, esq., gives to the lord the King 10s. for leave to make an agreement with Richard Washington, of Grayrigg, gentleman, and Phillipa his wife concerning the manor of Docker, and 14 messuages, a water mill, 300 acres of arable land, 200 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood and underwood and 12d. rent in Docker, Kyrkby in Kendall, Middleton and Kirkbylonsdale.”

The passing of the manor from the Ducketts is forshadowed in the following abstract of Chancery Proceedings, dated 3 July 1671, (Bridges, bundle 474, No. 6):-

“Anthony Duckett of Grayrigghull, co. Westmorland, humbly sheweth that Anthony Duckett, Esq., deceased your orator’s grandfather, was in his lifetime seized of the manor or lordships of Grayrigg, Lamrig and Docker, and being so seized, upon the marriage of James Duckett, Esq., also deceased, your orator’s father, to Magdalen his wife orator’s mother, about 30 years since, he conveyed the said lands to the use of himself for life, and then of the said James Duckett, my father, for life, and then to me and my heirs male. And the said Ant. Duckett being indebted to the children of John Layburne, Esq., in £600 made a lease of his estate, or the greater part thereof, unto Sir Thomas Strickland, etc. etc.”

The foregoing evidence has been given to dispel the belief held by some of the living Dockers that their ancestors had manorial rights in Docker by Kendal. There is no support for such a claim. The only reference found to a Docker in official connexion with the manor is the following Chancery Proceeding, temp. Elizabeth, which does no more than prove, what is fully established in the next chapter, that some of the family lived in Docker long after others had migrated to Shap and its neighbourhood.

“The answer of Richard Docker to the Bill of Complaint of Anthony Duckett, Esq., Believeth that the complainant is lawfully possessed of the Rectory and tithes of corn, grain, sheaves, and all other tithes of corn in the manor of Grayriggs, co. Westmorland, and, being so possessed, about eight years ago, he did appoint this defendant to agree with the tenants for a yearly sum to be paid by them for seven years for tithes of corn which he did and among the rest he agreed with Henry Ward for his tithes which contract the plaintiff confirmed and permitted the said Ward and all the other tenants to inne and house their corn and this defendant doth deny that he doth conferderate with the said Ward to defraud the complainant.”

Only casual search has been made for particulars of the second place called Docker, in Whittington, from which the Warwickshire Dockers claim origin, and which gave London its famous Lord Mayor. The publications of the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire show that this Docker was for some time in the possession of a family named Brabin, held by them from the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1583 Henry Brabin was in possession of Docker Hall and other tenements in the parish of Whittington. He died in 1617 and was succeeded by his son William, who died the following year. William's eldest son, John, died in 1625 and was shown as holding various messuages, including Docker Hall, and land in the hamlet of Docker within the parish of Whittington, from the King as Duke of Lancaster, by the 100<sup>th</sup> part of a Knight's fee. His heir, his brother William, then 17 years of age, died at Docker in 1638 leaving a son and heir, Henry Brabin, 5 years old. Henry recorded a pedigree in 1664 when his son, William, was 7 years old. One of the family, Thomas Brabin, took part with Charles I in the first war and had to compound with the Parliament for his estates. The Brabin manor and estates were afterwards conveyed by marriage to John North of Docker. Richard, the son of this John North, had to compound for his estates in 1625. Docker Hall descended to Thomas North who died in 1794, after which, in 1825, it was sold to Joseph Gibson of Kirkby Lonsdale.

Docker Hall, now a farmhouse, is of little or no architectural or antiquarian interest having been much modernized and altered, but the older walls belong to the original late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century house. It is of two storeys, but has been whitewashed and the roof is covered with blue slates. Nearly all the mullioned windows have been built up. Two loose stones found not far from the house, and now built into the out-buildings, bear the dates 1622 and 1633 respectively, the latter with the initials EWB, and on a later addition is a stone with the initials HTM, and the date 1721. The house stands high up on the hill-side.

Another building at the bottom of the hill is called Lower Docker Hall. Here, in 1909, a piece of valuable 15<sup>th</sup> century oak carving was found.

No record, however, has been found that the Docker family ever had manorial rights in the district or at any time owned or lived in the Halls.

The name Docker is very likely to be confused with the somewhat similar names Dockeray, Dockray and Dockwra. The first syllable of all these words may have a common origin i.e. Doke or Docca, but the terminations seem to indicate a difference. Dockwra, for example, is the same as Dockwray, wray meaning a corner (of a field, etc.) while the second syllable of Docker represents ora or ergh. Hence we might

conclude that Docker and Dockwra designate distinct families, especially as the place so named are distinct and in different counties. However, Mr. William Farrer, of Hall Garth, Carnforth, the owner of Docker Hall, Kendal, thinks otherwise. He writes:-  
“The Docker family, I feel sure, descended from the Dockwray or de Dockwra family. There were two main stems. One was connected with Carlisle Cathedral Church and the bishops of Carlisle and obtained promotion by the influence of that See; the other long held lands in or about Strickland Kettle, near Kendal. Both originally took name from Dockwray in Matteredale in Cumberland. I enclose a few notes which illustrate my assertions.” The notes show that persons named Dockwra were in and about Kendal between 1370 – 1461, and possessed property in that district. Nicolson and Burn refer to them in the following passage regarding Dockwra Hall.

Dockwra Hall had its name from a respectable family that resided at the same a long time but which now seems to be totally extinct. At Lilly Hoo in Hertfordshire is the following monumental inscription, on the north side of the church:-

M. S.

Beati mortui qui in Domino Moriuntur Here lieth the body of Thomas Docwra the elder, esquire, lord of this town and patron of this church, descended of the ancient family of the Docwras of Docwra Hall in Kendall in the county of Westmorland, nephew and heir unto the right honourable Sir Thomas Docwra, lord grand prior of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He had to wife Mildred Hales of an ancient family in Kent, a grave and virtuous matron, with whom he lived 52 years, having been justice of the peace 40 years and high sheriff of the shire anno 23 Eliz. Beloved and revered for his gravity, wisdom, piety, justice and hospitality he died in his house at Putteridge, by him built, in the 84<sup>th</sup> year of his age Anno Dom 1602, leaving four sons and two daughters.

Not only does the family of Docwra seem to be extinct in Kendal but Docwra Hall too has disappeared, the only existing building which preserves the name being the Dockray Hall Mills. The Docker family also is extinct in Kendal; but, while this is the case, Docker Hall, Kendal, still stands and so do Docker Garth and Docker Nook. Whether these structures took name from the place or from the family named Docker cannot be definitely ascertained. It seems probable, however, that Docker Hall represents “the Grange” referred to in the charter of Hen. II, already mentioned, and, if so, it is pretty clear that the building was named from the locality in which it is situated, and that the Docker family cannot claim any more right to past ownership of the Hall than they can to that of the Manor. As has been said before, Docker named the family, not the family Docker. The person who named the hamlet was doubtless an ancient Briton with the personal name of Doke, Doke’s wray was his “corner or angular plot of land”, found in Dockwray in Matteredale, Cumberland. Doke’s hergh was his “hill temple”, found in Docker in Kendal and Whittington.

Some of our family think that Docker and Duckett are the same name. This is not so. The Ducketts came from Fillingham in Lincolnshire and ranked as esquires. They settled in grayrigg in the sixteenth century. That branch is now extinct. Their pedigree is thus given by Nicolson and Burn:-

John Duckett (son of Hugh, son of Richard, son of William son of Richard Duckett, of Fillingham, co. Lincoln) married Margery, daughter of William de Windefore of Grayrigg and so became possessed of the manor of Grayrigg. His son,

Richard, married a daughter of Sir Richard Redman, of Over Levins. His son

Sir Richard, married Mabel, daughter of Sir Roger Bellingham of Burneshead. In 5 Henry IV, he was M.P. for Westmorland, His son,

Thomas, esquire, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Middleton, of Middleton Hall, esquire, by Isabel, daughter of Sir Richard Musgrave of Hartley Castle. This Thomas was slain at Edgecote field in the reign of Henry VI. His son,

Richard, esquire, married Eleanor, daughter of William Harrington, esquire, who had considerable possessions in Lancashire and the barony of Kendal. He had issue Richard, Robert, Anne, who married Thomas Wessington (Washington?) of Hall Head in Westmorland and Mabel who married John Whittington of Barwick. The elder son,

Richard, esquire, married Agnes, daughter of John Fleming esquire, of Ridal. He had issue Anthony, James, Walter, Randolph and two daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy. He was succeeded by

Anthony, esquire, who married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Robert Bellingham and had by her Richard, Charles, Jasper, William and Gabriel.

Richard, esquire, succeeded. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir James Leyborne of Cunswick, esquire, and had issue Francis and Margery. His son became

Sir Francis, Knight. He married Marian, daughter of Alan Bellingham of Helsington, esquire, and had two sons, Anthony and William, and four daughters. He died in 12 Charles I. He was possessed of property including "the manir of Docker, holden of the King in capite by the service of the 20<sup>th</sup> part of one knight's fee, worth by the year £2.6.6. His son

Anthony, esquire, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Leyborne, esquire, and died in 1661. His son

James, esquire, was 50 in 1664. He was three times married and had issue by each wife. His first wife was Magdalen, daughter of Sir Henry Curwen, knight, by whom he had a daughter Margaret, and

Anthony, esquire, who was 28 in 1664. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Dalton, of Acorn Bank, esquire. This Anthony sold the estate to Sir John Lowther and died without issue. All his five brothers also died without male issue and the name and family in Westmorland is now extinct.

The arms assigned to Duckett, Dockwra and Docker differ greatly. The arms of the Ducketts, are said by Burke to be “Gules, a saltire argent between twelve cross crosslets or”, and by Nicolson and Burn “Sable, a saltire Argent.” The Dockwra arms are, sable, a chevron engrailed argent between three plates, and the crest, a heart gules within a fetterlock azure. No authority has been found in support of any claim that the Westmorland Dockers were, or are, entitled to coat armour. No record has been met with showing any member of the family as armigerous. But, in the “armorials” of Berry, Burke, and Robson, arms have been assigned to the name Docker without any county being specified. These arms are thus described. “Argent, seven half spears, three, one and three, sable headed azure.” The crest is said to be “a bridge with three arches proper.” The motto, which Docker shares with Powlett Townshend, is “Stare super vias antiquas”. These arms some of our family use, and find in them a possible record that a remote Docker defended a bridge with spearmen. The Whittington Dockers, now mostly in Warwickshire, use different arms.

## CHAPTER 2

### NOTICES OF DOCKERS IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS

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The records of this country cover a period of over six hundred years and are so extensive and varied that not in a single lifetime could anyone, however expert and industrious, examine even a tenth part of them. However, there are some of them fairly accessible and specially valuable to genealogists. These the pedigree hunter has to examine for possible data for his work, although it is seldom that a connected pedigree can be proved before the time of Henry VIII, when parish registers were instituted and wills were more carefully preserved. But one never knows what evidence may be forthcoming in the ancient muniments and therefore it is always wise to search them as thoroughly as possible. And this had been done in the present case.

The compiler's purpose in examining the older records was not solely to discover ancient lineage for the Dockers. He wished also to find what part they had taken in making history and what place they occupied in the social scale in early days. Although he has devoted considerable time to research he has been disappointed in not being able to offer more evidence of either aspect than is given in this chapter.

This failure is accounted for partly by the fact that Westmorland lacks record in the old surveys of Domesday. Testa de Neville, Kirkby's Quest, etc., and partly from the Dockers being overshadowed by the ecclesiastical establishments from which they had their tenures. There can be little doubt that the Dockers of Shap and Morland were settled in the earliest days in Docker by Kendal. It is likely that they were tenants of the religious house which had been founded at Preston in Kendal in the eleventh century. This locality was not found suitable and, in the lifetime of the founder, the establishment was moved, about 1119, to a more peaceful spot and became known as Heppe Abbey, and later as Shap Abbey. Some of the Dockers probably moved with the Abbey, for it is in Shap and neighbourhood that we find them in greatest force, and holding Abbey lands, when the dissolution of monasteries took place. Previously to that no Docker emerges as a manucaptor, his connexion with the Abbey probably exempting him from military service. His name does not appear in the Hundred Rolls or Lay Subsidy Rolls, probably because the Abbey absorbed him. And when a lawsuit arose in connexion with the Abbey lands the tenant did not appear but always the Abbot.

This apology will perhaps excuse the paucity of the notes which follow of old time Dockers. Such notes are presented mainly with the idea that they may be of some future use.

The earliest is found in the Patent Rolls of 1272 and refers to a John Docker. It is calendared in these words:-

“2 Nov. Pardon to John Docker and John Vicart, merchants of Hu, of all trespasses committed by them in having communication with Flanders and exporting wool into parts beyond seas, contrary to the prohibition of Hen. III, and Edw. I, and Licence for them to make stay in England and Trade.”

Twenty years later the de Banco Rolls tell us that “Roger de Coupland gave half a mark for leave to agree with John Docker and Margaret his wife.” The parties to the Fine were of Yorkshire. In 1343 this entry appears in the Patent Rolls:-

“14 February. Commission of oyer and terminer to William Basset, and others, on complaint of Michael de Presfen that William de Dockers, and others, carried away his goods at Wirk on Tweed and assaulted his men and servants, whereby he lost their services for a great time.”

The next not is still less encouraging than that above. The person referred to was of Westmorland and may have been an ancestor! The entry reads:-

“Delivery of the gaol of the lord the King of the castle of Appleby, before Thomas Fulthorp and Richard Knytht, Justices... at Appleby, the Wednesday the Eve of the Assumption of the blessed virgin Mary, the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry VI., Richard Dowker of Thirnby in co. Westmorland, husbandman, is indicted before the aforesaid keepers of the peace of this that he feloniously stole a small ox of the value of 5s. of the goods of William Tynkler at Ascom, the Thursday next after the feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the said King.” (1434-35).

In 1438-39 the Dockers were done to as they had done. The de Banco Rolls for that year show that:-

“John Malkynson of Middleton in co. Westmorland, labourer was indicted before the sheriff in his turn of this that he stole a cow of the value of 10s. of the goods of Katerine Dowker at Berburn on the morrow of 5<sup>th</sup> Hildry, the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the King aforesaid.” (i.e. Henry VI.)

One of our family is probably referred to in the following from the Coram Rege Rolls, Mich. 18 Henry VI. m.36 (1439-40):-

“John Dokker of Crosby Ravensworth in co. Westmorland, yeoman, was accused by Elizabeth, widow of Robert Crackenthorp, with being accessory to the death of her husband. He was not found by the Sheriff. Wm. De Thornburgh of Selsted, gent. Roland de Thornburgh, brother of Wm. Gent. Oliver de Thornburgh, gent. Jn. De Lancaster of Holgill, gent., and William Topping, of Regill, who were accused of being the principals were outlawed and Thos. De Derby of Maulde Meaburn died in Appleby gaol.”

No further mention of a Docker is found until 1466. Then Richard Pigot, Esq., of Clotherham, bequeathed by will 40s. to ‘William Docker, my servant.’ The de Banco Rolls, Trinity 13 Edw. IV. (1473-4) record that:-

“William Navylton offered himself against Thomas Rokby of New Malston in co. York, habadasher, and Robert Dockeray of Navylton in Rydale co. York, yeoman, otherwise called Robert Doker of Skyehouse, in the parish of Fysshlake in co. York, yeoman, (and others) in a plea that each of them pay him 40s. which they owe him and urgently detain.”

About the same time the following entry is found in the Coram Rege Rolls:-

“Westmorland. The Sheriff is ordered not to omit to take Robert and Nicholas Belingeham of Burnolset, esquire and gentleman, John Strykeland, of Byndergg, yeoman, Thomas Lok of Stavely, yeoman, Nicholas Thomlynson of Stavely, yeoman, Henry Johnson of Cruke in Kendal, yeoman, Roland Wilson of Cruke, yeoman, Ric. Lokkey of Cruke, yeoman, Jn. Waryror of Strykeland Ketyll, (and a great many more yeoman all named of Wymerdermer (Windermere) Lambrig, Kirkby in Kendal, Askeby grange, Strykeland Ketyll,) Thomas Dokker of Lambrig, yeoman, to answer to the lord the King for being accessory to the death of John Salkeld, alias Barbour, whereof Agnes his wife accused them and they are not found. (Coram Rege Rolls No. 837, No. 10d.)”.

In 1482-83, we find a member of the family in holy orders. The Testamenta Eboracensia has this entry:-

“In 1483-84, Jan. 24. Licence to Robert Docker, penancer in the church of Ripon, to marry in the chapel of St. Mary of Ripon, Richard Goldsburg Esq., and Agnes Tailor of Ripon. Without banns.”

In 1485, “Robert Dokker, grest at the Lady Kirk at Ripon” was one of the executors of the will of Dame Margaret Pigot. In the Plea Rolls of the same year this Robert is described as “Chaplain of the blessed Mary of Ripon.”

In the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Henry VIII (1543-44) we have an interesting entry in the Augmentation Miscellaneous Books (Vol 126, No. 45). It relates to the Dockers of Shap, whence our family sprang, and it shows that they were tenants of the Abbey as early as 1483, that is more than half a century before parish registers record their names. The entry reads:-

“John robyson of Thaige of fourtie yeres Sworne and examined the XIIIth day of Maye last by vertue of the Kings Highness commission deposithe that he hath a tenement in Shappe with good howses Buyldede and thereto belongithe XVI acres of lands. He payeth XXd. For teeth hay belonging to his tenement and ther is certain teeth he holdeth by force of an exchange maid 50 years agoo between Bisshope Redman and the fermers of the said tenement that the said John occupieth.”

The entry continues:-

“The parschoners of Shappe that have appeared before us:-

John Claddal	John robynson.
William robynson, fletcher.	Alexr. Lowther.
John Docker.	Thomas Docker.
John Kytchyn.	Willm. Aray.
Richard Robinson.	Ric. Barwicke.
Hewe Lowyes (Hugh Law)	John Dobdon.

Henry Walker.

All the persones namyd sayeth That for all their tiethe hay ther was maide exchange in Bisshope redmayn days of certain gronde belonging ther

tenements in Shape Myer and for the same the above said tenants was abated of a parcel of their tithes haye ever sens which is threescore yeres and more past.”

The Commissioners to whom these replies were given were Thos. Sandforthe, Lancelette Lancastre, Thomas Fallowfield and Cristofer Crackenthorpe, Esq. The mention of a Fallowfield and a Law is interesting. Both were important families in the neighbourhood of Newby and were allied by marriage to the Dockers. The John and Thomas Docker mentioned above are probably the same as those named in the following grant which is found among the State Papers of Henry VIII:-

“Grants in 36 Hen. VIII (1544). Sir Thomas Wharton, lord Wharton, granted for his services, inter alia, the house and site of the late monastery of Shappe, the lordship and manor of Shappe, Westmorland, the demesne lands of the said monastery and tithes thereon and all the lands in tenure of William Docker, Thomas Dokre, John Dockere of Rigge, the wife of Ric. Dockere, Thos. Docre, and others, in Shappe; rent from lands in tenure of Alex. Docre and others in Kelde and Thornshappe, Westmorland.”

This paper is of special interest to us as it includes the name of Alexander Docker whom we take to be the direct ancestor of our family. We shall hear of him again in the next chapter.

There are very few notes of the other Dockers in the sixteenth century. They are these:- The Muster rolls for Nottingham, in 1537, mention a Thomas Docker. The Valor Ecclesiasticus names two of the family who were affected by the dissolution of the religious houses: Robert Docker was incumbent of Lymplesham in Somerset, and Richard Docker was Vicar of Mellyng in the Lune Valley, North Lancashire. The York wills include that of a Thomas Docker, dated 11 Oct. 1543 he was buried in St. Peter's church, Nottingham.

In 1587, we have the following:-

“At an inquest held at Uberrowehall co. Westmorland, on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 29 Elizabeth, George Docker was one of the jurors who said that Thomas Wariner labourer, at Uberrowehall, not having the fear of God before his eyes and seduced by the instigation of the devil, voluntarily hanged himself with a rope attached to a beam in a swinehouse.”

At this period the parish registers become available and enable us to give authentic information regarding the Dockers of Newby. The notes which here follow, in chronological order, are merely given to show that some of the Dockers remained in the place of their origin, Kendal. These notes do not advance our purpose but they are given as likely to be useful to future enquirers. Experience has taught genealogists that no notes should be rejected. Sometimes they quite unexpectedly prove of value.

“1623. “A list of names of those living in Virginia, 16 Feb. 1623. At ye Plantacon over agt James Cittie – John Docker (and others)” (Hotten's list of emigrants to America.)

1624. "Mr. Treasurers Plant. James Citty; deat at all these plantations over the Watter. 1624.: - John Docker (and others). (Ibid).

Temp Chas. I. William Docker of Kirkby Lonsdale was security for Anthony Burrow, also for Arthur Crosfield, Rowland Conder, Richard Hensdale, and others.

Chancery Proceedings, Chas. I. (Bdl. D 10. No. 57). Year 1646-47. "Reply to complaint of John Docker. Defendant verily thinketh that William Docker, late father of John Docker, was seized of 15 acres of land or woody ground, commonly called Oxenholme Woods, granted to him by Edward Fisher, Geo. Wilson, and William Janson, late the lands of Henry, lord Herbert and Dame Anne his wife, sometime belonging to Kendal Park, and also one fourth part of that close called Oxenholme containing 8½ acres, and the fourth part of Oxenholme Woods containing 5 acres, late the land of Margaret, Countess Dowager of Cumberland, belonging to Kendal Park and granted to the said William Docker by Henry Fisher, Robert Sigeswicke and William Janson. The said William Docker for £100 paid by William Birkett of Kirkby Kendal, brassier, to divers persons for the debt of the said William Docker who by his deed, dated 30 March XI James I (1613-14), did grant unto the said Wm. Birkett the said 15 acres of Woody ground called Oxenholme Woods."

The Defendant cites similar deeds by William Docker but does not give any further information about him or John Docker personally. It is not necessary therefore to quote further.

The Committee for Compounding shows that Robert Docker of Underbarrow, three miles west of Kendal, was a soldier and master of arms in Sir H. Bellingham's regiment in the north. This Robert Docker was a pledge for Richard Gathorne and Miles Rowlandson..

1673. Land Revenue Court Rolls (116.3). "An inquisition taken at Kirkby Kendal on 5 April in the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the Reign of our most gracious Sovereigne Lord Kinge Charles the second, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Before Sir John Otway. Kt., deputy steward to our Sovereigne Lady Queene Catherine, of the said manor of the Marquess Fee within the Barony of Kendal, by the paths of the severall persons hereafter named, being Tennantes within the said fee, being sworn to enquire to the best of their knowledge and such evidence as to them should be given to certaine Articles from the Right Hon'ble the Queen's Councill at Denmarke House, dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1675, to the said Steward directed."

The names of the Jurors include those of Thomas Docker, Edmund Newby and 15 others. The entry continues:-

"The said Jurors doe present the severall Townshippes or Graveshippes, or parts thereof, to be within the said Fee called the Marques Fee, viz. Gressmire, Langden, Underbarrow, Stavely, Nethergraveshipp, Skaltewaikrigg hay,

Huttoneth hay, Stricklandroger, Greenhead, Hugill, Crosthwaite and Lyth. The said Jurors present that there is noe Leasehold Tenantes that hold from the Queen's Majestie within the said fee. As for dry rents and customary rents due to her Majesty within the said fee they do present at followeth:-

Underbarrow	Thomas Docker – 15s. 2d.
	Robert Docker - 14s. 1d.
Fullen Milrent:-	Thomas Docker – 1s.
	Robert Docker – 1s. 8d.

Underbarrow, 1675. Extract of the fines of new tenants admitted at the Court: "Dorothy Saires for a fine for her entry to a tenement at a rent of 16s. after the death of Thomas Docker - £2.5.6."

Crosthwaite, 1677. Inquisition at Kirkby Kendal. Thomas Docker was one of the persons giving information. He was probably a son of the Thomas or Robert above mentioned.

1699. Court Baron of the Most Serene our Lady Catherine Queen Dowager of England, held 22 September 1689: "Scalthwaitrigge Hay and Hutton I' the hay: Milo Dowker for his fine and entry into four parcels of fields and a house called a Barn lately in the tenure of Edward Harrison. Annual rent, 4s. 4d."

1710. The Court Baron of 8 July 1710. "We present that Elizabeth Barrow ought to be admitted Tennant of a parcel of ground lying near Polgreen in Neithergrave of the yearly rent of 4s. 4d. by deed from Rowland Dowker."

1711. The Court Baron. The jurors "present that Francis Docker of Kendal, weaver, ought to be admitted Tenant of a parcel of ground called the Sinkhead (? Sunhead) in the Hay of the yearly rent of 1s. 9½. In the right of Margaret Docker his wife.

1716. Customary Tenants at Hay: Francis Docker.

1717. He is shown again as tenant at Hay and as a juror at Scalthwaite.

1718. "Manor of the Marquess Fee within the Barony of Kendal. Court Baron General of the right honourable lord Henry Viscount Lonsdale, held at the Moot Hall in Kirkby Kendal on 6 June 1718. The Jurors present that Richard Tompson of Holmscale is admitted tenant of one close called Sunhead in the Hay by deed from Francis Docker, Margaret Docker, and Dewis Wilson and of the Marquess fee and of the yearly rent of 1s. 9d." (Land Rev. Court Rolls, 1168).

1754. Fine between James Backhous, Gent., plaintiff and William Docker and Isobel his wife, deforciant, of one messuage, one water mill, one kiln, one Garden, one Orchard, 35 acres of (arable) land, 5 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 10 acres of furze and heath. Common of pasture for all manner of cattle, and common of Turbary in the parish of

Haversham. James gave William and Isobel, £100. (Fees and Fines, Westmorland, 28 George II. Easter).

1754. This is the final agreement between William Docker, plaintiff, and Robert Gibson and Elizabeth his wife, deforcians, of one messuage, one mill, one kiln, one garden, one orchard, 30 acres of (arable) land, 10 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 5 acres of furze and heath, common of pasture and common of turbary, in the parish of Haversham. William Docker paid Robert and Elizabeth, £60. (Fees and Fines, Hil. 28. Geo.II. Westmd.)
1769. In Overknotts, Nethergraveship and Crosthwaite near Kendal. Names of customary Tenants: "Mr James Dowker 4s. 1½d. In Underbarrow and Greenrig – Edward Docker – 13s. 3½." Edward Docker was also one of the Jurors for the manor.
1813. The name of Samuel Dowker appears in the Muster Roll of the Kendal and Lonsdale Militia.