

A Westmorland Family:Fortunes of the Philipsons.

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Of late years much new material has come to hand concerning the Philipson family by which it is possible to correct and add to existing pedigrees of the family. I have also been able from time to time to collect some information from old deeds and Parish Registers, and so I venture to put my Notes within reach of the public. I know well that many Philipsons are still among us, and there are many people in no way related to the family, yet, who take an interest in the fortunes of the Philipsons. I am not without the hope that my Notes may tempt someone with time and money to complete the history of this old Westmorland family. There are pages of entries awaiting the searcher in old Parish Registers, many wills to consult, and doubtless old deeds would be forthcoming did their owners realise the information they could give was wanted.

An eighteenth century writer says, “antiquity is ever involved in obscurity.” This is particularly true with regard to the Philipson family; even the best known legends of the family are wrapped in obscurity. At the very beginning of the pedigree it meets us, and remains with us to the end. The first obscure point is in connection with the original home of the family. It is commonly supposed to be Hollin Hall, near Staveley, Kendal, but at present none can say decisively that it was. In my own mind Hollin Hall has been embedded as the first home of the family for so many years, that I shall continue to regard it as such until positive proof against the idea compels me to dislodge it.

Before proceeding further I ought to say that the framework of the Philipson pedigree is taken from the Heralds’ Visitation Pedigree, 1615 and 1665, and the one given in Nicholson and Burn’s History of Cumberland and Westmorland, 1777. In this last work the Visitation Pedigree was consulted, also Sir Daniel Fering’s MSS, and the Machell MSS.

The Beginnings at Kendal

Robert Philipson of Hollinghall (now Hollin Hall) who married a Dockwray of Dockwray Hall, Kendal, was the first of the family. He is reputed to have flourished in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). Nicholson and Burn say they have not found the name of Philipson in this county earlier than the reign of Henry VI (1422-1461), when one Rowland Philipson was living who married Catharine Carus of Asthwaite. Recent research has brought to light the existence of one John Philipson, between the first Robert given in the Visitation Pedigree, and Rowland, the first Nicholson and Burn could trace. The earliest mention of John is in the 5th year of Richard II’s reign. In 1383, John was one of the witnesses to a grant by Simon de Multon and Roger, son of William, the clerk of Kyrkeby Lonesdale to John del Chambre and Christiana, his wife, of certain lands they held “of the gift and feoffment of the same John in Staveley Godmond.” Robert de

Docwra was another witness. Then in a Rental of the lands of Phillipa, “late the wife of Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford and John de Hothome” in 1390-94 we find John Philipson holding an “intacke in Undermylnebeck” for which he renders 2d., also a close called Bulnysperke. Again in the Applethwaite portion of the rental John Philipson, Richard Tayleyor, John Addeson and Roger Byrketh held Le Calvegartrige, for which they rendered 13s 4d. John Philipson and others also held the water-corn mill, for which they rendered £3 Os Od. At the same time John Philipson held two acres of meadow in “Troutbeke” for which he rendered 2s Od. It is significant that this John Philipson held land in the same places as later generations of Philipsons.

The date of birth of Rowland Philipson of Hollin Hall is not known, but his death took place in 1517. He married Catherine Carus of Asthwaite, and had by her at least two sons, Edmund, who died young, and Robert who married Janet Layburne. Only one child is recorded of this marriage, a son called Christopher. Robert died in 1539. Whellan says the following is painted on the glass in a window at Calgarth Hall: - “Robert Philipson and Jennet Labor-ne. His Wife. He died in anno. 1539. She December 1579” Robert’s son Christopher is the first described in the pedigree as of “Calgarth”. He married Elizath Briggs, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Briggs, of Helsfell, Kendal. Calgarth is said to have come to the Philipsons through this marriage, but as yet I have no proof of this statement, and to my mind it is one which needs proof. At present I cannot say whether Calgarth came to the Philipsons from the Briggs or whether Christopher built the Hall on land which had been held by his family since 1390-94, but both the Hall and Christopher are Elizabethan, and from Elizabethan times onwards Calgarth Hall is constantly mentioned in the Philipson records. Helsfell certainly came to the Philipsons through Christopher’s marriage with Elizabeth Briggs. Christopher was Receiver of the Rents of Westmorland for Edward VI. He had five sons, Robert, Nicholas, Frances, Rowland and Myles. According to Nicholson and Burn. Christopher died in the year 1564-5, but his will is dated 20 May 1566. In this document he describes himself as Christopher Philipson of Crook, so though he owned Calgarth, he evidently made Thwatterden, or Crook Hall, his chief residence. His mother who did not die until 1579 would be living at Hollin Hall, and this would account for there being no mention of Hollin Hall in his will. He left various lands and tenements to his son “Rolland”. “Also I geve to the said Rolland and unto his heirs male of his bodie lawfully begotten my hole title of the Calgarthe lyinge in Wynandermer.” To his son Myles he left lands in Crook et. And “the tenement of the Langeholme in Wynandermer.” He also willed that “Myles Philipson and his heirs male have the governance of the fermhold that Hewghe Tallenson dwellithe upon accordinge to the ordenance of Myles Phillipson last will.” This last must refer to an earlier Myles of whom we have no record.

Christopher gave to his son Myles the reversion of the Calgarth estate if Roland and his line failed to have lawful make heirs, also “sex kye, foure oxen, a horse and a meare, two yonge staggs... two stotts, two whies, two whie striks, and two whie calves... all my household stuff that I have in Crook, with all the sheep that is there, exsepted bords, bedstocks, chests, arks and almereres, a masar, and sex silver spones with knopes on and a challes: all these to remayne at the house thare withoute prisement so longe as any of the Philipson name shall dwell at the said house in Crook.” It is evident that Christopher

intended Calgarth to be the chief seat of the family, but he also wished Thwatterden to continue a Philipson home, which it did for about a hundred and thirty years, when the name vanished from Thwatterden. And the fate of those six precious silver spoons “with knopes on” is unknown.

The Main Line at Calgarth

As shown in Christopher’s will the family split into two sections, the Philipsons of Calgarth and the Philipsons of Crook. I will first follow the fortunes of the main line who settled at Calgarth. Nicholson and Burn state that Robert, the eldest son of Christopher of Crook inherited Calgarth, that he died in 1631 aged sixty-three, and that the epitaph on the South wall of Windermere Parish Church is his. According to this he must have been born in 1568, two years after his father’s death, and he was the oldest of five. Moreover his name is not mentioned in his father’s will, so it is evident that he died young without children, as did his two brothers, Nicholas and Francis.

Roland then inherited Calgarth. He married Catherine, daughter of Nicholas Carus and had issue three sons and one daughter, Christopher, Robert, Rowland and Elizabeth. He purchased the advowson of Windermere Parish Church in 1564-5. Adam Carus held the living from 1548 to 1586, probably he was related to Rowland’s wife. A few months after his purchase Rowland conveyed a moiety of the advowson to Robert Bindloss of Helsington, from whom it went into the hands of the Braithwaites. The Philipsons and Braithwaites held the advowson until 1704, when Sir Christopher Philipson of Crook, and Lady Otway, niece and heiress of the last Braithwaite of Ambleside, sold their moieties to Dr. Fenton. At the time Rowland Philipson bought the advowson he was described as of Hollin Hall. Probably he lived there with his grandmother after his grandfather’s death until he inherited Calgarth from his father in 1566. Hollin hall is not bequeathed in Christopher’s will, so Rowland must have inherited it from his grandfather.

Rowland was the first Philipson to bear a coat of arms. The family claimed descent from Philip, a younger son of de Therlwall in Northumberland, and in recognition of this claim the Heralds confirmed the right of Rowland Philipson to use the Therlwell arms, and granted him a crest. Other arms are, Gules, a chevron between three boars’ heads couped ermine, tusked or Crest. Out of a mural coronet or, a plume of five ostrich feathers, three argent, two gules. The same coat was granted to Rowland’s younger brother, Miles of Thwatterden, Crook, all within a bordure or, and the crest differed only the plumes, three being gules, two argent, mantled gules, doubled or lined white. The motto of both branches is “Fide non Fraude”.

Rowland died on the 8th of September, 1582. His son Christopher, born in 1567 was his heir. From an inquisition post mortem held at Kendal, 4 January, 1582-3, we learn that Rowland Philipson “long before his death was seised of the capital messuage called Calgarthe and divers lands and tenements adjoining and belonging thereto in the parish of Wynandermer... and seven messuages in Wynster..., and one capital messuage called “Hollinghaull” and divers lands and tenements adjoining and belonging thereto in Staveley in Parish of Kendall; and one parcel of land and wood called “Outwoode” lately

parcel of a tenement called “le Eshees” in Staveley... six messuages in Underbarrowe,... 13 messuages in Stricklandkettle... 7 messuages in Bradleyfield”. Calgarth and all his tenements and lands except Hollin Hall and “le Outwoode” were left to his eldest son Christopher with reversion in default of male heirs to his second son, Robert, or again failing male heirs to his third son Rowland. Hollin Hall and “le Outwoode” were left to Robert, with reversion to Rowland in default of male heirs. Before dealing with Christopher, the heir to Calgarth, I will note what is known of Rowland’s other children. Robert, who was born in 1568, married Anne, daughter of Geoffrey Gourley, of London, and had seven children. Nicholson and Burn say he resided at Melsonby, Yorkshire, during the lifetime of his brother Christopher, and that he inherited Calgarth on the death of his brother Christopher. But there is no inquisition post mortem, or other evidence to show that he ever owned Calgarth; all the evidence goes to prove that he never did inherit the estate. His brother did not die until 1634, and left Calgarth to “Christopher his kinsman,” who was in reality his nephew and the son of Robert. If Robert had been alive at the time of his brother Christopher’s death, he would have inherited Calgarth according to the clause in his father’s will, which left Calgarth to him in default of male heirs to his brother. Therefore Robert must have been dead in 1634. We know from the mural epitaph in Windermere Parish Church that a Robert Philipson died in 1631, aged 63, and as Robert of Melsonby was born in 1568, I think the epitaph may safely be ascribed to him. The epitaph is as follows:-

“The Author’s Epitaph upon
Him Self: made in the
Tyme of his sickness.
A man I was, wormes meate I am
To earth returned from whence I came:
Many removes on earth I had
In earth at length my bed is made:
A bed which Christ did not disdain
Altho’ it could not him retain,
His deadlie foes might plainlie see;
Over sinn and death his victorie,
Here must I rest, till Christ shall let me see,
His promised Jerusalem and her falicitie.
Veni Domine, Jesu, Veni Cito.

Robert Philipson Gent XIII to Octobris Ano salute 1631. Ano retata June 1631to. Probably Melsonby came into the family through a marriage, but I can throw no light on this point. We first hear of the place when Robert lived there. The wife of his elder brother, Christopher, came from that part of Yorkshire, but this may be coincidence only, and in no way connected with the acquisition of the property.

Rowland, third son of Rowland and Catherine, married Elizabeth Mohun. About 1630 Rowland Philipson, gentleman, died seised of a capital messuage called “Hollinghow” and a parcel of land called Outwood. Elizabeth, daughter of Rowland and Catherine, married Hugh Fisher of London.

To return to Calgarth, Christopher was born in 1567, and was only fifteen years of age when his father died. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Marmaduke Wyvil of Burton Constable, Yorkshire. They had no issue. He died in 1634, seised of Calgarth, messuages and tenements in Winster, Hollin Hall, the Outwood and various other lands and tenements. Christopher Philipson, aged thirty was his kinsman and next heir.

A Gift to Cartmel Priory

Christopher was the eldest son of Robert of Melsonby and his wife Anne. He was born in 1604. Robert's other children were Robert, Rowland, Carus, John who inherited Calgarth when his brother Christopher died without issue, Anne and Mary. Christopher of Calgarth married twice. His first wife was Mary, daughter of Thomas Percehay of Riton, Yorkshire. His second wife was Anne, daughter of Richard Burghe of Easby, Yorkshire. Neither of these wives had any children. This Christopher was a man of letters. In a note on him in *The Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Old Series, Vol lv.*, it is said of him that he "seems to have been devoted to the cultivation of letters, and who is supposed to have presented several books to the Library at Cartmel Church. I think he was also a barrister-at-law and a major for Charles I." Many ancient volumes are still preserved in the Vestry at Cartmel Priory Church, but beyond the fact that most of them were given by a Preston of Holker, nothing seems to be known either about their contents, or other donors. The examination of them is a task awaiting a scholar, and if ever one undertakes it and finds any reference to Christopher Philipson in any of the old books, I hope he will make known his find through the columns of this paper.

It was this same Christopher who composed the "Inscription to Commemorate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot," which is inscribed on an arch in Windermere, Parish Church, just across the aisle from his father's epitaph on himself. Evidently father and son shared the same taste. The original is in Latin verse, but the Rev. E. J. Nurse has kindly given me permission to use his literal translation as given in his interesting book "History of Windermere Parish Church".

"This is that day more famed each year brings it round, which god himself appoints and marks with his peculiar favour. Rejoice ye who are good! The mischief conspired in (or by) Stygian darkness has been now made an empty tale by the hand of Providence.

England which was shortly to be conspicuous for the greatness of its ruin may now sing hymns since she has remained free by the aid of Heaven.

England expresses her great joy. I am delivered from the jaws of Faux as from a prison of death. Glory to God in the highest!

Hence is my secret safety.

Christopher Philipson, Junior, Gentleman, 1629."

The inscription was written while his uncle still reigned at Calgarth, hence the reason for describing himself as Christopher Philipson, Junior. Two years later his father wrote his quaint epitaph and five years later Christopher Senior died.

Stormy days were approaching Calgarth. The Philipsons were among those cavaliers who paid heavily for their loyalty. As previously stated Christopher was a major in the army of Charles I.; his brother John was also in the King's service. In 1648 Christopher Philipson of Calgarth was brought before the Committee for Sequestration of Westmorland and was fined £200 for being at Tarneybanks, a Cavalier rendezvous. I cannot give the date of Christopher's death. He was alive in 1651, but that is the last mention I have recorded of him. He was succeeded by his brother John, fifth son of Robert of Melsonby. This seems to prove that Robert, Rowland and Carus were all dead before then.

The Skulls of Calgarth

Before tracing John's career it will be best to deal with two other points connected with Calgarth – a mysterious stone slab, and the equally obscure legend of the skulls of Calgarth. The stone slab, now preserved in the Storrs Mission Room, Windermere, was noticed some years ago in an outhouse at Calgarth by the late Mr. Arthur Jackson, and was eventually presented by Mr. Hedley to Windermere Parish Church. This stone is the size of the "mensa" of a prereformation altar, but I can find no trace on it of the Five Signs, representing the Five Wounds of Christ, nor of the cavity where the sacred relic was kept, and at one end a partially obliterated inscription suggests that the slab has been at some time intended for a gravestone. "MOR...HRISTI. VIT... W....HILIPSON 1612." Is all that is left of the inscription. No doubt it once read Mors Christi Vita Mihi (The death of Christ is life to me), but I have no record of a Philipson dying in 1612, so am unable to fill in the illegible name. The stone may have been intended for one of Robert of Melsonby's sons, three of whom died young, though this is pure surmise. It is to be hoped some authority on mediaeval church furniture will one day examine the stone and give an opinion. If it should be pronounced a "mensa" then the question of its origin will arise. Did it come from Calgarth Hall in the first place, or was it taken there from the chapel on St. Mary's Holme, an island on Windermere Lake which belonged to the Philipsons, and which had a chapel which has now completely disappeared? Whatever its history, it is reassuring to know it is now in safe keeping.

And now to the second digression, the famous legend of the skulls. The legend runs that one Myles Philipson, a Justice of the Peace, wished to add to his estate a small tenement owned by an old couple called Kraster and Dorothy Cook. The Cooks refused to sell, and in order to gain possession of this coveted property, Philipson invited them to a Christmas feast at his house. Afterwards he accused them of stealing a silver cup which was said to be missing. Somehow the cup was so found that the Cooks appeared the culprits. They were hanged at Appleby, but before her death Dorothy laid seven curses on Calgarth and said that while its walls stood they would haunt it day and night. There is a version of the curses as follows:-

“Hark’s te here, Myles Philipson, that teenie lump o’ land.
Is t’ dearest grund a Philipson has ever bowte,
For ye shall prosper niver muar, yersel, nor yan o’ t’ breed;
And while Calgarth’s strong woes shall stand
We’ll haunt it day and neet”

It is said that from that day forth the skulls have appeared at Calgarth and returned there, no matter what pains the inhabitant were at to be rid of them.

So goes the Legend, but so far no one has taken the trouble to ascertain the facts. Some years ago the late H. F. Wilson, of Hull, suggested that the title deeds of Chiselburn Hall, or the Manorial Court Records of Windermere, might throw some light on the origin of the story. The old “Cooks’ House” has disappeared, and a modern building is put up on its site. From the records available no Myles Philipson ever owned Calgarth called Miles in the middle of the 17th Century. Myles Philipson of Crook, son of Christopher, seems more fitted for the part. At any rate he was a J.P., and he owned a “challes.” Both Christopher Philipson of Calgarth, who died in 1634, and his nephew Christopher were Justices of the Peace. If either of these made the false accusation against the Cooks, Christopher Senior is more likely to have played the part. Then, and up to them, the Calgarth Philipsons were active in acquiring lands, but from the time of Christopher, Junior, onwards their lands were shrinking, and their estates impoverished by fines, the price they paid for their loyalties to the Stuarts.

Before following John’s career, I will give the destiny of his three sisters, all that remain to account for of the family of Robert of Melsonby. Anne became the wife of Henry Ward of Rigmaden; Mary married William Shaw of Carmel Fell, while Catherine married George Gilpin of Kentmere. John, as before stated, succeeded his brother Christopher at Calgarth. He married Dorothy, daughter of Christopher Crackenthorpe, of Newbiggin, and there were eleven or twelve children of the marriage. Robert, who succeeded his father, Christopher, John, Rowland according to Nicholson and Burn, but he is not given in the Visitation Pedigree of 1665. Carus, William, Miles, Mary, Anne, Margaret, Dorothy and Barbara. I have no further record of these children, save of Robert the heir. John of Calgarth was at Hollin Hall before he went to Calgarth. About 1650 his name appears among the delinquents and papists whose estates are under sequestration. Eventually he compounded at one-third, £134 for Hollin Hall. “Lands there were forfeited by him and bought from the Treason Trustees by Thomas Latimer of London.” John died in 1664 and was succeeded by his eldest son Robert. Robert was born in 1641. He married Barbara, daughter of William Pennington of Seaton, and by her had nine children. John, Christopher, Robert, Miles, Rowland, William (christened in 1674 according to an entry in Sir Daniel Flemming’s books of Accounts which says. “1674, Aug, 20. Given at Calgarth at the christening of William Philipson... 00 01 06.”) Beatrice, Dorothy and Judith. The heavy penalties levied by the Commonwealth had impoverished the estate, and in these straitened circumstances Robert sold Melsonby.

Persecution of Quakers

His name comes down to us as a persecutor of the Quakers, probably urged on by a mistaken sense of duty, as so many more were in his troublous times. On the 20th July, 1671 “John Philipson of Calgarth, yeoman, came before Robert Philipson, Esq. At Calgarth” and gave information that on the 4 July certain Quakers held a meeting at the house of one Christopher Birkett of Underbarrow. Birkett was fined £20. On the 22nd July the same John gave information before Daniel Fleming and Robert Philipson at Rydal, that Quakers had assembled at the house of Reginald Holme at Loughrigg. Holme was fined £20. Again in 1672 information was given Robert about the Quakers. This time the meeting was at Crook at the house of John Thompson, and the informant was John Bateman of Applewaite. Thompson was fined the usual amount of £20. John Philipson of Calgarth, yeoman, may have been John, younger brother of Robert.

In 1677 Robert Philipson was one of the trustees of Windermere School.

On February 10, 1675-6, Daniel Fleming wrote from Rydal to Sir Joseph Williamson that “Diverse of our Justices of ye Peace are dead, and some others are seldome amongst us..Mr. Ro. Philipson are but seldom with us”. He suggests some new justices of the peace be added. I do not know the date of Robert’s death, but he is said to have “died beyond seas.” Beneath this cautious statement may lie that fact that at the time of his death, he had gone abroad on business connected with the return of James II. To the throne. If so he must have been alive in 1688 when James II. Left England. Colour is lent to this idea by the rumour that James II. After his retirement granted the title of Earl of Calgarth to an adherent called Philipson. The grant must have been made either to Robert or his son John, the last male Philipson of Calgarth Hall. John was born in 1665, and Daniel Fleming was one of his Godfathers. In Sir Daniel’s account Book are two entries about this God-son. “1665, March 20. Given unto John Philipson my Godson at Calgarth 01 00 00,” and “1680. Given to my Godson Jo. Philipson 00 02 06.” In 1688 John Philipson married Mary, youngest daughter of Sir Robert Patten, Knight , of London. The same year John’s name occurs in a list of those “to whom letters should be written” by Daniel Fleming.

John and Mary had four daughters, Mary, Frances, Jane and Clara, and no sons. John Philipson was alive in 1692-3, but that is the last mention I have of him. The four daughters inherited his estate, and sold Calgarth to the Pennys of Penny Bridge. From the Pennys it passed to the Sandys of Graythwaite, who sold it to Mr Watson who built the new house now known as Calgarth Park, since when the old hall has been used as a farm house. Some historians would persuade us that Calgarth was once the equal of Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle, but it is not easy to believe that the equality existed beyond their rude pele beginnings. Levens and Sizergh developed from mediaeval refuges into comfortable homes. Calgarth is not only much smaller than Levens and Sizergh, but years of strife and poverty have set their mark upon it and left the old house melancholy and comfortless. In its presence it is impossible to forget the curses old Dorothy laid upon it. Had it really rivalled Levens it is unlikely that the Bishop of Llandaff would have forsaken it to build a new mansion within a stone’s throw.

It is not known to me whether John's four daughters married, or anything about their later life. My ignorance on this point serves to emphasise the need for a complete history of the family. It will be noticed how little is known about the younger sons in the last generations at Calgarth. A vast field for research lies open to those who claim descent from the Philipsons of Calgarth.

Myles Philipson, of Thwatterden hall, Crook, was, as before shown in these notes the youngest son of the first Christopher of Calgarth. From his father Myles Philipson inherited lands at "the Abbott Hole," at "Cowperthwhat," at "Crooke," "one tenement called Furn Close," and the "the tenement of the Lange holme in Wyandermer." "Also Thwatterden Hall."

Myles married Barbara, daughter of William Sandys of Conishead. This William Sandys, after the dissolution of Furness Abbey, bought Conishead, previously Abbey property, from the Crown. He was killed at Conishead by one of the Bardseas of Bardsea Hall, as the result of a dispute about some tithes at Gleanston. William left his property to his son Francis, and if Francis died without male heirs, to his daughters Margaret and Barbara. They were half-sisters of Francis. Francis died without issue, and accordingly Barbara, the wife of Myles Philipson came in for her share of Conishead.

Foster, the compiler of "Pedigrees of Lancashire" says in the Sandys Pedigree that there were three sons of this Philipson-Sandys match, and an only daughter. The sons he gives are Robert, Christopher and Myles, who he says, all died without issue. The daughter he gives as "Annie married to Thomas Avenale, Lord Arundel and had issue." However, in reality there were ten children of the marriage between Myles and Barbara, and two sons certainly had issue. **Robert was the eldest son, and he carried on the line at Crook.** Francis who died without issue, Christopher who succeeded to the Conishead estate. He married Bridget, daughter of Roger Kirkby, of Kirkby Hall. Frances Sandys, his uncle, left Christopher £100. There were three sons of the marriage. Miles, Thomas and Christopher, the eldest of them was only aged one year nine months and twelve days at the time of their father's death.

Christopher died at Conishead on 8th March, 1599-60 and Miles Philipson, his eldest son was his heir. He married Margaret, daughter of George Anne of Frickley, Yorkshire and had borne a son George. In 1630 Miles sold his share of Conishead to George Dodding. Thomas died without issue. Christopher, the youngest son, married Frances, daughter of Sir George Blundell, of Carington, Bedfordshire, and they had a daughter Bridget.

Windermere Ferry Disaster

Another Christopher Philipson appears at this period, closely related to the Crook Philipsons, whom I cannot place. For a time I thought he must be a son of Christopher of Conishead, but as Christopher's son Christopher had a daughter only, and the mysterious Christopher had a son called after himself, I am still at a loss to explain him. On 19th October, 1635, there was a great storm and a party of between forty and fifty people returning from a wedding at Hawkshead were drowned while crossing Windermere

Ferry. Mr H S Cowper gives the best account of the fatality in his book on Hawkshead. Some of the people were "of especial Quality," and among the victims were "Christopher Phillipson of Ashes," and Mary, "daughter of John Philipson." In an inquisition post mortem taken at Kendal, 5th, February 1636, "the Jurors say that Christopher Philipson, gentleman, was seised of a capital messuage or tenement called "le Aldfield" in Underbildebecke... also of another capital messuage call "le Ashes" in Staveley Godmond... so seised he died on 19th October last (1635). Jane Philipson, late the wife of the said Christopher Philipson, is living a widow at "le Ashes" in Staveley Godmond". There may be a record of this Christopher's marriage with Jane which might tell us something more. The entry might be in the Windermere Parish Church Registers, or at Kendal. It would be interesting to know if the present owner of Ashes has any old deeds recording the Philipson ownership. The farm is at no great distance from Hollin Hall. A Christopher Phillipson married Margaret Thompson, Of Staveley, on 11th June, 1586. Christopher of Ashes might be a son of this marriage.

It will be remembered that when Rowland of Calgarth died in 1582, amongst other possessions he was seised of "One parcel of a tenement called "le Eshees" in Staveley." But we have no trace of the owner of "le Eshees" until Christopher was drowned in 1635.

There were other Philipsons about. A Christopher, son of William Philipson of Strickland (Ketel, Field, Roger?) was baptised on 27th April, 1594. From the name it seems probable that this Philipson was a relation of the Crook and Calgarth family, but I do not think he would be considered of sufficient importance by his contemporaries to warrant his being described as "of especial Quality."

It is time to resume my account of the children of Myles and Barbara, which was left off with the second son Christopher. Next came Thomas. Beyond the fact that his uncle, Francis Sandys, after the decease of his wife, left Thomas the lease of Colt Park and a farm adjoining, and two furnaces, I know nothing further about this son. John was a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford. Was he the father of the Mary Philipson who was drowned with Christopher in 1635? And was he also the father of Rowland of Rayrigg? West in his "Antiquities of Furness" states that Esther Sandys married Rowland, son of John Philipson of Rayrigg. Foster in the Sandys Pedigree say that Hester Sandys who was baptised in 1627, married James Philipson of Rayrigg. However, as Foster was mistaken before about the Philipson and as I have found no record of a James Philipson at that date, until further facts are forthcoming, I am inclined to rely on West. There were Philipsons at Rayrigg until the 18th century, one Thomas Philipson being the last there of that name. There is another incident which makes for proof that the Rayrigg Philipsons were descended from the Crook branch of the family. In 1720-1 "Thomas Philipson late of Rayrigg and James Bis late of Windermere, yeomen," were "indicted for forcibly ejecting Thomas Braithwaite, senior of longholme, yeoman, from a messuage, barn and tenement called Longholme alias Le Island whereof he was seised as of an estate called "Tenantright." Longholme, now known as Belle Isle was the property of the Crook Philipsons, and was sold by the last Crook Philipson to Mr. Thomas Braithwaite. Evidently Thomas Philipson had a real or imagined claim to the property, and made an attempt to gain it after Sir Christopher Philipson's death.

Myles, sixth son of Myles and Barbara was a captain. He married Anne, daughter of John Wharton of Kirkby Thore. A Miles Philipson was Escheator for Westmorland in 1600, but I do not know whether it was this Myles or his father. There were four daughters, Elizabeth, Jane, Anne and Mary. Anne married Thomas, Lord Arundel of Wardour, and Mary married Samuel Knipe of Fairbank, Staveley.

It is curious that the following entries may be found in the Registers of Kendal Parish Church:-

Baptisms:

Jenett d. of Myles Phillipson 8 Aug., 1571

Jane d. of Myle Phillipson of Hugill 13 Jan, 1575

Anne d. of Myles Phillipson of Ulthwait, 7 June 1577.

Burials:

Elizabeth d. of Myles Phillipson of Kentmer 10 Dec 1583

Jenett d. of My Myles Phillipson of Crooke, 1 Aprill 1585.

With the exception of Jenett the names are the same as the daughters of Myles and Barbara, and Jenett might have been omitted from the pedigree on account of her early death. Jenett was a family name. From the dates of birth one would say the entries all referred to the children of one man, yet he is described as of Hugill Ulthwaite, Kentmere and Crook. The explanation may be this, that Myles Philipson of Crook leased a tenement at Ulthwaite and lived there sometimes, and Ulthwaite might be described as Kentmere or Hugill, being near both places.

The dates at which Myles and Barbara died are not known to me, but from the inquisition post mortem after the death of his son Christopher of Conishead it appears that Myles was dead in 1598, but Barbara was alive in 1613.

Robert, eldest son of Myles and Barbara married Anne Latus, daughter of Ralph Latus of Beck Hall in Cumberland. They had issue Christopher and Elizabeth who married George Corham, Burton, Southampton. Robert died before his mother, Barbara; he lived at Hellsfell Hall, so evidently his mother was occupying Thwatterden. He died on 26 November, 1608, and his widow, Anne continued to live at Hellsfell after his death. She was still there in 1631, after her son's death.

Robin the Devil

Christopher was born in 1597. He married Mary, daughter of William Huddleston of Millom Castle. Their children were: Huddleston, Robert nicknamed Robin the Devil, and Elizabeth who married a Latus. Christopher lived at Thwatterden Hall, and died on 3rd September, 1630. His widow, "Marie," as she is called in the inquisition post mortem, continued to reside at Crook. At his death he was seised of Hellsfell and "Crook Hall otherwise Chappell Howse," and various smaller tenements.

Before dealing with the heir Huddleston, I will give some account of Robin the Devil. I do not know when he was born, and am not even certain when he died. He married Anne, daughter of Thomas Knype of Burplethwaite Hall, Cartmel Fell. They had issue, Robert, Christopher and Clare. Both Robert and his brother left issue. Robin lived on Holme Island or Longholme, Windermere. There he was besieged by Colonel Briggs a Parliamentary officer. Robin was a Cavalier major and his brother Huddleston a colonel in the same cause. Briggs besieged the Island for eight or ten days, until Huddleston Philipson, who was at Carlisle, was able to come, after the siege of Carlisle was raised, to Robin's rescue. Several guide books when relating this incident say that Huddleston was of Calgarth, and that Colonel Briggs was of Helsfell. Huddleston never owned Calgarth, but he owned both Crook Hall and Helsfell. It has been noted in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society that Robert Briggs, whose daughter and co-heir Elizabeth married Christopher Philipson of Calgarth, was the last male Briggs of Helsfell. Colonel Richard Briggs may have been a Briggs of Helsington, another branch of the Briggs of Helsfell, but he was not of Helsfell, any more than Huddleston Philipson was of Calgarth.

The Rev. E. J. Nurse tells me there is a tradition that the old cannon at The Rectory, Bowness, are those used by Robin to defend Longholme, while the cannon used to attack the island are at a house on the Storrs Estate.

Robin was relieved on a Saturday, and on Sunday he rode with a few followers to Kendal in search of his enemy. Thinking to find him at worship he rode into the Parish Church, up one aisle and down another, but Colonel Briggs was not there. Some of the congregation in great indignation pulled him from his horse and cut the saddle girths. His companions then came to his aid, and he flung the saddle on his horse, mounted and after killing a man dashed off without any girths and reached Longholme in safety. It is said that he struck his head against the portal as he rode out and knocked his helmet off. It was kept as a trophy, hung in the church and called "The Rebel's Cap."

The exploit in Kendal Church is the subject of a ballad, "Dick and the Devil," which has several versions. The ballad says the helmet was knocked off by "stout Smith Jock with his mother's old crutch. He gave him a woundy bang. So hard he smote Rob's iron pot it came down plume and all." Scott also makes use of the incident in "Rokeby".

"All eyes upon the gateway hung. When through the Gothic arch there sprung A horseman armed at headlong speed – sabre his cloak his plume his steed. Fire from the flinty floor was spurned, The vaults unwonted clang returned."

Thus it is related with bracing energy as daring as the deed.

Like so much more in the Philipson family there is some doubt about the ownership of Longholme, where Robin lived.

In 1566 it was left by Christopher of Calgarth to Myles Philipson of Thwatterden. Robin Philipson occupied it in the early part of the 17th century, but does not seem to have owned it. It is not mentioned in the inquisition post mortem upon his father Christopher. Yet Sir Christopher, Robin's nephew built a new house there, and some accounts say he sold it to Thomas Braithwaite, who sold it to Floyer, who in turn sold it to Thomas Barlow, whose son Robert sold it to Mr. English, who sold it to the Curwen family. In 1720-1 as previously stated, Thomas Philipson late of Rayrigg forcibly ejected Thomas Braithwaite from Longholme.

But in 1774, according to the Curwen pedigree, one Robert Philipson sold Long Holme to Thomas English who pulled down the old house and built another. Which account is right, I do not know.

For many years I thought Robin was killed in Ireland in 1648-9 at the siege of Wexford. Secretly I hoped he was not one of the many who were put to death by the sword on that fatal October day. Then came the evidence from the letters of Ann Tolson of Tolson Hall, a contemporary of Robin's to upset my views. In a letter to her sister, dated August, 1664, she says: - "Robert who was called the Devil was slain last year in a fight in Ireland. He has left a wife and three children, and the world will be all the quieter without him, poor man." What Robin was doing in Ireland in 1663 I do not know, unless he was there in connection with the restoration of lands to those who had lost them during the Commonwealth.

Robin's elder brother, Huddleston heir to Crook and Helsfell, was born in 1621. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Allan Askew. They had six children, Christopher, Alan who married Mary, widow of Arthur Best, Robert and Miles. Of the two daughters Anne married twice. First Christopher Carus of Staveley Hall and then John Richardson of Rampside Hall. Janet married Thomas Ward of Rigmaden, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Huddleston was an ardent Royalist and as stated earlier, a Colonel in a Cavalier Regiment. It is said he received New Park, Troutbeck from Charles I as a reward for his services. But if the gift was made it is more likely to have come from Charles II.

In 1644-5 Richard Archer was instituted to the living of Windermere on the presentation of Gawin Braithwaite, and Huddleston Philipson of Crook, and Mary Philipson of Crook. But in 1654 when William Kemp was instituted to the living, Mary Philipson, widow was a patron, but her son Huddleston was not mentioned. He may have been abroad with Charles II.

Unfortunately, I am unable to say when either Huddleston Philipson or his wife Elizabeth died. Their eldest son and heir, Christopher, was an important figure in his time.

Sir Christopher Philipson

Christopher Philipson, eldest son of Huddleston Philipson, inherited Crook Hall and Longholme. I do not know the date of his birth; possibly he was born between 1642 and

1645. Beyond his marriage to Clara, widow of Francis Topham and daughter of Samuel Robinson. I have no record of his early years. It would be interesting to know where he was during the Commonwealth. Perhaps both he and his father went for a time “beyond seas.”

His fortunes rose with the accession of Charles II, reached their zenith while Charles remained on the throne and declined with James III to reach their lowest ebb with the advent of William and Mary.

Most of what we know about Christopher Philipson we owe to Sir Daniel Fleming, of Rydal Hall, whose careful preservation of letters and diligence in keeping accounts, has saved so much for us about the lives and times of these seventeenth century men. Daniel Fleming and Christopher Philipson were in close touch, and it is evident that a warm friendship existed between them.

Christopher may have been married about 1669. He had three daughters and no sons. The eldest daughter was Frances; the second, Elizabeth probably born in 1672. In that year the following entry was made in Daniel Fleming’s Account Book. “1672, Aug 20. Given at Crook to the nurse at Elizabeth my cousin Philipson’s daughter’s christening 00 02 06.” So Christopher was in possession of Crook then, his father being already dead. On July 23, 1674, the christening of Christopher’s youngest daughter took place. Daniel Fleming has the following record of it. “Given by my wife to the grace-wife and nurse at Crook, she being god-mother to Clara Philipson 01 05 00.”

The Quakers of Windermere

On July 1, 1673, Christopher wrote to Daniel, and after giving the news of the day, announced that he was about to pull down his house. At first I thought Crook Hall was the house in question, but subsequent entries show that he was referring to the house on the island of Longholme. The same year on December 31, Daniel Fleming gave 5s. to his cousin William Fleming when he brought a token from Christopher Philipson to his godson. From this we find that Christopher was God-father of one of Daniel Fleming’s sons. Christopher, wealthy, clever and ambitious, with no sons to come after him, must at times have looked on his friend’s many sons with longing eyes.

Next year, 1674, on October 28, we learn that Daniel Fleming spent 2s in Kendal at “Mrs Ford’s” when he and Christopher went to pay their first visit to Mr James Bellingham and his third wife. Another visit to Crook Hall is mentioned on February 26, 1676, when Daniel gave 7s, 6d. “...in the house at Crook Hall,” and 2s for “musick”. On August 23, 1678, Christopher wrote to Daniel that “the Quakers of Windermere...are grown very perremptory,” and in the same year he wrote from London about Lord Stafford’s trial.

Those were troublous times. Daniel Fleming at Rydal eagerly awaited news of the outer world which came to him in newsletters from London. Christopher Philipson in London, felt his loyalty strained by the uncertainty of the King’s behaviour. There were plots afoot of every denomination; suspicion sometimes served to bring people to execution

without waiting for proof. In the midst of this enmity, the King strove for his own way. In serving the Royal family, most families had so far lost more than they had gained, even those in favour with Charles II. Suddenly amid this tumult a comet appeared in the sky, and men thought it was a warning predicting divine wrath. We who go in thousands to see a total eclipse may laugh, but the fear of strange phenomena in the sky is very deep-seated and not ill-founded when we remember that the life of this earth is dependent on the sun. And the fact remains unaltered, despite all our knowledge, that the greatest calamity which could happen to the earth would come from the sky. Our fortunes are still closely linked to the heavenly bodies.

Comets Disturbing Appearance

On the eve of Stafford's execution, Christopher Philipson at the end of a letter to Daniel, mentions the comet, and says that all agree the appearance of the comet is "for our sinns". Daniel Fleming, too, found the comet's appearance disturbing. On 14 December he entered a memorandum in his account book, "that my tenants there (Coningston) and I did see a blazing staff with a very long tail – reaching almost to the middle of the sky from the place of the sun setting – little after the sun setting near the place where the sun did not. Lord, have mercy upon us, pardon all our sins, and bless the King and these kingdomes."

In 1679 Christopher became Knight of the Shire for Westmorland, and remained so until 1681, and he was Parliamentary representative for Westmorland during the same period.

On 10 August, 1680, Daniel Fleming, Christopher Philipson and others went to Hutton "to wait upon Sir Geo. Fletcher, High Sheriff to Carlile Assises" and at Patterdale on their journey, Daniel spent 1s. 6d.

On the 22 January 1680-1, Christopher Philipson wrote to Daniel Fleming that "frequent Parliaments are in fashion and I do not intend to faile any that's in my power to do for King Charles or country, let things grow never so high."

In 1681 Christopher Philipson was knighted by Charles II at Windsor, and Daniel Fleming was knighted at the same time.

In 1682 Sir Daniel received news of Sir Christopher in a letter from the Rev. Thomas Dixon, the son of a Windermere man who became a Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, and was rector of Weyhill in Hants in 1682. He tells Sir Daniel of a chance meeting with Sir Christopher in Westminster Hall, "two days ago," but does not expect to see him again before leaving the "citty".

Sir Christopher was Deputy-Lieutenant for Westmorland in 1684. On 6 March of that year he wrote again from London and told Sir Daniel that "the frost has killed all the rosemary, so that we have not one sprig at a funeral." One of Sir Daniel's sons wrote to his father from Oxford on 5 May, 1684. "We hear that Sr Chris Philipson is now at

London, and has bought Sr Leon. Jenkin's coach and horses". Sir Leoline or Lionel Jenkins was Secretary of State.

Sir Christopher was in Westmorland in August, 1684, for Sir Daniel records that on the 27th of that month he met Sir Christopher at "Burneshead" and "he my cosin Tho Brathwait, and cosin Jo. Browham did go to Soulby (where Sr Christo. Musgrave was keeping court) and to Brough all night."

A New Island Home

Early in 1684-5 Sir Christopher was back in London. On 14 February he wrote "This night the late King was "interred" in Henry the Seventh's tomb." In 1686 when in London Sir Christopher lived "at his house next to the French Boarding School in Red Lyon Street, Holborn. Probably also before and after that date, but that was his address as noted by Sir Daniel in 1686.

In 1687 Sir Daniel's daughter, Barbara, was married to John Tatham, and on 27 May, Sir Daniel made the following entry in his Account book. "This day came unto Rydal (to visit ye bridegroom and Bride) Sr. Christo Philipson, his Lady, and Daughter, Parson Wilson and his Daughter, by water from ye Island, Dined and returned in ye evening."

From this it seems that at this date Christopher made Longholme his home. Another entry by Sir Daniel on 3 June, 1687, show that Sir Christopher had built a new house on the island. "This day," writes the diligent Sir Daniel, "my cosin Brathwait and his wife (having been at Rydal 2 nights) my son Tatham, Will., Dan., Mich., Alice, Barbara, Mary my cosin Jo, Browham and his wife did go along with me to visit Sr Christo Philipson at his new House in ye Isle." At this time with Catholic James on the throne, Sir Christopher would feel safer on the Isle than in London. Whatever the religion of the Philipsons of Calgarth, some of them we know became Protestant, (Christopher, junior, when he wrote about the Gunpowder Plot). I feel sure Sir Christopher was not a Catholic. If he had been, the diplomatic Squire of Rydal would not have been on such terms of intimacy with him. His dealings with the Philipson of Calgarth appear more reserved and this alone makes me suspect some of them may have had a leaning towards their old religion.

In September, 1688, Sir Daniel in Memorandum of Persons to whom Letters should be written, places the name of "Sr Christo Philipson of ye Isle Kt".

In November, 1688, from a new source, we get a glimpse of Sir Christopher in other company. Colonel Thomas Bellingham made the following entry in his Diary. Preston. "Some wett this morning. Here came an express from ye Lord Darby to Coll Rawstorne to bring all the Regiment to Wiggan, that his worship had received information that there were designes against his life, and that some men were sent to apprehend him and therefore commanded all the help imaginable to come to secure his person. I was lett blood this day for the paine on my shoulder which was very violent. At night I was with Sr Chr Phillipson and his brother at the Anchor..."

Among other acts of injustice, the Early of Derby had been dismissed from the Lord Lieutenancy of Lancashire. Danger was on every side; none knew who would be apprehended next. Probably the brother with Sir Christopher would be Captain Alan.

In 1688 Sir Daniel has a memorandum that he must write to Mr Miles Philipson of Crook, from this it seems that Miles, youngest brother of Sir Christopher was living at Crook. Was he at Crook Hall?

In 1689 Sir Christopher was again in London, but he was ill at ease, as we find from a letter he wrote to Sir Daniel on May 11. He began by saying he had not written lately, "but tis not the fashion now to write news indeed because it cannot be done, tis so uncertain; for what we hear one day is frequently contradicted the next, besides the danger of false reports."

Sir Christopher was not nervous without cause. In May, 1692, his name appeared in a list of those whose horses above the value of £5 were to be seized. In January, 1693 he wrote that Sir Daniel's son Michael could have an ensign's commission on raising twenty men.

Arrest of Sir Christopher

Some of Sir Christopher's worst fears were realised in 1696. He was, together with several other Protestants, suspected of disaffection towards the Government (William and Mary were then on the throne), and was kept in custody in the garrison at Carlisle. On the eighth of April he wrote to Sir Daniel asking him to write to Mr. Huddleston, Mr Hasell and Mr Hutton "to persuade them to accept his parole to appear when called upon, for detention at Carlisle will, as he knows be ruin to him." No doubt Sir Daniel would do his best for his friend. Unfortunately, my notes about Sir Christopher end here. I do not know the issue of his examination, nor the date of this death, nor this final resting place. He was alive in 1704, as he sold his share of the advowson of Windermere Church at that date.

Probably the arrest of Sir Christopher was the outcome of the discovery of a conspiracy which aimed at murdering William and restoring James II to the throne. Sir Christopher's arrest by no means proves that he was even aware of it, but panic seized the Government and orders were given to arrest all who were unfriendly to William and Mary, or suspected of unfriendliness. That year an Anti Jacobite Association was formed for the protection of William III, and on July 14, 1696, Robert Philipson was among those who signed the Association. The Robert may have been Sir Christopher's younger brother, or he may have been a brother of John Philipson, of Calgarth, but I think he is more likely to have been the former.

Sir Christopher's daughters inherited Crook Hall and the Kentmere Estate, which Sir Christopher had bought from the Gilpin family. They sold Crook Hall to Major Pigeon, a natural son of Charles II. The Kentmere Estate they sold to Sir Daniel Fleming.

Clara, youngest daughter of Sir Christopher married the Rev. John Stanley, second son of John Stanley of Ponsonby Hall, Cumberland. They lived at the "Parsonage" while he was curate at Windermere for Mr Crosby. In 1726 the Rev. John Stanley was appointed Rector of Workington, when he and Clara left Windermere for their new home at Workington.

Tradition persistently claims that the Philipsons of Winster, Crosthwaite and Cartnell Fell are descended from the Philipsons of Hollin Hall and Calgarth Hall. Though there are not definite proofs for or against the claim, I think probability lies on the side of the tradition. We know that the Philipsons of Calgarth held land in Winster at an early date, while earlier still, in 1390, John Philipson held "an intacke in Undermylnbeck" for which he rendered 2d. yearly. Undermillbeck adjoins Winster and the two form a joint township in the parish of Windermere. In a Court roll of 1560 in Undermillbeck were the following Philipsons: Christ. Philipson, gent, Richard Phillipson, the w. of Robert Philipson, Christ. Philipson, Brian Philipson and Christ. Philipson. At the following inquest taken at Under Milnbek, amongst others Roger and Brian Philipson "kept one fire within the lordship by the space of two years, against pain," and were fined 2s. The same Brian was fined 6d. for cutting down at thorn, and he had a "defect" in his fence in two places, for which he was fined 4d. In the court roll of 1574 we find the names of Miles Philipson, Relict of Roger Philipson, John Philipson, Brian Philipson, Miles Philipson, gent., and Brian Philipson.

In 1583 we find Roland Philipson of Hollin Hall and Calgarth died seised of seven messuages in "Wynster," and these he bequeathed to his son Christopher. In 1597 there was a chancery suit between one Thomas Williamson and Bryan Phillipson in which Williamson claimed an estate in the Manor and Lordship of Windermere which had belonged to his grandfather, and was held by the custom of tenantright.

All this shows that the Philipsons of Hollin Hall and Calgarth were associated with Undermillbeck and Winster from very early times. The presence of other unknown Philipsons in these places suggests that they were relations who had been granted farms by the heads of their house.

The Philipsons of Calgarth held the Manor of Winster until 1717, when the four daughters of John of Calgarth, Mary, Frances, Jane and Clara, sold it to John Taylor and Miles Birket.

The Philipson occupation spread from Undermillbeck and Winster down the Winster valley as far as Hodge Hill in Cartmel Fell. On this line occupied by Philipsons were Barkbooth, Borderside and Haycote, all three in Crosthwaite, but close to the River Winster, consequently in the Winster valley. There were also at one time Philipsons living at Hawk Earth, Winster. Some of the Winster Philipsons became noted as makers of grandfather clocks. In the eighteenth century there were Philipsons at Spooner Close, a farm in Cartmel Fell on the Windermere Lake side of the parish.

The Philipson Nose

Where representatives of these scattered Philipsons have survived they invariably claim descent from the Philipsons of Calgarth or from Robin the Devil. As Robin left two sons both of whom had issue, and his wife came from Cartmel Fell, it is quite probable that some of his descendants settled in the neighbourhood. One thing all claimants of Philipson descent have in common, a feature which has come to be known as "the Philipson Nose". It reappears in generation after generation as persistently as the skulls were said to appear at Calgarth. I have never seen any portraits of the Calgarth or Crook Philipsons, but if any exist, and the portrayed possess the Philipson nose, I should accept the testimony of the nose as proof of relationship.

Philipsons were at Barkbooth as early as 1535. At that date an indenture was made setting forth "The Order and Method how the inhabitants of Crosthwaite and Lith ought to place themselves in their parochall Chapel for ever." Among the wives' seats on the North side on the third form is the wife "of John Philipson, Barkbooth." On the South side for men on the third form was the seat of John Philipson, Barkbooth.

There is a will of another John Philipson of Haycoat, Crosthwaite, dated 7 January, 1689. "I devise...my messuage and tenement at Barkbooth in Crosthwaite...unto Bryan Philipson of Hodge Hill, gentleman, John Mackdowell of Cartmelfell, schoolmaster, and George Garnett of Barkbooth, husbandman In trust for my grandchild James Longmire, he to pay out of the said messuage... the sum of £150. The residue, I give to my trustees in trust for my said grandchildren James and Agnes Longmire." This John Philipson was buried 10 January 1689. The grandson James, mentioned in the will, became great-great-grandfather of George Browne of Troutbeck, while from the granddaughter Agnes, Sir John Wilson, judge of the Court of Common Pleas and his son Admiral Wilson, were descended.

I take it from the will of John Philipson that he and the Philipsons of Hodge Hill were related. Not that that throws much light on the unsolved problem of the origin of the Hodge Hill Philipsons. They were at Hodge Hill less than a hundred years, and the Bryan Philipson, gentleman, who was there in 1689, is the first reference I have found of the family there. The history of this beautiful old house is so elusive that most topographical and archaeological books make no mention of it. There is still an old oak cupboard in one of the rooms bearing the initials, E.H.S., and the date 1674. At first I thought the H. might stand for Harrison, as the Harrisons were an influential clan in Cartmel Fell in the seventeenth century. This idea was strengthened on finding in the Cartmel Priory Church Registers that in 1673, November 18th, Edward Harrison and Susan Fletcher of Cartmel Fell were married, but in 1680 in the same registers I found that on February 12th, Robert, son of William Hodgson of Hodghill was christened. This is the earliest reference to Hodge Hill I have found. Nine years later Bryan Philipson was living there. The next reference is to be found in the Registers of Windermere Parish Church. There an entry states that Mary, wife of John Philipson at Hodge Hill was buried on 4th August, 1709. According to the list of wills proved at Richmond (Lancs and Cheshire Record Society, vol. 13) the will of John Philipson of Hodge Hill was proved in 1715. Next we find the

will of Bryan Philipson was proved at Richmond in 1719. Between these last dates in the Cartmel Registers are two entries which are of interest.

In 1716, on August 30th, William Knipe of Upper Newton and Margaret Kirkby of Hodgehill were married. On November 23rd in the same year Margaret Knipe, wife of William ye younger of Upper Newton, was buried. There are several ways of accounting for the presence of Margaret Kirkby at Hodge Hill. One which is worthy of consideration, is that there may have been two houses at Hodge Hill. The shape of the present house lends colour to this theory.

Last Philipson of Hodge Hill

In 1727, on September 13, Agnes Philipson, daughter of John of Hodgehill, was baptised. In 1732, on August 23rd, John Philipson of Hodgehill, was buried at Cartmel Fell. The same year an administration bond of John Philipson “of Hodgehill in Cartmell fell” was taken out. So far as I know this John was the last male Philipson at Hodge Hill. There is a memorial stone with a Latin inscription in St. Anthony’s churchyard, beneath the East window. The inscription is crumbling away and difficult to decipher, So I give the following translation of it in full:

“In hallowed memory of John Philipson of Hodge Hill in Cartmel Fell, Gentleman. A comrade of ready and witty speech, in all the graces of conversation he excelled without an effort. A neighbour at once hospitable and kindly, withal a trusty and loyal friend he earned the just esteem of those who knew him. A lover of plain truth, a stranger to guile, of that probity which he loved in others, he was himself an example. A devoted adherent of the Anglican Church, to which, scorning all deceits of false doctrine, he firmly clung, he shall rest here in the Lord, awaiting the day when death itself the vanquisher of all shall be swallowed up in victory. He died on the 20th of August, 1732, in the fiftieth year of his age. On his left hand lies the body of Agnes Philipson daughter of the aforesaid John who died on the 2nd April 17... in the twenty fifth year of her age. Models of prudence.”

Too seldom do old monumental inscriptions move us to regret. More often they are a mere catalogue of virtues, as little likely to give us the true value and likeness of a man as the majority of obituary notices. But there is a vigour about the Philipson inscription which conveys part of the charm the living man once possessed and which marks him as one of those men we would like to have known. If he was the last of the Hodge Hill Philipsons one cannot help wishing that more old families had as good an ending.

In 1735, on April 3rd, Agnes Philipson of Hodgehill was buried. She may have been the Agnes who was christened in 1727. The Agnes of the inscription may have been already dead when Agnes the second was born. The wills of the Hodge Hill Philipsons are at Somerset House, and would undoubtedly throw more light on the family, if one examined them.

In 1737, on May 1st, Park Phillipson, son of John of Moorhow, was baptised. But I have no further record of this branch.

Hodge Hill passed into the possession of the Birkets of Birket Houses about the middle of the eighteenth century. A Philipson cradle in old oak, and many other pieces of Philipson furniture are still in the possession of the present representative of the Birket family.

So many books have been consulted in connection with my "Notes" that it is impossible to enumerate them all here. Besides those mentioned in my articles I have received great help from: Farrer's Records of Kendale, Curwen's Records of Kendale, Magrath's Flemings in Oxford, Rydal Hall MSS (Historical Manuscripts Commission), Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society's Publications and The Bellingham Diary.